

IN THIS ISSUE

This Special Issue of the TPI E-Newsletter offers a brief overview of TPI's 2015 International Education Conference & Field Day that took place in San Diego, California, February 16-19 at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa. Look for a more in depth write-up in the May/June issue of *Turf News*.

We also have a few stories on TPI members including upcoming events like "April is . . . National Lawn Care Month" and how you can get involved; an update on TPI's 2015 Live Show & Tell tour this summer in Portland, Oregon; timely industry news about TPI's Honors and Awards program that provides you an opportunity to nominate an individual you feel is worthy of recognition and a great deal more. Enjoy!



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 8 Issue 2

SPECIAL ISSUE—March / April 2015

TPI's 2015 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAY



Turfgrass Producers International's 2015 International Education Conference & Field Day in San Diego, CA received favorable reviews from the those in attendance.

A diversified educational program, numerous networking opportunities and an outstanding Field Day at A-G Sod Farm in nearby Neuvo, California welcomed over 500 turfgrass producers who represented some 112 turfgrass farms. On hand were TPI members from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Scotland, South Africa and the United States.

This Special Issue of the E-Newsletter captures many of the events that made this year's conference worthwhile, especially informative, educational and memorable.

"I had a great time. I appreciate the effort in connecting the vendors to the growers . . . it was great as always!"
Trent Whiting – Redox Chemicals, LLC.

"Loved it! See you again."
David Moore – Silver Lake Sod Farm

"Your team put on an EXCELLENT show and we appreciate your assistance at every step of the Field Days!"
Joel Addink –A-G Sod Farms (Host Farm)

"Great job!"
Big Yellow Bag – Greenhorizons Farms

"Enjoyed my first time TPI Conference! We should encourage families to attend." Anonymous

"TPI crew, ya'll did a great job and fun!"
Jason Pooler – Tri-Turf Sod Farms, Inc.

"Thank you – great memories."
Barb Christopher – Young Sod Farms, Inc.

Monday, February 16

• The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament

A sincere thank you to the 42 golfers who participated in The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament and helped to raise funds for research, education and scholarships.



Doug Barberry, Randy Graff and Jimmy Fox.



Earl Slack, Joel Addink, Gary Kogelmann and Ian True.



Eric Huever, Tyler Walker, Jim Kinservik and William Baird.



Sandy Bauman, David Bradley, Brent Vosika and John Keleher.



Irene Gavranovic Sipes, Scott Sipes, Duane Klundt and Dale Leisure.



The let's have fun foursome of Nancy Aerni, Hank Kerfoot, and Ginger and Louis Brooking.

Monday, February 16

• The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament



Tobey Wagner, Drew Wagner, Jim Keeven, Eddie Keeven, Jr.



Jason Nugent, Will Nugent, Brad Veibell and Mark Henson.



Robert Winstead, Steven Dover, Bobby Winstead and Mark Hildreth.



Hugh Dampney, Daryl Dampney, Doyle Anderton and Bubba Simons.



Ted and Danell Wilbur and Bruce McEwen.



First Place Team —Scott Sipes, Duane Klundt, Irene Gavranovic Sipes and Dale Leisure.

PHOTOS: Steve & Suz Trusty—Turf News

Monday, February 16

- **San Diego City Tour**



An optional activity was a San Diego City Tour that provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about the city and the surrounding area. The tour included a visit Old Town San Diego with its numerous shops, a ride through Balboa Park; a magnificent cultural complex covering nearly 1,200 acres that includes 17 museums, eight major gardens and the world famous San Diego Zoo. The tour also included a ride through San Diego's historical Gaslamp Quarter, Seaport Village and a harbor cruise through San Diego Bay.



Ryan Thomas gets ready to board the cruise of San Diego Bay.



Enrigue Cloete, Wendy and Rob Davey, Warren Bell and Fanus Cloete.



Carol and Ed Purdy join Daniel and Jamie Huggett for a little Mexican lunch.



