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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

Volume 7 Issue 10

December 2014



During this special time of the year family and friends come together to celebrate the season and recall fond memories of holidays past and present with loved ones. It is a time to rekindle old acquaintances, reflect on that which is most precious to us, and share our joy with those we hold most dear.

Wherever your travels may find you; be it in the comfort of your own home, or in the home of friends or family, Turfgrass Producers International extends warm wishes to you and yours for a healthy and prosperous New Year.



IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

A BIG THANK YOU!

TPI'S FACEBOOK PAGE REACHES

600+ FOLLOWERS

Turfgrass Producers International now has the largest following on Facebook of any turfgrass association worldwide.

<https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>





TPI Members has a few good FIELD DAYS!

West Coast Turf/Western Sod took to the fields at Qualcomm Stadium, the Rose Bowl and Levi's Stadium all at the same time.

TPI member West Coast Turf/Western Sod installed a new field at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California with overseeded big rolls at 1-1/4" thick.

It was the new field for the prime time Sunday night NFL football game between the San Diego Chargers and New England Patriots played on December 7th. It will also be the field for one



Qualcomm Stadium is the home of the San Diego Chargers, San Diego State University Aztecs, Poinsettia Bowl and Holiday Bowl.

additional Chargers home game and two college bowl games, the Poinsettia Bowl (Navy vs. San Diego State on December 23rd) and the Holiday Bowl (USC vs Nebraska on December 27th).

While they were installing turfgrass at Qualcomm Stadium they also tackled the Rose Bowl and Levi Stadiums. Needless to say, they have been busy.



West Coast Turf preparing Levi Stadium for the PAC 12 Championship where the University of Oregon Ducks played the University of Arizona Wildcats on December 5th and went on to win with an impressive score of 51 to 13.



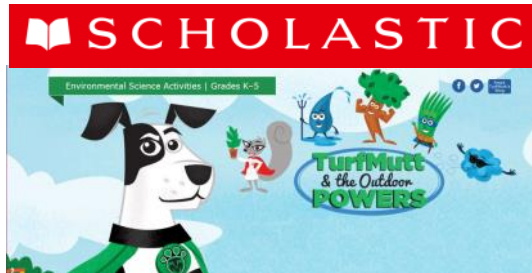
West Coast Turf/Western Sod installing Bandera Bermuda at Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, California for the Rose Bowl game on New Year's Day between #2 Oregon and #3 Florida State University (FSU).



Non-overseeded Bandera Bermuda at West Coast Turf's Scottsdale farm.



UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACHES OVER ONE MILLION STUDENTS



Back in 2009 the TPI E-Newsletter reported that the Weekly Reader and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s Education and Research Foundation were going to introduce TurfMutt, the Yard Dog Science Program in Washington DC and Sacramento, California. It was the first phase in a planned outreach educational program developed to reach third through fifth grade students to educate them on the benefits of green space.


In 2010, the TurfMutt program joined with Discovery Education, a highly respected, national curriculum development organization, and division of Discovery Communications, to develop a free, science-based curriculum to meet the needs of K-5 educators across the country. Since 2011, the curriculum has reached approximately one million students.

The curriculum offers free classroom resources for fostering an appreciation of the environment and green spaces through scientific investigation, activities and experiments.

In 2012, TurfMutt broadened its reach to families across the U.S. through an expanded digital experience and family-focused activities. The TurfMutt program continues to earn accolades for its outreach efforts. The Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools and the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Environmental Education Program – Teacher Resources and Lessons Plans websites list the TurfMutt program as a valued educational resource.

Superheroes TurfMutt & the Outdoor Powers are on a mission to teach kids and families backyard science, including how to take better care of the green spaces around them. With the activities in this new hands-on science program, children can help save the planet one yard at a time.


THE OUTDOOR POWERS



GREEN RANGER is a miniature and masked patch of grass, the foot soldier of the Outdoor Powers.

SUPERPOWERS: In a flash, Green Ranger waves and spreads, trapping carbon dioxide, reducing storm water runoff, and sharing oxygen while using his roots to prevent soil erosion and help create larger green spaces—in backyards, public parks, and more.


THE OUTDOOR POWERS



WATER WARRIOR, made up of precious water, is the aquatic avenger.

SUPERPOWERS: H-2-Oh-NO-you-don't. Water Warrior might be damp and drop-size but he's an irrigating force, diving deep into the soil to mount a hydrating force to help plants grow.


THE OUTDOOR POWERS



BIG ROOTY is the muscle guy of the Outdoor Powers.

SUPERPOWERS: Big Rooty uses all of his might to prevent soil erosion, trapping rainwater deep in the ground with his ripplin' roots, while his big bushy top counters heat islands (built-up cities heat up like crazy as opposed to the countryside) with shade.


