

IN THIS ISSUE

The big “green industry” news story last month was the NBC report questioning possible health issues over tire crumb rubber used on artificial turf fields.

Artificial turf came under fire in other stories too, including several articles on Forbes.com that questioned the validity of “cost savings” claims that are being made regarding artificial turf. A few local jurisdictions that were about to install or vote on the installation of artificial turf fields in their community suddenly balked or backed out.

All parties do seem to agree on one thing when it comes to artificial turf - more research is needed.

— Jim Novak



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Volume 7 Issue 9

November 2014

IS ARTIFICIAL TURF’S CRUMB RUBBER REALLY SAFE?

Debate over safety of tire crumb rubber used on artificial turf fields makes national news!

By Jim Novak

The NBC Nightly News broadcast of Wednesday, October 8 stirred up considerable attention and concern regarding the safety of tire crumb rubber being used on artificial surfaces across the U.S. and around the world.

The NBC report focused on the University of Washington’s Soccer Coach, Amy Griffin who began to ask serious questions about the material used on artificial fields. Her main concern, the crumb rubber made from shredded tires that’s used on fields all over the country.

In the report, Griffin (pictured on the right) reported she has compiled a list of 38 American soccer players – 34 of them goalies – who have been diagnosed with cancer. At least a dozen played in Washington, but the geographic spread is nationwide. Blood cancers like lymphoma and leukemia dominate the list.

NBC reported that environmental advocates want the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to take a closer look at crumb rubber.

While both the CPSC and the EPA performed studies over five years ago, both agencies recently backtracked on their assurances the material was safe, calling their studies “limited.” But while the EPA told NBC News in a statement that “more testing needs to be done,” the agency also said it considered artificial turf to be a “state and local decision,” and would not be commissioning further research.



Screen captures from NBC Nightly News broadcast.

Cont'd on next page

IS ARTIFICIAL TURF'S CRUMB RUBBER REALLY SAFE? - Cont'd

NBC wasn't the only media outlet that addressed this concern. Back in June of this year, KOMO-TV, an ABC affiliate in Seattle, Washington did a report on Griffin. It presented much of the same information. They reported what triggered Griffin's concern was a list she compiled that indicated 13 players from Washington had all been diagnosed with rare types of cancer. Of those 13, 11 came from an even smaller pool of players: Goal keepers.

In the KOMO report Griffin comments, "Everyone says it's just a coincidence and kind of walks away, but the ratio of goal keepers to field players is 15 to 1, 16 to 2, and I know plenty of goal keepers that have cancers and I don't know many field players."

It should be noted that NBC made it clear that "no research has linked cancer to artificial turf."

Griffin collected names through personal experience with sick players, and acknowledges that her list is not a scientific data set. But it's enough to make her ask whether crumb rubber in artificial turf, a product that has been rolled out in tens of thousands of parks, playgrounds, schools and stadiums in the U.S., is safe for the athletes and kids who play on it.

The news reports suggested others across the country are raising similar questions, arguing that the now-ubiquitous material, made out of synthetic fibers and scrap tire — which can contain benzene, carbon black

and lead, among other substances — has not been adequately tested. Few studies have measured the risk of ingesting crumb rubber orally.

NBC also reported, "That today, according to figures from the Synthetic Turf Council, more than 11,000 synthetic turf sports fields are in use in the U.S. Most of them are crumb rubber. Crumb rubber infill is also used in children's playgrounds across the country."

These stories suggest, if nothing else, that there is a need for serious, impartial and in-depth research related to these concerns. But if the Environmental Protection Agency and the Consumer Product Safety Commission have no plans to pursue such an effort, who will? The Lawn Institute might!

In the meantime, parents, young children, student athletes and professional athletes can do little more than wait for conclusive evidence to materialize — one way or the other.

To see the NBC and KOMO-TV reports in their entirety go to TPI's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>.

The reports can also be found at: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/how-safe-artificial-turf-your-child-plays-n220166> and <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Soccer-coach-Could-field-turf-be-causing-cancer-259895701.html>

Are taxpayers getting fooled on the cost of artificial turf fields?

As if NBC's investigative report wasn't enough to have supporters of artificial turf scrambling to answer inquiries and questions from concerned parents and the media, a Forbes.com article dated September 28th penned by Mike Ozanian was already adding fuel to the fire.

Ozanian wasn't so much addressing health issues but rather the cost of artificial turf verses natural grass. When he put pencil to paper things didn't quite add up. Mike doesn't profess to be a math wizard or a CPA, but when he took a close look at cost projections he found himself scratching his head. He even went so far as to say, "taxpayers have been getting hoodwinked by bogus analysis into thinking artificial turf fields are cheaper than natural grass."

It should be noted that Ozanian has no hidden agenda. So what triggered his interest in this issue? He went to a meeting in his own town where the town council was in the process of approving a \$3 million bond based on what he considered "nonsensical financial analysis" provided by the "turf field guys."