Betsy Graff enjoys the company of Mike and Francine Zander and Cathy True in Old Town San Diego.



Taking in the sights in Old Town San Diego are Fran and Norma Lagrou with fellow Canadians, Barb and Scott Christopher.

Tuesday, February 17
GENERAL SESSION #1

- President's Welcome - Eddie Keeven, Jr.
- Keynote Presentation - Jack McCall
- Show & Tell - Hugh Dampney
- Annual Business Meeting

TPI's President, Eddie Keeven, Jr. extended a warm welcome to everyone in attendance and then introduced the morning's Keynote Speaker, award winning writer, humorist and motivational speaker, Jack McCall.

McCall talked about the ever-changing world of ag-business and suggested you have to be a sprinter in life's marathon if you want to remain competitive. He suggested that by attending events like a TPI conference you have a great opportunity to talk to your peers, exchange ideas, gather information and learn from one another.



TPI's 2014-15 Board of Trustees — From left to right: Hugh Dampney, Eddie Keeven, Jr. (President), Duane Klundt, Jimmy Fox, Linda Bradley (Secretary-Treasurer), Eric Heuver, Bob Weerts (Past-President), Hank Kerfoot, Ian True, Leon Dahle and Will Nugent (Vice President).



Hugh Dampney, the Managing Director of Dampney's Eco Turf, Parley Court Farm in Christchurch, England provided an interesting overview of his diversified business that not only included their turf farm but other business ventures such as sustainable solutions that handled green waste, compost, a solar farm, fence store, a golf course, an equestrian center and much more.



Turfgrass Producers International

Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship Program
Administered by The Lawn Institute



Adam Lawrence Aposhian
Farmington, Utah



The Lawn Institute Announces Scholarship Recipient



During the Annual Business Meeting, TPI President, Eddie Keeven, Jr. announced that Adam Lawrence Aposhian of FireFly Equipment in Farmington, Utah was the proud recipient of this year's Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship that's administered by The Lawn Institute.

The scholarship is valued up to \$10,000 over the course of four years. Adam hopes to attend Brigham Young University where he can explore his interest in chemistry and his desire to create new varieties of grass to solve problems and meet the needs of changing markets.



Tuesday, February 17

- Networking Lunch
- Concurrent Breakout Sessions



Tuesday's concurrent breakout sessions provided attendees with an opportunity to see two of three presentations.

For turfgrass producers interested in natural grass vs. artificial turf sports fields, Dr. John Sorochoan from the University of Tennessee offered a comparison of the two.

For attendees who wanted to hear success stories regarding what it takes to convert an artificial sports field to one of natural grass, Brad Veibell of JB Instant Lawn and Steve Bush of Bush Sports Turf shared their personal experiences.

And for those in attendance who wanted some insight into the housing market and the overall economy, Robert Denk, assistant VP Forecasting and Analysis for the National Association of Home Builders provided a look at what 2015 might have to offer.

To see copies of all available PowerPoint presentations go to: <http://www.turfgrasssod.org/pages/events/presentations-at-our-midwinter-conference-and-summer-convention>



Converting Athletic Fields from Artificial Turf to Natural Turfgrass: Success Stories
Moderator: Claus Zander



Brad Veibell
JB Instant Lawn



Steve Bush
Bush Sports Turf



Comparing Natural Turfgrass and Artificial Turf for Use on Athletic Fields
Moderator: Bobby Winstead



Dr. John Sorochoan
University of Tennessee

National Association of Home Builders

Moderator: Duane Klundt



Robert Denk
Assistant Vice President
Forecasting and Analysis




Tuesday, February 17

- Exhibits & Dinner



Tuesday, February 17
• Exhibits & Dinner



Wednesday, February 18

- TPI Field Day - A-G Sod Farms, Inc., Neuvo, California



Betty and John Addink of A-G Sod Farms, Inc. and the Field Day hosts.



Gerry Brouwer of Brouwer Kesmac welcomes new TPI members Alexy Smirnov and Alexy Andreev of Russkie Gazony from the Russian Federation.