THE OUTDOOR POWERS



PROFESSOR BOTANY is the bushy-tailed brains of the Outdoor Powers, with a college degree in master growing.

SUPERPOWERS: Professor Botany busies herself on the back end—she maps out complicated greening plans for the Outdoor Powers and teaches kids about plants from the comfort of her lofty tree nest.

THE OUTDOOR POWERS



THE OXYGENATOR is the one-man wind farm of the Outdoor Powers.

SUPERPOWERS: The Oxygenator harnesses his power for pollination and brings fresh air in big gusts to plants and people everywhere.

<http://www.scholastic.com/turfmutt/>





By Jim Novak

When the first Tiger Woods-designed golf course in the United States, Bluejack National, opens in the fall of 2015 there will be at least two TPI members with a smile on their face. David Doguet of Bladerunner Farms who can take pride in knowing that the proposed 18-hole golf course (with the exception of TifEagle Bermuda used on the greens), will be planted with Bladerunner's Zeon Zoysia and LIF Zoysia. The other fellow that is going to be pleased is Scott Sipes, sales manager of All Seasons Turf Grass, a sister farm of Horizon Turf Grass is also the location of TPI's 2016 Field Day.

In a story dated 12/2/14 Golf Course Industry News quotes Sipes as stating that the golf course will require 520 truckloads of grass equaling 4.2 million square feet of sod in the form of big rolls and slabs. Sipes reportedly added, "Anytime you work with someone in the industry and they are the number one name in golf - everyone in golf knows who they are - it's a challenge, it's prestigious, it's quite an honor."

Golf Course Industry News went on to report that Eric Bauer, director of agronomy suggested they'll be sodding

First Tiger Woods—Designed Golf Course in U.S. Presents a Great Opportunity for TPI Members



about 97 acres. It was also reported that they went with sod rather than sprigs to expedite the project by as much as a year.

Bluejack National is located 45 minutes from Houston in the Piney Woods of Montgomery County. The golf course is a planned world-class private club and community. Patterned after the great lodges, golf clubs and fishing camps of the 19th Century, Bluejack National will provide a relaxed inviting gathering place where families, friends and business associates may choose to visit for a short while or live year-round. The golf course is nestled on more than 35 acres of lakes and features approximately seven miles of beautiful hiking, biking and running trails.

TurfSide-UP

Stewart Pidd calls his company, *Any-Weather Landscaping*. His name along with his company's name seem somewhat appropriate. For obvious reasons Mr. Pidd prefers not to be called Stew . . . or for that matter, Dummkopf.

Stewart is also the owner of *Stewart's Year-Round Seasonal Shorts*.

— Jim Novak

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Are your employees receiving the TPI E-Newsletter? It's just one of the many member benefits you can share with your employees!

We encourage all members to provide their employees with an opportunity to receive the TPI E-Newsletter.

Much to our surprise, a good number of TPI member employees including farm managers, field hands, maintenance staff, sales people, administrative personnel and general office employees don't receive the TPI E-Newsletter. Many member employees aren't even aware of TPI's presence on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

The E-Newsletter along with TPI's social media provide numerous ways to keep your employees informed, help them gain a better understanding of the turfgrass industry and have a greater appreciation of your business and the role they play in driving your success.

Timely news and a wide variety of informative and entertaining stories provide a bigger picture of the turfgrass industry and give your employees greater insight into the scope of the industry.

We encourage all members to provide their employees with an opportunity to receive the TPI E-Newsletter. It's easy for them to sign-up and it's provided free of charge.



Have them visit: <http://www.turfgrassod.org/subscriptions> and provide their name and email address and we'll take care of the rest.

The better informed your employees are the better they can serve you.

TPI appoints Anne Footle – TPI's Marketing and Membership Manager



TPI's Executive Director, Melanie Stanton has announced that Anne Footle has been appointed to the position of Marketing and Membership Manager for Turfgrass Producers International effective immediately.

In announcing the appointment Stanton commented, "Anne is a highly self-motivated individual who has broad experience in marketing and project management, she is an effective communicator, a strategic thinker and has partnership development skills. Anne has applied her knowledge and experience in multiple industries including businesses and associations in the non-profit sector. She's also a creative and innovative thinker and has a diversified background in product, service, membership and meeting marketing expertise combined with a professional demeanor, broad technical skills and an engaging personality. Anne is sure to be invaluable asset as TPI looks to the future."

Anne received a Bachelor of Arts, Graphic Design/Visual Communications from Eastern Illinois University.



Four Groundskeepers Receive Highest Honor at Winter Meetings in San Diego

(LAWRENCE, Kan.) – Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) – the professional association for 2,600 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide – and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) announced the 2014 “Sports Turf Manager of the Year” awards.

