

IN THIS ISSUE

This SPECIAL EDITION of the TPI E-Newsletter is devoted almost exclusively to coverage of TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Day.

In the event you couldn't join us in Philadelphia we hope this overview gives you some idea of why TPI events generate plenty of excitement and how they provide a fun atmosphere where you can learn, grow and network with fellow turfgrass professionals.

From the warmth of the City of Brotherly Love to the generous hospitality of Dave and Donna Johnson, who hosted this year's Field Day, things couldn't have been much better.

And if by chance you were among the more than 500 who attended the event, we hope this recap helps you recall why this summer's program was so outstanding. — Jim Novak



Turfgrass Producers International
2 East Main Street
East Dundee, IL 60118
Tel: 847/649-5555
Tel: 800/405-8873
Fax: 847/649-5678
Email:
info@TurfGrassSod.org
Website:
www.TurfGrassSod.org
Comments & Submissions:
jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org

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SPECIAL EDITION—August 2014

Brotherly Love Prevails in Philadelphia TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Day in Philadelphia gets high marks from attendees.



By: Jim Novak

TPI's Summer Convention in Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love", and the Field Day at Johnson Farms in nearby Deerfield, New Jersey, provided all the elements for a great event that was topped by beautiful weather, a diversified program, great camaraderie and something for everyone.

The four-day event (July 29-August 1) offered insightful educational presentations, engaging networking opportunities, a chance for members to meet with leading industry manufacturers and supplier representatives, time for plenty of social interaction, numerous farm tours and several optional events that all came together to make this summer's get-together especially rewarding and completely worthwhile.

Jannie van der Schyff from Delmas Mpumalanga, South Africa described the entire event as being memorable and informative while providing plenty of time for networking. Aidan and Hilary Burke and their three children from Maynooth Co., Kildare, Ireland said everyone they met was warm, engaging and couldn't have been friendlier.

But South Africa and Ireland weren't the only countries represented. Over 500 turfgrass industry professionals from across the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Norway, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom were also in attendance.

Sincere appreciation goes to Dave and Donna Johnson who not only hosted the Field Day, they also hosted a pre-Field Day Jubilee that featured a Tricycle Race and Live Auction that raised over \$26,000 for turfgrass research and education for The Lawn Institute. Additional funds were also raised thanks to golfers and sponsors of The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament.

This Special Edition of the TPI E-Newsletter provides plenty of photos and a capsulized recap of many of the activities, presentations and events that made the experience a tremendous success.

Additional photos can be seen on TPI's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>.

TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

TUESDAY – July 29th AG TOUR

Sheppard Farms, Inc. and Eastern Fresh Growers, Inc.

TPI members had an opportunity to sign-up for an optional farm tour that included a visit to **Sheppard Farms, Inc.** and **Eastern Fresh Growers, Inc.** where owner **Tom Sheppard** greeted guests and provided a close-up look of the family farm and its diversified business operation. The 1,400 acre operation has two packing houses, numerous cold storage units and provides fresh market vegetables such as asparagus, iceberg and romaine lettuces, cucumbers, plum tomatoes and squash.



Tom Sheppard welcomes TPI members to Sheppard Farms, Inc. and Eastern Fresh Growers, Inc. and provides an overview of the operation.

FROM PROCESSING PEPPERS . . .



TO HARVESTING CUCUMBERS



All photos by Jim Novak unless otherwise noted.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

TUESDAY – July 29th AG TOUR
Coombs Sod Farm

The tour's next stop was nearby **Coombs Sod Farm** where long time TPI member **John Coombs** welcomed visitors and gave them an opportunity to see their diversified operation which, in addition to sod, included a grain drying storage facility, a fertilizer mixing plant & spreader service providing both liquid and dry fertilizer and their new potato grading and washing facility. The tour included seeing the grading and shipping of potatoes following harvest.



John Coombs extends a warm greeting to visitors prior to a tour of his operation.



Quality assurance during sorting and processing of potatoes.