Wednesday, February 18

- TPI Field Day - A-G Sod Farms, Inc., Neuvo, California



TPI members from "Down Under" get together for a group photo.



Wednesday, February 18

• TPI Field Day - A-G Sod Farms, Inc., Neuvo, California

The entire staff of A-G Sod Farms (pictured on the right), along with John, Betty and Joel Addink, farm manager Greg Searle and VP of Operations, Larry LeMay, are all to be commended for making TPI's Field Day the success that it was.

"Good show for us. Thanks to the TPI staff and John and Greg at A-G Sod. Great location for a Field Day."

Ray LeProu – Trimax Mowing Systems

"Thank you for a memorable Conference. We much enjoyed it. We hope to continue our fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship!"

Alexey Andreev – Russkie Gazony – Saint-Petersburg

"Thank you for all your great efforts and for making this a great association."

- Anonymous



Group photo of the A-G Sod Farms, Inc. staff.



Wednesday, February 18

• The Lawn Institute Fundraiser - Trike Race



A sincere thank you to the following Trike Race Sponsors who helped raise over \$6,000 to support research and education - **Brouwer Kesmac •**

Bucyrus Equipment Company, Inc. • Grassland Oregon • Jasperson Sod Farms • Sod Solutions • Trebro Manufacturing Inc. • Turf Merchants, Inc. (TMI).

Thanks also goes to John Owens, Territory Manager of Brouwer Kesmac who served as the auctioneer for the event and to TPI's Executive Director Melanie Stanton who called the races.

AND THE WINNING TEAM IS . . .

Congratulations to Jasperson Sod Farms of Franksville, Wisconsin who managed to outrace their competition.



Thursday, February 19
GENERAL SESSION #2
MORNING

- Vice President -Welcome - Will Nugent
- Keynote Presentation - Dr. Monique Leclerc
- Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Keynote Presentation - Dr. James Baird

AFTERNOON

- Exhibit Lunch
- Show & Tell - Hank Kerfoot
- Concurrent Breakout Sessions (cont'd)
- Innovations Session



Thursday's program provided attendees with another variety of informative presentation including Dr. Monique Leclerc's update on recent carbon sequestration research being conducted at the University of Georgia funded by The Lawn Institute; Dr. James Baird, University of California - Riverside, addressed ways in which to save turfgrass while conserving water.

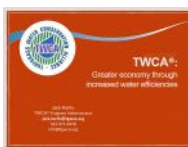
Concurrent breakout sessions covered assorted topics including "Closing The Sale" presented by Mike Pope - Harmony Outdoor Brands, Ron Schiedel - Greenhorizon Group, Brian Walker of Riverside Turf and moderator Jimmy Fox of Evergreen Turf.



"Hiring, Training and Managing Seasonal Workers" included a panel discussion with Jim Keeven - Select Turf and Eric Huever of Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply. Sean Moher of Manderley Turf Products along with Dave Thorne of Harmony Outdoor Brands and Richard Stephens of Turf Australia presented "The Price is Right: The Real Cost of Sod at Retail".

Following lunch, Hank Kerfoot of Modern Turf in Rembert, South Carolina did a close-up and personal overview of his turfgrass business.

The afternoon concluded with a special Innovations Session that featured unique products, services and information that might be of interest to turfgrass producers.



To see a video of the 2015 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day click on the image above or click on this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10200367130137982&l=33462973053332838>

WELCOME
GENERAL SESSION #2



VICE PRESIDENT
CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE CHAIR
AND
EDUCATION WORKING GROUP
WILL NUGENT



MODERATOR:
BEN COPELAND, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
PETERSON-SAND COMPANY/SUNARCO



PROFESSOR MONIQUE LECLERC, PH.D.
RESEARCH PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
**SOD FARMER AND ACADEMIC:
PARTNERS IN RESEARCH
CARBON SEQUESTRATION REPORT**