Since 2004, STMA and MiLB have honored members who manage fields in Triple-A, Double-A, Single-A and Rookie divisions. Three of the four honorees are multi-year winners, showing continued excellence and loyalty to top-notch professional baseball facilities.

Award winners include:

- **Triple-A - Joey Stevenson, Indianapolis Indians** (Indianapolis, Indiana.)
- **Double-A - Brock Phipps, Springfield Cardinals** (Springfield, Missouri.)
- **Single-A - Keith Winter, Ft. Wayne Tincaps** (Fort Wayne, Indiana)
- **Short Season or Rookie - David Yearout, Spokane Indians** (Spokane, Washington)

“The Minor League Baseball ‘Sports Turf Manager of the Year’ award is a dedication to our members who have an intense passion to provide the finest playing surfaces,” says Kim Heck, CEO of STMA. “Each day, they face new challenges and these devoted individuals consistently create novel solutions to provide pristine and safe sports fields.”

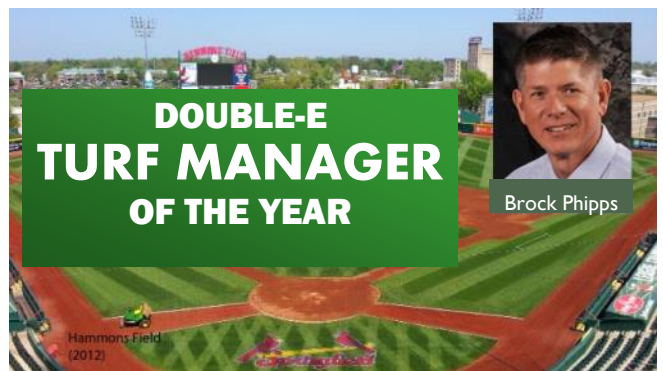
Stevenson is being honored for the third time, also winning in 2011 and 2012. Last year, he won *Sports Turf Magazine’s* first annual “Mowing Patterns” contest.

Phipps is also a two-time winner (2008, 2013). Winter will collect back-to-back awards, claiming his first in 2013. Yearout is a first-time recipient and joins an elite class of sports turf managers.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Announces 2014 Minor League Baseball ‘Sports Turf Manager of the Year’ Award Recipients

Winners are selected via a 15-member awards committee, compiled by STMA. Each nominee is independently scored on cultural practices, game day routine, resource utilization, staff management and the groundskeeper's involvement and support of the sports turf industry.

STMA presented the awards to recipients at the annual Major League Baseball Winter Meetings awards luncheon in San Diego, Calif. on December 8th.



The handy work of groundskeeper Brock Phipps, a three time Double-A Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year award recipient.

About STMA

STMA is the not-for-profit, professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, the association and its 34 local chapters have been providing education, information and sharing practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. Its more than 2,600 members oversee sports fields and facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**TPI 2015
Live Show & Tell
Portland, Oregon
July 9-11, 2015**



TPI's *2015 Live Show & Tell* in Portland, Oregon is scheduled to take place July 9-11. More information will be forthcoming soon. Look for updates on TPI's website page and on TPI's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn sites.



Greg Skotnicki elected President of Nursery Sod Growers Association (NSGA) of Ontario



CONGRATULATIONS to Greg Skotnicki President of Manderley Turf Products, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on being elected President of the NSGA.

An Ottawa native, Greg held a number of key executive roles in the private sector.

Before completing his MBA at Queen's University Greg studied at Royal Military College and graduated as a Mechanical Engineer after which he spent time with the Canadian Forces as an Air Navigator.

In 1997, Greg began his journey as an entrepreneur opening an alternative healthcare clinic in Ottawa which led him to his role as Director of Operations for lonalytics Corporation, a biotech start-up. After the successful sale of lonalytics in 2005, Greg was approached by Manderley's financiers to run its International division

which he did until being appointed President in 2007.

Today Manderley produces 80 million square feet (7.4 million square meters) of turfgrass a year and manages 7000 acres (2,832 hectares) of farms across 3 provinces, making it Canada's largest sod supplier. In 2011 Manderley was named one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies.



Greg is an active participant in Canada Green Building Council, Turfgrass Producers International and served on the board of directors for the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario (NSGA) leading the NSGA's Green Certification Program to nursery sod farms across North America.





THINGS TO DO IN SAN DIEGO

San Diego Air and Space Museum
San Diego Auto Museum
San Diego Model Railroad Museum
San Diego Zoo
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Birch Aquarium
Harbor Cruise
Hollywood Museum
Maritime Museum of San Diego
New Children's Museum
Sea Life Aquarium
Sea World
USS Midway Museum



Early Bird Registration is Open!