To read Ozanian's article in it's entirety go to <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/>



- Jim Novak



DELIVERING THE MESSAGE

THE MESSENGERS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THE MESSAGE!

“It is important that we actively secure partners from around the world in order to have a stronger impact when we promote the use of turfgrass to municipalities, school administrators, landscape architects, sports field supervisors, golf course superintendents, builders and homeowners.” – Melanie Stanton (Turf News Nov/Dec 2014)

Jim Novak— Commentary

Gregg Wartgow drafted an article featured in Green Industry Pros.com titled, **“Are Waterless Lawns Really the Future?” (September 30, 2014)** in which he referenced a story featured on ABC 30-KFSN in Fresno, California that addressed waterless lawns (i.e. synthetic turf) in California. With on going water shortages and not knowing what the coming winter might bring it seems two California landscape contractors have joined forces to warehouse and sell artificial turf.

Wartgow could have let his entire article focus on the primary story about the two entrepreneurs and artificial turf, but he deviated just a bit with his perceptive close in which he wrote:

“Good old-fashioned grass – the kind that does need water – is something most Americans still have an affinity for. Plus, turfgrass does play a vital role in the ecosystem. For example, the OPEI has published a report [[Technical Assessment of the Carbon Sequestration Potential of Managed Turfgrass in the United States](#)] highlighting the many positive benefits of turfgrass, including carbon sequestration. Healthy lawns also help manage stormwater runoff and reduce the heat island effect. Real grass can definitely be good. Today’s landscape contractors just have to recognize when, where and how to use it.”

There’s no denying that the drought situation in California, as well as other parts of the U.S. and the world is a serious matter. As population growth continues along with urban density the demand for water is only likely to increase in the future. But to think the only solution is to have artificial turf in every front and backyard, or playground, or outdoor sports field would, in this writer’s opinion, have dire consequences that would be detrimental to the environment. Quick fixes are seldom solutions to long term problems. We agree wholeheartedly with Wartgow’s closing point - *Real grass can definitely be good. Today’s landscape contractors just have to recognize when, where and how to use it.*

Our challenge, meaning that of Turfgrass Producers International along with other turfgrass associations, turfgrass educators, researchers and other companies and organizations serving the Green Industry will continue to be the need to not only educate the general public, but create greater awareness with landscape contractors, government

decision-makers and others who suggest, influence, or restrict what homeowners should or shouldn’t do.

In the November/December issue of *Turf News* magazine, TPI’s Executive Director, Melanie Stanton, touches upon the importance of forging new partnerships and strengthening existing relationships. She writes, “It is important that we actively secure partners from around the world in order to have a stronger impact when we promote the use of turfgrass to municipalities, school administrators, landscape architects, sports field supervisors, golf course superintendents, builders, and homeowners.”

Stanton’s commitment and her efforts have been highly visible since she became TPI’s Executive Director just ten months ago. As a result of her dedication, passion and resolve, TPI’s presence has become extremely evident. Stanton has become involved in a newly formed STMA Natural Grass Task Group; the Greenscapes Alliance Green Buildings Initiatives Subcommittee; she’s involved with the Canadian Nursery and Landscapes Alliance Turfgrass Subcommittee; she recently returned from Europe where she represented TPI at the Vanmac Field Day in Germany and participated in the European Turfgrass Seminar. She has enhanced communication and relationships with Turfgrass Producers of Florida, Turfgrass Producers of Texas, Turf Australia and plans to work with the newly proposed association, European Turfgrass Producers that’s currently being formed. She has also been invited to speak in behalf of TPI at the American Seed Trade Association’s “Farm & Lawn Seed Conference” this November in Kansas City, MO. And when NBC Nightly News broke their story on possible crumb rubber health issues she was quick to reach out to TPI members and other Green Industry partners to heighten their awareness of the story while promoting the benefits of natural turfgrass.

The challenge of communicating the many environmental benefits of natural turfgrass so that this generation and the next understand all that turfgrass has to offer is much the same as it was nearly 50 years ago when TPI (ASPA) was originally founded. Turfgrass plays a vital role in the ecosystem and our challenge as an industry and as an association is to serve as the messengers. The past ten months would suggest that TPI is certainly up to the challenge.



GRASS IS THE ANSWER!

“A commitment to the existing grass fields around us can meet the immediate needs for safe, quality playing fields.” - Jared Minnick

The unknowns of synthetic turf safety burst into the limelight following NBC's investigative report on tire crumb rubber. It has resulted in a call for additional research on synthetic turf crumb rubber infills, or a change to organic infills for new fields being installed. Sports field specialist Jared Minnick suggests the answer to such a quest is already under our feet.