Closing The Sale

Moderator: Jimmy Fox



Mike Pope
Harmony Outdoor Brands



Ron Schiedel
Greenhorizons Group



Brian Walker
Riverside Turf



**Hiring, Training and
Managing Seasonal Workers**

Moderator: Warren Bell



Jim Keeven
Select Turf



Eric Huever
Eagle Lake Professional
Landscape Supply

**The Price is Right:
The Real Cost of Sod at Retail**

Moderator/Panelist: Sean Moher



Sean Moher
Market Maker Agriculture
Manderley Turf Products



Dave Thorne
Harmony Outdoor Brands



Richard Stephens
Turf Australia

UCR

**Saving Turfgrass
(and water, too)**



TPI International Education Conference
San Diego
19 February 2015

Jim Baird
Turfgrass Specialist
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

SHOW & TELL



HANK KERFOOT
Modern Turf
Rembert, South Carolina





Generosity of TPI Members helps kids and families at Ronald McDonald House Charities



JASPERSON SOD FARM, INC.

We learned from Larry LeMay, Vice President of Operations for A-G Sod Farms, the host farm for TPI's 2015 Field Day that three trike sponsors—TMI, Sod Solutions and Jaspersen Sod Farms, Inc. had donated their tricycles from the fundraising Trike Race to Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Central Valley in Madera, California. The following is an excerpt from Larry's letter to TPI:

Hannah Johnson is the lady in the picture with me. She is a family friend and like a daughter to me. But more importantly she was the Marketing and Communications Manager for Ronald McDonald House (RMH) Charities of the Central Valley for over seven years. Hannah recently took a job next door to the RMH with Valley Children's Hospital as their Development Officer. When I heard there may be a chance to get a donated trike or two I reached out to Hannah to see if either of the facilities could use them for the benefit of children. RMH said they could use the trikes so I delivered them a few days after our Field Day.

Some people may not know how RMH provides for patients and their families when a child is staying next door at the hospital. They provide a home away from home, in many cases there are siblings that must stay with the families as well, the trikes will be a big help in keeping these children entertained while their brother or sister is at the hospital.

The RMH and Valley Children's Hospital is near and dear to my wife Valerie's heart and mine.

When I was a freshman in high school my then three year old nephew was diagnosed with leukemia. My brother and his wife had to spend many weeks at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, the nearby RMH provided a place for them to stay, so my introduction to the charitable work RMH was made and it left a lasting impression.



Hannah Johnson representing Ronald McDonald House Charities and Larry LeMay of A-G Sod Farms sit on the trikes donated by TPI members for children at the center.

After my wife and I were married we joined the local Guild to help raise money for our own Valley Children's Hospital in the Central Valley.

Low and behold our third child was born a preemie, Valley Children's Hospital was there at our local hospital to whisk him away if needed, they were not. Just prior to him turning five he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Where did the doctor send us that very day? To Valley Children's Hospital, and they were and are the best. They helped educate us and our son. And today he is a very, very healthy 22 year old man that has played all sports and never missed a day of school.

As you can tell these two entities, the Valley Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House Charities are very important to us as a family, but more importantly, vital to our valley communities. Donations are very important to their survival.

Thanks,

Larry LeMay
A-G Sod Farms
VP of Operations



SEED WITH CONFIDENCE
Because your business depends on the purest seed varieties,
our business is dedicated to them.



SARATOGA SOD FARM

AWARDED NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

The New York State Agricultural Society wrote the following upon honoring TPI members Steve and Laurie Griffen of Saratoga Sod Farm at the Society's Annual Forum in January.

Saratoga Sod Farm is a family business owned and operated by Steve and Laurie Griffen. The Griffen family has been farming in Saratoga County since 1786. Steve and his father Phil seeded their first crop of 50 acres of Kentucky bluegrass in August 1986. Since that time, the business has grown to approximately 600 acres of turfgrass sod, including Kentucky bluegrass blends, Fine Fescue/bluegrass mixtures and Turf Type Tall Fescue.