Among those on the tour, Ian and Cathy True and Mike and Francine Zander.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

TUESDAY – July 29th AG TOUR
Lincoln Financial Field



The final stop on the tour was a visit to **Lincoln Financial Field**, home of the NFL Philadelphia Eagles and their nearby **Nova-Care Complex** that serves as the team's training center.

Tony Leonard, Director of Grounds for the Philadelphia Eagles along with members of his engaging staff took visitors out on the field and answered plenty of questions. The biggest surprise for visitors as they exited the entrance tunnel and entered the stadium was seeing TPI's logo featured on both end-zone scoreboards, which happen to be the largest in the NFL with each one measuring 96 feet long each.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

TUESDAY – July 29th WELCOME RECEPTION & TABLETOP DISPLAYS



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th General Session

GENE MARKS—Opportunities & Growth: Columnist, author and small business owner **Gene Marks** addressed current political, economic and technological trends that are of importance for today's business owner such as current healthcare issues; web Cloud services that can help your business; anticipated changes coming in accounting software; making sure your website is mobile-optimized; awareness of changing population demographics and what that could mean to your business; considering if it's time to buy or sell a business and the importance of following key metrics and listening to economists. His mixture of light-hearted humor and timely information proved both informative and entertaining.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FOR AN EFFICIENT FARM

There was one session at this year's TPI convention that encouraged attendees to explore the possibilities and think outside the box; it was appropriately titled:

GET INSPIRED: Innovative Products for an Efficient Farm

The idea was to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about new products, services or software that could make their business run more efficiently, reduce costs or increase productivity, either in the office or in the field.

Each speaker was given approximately twelve minutes to offer a brief overview of their innovative product or service that might be of interest to turfgrass producers. If members had an interest in the products they could meet with the presenters after the session and learn more.

Among those presenting were **Drew Wagner** of Sod Solutions with a presentation about Turf Logistics, Cloud Based Order Management & Logistics software; **Peter Rauwerda** of Green Horizon provided an introduction to Order Entry Logistic software to improve operating efficiencies; **Matt Duncan** of Nature's Wonder discussed Primera One Apex-10 and what he referred to as the ultimate soil and plant health technology; **John Kelly** of Redox Turf discussed the company's strides in plant growth technology and **Mike Kelly** of TerraMax discussed Innovation in Microbial Soil Management Tools.

So, how were the presentations on innovative products received? The interest was so great that TPI is planning a similar session for TPI's 2015 International Education Conference & Field Day in San Diego, California come next February.



If you use or offer an innovative product that TPI members can use to help their businesses, we want to hear from you. Go to www.TurfGrassSod.org and look for "Call for Presentations on Innovations" under the "Hot Topics" area. Slots for presentations are limited so we encourage interested parties to submit their inquiries as early as possible for due consideration. — Jim Novak

TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th Annual Business Meeting

TPI APPOINTS OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES



Back Row: Jimmy Fox, Hugh Dampney, Eric Heuver and Ian True. **Second Row:** Dwayne Klundt, Bob Weerts (Past-President), Linda Bradley (Secretary-Treasurer) and Leon Dahle. **Seated:** Eddie Keeven, Jr. (President) and Will Nugent (Vice-President). Not pictured: Hank Kerfoot

PHOTO: Scott Fincher

After providing attendees with an overview of the past year during TPI's Annual Business Meeting, Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bobby Winstead, presented the slate of candidates to serve as TPI's Officers and Trustees:

OFFICERS

President—Eddie Keeven, Jr.
 Vice President—Will Nugent
 Secretary-Treasurer—Linda Bradley
 Past-President—Bob Weerts

TRUSTEES

Leon Dahle
 Hugh Dampney (newly elected)
 Jimmy Fox
 Eric Heuver
 Hank Kerfoot (newly elected)
 Duane Klundt
 Ian True



Hugh Dampney

PHOTO: Scott Fincher

NEW BOARD TRUSTEES

Hugh Dampney, Managing Director of Dampney's Eco Turf, Parley Court Farm, Christchurch, UK has been a member of TPI for over ten years. In addition to his involvement in TPI he served as the Chair of the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) in the UK from 2011-2014. He has also served on the TGA Council since 2005.