By Jerad Minnick

Instead of waiting years for research, the answer already exists! A commitment to the existing grass fields around us can meet the immediate needs for safe, quality playing fields. Here is how that can work:

Less Cost:

With an existing field, as little as 1/10th of the amount of money needed for one synthetic field is needed to improve and maintain that grass field over 10 years. In a world of tight budgets, spending to improve and maintain 10 existing grass fields correctly instead of building one synthetic will make a significant difference.

Additionally, to build and maintain a quality grass field that is rainout proof, 1/3 to 1/2 of the monetary investment of a synthetic field is required over 10 years.

[See more basic expense figures click here:](#)

Grass v synthetic, The numbers

Playability:

Natural grass fields can be built and maintained to meet playability needs based on level, demand, and budget. Grass can be maintained to fit the level of surface that is needed. Slow, fast, soft, firm, wet, dry, all factors can be controlled.

On maintained grass the ball always “rolls” allowing players to predict ball movement. Skin burns and abrasions aren't common with grass. That fact allows players to attack aggressively and naturally without fear of injury.

And that same grass surface has a temperature below the outdoor temperature, naturally cooling the area for players.

[See more thoughts on playability click here:](#)

Artificial turf makes no sense for soccer

Environmental/ Health impact:

Natural grass is just that...natural. The environmental benefits of grass are many. And natural grass that needs no EPA-approved pesticides is near because of improved grass genetics, evolving maintenance practices, and new technology for pest control. More positives from natural grass are:

- Filters pollutants from storm water as it soaks back into the soil
- Reduces noise pollution by up to 40%
- Cools the ambient air temperature
- Produces oxygen (1 field/yr produces enough to supply up to 128 people)
- Reduces CO₂ (1 field/yr removes the equivalent emitted by a car driving 6,000 miles)

With acres of park and stadium fields around the world, grass has a huge positive impact on players and society.



Continued on next page

Grass IS the Answer! - Cont'd

Innovation for durability and player safety:

The tools used for grass fields improve daily. Creative thinking and technology offer a wide range of innovation for grass fields.

Grass breeding and genetics: Grasses, both warm & cool season, are now available that grow twice as fast and are twice as durable as standard grasses.

Technology for plant feeding and health: Environmentally friendly fertilizers have been developed for healthy grass growth. These products are created in cooperation with government regulations to protect the environment. The friendly fertilizers help produce thick, strong grass that the EPA has endorsed as important for ground-water filtration.

Development of safety and durability tools: A wide range of safety and durability tools are available to be used on grass fields. Systems to absorb energy and reduce surface hardness and injury potential are available. Products that provide surface stability to eliminate slipping and divoting have been developed. No longer is it just grass and dirt. Innovation is advancing possibilities of grass fields.

Human Element:

Natural grass is economical, player-friendly, good for the environment, and continues to improve with innovation. But ultimately the biggest advantage grass fields have is the human care they receive from dedicated turfgrass managers. Existing turfgrass managers, provided with a few tools, can produce a low-cost, environmentally friendly field. In an age of needed job creation, committing money to maintain grass fields instead of building synthetic fields will create numerous new environmentally friendly jobs in the sports and park industry.

There is an immediate need for safe, quality playing fields. The fields needed **ALREADY EXIST!** But "if you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten." It is no longer acceptable to spend little to no money to maintain an existing grass field and then turn to a million dollar synthetic field. Yes, a simple commitment to improvement and maintenance of natural grass fields can provide the answer!



Contribution of field playing surface type and quality to potential acute and chronic injury rates



Debbie Conrad, Executive Director of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) has advised us that OTRF along with their funding partner Sports Turf Association provided funding to help facilitate a preliminary study that looks at injury rates on real versus artificial turf.

Principal Researchers:

DR. WILLIAM GAGE, YORK UNIVERSITY, ONTARIO
DR. ERIC LYONS UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, ONTARIO

PROJECT SCOPE:

This study examined the athlete interface with different playing surfaces of both synthetic and natural fields that

included different turfgrass types, densities and weed invasion. With the technology of an orthopedic neuromechanics research lab the repetitive measurements of athlete/surface interface can be measured to determine if there is a potential for long term chronic injuries in addition to the documented acute injuries.

Final Report:

[Contribution of playing surface to rate of injury
Dr. Lyons & Dr. Gage Final Report Dec 2012](#)



FIRST—TPI Extension Specialist/Educator Sponsor

WILDERNESS TURF FARM in Mer Rouge, Louisiana proudly sponsored Dr. Ron Strahan of Louisiana State University, LSU Ag Center.

Wilderness Turf Farm



Imagine how beneficial it would be if every TPI member sponsored just one Turfgrass Extension Specialist to be a TPI member. Sponsorship is only \$55. Can you afford not to be a sponsor?

In the last issue of the newsletter we encouraged all TPI members to consider sponsoring a Turfgrass Extension Specialist or educator in their area to become a TPI member. **Cole Sims** of Wilderness Turf Farm welcomed the opportunity and sponsored Dr. Ron Strahan, Assistant Professor, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences at Louisiana State University, LSU Ag Center. Sims offered this comment regarding his sponsorship of Dr. Strahan, "Dr. Strahan really is an asset to our industry. He is smart and practical as well as being a generally good person."