Sod is harvested in either standard palletized rolls (2'x5') or Big Rolls (4'x84') for larger projects and sports fields. A range of seed and fertilizer products, a sod installation service, and the BIGYELLOWBAG garden soil and mulch product are also available to meet customer needs.

Saratoga Sod depends on 15 full and part time team members. In addition to daily production responsibilities of mowing, harvesting, ordering, scheduling, delivering, and machinery maintenance, Saratoga Sod is responsible for the marketing and sales of its products directly to the customer. Sod is either picked up at the farm or delivered directly to the jobsite for the customer. The broad customer base ranges from landscapers, garden centers, golf courses, sports fields and builders to little leagues, schools, colleges, towns and individual homeowners. Jobs of particular interest that sport Saratoga Sod include the National Baseball and National Soccer Halls of Fame fields, the state capital and training camp and practice fields for the New York Giants and Buffalo Bills professional football teams.



New York State Agriculture Commissioner, Richard A. Ball presenting Laurie and Steve Griffen with the New York State Agricultural Society Business of the Year Award.

In addition to well managed fields producing turfgrass sod, a number of conservation practices such as crop rotation, open ditching, subsurface tile drainage and field leveling have been employed over the years to improve the productivity of the farm's alluvial soils. As with most cropping enterprises, proper resource management is paramount to successful crop production. Saratoga Sod also grows and harvests nearly 500 acres of soybeans and corn in its crop rotations annually.

Another interesting feature of Saratoga Sod Farm is its unique location in one of the most rapidly growing counties in New York State, you will notice a lack of development immediately surrounding the main farm, as it is bordered on three sides by the Saratoga National Historical Park and Battlefield and on the other by the Hudson River. The Saratoga National Veterans Cemetery is a couple miles away. In addition, development rights have been purchased on many acres of surrounding agricultural lands.

Fueled by their customers' passion and the growth of diversified operations, Saratoga Sod Farm demonstrates the innovation and leadership worthy of the NYS Ag Society Business of the Year.



470 ACRES - DIVIDED
MAY 5TH - 6:00PM AUCTION
EXCELLENT SOD FARM WITH BLACK WARRIOR RIVER FRONTAGE



<http://www.rowellauctions.com>



Get involved and help promote April is . . . National Lawn Care Month

Melanie Stanton, Executive Director of TPI and The Lawn Institute said, "We are thrilled to be partnering with PLANET to promote National Lawn Care Month in April and broadening the message, both nationally and internationally, of the many environmental and health benefits natural grass lawns have to offer."

Stanton went on to say, "PLANET has achieved a tremendous amount of awareness with this campaign and anything we can do to better educate consumers and provide viable information to key decision-makers will benefit the communities in which we live and the world as a whole."

PLANET has increased the reach of National Lawn Care Month by creating a [toolkit](#) which includes a logo, infographic, photos, a press release, facts and resources, and promotion suggestions that professionals can use in their own client materials. PLANET also promotes National Lawn Care Month on its consumer website www.loveyourlandscape.com and in national consumer media outreach.

This is a great time for TPI members, state and regional turfgrass associations, industry manufacturers, landscapers and everyone associated with the green industry to get on board and plan ahead to help promote this great campaign come April.



Links to the National Lawn Care Month toolkit and other promotional materials are available on the The Lawn Institute website at <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/april-is-national-lawn-care-month/>



Feature the **April is National Lawn Care Month** graphic (see above) on your website, Facebook page, Twitter, press releases and promotional materials. It's easy to download, just [CLICK HERE](#). Anything you can do to build awareness benefits everyone!

NOTE: See related story on PLANET'S announced name change to National Association of Landscape Professionals on page 18.



SHOW YOUR CUSTOMERS YOU MEAN BUSINESS!

Are you featuring the TPI logo on your website and Facebook page and letting your visitors and followers know that you are a member of the largest turfgrass producers association in the world? If not, why not?

Letting your customers know you are a TPI member sets you apart from the crowd. It sends a subtle message to your website visitors and Facebook followers that you are actively involved in a turfgrass association that keeps you aware of changes in the industry, gives you access to timely infor-

mation, scientific research, and suggests that you are well informed about innovative products, new turfgrass varieties and environmentally friendly operating practices.