Hank Kerfoot

Photo provided by Hank Kerfoot

Hank Kerfoot, President/Founder of Modern Turf, Inc. in Rembert, South Carolina has been a TPI member for 15 years. He has served as the President of the South Carolina Sod Producers Association, Past President of the North South Turfgrass Association and he is currently the Vice President of the South Carolina Landscape and Turfgrass Association. In 2011 he was honored as Kershaw Country Farmer of the Year and in 2007 he received the prestigious Nettles Myers Award for the Employment of People with Disabilities.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th Annual Business Meeting

TPI's Executive Director, Melanie Stanton provides a capsulized look at the association's strides over the last seven months and insight into plans for the future.

EXCITING CHANGES . . . AND IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

TPI's Executive Director, **Melanie Stanton** provided attendees with an overview of some of the exciting changes and strides that have taken place over the last seven months. As an added convenience to members, membership dues were now payable online; TPI's presence on social media was visible on Facebook and Twitter and both have already broadened the association's ability to reach out and communicate with members, industry representatives and the trade media; The Lawn Institute's 500 Club saw its strongest support ever from the membership, surpassing the last three years combined; *Turf News* magazine has a new editor and designer with exciting ideas planned for the future, and members can expect to see more changes on the TPI and The Lawn Institute websites that will enhance TPI's presence and visibility. Stanton also expressed TPI's appreciation to Dave Johnson, his family and the entire staff of Johnson Farms for all their time and effort to make TPI's Field Day a memorable event.

THE LAWN INSTITUTE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lawn Institute awarded \$5,500 in scholarships to recipients of the Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship. This year's recipients included:

Cody Anderson of Othello, Washington. Cody will be attending Purdue University where he plans to major in Agribusiness and carry a minor in Farm Management.

Molly Maroney of Telephone, Texas was also a recipient. Molly has been accepted to attend Texas A&M where she plans to major in Agriculture/Agribusiness and minor in Public Relations.

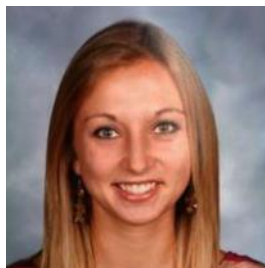
The final scholarship recipient was Taylor Thompson who has been accepted at Purdue University where she plans to pursue a degree in education. During the summer of 2013 Taylor worked for Red Hen Turf Farms in New Carlisle, Indiana under the guidance of Gordon Millar. She would later write, "The traits that I gained last summer from the turfgrass industry have forever shaped my personal character. I am beyond convinced that my turfgrass experience, along with 4-H, will make me the best teacher I could possibly be." The association extends its congratulations to these deserving students and wishes them well in their future academic endeavors.



Cody Anderson
K'ntucky Turf
Othello, Washington



Molly Maroney
Hope Plantation Turf
Telephone, Texas



Taylor Thompson
Red Hen Turf Farm
New Carlisle, Indiana



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th EXCLUSIVE TPI VIDEO INTERVIEW Natural Grass vs Artificial Turf: A Professional Athlete Weighs In

One of the highlights of the convention was an exclusive video presentation featuring former NFL Wide Receiver Ricky Proehl who expressed his personal thoughts on natural grass vs artificial turf. The twenty-five minute video was shown in its entirety.

In the coming weeks TPI will be releasing segments of the interview for posting on the TPI website, Facebook, and YouTube. TPI also plans to make the video available to members for posting on their websites and Facebook pages.

For a remarkable 17 seasons—almost unheard of in today's NFL, Ricky Proehl was one of the most sure-handed and clutch wide receivers in the game of American football. During his incredible career he appeared in 244 games with the Phoenix/Arizona Cardinals, Seattle Seahawks, Chicago Bears, St. Louis Rams, Carolina Panthers and Indianapolis Colts.