The contributions that Turfgrass Extension Specialists and educators make to our industry can't be overstated. They are a tremendous resource for information. They speak on behalf of our industry. They provide invaluable insight into ongoing research, timely information and identify existing opportunities to maximize efficiencies.

The cost to sponsor a Turfgrass Extension Specialist is only \$55 a year. That's not much when you consider your sponsorship will enable the recipient to receive *Turf News* magazine, the Business Management Newsletter and other important information distributed by TPI.

When you sponsor a Turfgrass Extensions Specialist or an educator they will receive a letter from TPI acknowledging your support of their efforts and the benefits they can expect as a result of your sponsorship. Being a sponsor is good for our industry, it's good for TPI and it's especially good for your business.

For more information contact Jim Novak at the TPI office at 847-649-5555 or 800-405-8873. TPI will send a personal letter to the individual you sponsor and acknowledge your gift membership.



John and Betty Addink and their son Joel will be the proud hosts of TPI's 2015 Field Day.

SAVE THE DATE



Early Bird Registration is Open!

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](#)



Where in the world is TPI represented? EVERYWHERE!

An on-going series featuring photos and copy from TPI member websites and Facebook pages.

Coosa Valley Turf Farms, LLC
Centre, Alabama USA
<http://www.coosavalleyturfarms.com/>



Coosa Valley Turf Farms LLC

Growers of Quality Turf Since 1987

Coosa Valley Turf Farms is a family owned and operated turf farm. We have been growing quality turf since 1987 and offer a variety of turfgrasses including 419 Bermuda, TifSport, Bermuda, Tif Grand Bermuda and Zeon Zoysia.

We are proud members of Turfgrass Producers International and the Alabama Turfgrass Association. Owner, Tom Wolf, served on the board and as President of the Alabama Turfgrass Research Foundation

and he is also the Past President of the Alabama Turfgrass Association.

Coosa Valley Turf Farms is a 2014 member of The Lawn Institute 500 Club. The Lawn Institute foundation supports turfgrass research and education.



Tom Wolf, owner of Coosa Valley Turf Farms, LLC with the first pallet of TifGrand they harvested back in 2010.



Since 1990

Photo courtesy of The Turfgrass Group.

TurfSide-UP

It's hard to believe these were actual classified ads but they are real. Phone numbers were intentionally omitted. - Jim Novak

YARD & GARDEN

LAWN MOWER

Tends to catch on fire but can be put out easily with a garden hose

\$30

Please call [REDACTED]

Wanted

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DO YARD WORK

Must have a hula-hoop.

CALL

[REDACTED]





The Lawn Institute Invites Researchers to Submit Grant Proposals

Research Grants

The Lawn Institute Research Committee invites you to submit a request for research funding.

Grant funding is available beginning March 2015 for studies that impact turfgrass farmers, distributors, and consumers. Of particular interest is research in the following areas:

- Extending Harvested Turf "Shelf Life"
- Environmental Awareness
- Production Cost
- Compilations and Summaries of Existing Research on:
 - Nutrients and Pesticides
 - The Role of Turfgrass in Protecting the Environment
 - Benefits of Turfgrass

Please click on the links below to download all the materials you will need to submit your grant application. **Your proposal must be submitted on the form provided in an electronic version or an exact duplicate.**

Grant awards will vary depending on the adjudged value of the project to the needs of the turfgrass sod production industry. Typical awards range from \$5,000 - \$10,000. However, all proposals will be considered regardless of the grant amount requested. For additional information, refer to the "Requirements of Principal Investigator/Institution" document.

Although space has been limited to encourage concise grant applications, additional information may be requested at a later date. It is important that you complete all areas in the application.

Research topics that will be given the highest priority are included as "Research Prioritized Objectives".

In preparing the application, be sure that all pertinent information is typed (no smaller than 10-point type) in English.

Completed applications must be received (not post-marked) **at The Lawn Institute address (via mail, fax or email) by December 1, 2014.**

The Lawn Institute
2 East Main St.
East Dundee, IL 60118 USA
Phone: 800/405-8873 Fax: 847/649-5678
Email: info@thelawninstitute.org

Recommendations on grant awards will be made by The Lawn Institute Research Committee to The Lawn Institute Board of Trustees for final approval. Grant awards will be announced no later than March 6, 2015. When writing your proposal, remember that the selection committee is made up of industry representatives from around the world as well as research scientists. It is important that you clearly define the problem that your research addresses, the scope of the problem, and how your research addresses it as well as how your research will impact turfgrass producers. The Lawn Institute reserves the right to negotiate proprietary rights for projects on a per-grant basis including copyrights, source codes, and/or patents.