Deadline Thursday 12/18/14

Are you involved in the production, harvesting, marketing and distribution of natural turfgrass? Then plan to attend the 2015 TPI Education Conference & Field Day!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[CLICK here: http://www.sandiego.org/what-to-do.aspx](http://www.sandiego.org/what-to-do.aspx)

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

Scholarship Application

Deadline is January 15, 2015

The Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship is available to all Class A and B TPI members, their family members, their employees and their employees' family members who are pursuing higher education (an associate, bachelor, masters or doctorate degree).

The Lawn Institute (TLI) will provide a scholarship valued up to \$10,000 (US). This includes an initial award of \$2,500, renewable up to three times, pending certain criteria.

Applicants must apply through the TLI scholarship application process, which concludes in January. Applications are reviewed by TLI's Scholarship Committee and objectively evaluated, based on pre-determined criteria. We plan to announce the winner at the San Diego Conference. Initial payment will be made the following February, pending TLI's receipt of first semester/quarter grade reports.

To renew the scholarship in subsequent years, winners are asked to submit an annual report summarizing how the previous years' education can be applied to the turfgrass industry. Scholarship recipients are invited to make a live presentation at a TPI meeting or to submit an essay that can be printed in *Turf News* magazine.



Scholarship recipients will receive a complimentary conference registration to the TPI International Education Conference & Field Day (does not include hotel or travel) to make a presentation to attendees describing the impact that the scholarship has had and where their studies are leading.

A copy of scholarship winners' grades from the previous year, course schedule for the upcoming year and affirmation that their declared major has not changed or information regarding their new major must be submitted by the last Friday of September for the scholarship to be renewed after the initial award.

[Download the 2015 Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship application today!](#)

TPI 2015 International Education Conference & Field Day

GREAT FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR THE LAWN INSTITUTE

“The Lawn Institute needs your support in beautiful San Diego!!! Numerous fun activities are planned and each one provides you with an opportunity to show your financial support to The Lawn Institute (501c3) and help fund research and education. The following is a brief overview of some of the planned activities.” — Nancy Aerni, Chair TLI Fund Raising Committee

The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, February 16th - Omni La Costa Golf Course—Champions Course

The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament is always a fun event and this year's tournament has plenty of unexpected surprises to make the game all the more exciting. You don't have to be a good golfer to participate and have a great time.

Wine Pull

Monday, February 16th - Welcome Reception

For anyone who enjoys wine! Purchase a number for \$20 during the Welcome Reception for the Wine Pull. Random numbers will then be placed on bottles of wine. Match your number to the appropriate bottle to see which bottle of wine you won.

The Lawn Institute Scavenger Hunt

**Tuesday, February 17th -
Wednesday, February 18th**

Team up with friends, colleagues and customers for this two-day event. The Lawn Institute's Scavenger Hunt provides a unique networking opportunity as you battle or collaborate with other teams. The Scavenger Hunt will begin at lunchtime on Tuesday, February 17. Send a team member to pick up your Scavenger Hunt List during the Tuesday's Networking Lunch, then start collecting items on the list. The Scavenger Hunt closes on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 5:30 pm.



IT'S EASY TO PARTICIPATE

- Form a team of up to six people: You can select your team before you arrive in San Diego or grab some friends onsite! Don't have a team? Submit your name to TLI staff and we will help put you on a team. Each team pays \$300 to participate.

- Using clues provided by TLI's Fundraising Committee, collect as many items from the Scavenger Hunt List as you can (many of the items will be photos or videos, so make sure that at least one member of your team has a camera or smart phone). Each item has a different point value.
- Submit your scavengered items to the TPI registration desk by the deadline (Wednesday 5:30 pm.)
- The team with the most points wins the **Grand Prize: \$1,200**
- TLI's Scavenger Hunt is a two-day fun-filled event that's sure to create camaraderie, plenty of laughs and provide a great way to get-acquainted with new friends and fellow TPI members!
- **NOTE: A minimum of eight teams is required for the Scavenger Hunt to begin.**

Trick Out a Trike—The Sequel

Wednesday, February 18th - Field Day



TLI's Tricycle Race was so much fun at last year's Field Day that we're doing it again but this time we're adding a few twists, turns and surprises.

RAFFLE

Purchase raffle tickets for your favorite team and put them in the corresponding team buckets before the race begins. After the winner is determined, a representative from the winning team will draw a raffle ticket from their team bucket - winning raffle ticket holder will receive one-third of the total collected from raffle ticket sales!

Raffle purchases will be calculated as part of your total donation to TLI for 2015. Donate a total of \$500 during the year and you will be inducted into the 2015 500 Club.