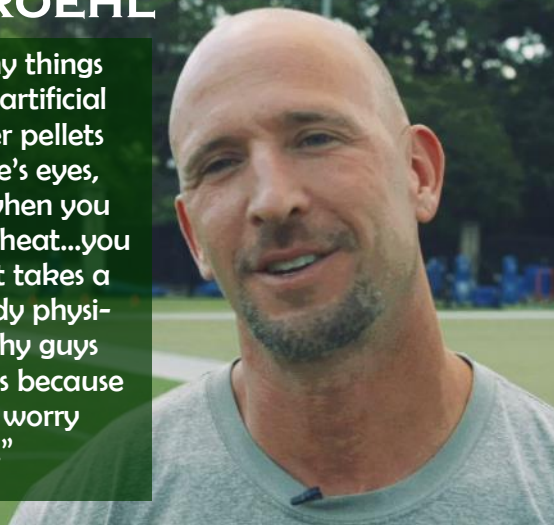
He was a member of four Super Bowl teams, including championship teams with the Rams and Colts and he is currently in his fourth season as a member of the Carolina Panther's coaching staff and second as Wide Receivers Coach.

As a professional athlete who played on both artificial and natural grass fields throughout his 17 year professional career he has strong personal feelings on the subject of practicing and playing on natural grass as opposed to artificial turf.

In June of 2014 he extended his time to Turfgrass Producers International and the North Carolina Sod Producers Association as a show of support for the contribution and efforts of turfgrass producers worldwide.

RICKY PROEHL

"There are so many things when you look at artificial turf. There's rubber pellets getting into people's eyes, getting into cuts when you have scrapes...the heat...you get dehydrated...it takes a lot out of your body physically, and that's why guys favor natural grass because you don't have to worry about those issues."



TPI would like to express its sincere appreciation to Tobey Wagner of Sod Solutions who helped sponsor and produce this video; to Justin Wallace who served as the interviewer, videographer and editor; Linda Moyer who served as an on-site coordinator; the officers and members of the North Carolina Sod Producers Association (NCSPA), and the numerous turfgrass producers, suppliers and manufacturers for their cooperation and support in helping to make this video possible.

TPI would also like to thank Ricky Proehl, Founder/Owner/Head Coach of Proehlfic Park and the P.O.W.E.R. of Play Foundation and Tyler Wilson, Executive Director P.O.W.E.R. of Play Foundation for her tremendous support and cooperation.

Look for more information on the video's release on TPI's website, Facebook page, *Turf News* and future issues of the TPI E-Newsletter.

To learn more about Proehlfic Park and Ricky's P.O.W.E.R. of Play Foundation and how you can help visit: <http://proehlficpark.com/>.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th Growing Innovations

Jared Minnick



THINK DIFFERENT—THINK POSSIBLE

As an international grass athletic field advisor and educator, **Jared Minnick** knows sports fields. A long time sports field manager he is the Founder and President of Growing Innovations, a support and education company for natural grass fields. He spent his life dedicated to finding and creating better and new ways to maintain high traffic natural grass fields.

As the former Director of Field Maintenance and Development for the 22 field, 160 acre Maryland SoccerPlex just outside Washington, DC. he met his share of challenges. SoccerPlex is the premier sports complex on the East Coast, it's part of South Germantown Park. During his time at SoccerPlex, Minnick's management staff redefined what is possible for high traffic natural grass fields. Their work is recognized nationally and internationally.

During his insightful presentation he provided examples of how, with proper care and maintenance, sports fields can stand up to extremely high traffic demands.

WHY WOULD ANY ADULT GET ON A TRICYCLE? SEE THE NEXT PAGE



Eric and Gerry Brouwer three-wheeled their way to victory in the first-ever Tricycle Race to raise funds for The Lawn Institute.



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th Field Day Preview Jubilee — Tricycle Race Fund Raiser

The Lawn Institute's first ever Tricycle Race saw seven very competitive teams give it their all to raise money in support of research and education. Many thought the race would be a hit but the competitive spirit of the 42 riders and the excitement

of onlookers who entered a 50/50 raffle and cheered their team on exceeded everyone's expectations. The competition raised nearly \$5,000 not including the money raised from auctioning-off the tricycles afterwards.



Bucyrus Equipment Company



Trimax Mowing Systems



Trebro Manufacturing



Barenbrug, USA



Turf Merchants, Inc.