Download your application package by clicking on the following links:

[General Research Grant Application](#)
[Requirements of Principal Investigator/Institution](#)
[Research Prioritized Objectives](#)



Clark Bell appointed Adjunct Professor



Congratulations to **Clark T. Bell** on his appointment as Adjunct Professor at University of Utah Continuing Education - Technology Education. Bell is the GM of BioGrass Sod Farm, Sandy, Utah, COO/Founder of Aqua-Yield in Salt Lake City and serves as a Digital Marketing Consultant.



Vanmac Field Day 2014

Vanmac Field Day in Germany on September 26, 2014 at Schwab Rollrasen Field.



TPI member **Pierluigi Strada** of Plantec Soc Agr. Srl in Marina di Ginosa, Italy on the right attended with his friend **Leonardo Lapietra**.



Helmut, Brigitte, Martin and Michael Schingen at Rollrasen Helmut Schingen, Petschow, Germany.

Video screen captures—Vanmac

Jetlagged and Loving It — By Melanie Stanton

When I was interviewing for the position of Executive Director of Turfgrass Producers International, the board members told me many things about their expectations for the chosen candidate. Among the many facts, notes and directives, the board advised 1) it is critical that TPI truly focus on representing turfgrass producers from around the world and 2) I should plan to travel to any destination necessary to fulfill the first goal. In attempting to meet this challenge, I have traveled to cities as close as Des Plaines, Illinois (a mere 23 miles, or 37 kilometers, from the TPI office in East Dundee, Illinois) to as far as Ingolstadt, Germany (an ocean away from the TPI office).

I was fortunate to travel to Europe earlier this fall at the invitation of Christiaan Arends from Barenbrug Holland, and Peter van Mispelaar from Vanmac. Barenbrug Holland and Vanmac hosted a joint program: a half-day seminar on turfgrass production, followed by a Field Day demonstrating equipment ranging from lateral mowers to turfgrass vacuums to harvesters. The program was well-attended with more than 400 people from Europe and Africa at the Field Day (more than 30 nationalities were represented) and more than 125 participating in the seminar.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity that this trip afforded me to meet some of our members outside of North America, to learn more about the challenges sod producers overseas face that we don't see in the U.S. and Canada, and to speak with attendees about actions TPI is taking to promote the use of natural turfgrass with consumers and influential decision-makers. I was even introduced to some of our newest members: Tim Jellicoe and Emma Hill from Fresh Turf, South Brent, Devon, UK and Helmut, Brigitte, Martin and Michael Schingen at Rollrasen Helmut Schingen, Petschow, Germany. And I caught up with some longtime members, including Ian True of Trebro Manufacturing, Inc., Billings, Montana; John Owens of Kesmac/Brouwer Turf in Keswick, Ontario, Canada; Julian and Denise Visser of Groenvlei Gras in Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa and Pierluigi Strada of Plantec Soc Agr. Srl in Marina di Ginosa, Italy to name but a few.



Christiaan Arends of Barenbrug listens intently as Dr. James Baird, Turfgrass Specialist at the University of California makes a point.



Ian True of Trebro Manufacturing along with Melanie Stanton enjoy the company of TPI members Julian and Denise Visser of Groenvlei Gras in South Africa get together during Vanmac Field Day in Germany.



TPI member Tim Jellicoe, Emma Hill and young Jack from FreshTurf in South Brent, Devon, England.

Jetlagged and Loving It - Cont'd



Direct Gazon vacuum machine for chilling grass for shipment.



GelreDome in the city of Arnhem featuring a moveable pitch.



Barenbrug Holland's seed cleaning and testing process.

The featured speaker and my touring partner while we were in Europe was Dr. James Baird, Turfgrass Specialist at the University of California, Riverside who discussed different methods that turfgrass producers can use to manage weeds. Jim will be joining us at the TPI International Education Conference & Field Day in San Diego this February to speak further on this subject – a topic that, I know, is of particular interest to our meeting participants who are forever battling new legislation restricting the use of herbicides.

But it was the activities that Christiaan planned during the two days *preceding* the program that enabled me to further my turfgrass education. During a whirlwind tour that began as soon as I cleared customs in The Netherlands, I was able to visit Direct Gazon and Hendriks Graszoden sod farms where we watched rolls of sod get chilled by large vacuum machines to almost freezing temperatures so they could be transported as far away as Turkey. Although those giant cooling machines are a big investment, it's easy to see how a farm can expand its business by using them to deliver a healthy, first-class product to homes, golf courses and athletic fields well outside of its traditional delivery zone.

Speaking of athletic fields, we also visited the GelreDome in the city of Arnhem. This was my first visit to a stadium that features moveable pitch (my husband is becoming increasingly jealous of the access I am sometimes afforded). Our private tour guide, the charming former play-by-play announcer, Martin Esveld, used a scale model to demonstrate how the field operates and provided us access to the field to study the components.