Grassland Oregon



Members lined up to participate in the 50/50 raffle in hopes they would have the winning ticket. PHOTO: Scott Fincher



Wendy Davey of Evergreen Turf, Victoria, Australia appears to be a lap ahead of Claus Zander, Zander Sod, Ontario, Canada as Eddie Keeven cheers her on.



HERE'S TO THE WINNERS—Kesmac Brouwer Turf



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

WEDNESDAY – July 30th Field Day Preview Jubilee — Auction



Auctioneer extraordinaire John Owens points to a bidder and encourages others to join the action. John's skill and personal enthusiasm played a big factor in the success of auction.

LIVE AUCTION RAISES OVER \$20,000 FOR THE LAWN INSTITUTE.

Thanks to the auctioneering skills of **John Owens** of Kesmac Brouwer, great items that were up for auction, and an enthusiastic crowd, more than \$20,000 was raised for The Lawn Institute.



The J.I. Case 300 tractor donated by Fred Pittillo provides a photo op for TPI's Executive Director, Melanie Stanton and Aaron Hobbs, President of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

Special thanks goes to **Fred Pittillo** of Turf Mountain Sod who donated a J.I. Case 300 Tractor (1956-58) and to **Kesmac Brouwer** for donating transportation to the winning bidder's farm; **STEC Equipment** for donating a Columbia Heritage Lawn Mower; **Eddie Keeven, Jr.** of Emerald View Turf Farm for donating a Duck Hunting Trip; **Trebro Manufacturing** for donating a 3-Day Snowmobile Trip and all the tricycles featured in the Tricycle Race were donated by all the participating companies and auctioned off.



In an effort to entice bidding on Eddie Keeven's Duck Hunting Trip, brother Tom repeatedly blew his duck calling whistle. Although it didn't attract any ducks it did attract some active bidding.

THURSDAY – July 31st - Field Day—Johnson Farms



The aerial photograph on the right of Johnson Farms was taken as preparations for the Field Day were underway. It provides an interesting overview of a portion of Dave Johnson's turfgrass farm and the extent of his nursery operation that extends beyond the horizon.



Photo provide by Daniel Morris

TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

THURSDAY – July 31st Field Day — Johnson Farms

SURPRISE VISIT

NEW JERSEY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, **DOUGLAS H. FISHER** EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME AND THANK YOU TO TURFGRASS PRODUCERS WORLDWIDE



New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher expressed his appreciation to Dave Johnson for hosting the event and extended a warm and sincere thank you to all the turfgrass producers in attendance for their dedication, time, effort and personal commitment to producing a product that beautifies our communities, helps the environment and enriches the world in which we live.

- Jim Novak



Dave Johnson, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher, Eddie Keaven and Melanie Stanton.

PHOTO: Jimmy Fox



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

THURSDAY – July 31st Field Day — Johnson Farms



"The TPI summer convention in Philly was a GREAT show. Thank you to Dave Johnson and all his staff for hosting the show. Also a special thanks to all of the TPI staff and board members that work tirelessly to make a show like this successful! Outstanding job done by all!"

Sales Midwest
Olathe, Kansas USA



"To the TPI team; thank you very much for an excellent convention. This is what foreigners are looking for— Information, experience, networking and a memorable time. Well done to all of you. Regards!"

Jannie van der Schyff
CEO Africa Lawns
Delmas Mpumalanga, SOUTH AFRICA

"Great Day!"

Dwayne Klundt
Grassland Oregon
Salem, Oregon USA



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

THURSDAY – July 31st Field Day — Johnson Farms



“This summer’s TPI convention was everything I had hoped it would be . . . words can’t describe how proud we were to have been given the opportunity to showcase our farm, but to be given the chance to host a TPI Field Day was an honor. Something we will never forget. I’m happy with the overall show & with a lot of positive ~ passing complementary remarks on Philly as well.”

Dave Johnson
Johnson Farms
Deerfield, New Jersey USA



“Nice job on the conference. Everything went well. No complaints – all praise!”

Paul Vautour
Greenhorizons Sod Farms
Cambridge, Ontario CANADA



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

THURSDAY – July 31st Field Day — Johnson Farms



TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

FRIDAY – August 1st The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament

The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament at Cobb's Creek Golf Club helped to benefit the Foundation thanks to all the participants and the sponsors. The course, established in 1916 proved extremely challenging but provided for a lot of camaraderie. Among the golfers was a non-TPI member, Frank Potter, who was a guest of Dave Johnson. Frank said he never met so many wonderful people and even though he's not in the turfgrass business he was tempted to join TPI just to be with such wonderful people.

— Jim Novak



Duane Klundt, Aaron Barker, Wayne Pittillo and Seth Thomas



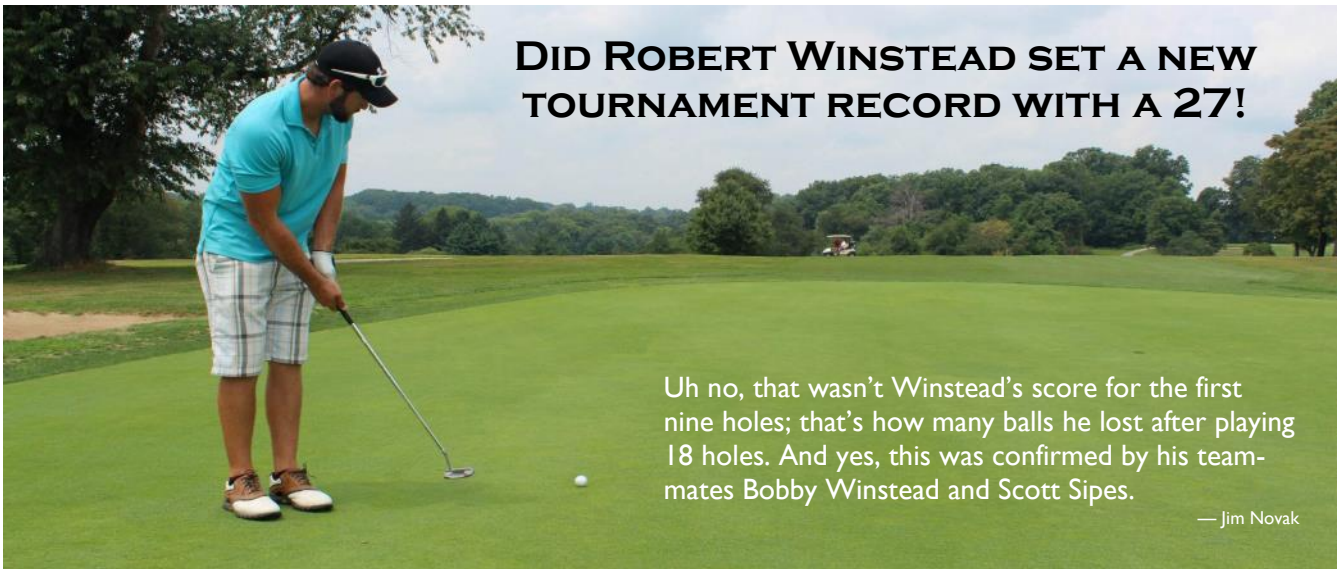
David Bradley, Dr. Mike Goatly and Dr. John Hall



Jimmy Fox, Eric Heuver, Kurt Vanclief and Mark Bucknell



Eddie Keeven, Tom Keeven, Michael Meinders and Chad Kelch



DID ROBERT WINSTEAD SET A NEW TOURNAMENT RECORD WITH A 27!

Uh no, that wasn't Winstead's score for the first nine holes; that's how many balls he lost after playing 18 holes. And yes, this was confirmed by his teammates Bobby Winstead and Scott Sipes.

— Jim Novak

TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days

FRIDAY – August 1st The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament



FIRST PLACE: Robert Winstead, Bobby Winstead and Scott Sipes



Sipes and the Winsteads receive top honors. Robert Winstead also received a complimentary box of balls for setting a course record for lost balls.