While visiting the ArenA in Amsterdam, I took the opportunity to examine the Stadium Grow Lighting up close. SGL originates from The Netherlands and it was easy to tell that the Dutch sports turf managers are proud to use a local product to help keep their pitch healthy and thick.

During our second day in The Netherlands, our hosts at Barenbrug Holland invited us to their offices to meet the many minds that keep their business humming. I was nothing less than fascinated by Barenbrug Holland's seed cleaning and testing process. They have an accredited laboratory on the premises and I was astonished to witness the care taken with each random sample to ensure bags of seed are pure and the seeds will germinate robustly. The process inspired a great deal of confidence in the quality of the final product and I recommend that all sod producers visit their seed suppliers and the testing labs those suppliers use in order to witness similar operations for themselves. Because TPI is scheduling visits to several seed companies during the Live Show and Tell tour next summer in Portland, Oregon, those who participate are certain to gain an education in seed research and testing. I hope you will consider taking part in the Live Show and Tell when details become available early in 2015.

I extend a most sincere thank you to my hosts, Christiaan and Peter, for developing the program in Europe and for ensuring that my trip was valuable to me and to TPI. A global organization really must represent the interests of all its members and this type of outreach will help TPI accomplish that goal.

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All photos by M. Stanton with the exception of the group photo on the previous page.

TURFGRASS HISTORY AND LITERATURE LAWNS, SPORTS AND GOLF

By Dr. James B. Beard, Harriet J. Beard and James C. Beard

The true heritage of turfgrass science and culture is best represented by an extensive historical record encompassing the principles, cultural practices, grasses, materials, and equipment that have been developed over the course of 300 years by turfgrass scientists, private companies, professional turfgrass managers, and amateur practitioners.

Beard provides a detailed chronicle of the evolution and history of turfgrass. The book documents the use of turfgrass worldwide as reflected in early publications and photographs and explores the development of its science and culture.

In Beard's compilation, resumes of book authors characterize their historical activities and contributions to the turfgrass field, providing an extensive bibliography of turfgrass texts, research development, and educational programs via reviews, scientific journals, research reports, and trade publications.

Selected quotes and unique original photographs depict early activities, equipment, and conditions and their evolution in the turfgrass field.

The extensive material in this book is drawn primarily from the comprehensive James B Beard Turfgrass Collection donated to the Michigan State University Turfgrass Information Center in 2003. The holdings at this library represent the most extensive collection of turfgrass-related publications available today.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. James B Beard is the world's leading authority on turfgrass and turfgrass science. He spent most of his career in academia, first at Michigan State University, then at Texas A&M University, where he is currently professor emeritus of turfgrass science. He has pioneered investigations concerning turfgrass and the ecology of grass, and has published widely and lectured both throughout North America and internationally. Currently, he guides turfgrass research and education programs, especially internationally, while also instructing in turfgrass education through seminars, papers, manuals, and books. He has also served on many national committees.

Dr. Beard holds four degrees, has written and published prolifically, including more than 700 scientific papers and technical articles, as well as numerous books.



Dr. James B. Beard and his wife Harriet J. Beard.

He has lectured widely throughout North America and abroad, and has served as a technical advisor to turfgrass organizations in more than a dozen countries. Dr. Beard has been the recipient of the Turfgrass Science Award and the Crop Science Research Award of the Crop Science Society of America. He was the first president of the International Turfgrass Society. He has been elected to the Board of Directors of CSSA, ASA, CAST, and ITS; and honored as a Fellow of CSSA, ASA, and AAAS.

Dr. Beard and Harriet J. Beard, his wife and long-time collaborator, have written numerous books and jointly received the Oberly Award of the American Library Association. Dr. Beard currently serves as President and Chief Scientist at the International Sports Turf Institute.

ISBN: 9781611861037

ISBN-10: 1611861039

Publisher: Michigan State University Press

For more information contact Julie Reame, Marketing Manager at reaumej@msu.edu

REVIEWS

"I had the privilege to read the manuscript of *Turfgrass History and Literature: Golf, Lawn and Sports*" before it was published, and only one person could have written this magnum opus – Dr. Jim Beard. I would recommend every superintendent's office have a copy on the bookshelf. It is interesting and invaluable."

— Monroe Miller

"No pun intended. Beard's *Turfgrass History and Literature*' goes to the 'roots' of our industry. I believe every turfgrass manager should have a copy in their reference library."

— Bob Shearman, Professor Emeritus of Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

"This work is the only comprehensive source of information on the history of turfgrass and the science of its cultivation. James and Harriet Beard have produced a lasting legacy. The early chapters on turfgrass origins alone are worth the price of admission."

— Dr. John Stier, Professor and Assistant Dean, College of Agricultural Science & Natural Resources, University of Tennessee.



The Lawn Institute Scholarship Program



The Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship was established by The Lawn Institute (TLI) Board of Trustees in 2006 as a way to honor a founding father of Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) and to help to mitigate the rising costs of college and post-graduate education. The 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).