SECOND PLACE: Jannie van der Schyff, Ross Johnson and Frank Potter



THIRD PLACE: Mark Weekly, Hugh Dampney, Ian True and Scott Woodward



Jannie van der Schyff of South Africa extends congratulations to Bobby Winstead of Arlington, Tennessee. The two teams tied with scores of 62 and one hole was pulled at random to break the tie and determine the final winner of the tournament.



A Sincere THANK YOU



2014 - 500 CLUB MEMBERS

THE LAWN INSTITUTE THANKS YOU!

AS OF AUGUST 14, 2014

Steve & Laurie Griffin - Saratoga Sod Farm, Inc.	Steve Schiedel - Greenhorizons Group
Eric Heuver - Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply	The Smith Family - Southwest Sod Inc.
Todd Valley Farms, Inc.	Jeff Nettleton - Evergreen Turf, Inc.
Angel Lopez - TAMANET USA	Gavin Sutherland - HG Turf
Leon Dahle - Dahle Sod Farm	Laurie Riggs - Syngenta Professional Products
Gerry Brouwer - Kesmac/Brouwer	Thomas Wolf - Coosa Valley Turf Farms
Fred Pittillo - Turf Mountain Sod, Inc.	TAMANET USA
Richard Stunkard - Tulsa Sod & Sod Farms, Inc.	Stephen Struss - Tinamba Turf Company P/L
The Jasperson Family - Jasperson Sod Farms	Ray LeProu - Trimax Mowing Systems
The Johnson Family - Johnson Farms, Inc.	Nancy Aerni - Turf Merchants, Inc.
Ben Copeland, Sr. - Patten Seed/Super Sod	Duane Klundt - Grassland Oregon
Ed Keeven, Jr. - Emerald View Turf Farm	Jason Pooler - Tri-Turf Sod Farms, Inc.
Gregg Tvetene - Trebro Manufacturing, Inc.	Peter McCuaig - Beverley Turf Farms Ltd.
Joe Cooling & Sons, Inc.	Paul Dawson - Rolawn Limited
Don Tvetene - Trebro Manufacturing, Inc.	Tobey Wagner - Sod Solutions
Steven Dover - Bucyrus Equipment Company, Inc.	Greg Skotnicki - Manderley Turf Products Inc.
Russ Nicholson - Pennington Seed, Inc.	Sod Solutions
The Youmans Family - Green Acres Turf Farm, LLC	Larry Humphreys - Landmark Turf & Native Seed
Gary Dover - Bucyrus Equipment Company, Inc.	The Pittillo Family - Turf Mountain Sod
John Rector - Barenbrug USA	William Brockett - Virginia Beef Corporation
Doug Lechluder - Laytonville Landscaping, Inc.	Hank Kerfoot - Modern Turf, Inc.
Mike Tvetene - Trebro Manufacturing, Inc.	Will Nugent - Bethel Farms
Claus Zander - Zander Sod Co. Limited	Derren Greenhill - Greenhills Turf Farm
Marcelo Lara Matte - Green Grass	Mark Tribbet - JB Instant Lawn, Inc.
Andy & Audrey Hutchison - Somerset Seed & Sod, Inc.	Ron Nixon - Heritage Turf, Inc.
Bruce McEwen - Blue Grass Sod Farms, Ltd.	Bob Weerts - Blue Valley Sod, Inc.
Kevin Morris - National Turfgrass Federation	Tom Temple - A. Duda & Sons, Inc.
Tom DeArmond - Oregon Turf & Tree Farms	Keaton Vandemark - Vandemark Farms LLC
Hugh Dampney - ECO Turf	Matt Smith - Southwest Sod
Fanus Cloete - Evergreen Turf South Africa	

For information about becoming a member of The Lawn Institute's 500 CLUB please call 847-649-5555 or contact Geri Hannah at ghannah@TurfGrassSod.org.



Female Soccer Players Take Strong Stand Against Artificial Turf

TO: FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP COMMITTEE AND PETER MONTOPOLI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CANADA 2015 —

“THE WORLD CUP SHOULD BE PLAYED ON NATURAL GRASS!”