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. Scholarship winners are announced no later than July every year. Initial payment will be made the following February, pending TLI's receipt of first semester/quarter grade reports.

To receive the scholarship, 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!](#)

Armyworms Now Invading Southern Indiana Turfgrass Areas



Photo Purdue Extension—B. Voges

In last month's newsletter we addressed the Armyworm problem that was reported in Arkansas. We have recently learned that a turfgrass entomology specialist at Purdue University confirms the worms' are now present in southern Indiana and the pests are starting to pop up throughout the Tri-State area (Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky).

According to Doug Richmond, Turf Entomologist, most of Indiana has been experiencing adequate rainfall for the last few weeks, so turfgrass should be resilient to this damage. Still, expect damage to get worse before it gets better. Good cultural practices including adequate fertility and irrigation will help the turf recover more quickly. The caterpillars we are seeing now will pupate by the end of September and attempt to remain in the soil over winter. Unless we experience an exceptionally mild winter, most pupae will not overwinter successfully.

For control information go to: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-61.pdf>



Call for Presentations on INNOVATIONS

Turfgrass Producers International is gathering information about innovative technologies that members may have developed or adopted to use in their business operation to increase productivity, better manage their operating costs and/or improve overall operating efficiencies. If you are developing, using and/or marketing software, hardware, chemicals, or another product that is

available for sale, lease and use on a sod farm, we would like to feature it during the education program at TPI's International Education Conference & Field Day in San Diego, California February 16-19, 2015.

All proposals must be received by 5:00 pm CST on Tuesday, November 25, 2014.

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

Submit online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015CallforInnovations> or send an email to info@TurfGrassSod.org to request a hard copy of the submission form.

If the technology you propose to address is selected as part of a panel presentation at the International Education Conference & Field Day, you will be notified by December 30, 2014

Turfgrass Producers International is



An ever increasing number of associations are leveraging their social platform successfully for driving attendance, hosting groups, engaging their members or reaching out to prospective members. LinkedIn is another resource that TPI can use to showcase our association's benefits, upcoming events, service support and share timely news and information from around the globe that members might not find on their own. LinkedIn also provides our followers with an opportunity to share our content and extend TPI's reach far beyond conventional methods.

TPI's Facebook page followers has continued to grow over the last few years as have our followers on Twitter. We believe that TPI's presence on LinkedIn will provide us with one more way in which to communicate to our members and other associations, companies and organizations within the green industry in a timely manner.

Follow us on LinkedIn!

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/turfgrass-producers-international>





Project EverGreen and Partners Help Turn Cleveland Green

“We are excited to promote the many benefits of green spaces through the Gould Court and ‘Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.’ initiative at the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center. These projects underscore the core objectives Project EverGreen stands for which is to develop green spaces to help communities thrive.” - Cindy Code, Executive Director

Cleveland (October 20, 2014) – Despite windy conditions and the occasional rain drop, Project EverGreen (www.projectevergreen.org) kicked off its “Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.”™ Initiative October 7 in Cleveland, Ohio with the revitalization of the soccer field behind the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center.

With a host of special guests including Cleveland City Councilman Matt Zone, for whose grandfather the center is named after, and City of Cleveland Parks Maintenance Commissioner, Richard Silva, in attendance, Cindy Code, executive director of Project EverGreen, told attendees the revitalization of green spaces benefit children, adults and entire communities.

“Returning the field behind me to a status that allows neighborhood youth and adult sports teams to once again safely practice, play and enjoy the space is what this initiative is all about,” said Code. “Having access to safe and healthy playing surfaces are vital for our kids’ enjoyment and development.”

Studies have confirmed there is significant value in having children spend time outdoors playing, and Project EverGreen’s “Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.” initiative was created to restore and revitalize green spaces for kids to play, exercise and connect including sports fields and parks.

The initiative is done in collaboration with the Sports Turf Managers Association (www.stma.org) and the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance (www.tgwca.org).

“Not only do yards, parks and sports fields promote a healthier lifestyle, they also contribute to economic growth, community development and improve the environment,” added Code.

The project involved aerating, fertilizing, and overseeding the playing surface as well as removing rocks and bricks embedded in the soil. Local contractors lending support to the program included Morton’s Landscape,



Pictured with Project EverGreen’s Executive Director, Cindy Code (at the lectern) is John Hausman, director of community involvement, Detroit Shoreway Community Development organization and Monica Lelutiu, manager of the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center.

Schill Grounds Management, Weed Pro and Weed Man. The total estimated cost to renovate the 120-yd. x 60-yd. (110m X 55m) field was \$15,000.

“These fields receive a lot of use and, as is the case with fields across the city, the need for renovation is there but the funding isn’t always available,” said Silva. “Project EverGreen’s initiative will make this field safer and attractive for the kids to play on.”