4,843

of 5,000 signatures

The protest of professional women soccer players over artificial turf fields for the 2015 World Cup in Canada continues to pick-up steam. The decision by FIFA to hold the entire 2015 Women's World Cup tournament on artificial turf is stirring passions.

As of August 25, 2014, more than 40 national team players from at least 10 different countries have signed a petition to FIFA calling for natural grass in the 2015 Women's World Cup.

You can help them!

They are currently only 157 signatures short of their goal to get 5,000 signatures.

<https://www.coworker.org/petitions/fifa-the-world-cup-should-be-played-on-natural-grass>

"My biggest concern is the injuries. It takes several weeks to recover from playing on [artificial] turf. It's bad on your joints, not to mention all those rubber pellets. I just don't want soccer getting to that point where everybody's playing on artificial turf."

Carli Lloyd -

Olympic Gold Medalist - U.S. midfielder soccer star / SOURCE: BBC Sport on 5/5/2013

"It's my opinion that grass is the way the game is meant played for many different reasons - safety, the beauty of the game, the longevity of players' careers. We have to put up a fight."

Abby Wambach -

Soccer Forward - U.S. Women's National Team / SOURCE: Australian Leisure on 6/14/2013



USDA Secretary Announces — Creation of Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research

USDA Press Release

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the creation of the Foundation for Food and

Agricultural Research (FFAR) and the appointment of a 15-member board of directors. The new foundation will leverage public and private resources to increase the scientific and technological research, innovation, and partnerships critical to boosting America's agricultural economy.

Authorized by Congress as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, the foundation will operate as a non-profit corporation seeking and accepting private donations in order to fund research activities that focus on problems of national and international significance. Congress also provided \$200 million for the foundation which must be matched by non-federal funds as the Foundation identifies and approves projects.

"Studies have shown that every dollar invested in agricultural research creates \$20 in economic activity," said Vilsack. "Investments in innovation made over the past several decades have developed new products and new procedures that have been critical to the continued growth of American agriculture. We must continue to make strategic investments in research and technology if we are to remain leaders in the global economy."

The research funded by the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research will address issues including plant and animal health; food safety, nutrition and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agricultural and food security; and agriculture systems and technology.

The foundation's board of directors was chosen to represent the diverse sectors of agriculture. Seven of these board members were selected by the unanimous vote of the board's five ex-officio members from lists of candidates provided by industry, while eight representatives were unanimously elected from a list of candidates provided by the National Academy of Sciences. Congress mandated that the ex-officio members choose the initial 15 board members from among the lists provided by these two groups. However, new board members now have the option of adding additional members if they so choose. Secretary Vilsack said today he hoped the board would exercise its prerogative to add more members to expand the board's diversity.

In announcing the 15-member FFAR board today, Vilsack remarked, "Public-private partnerships are vital to the agricultural research community, and this is reflected in the membership of the foundation's board of directors."

The 15 voting members are:

- **Dr. Kathryn Boor** - the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
- **Dr. Douglas Buhler** - Director of AgBioResearch and Senior Associate Dean for Research for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University
- **Dr. Nancy Creamer** - Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Community Based Food Systems, North Carolina State University
- **Dr. Deborah Delmer** - Professor Emeritus of Biology, University of California-Davis
- **The Honorable Dan Glickman** - former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, current Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Congressional Program
- **Dr. Robert Horsch** - Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Pamela Johnson** - Chairwoman, National Corn Growers Association.
- **Dr. Mark E. Keenum** - President, Mississippi State University
- **Dr. Michael Ladisch** - Director of the Laboratory of Renewable Resources Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University
- **Dr. Christopher Mallett** - Vice President of Research & Development, Cargill, Inc.
- **Dr. Pamela Matson** - Chester Naramore Dean of the School of Earth Sciences, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies and Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University
- **Dr. Terry McElwain** - Associate Director and Professor, Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, and Executive Director, Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Washington State University
- **Dr. Stanley Prusiner** - Director of the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Professor of Neurology, University of California-San Francisco and 1997 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine
- **Dr. Yehia "Mo" Saif** - Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University
- **Dr. Barbara Schaal** - Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and Mary-Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

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