“The center is a special place for this community and for me in particular with the center being named for my father and in the ward I serve,” said Councilman Zone. “Initiatives like ‘Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.’ will go a long way to ensure the long-term stability and viability of this field and this center.”

Plans call for additional “Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.” projects in select cities across the United States in 2015.

THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks to **Steve Tubbs**, President of Turf Merchants, Inc. for spreading the NBC Nightly News report on artificial turf to their customers in TMI TIMES and for his kind remarks on how quick TPI responded to the broadcast.

When TPI posted a link to the video on our Facebook page it generated over 40 shares from our followers which also helped to heighten awareness.

TPI's posting of a Forbes.com article titled "Buyers Remorse Surfacing Over Synthetic Turf Fields" also generated nearly 30 shares from our Facebook followers.

If you're not following TPI on Facebook, or if you haven't visited our Facebook page we would encourage you to do so and to advise your employees, business associates, friends and family to follow us as well.



Perfecting Turfgrass Performance.™

TMI
TURF MERCHANTS, INC.

TMI TIMES | October 17, 2014

NBC nightly news aired a story this month which spotlighted concerns that some people have expressed about the safety of artificial turf in light of health challenges a number of young athletes are experiencing (i.e. cancer). While noting that these playing surfaces have been declared safe by the EPA (think CDC/Ebola) the story raises serious questions, even though there has been no scientific "link" established.

Taking a page from the current Administration's playbook of "never let a good crisis go to waste". The TPI decided to jump all over this issue by contacting various news outlets with sources for research study data and other information about the benefits that natural turf grasses provide. The TPI also distributed press releases to multiple media contacts to see that this matter grows legs and gets much wider exposure.

Good for TPI, good for all of us. Here is the link to the original story:
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/how-safe-artificial-turf-your-child-plays-n220166>

Steve Tubbs | President
Turf Merchants, Inc. *Steve Tubbs*

Request Your Literature
Don't forget to request your literature from TMI either by calling 541.926.8649 or by visiting our website and using the literature request form at turfmerchants.com

Free Weekly Thought
"American consumers have no problem with carcinogens, but they will not purchase any product, including floor wax, that has fat in it."
Dave Barry

The Grass Is Always Greener From Turf Merchants

Mailing Address: 33390 Tangent Loop | Tangent, OR 97389
Toll Free Number: 800.421.1735
Fax Number: 541.926.4435 | 541.926.8649
E-mail Address: info@turfmerchants.com
Website Location: www.turfmerchants.com

Michigan State University Libraries—Turfgrass Information Center



Welcome TPI Members

There is a new welcome page on the Michigan State University—Turfgrass Information Center (TGIF) website.

TGIF is a great member benefit and all members are encouraged to use it to access the largest library of turfgrass information, articles and research reports, including past issues of *Turf News* magazine.

To access TGIF, log into the TGIF page in the For Members area of the TPI website.





WORTH 12 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

SAN FRANCISCO'S GOLDEN GATE PARK

A retired California Superior Court Judge takes on big city politicians, money grabbers and opportunists and gives a voice to environmentalists and citizens who are concerned about turning natural grass soccer fields into artificial turf heat islands.

By Jim Novak

TPI has been following the struggles of SF Ocean Edge, a community organization comprised of volunteers who support the protection of the habitat and parkland in the western end of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. They have been working tirelessly to protect the park from a proposed urbanized soccer complex that would replace natural grass fields with artificial turf, destroy trees and include night lights that would likely alter the habitat and confuse migrating birds.

The attached YouTube link features Retired Superior Court Judge, former California State Senator, and former member of the Board of Supervisors, Quentin Kopp, who addresses a recent proposition and the consequences of the vote outcome to the people of San Francisco.

What makes this video worth twelve minutes of your time is the manner in which Judge Kopp addresses the artificial turf issue. His articulate and knowledgeable



The proposed area that's to be converted to artificial turf.

response without the aid of notes, cue cards, or a teleprompter, is persuasive, candid and reflects obvious passion and genuine concern over hotly contested issue.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5qt66jVZg8&feature=youtu.be>

UPDATE: San Francisco Golden Gate Proposition H fails to pass

Just hours before our newsletter was to be released we learned that Proposition H failed to pass and the project will proceed as planned. It should be noted however that the Sierra Club, the Golden Gate Audubon Society and 44 other groups that make up the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods were among those voicing their opposition to artificial turf and proposed night lighting. They all deserve an E for their efforts. - Jim Novak

On the lighter side - BOYS WILL BE BOYS

So what do turfgrass farmers do when their field gets flooded? Well, Chris Call of Sumter Sod in Leslie, Georgia shot this video of Earl Walker making the most of a bad situation.

FILE UNDER: Recipe for Sod Farmer Fun: Heavy Rains + ATV + Knee Board = Memorable.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=4623379598175&set=vb.1703288553&type=2&theater>

Click on image to view video



Our thanks to Helen Albrightson of NG Turf for bringing this video to our attention.