Identify yourself as a **Proud Member of Turfgrass Producers International** and let homeowners, contractors, landscape architects, sports field supervisors, golf course superintendents, local and state decision-makers and other business prospects know that when it comes to providing quality turfgrass—you mean business!





PLAN TO JOIN US!!!

Exclusive to TPI Members

Set against the backdrop of majestic Mount Hood, Portland combines a sophisticated, cosmopolitan atmosphere with a friendly, small-town warmth that makes it a one-of-a-kind destination. Relax with your friends and peers on a TPI-chartered bus and enjoy magnificent scenery as you have an opportunity to experience a behind the scenes look at seed companies, sod farms and a manufacturing facility where, among other things, turfgrass harvesters are built.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 9th

- Welcome Reception

Friday, July 10th

- Continental Breakfast
- AM Tours
- Lunch on the Farm
- PM Tours
- Fun & Food Networking Event

Saturday, July 11th

- Continental Breakfast
- AM Tours
- Lunch on the Farm
- PM Tours
- Flying High Dinner

INCLUDES VISITS TO:

Pure Seed

Pure Seed built a history of being a global leader in researching, developing, producing and bringing to market proprietary turf and forage grasses. Originally established in 1970 just before the inauguration of the Plant Variety Protection Act of late 1971, Pure Seed has built a history of marketing premium turf varieties and is driven to establish varieties that solve problems and meet needs.

JB Instant Lawn & Nursery

JB Instant Lawn, founded by the late Paul Jensen, has specialized in providing beautiful lawns since 1968. Headquartered in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley, JB farms has nearly 1500 acres of sod, grass seed, blueberries, and hazelnuts in Oregon and Washington. JB has a very dedicated team whose mission is to GROW greatness by providing and delivering innovative solutions for tomorrow's needs.

Mountain View Seeds

Located in the heart of the world's finest grass seed production region, Mountain View Seeds of Salem, Oregon produces turf seed varieties that are shipped to high-end venues all over the world. With more than 50 years of experience, Mountain View Seeds is an expert in seed research, production, processing and shipping.

Agri Seed Testing, Inc.

Agri Seed Testing, Inc. is a private commercial seed testing laboratory located in the center of the cool season grass-producing Willamette Valley. Founded in 1983 by Sharon Davidson, RST, Agri Seed became the first internationally accredited seed testing laboratory in the U.S. in 1998. Agri Seed conducts tests for domestic and exporting seeds of all kinds, including purity, germination, TZ, crop and weeds, import requirements for countries and other special tests as requested and developed for individual companies. Agri Seed works for the growers to satisfy their grower contracts, the seed companies to help determine best quality for use and with consumer companies to ensure they received what they paid for.

GK Machine Inc.

GK Machine Inc. has been manufacturing innovative agricultural equipment for more than three decades. They have experts who engineer, fabricate and manufacture reliable custom-made equipment and quality machinery for the agriculture, construction and transportation industries. They design and build agricultural sprayers, tree diggers, trackers, trailers, potting machines, conveyers and much more. The company currently has a 65,000 square foot facility and is an ISO 9001 certified manufacturing operation with a proven history of quality.

Oregon Turf & Tree Farms

Located in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley, Oregon Turf & Tree Farms is a family owned-business, which has been constantly growing and evolving since its inception as a grass seed farm in the 1940's. Today, turfgrass sod is still the farm's primary product. They sell palletized rolls of Perennial Ryegrass sod to landscapers and homeowners through western Oregon and southwestern Washington. Trees continue to be an ever-growing segment of the business. They have over 400 acres of trees, including over 90 varieties of Japanese Maples, shade, and flowering trees.

The tour will also include information about other companies that supply turfgrass seed and support TPI. Hotel accommodations and additional information is available at: <http://www.turfgrassod.org/publisher/events/2013/3/13/tpi-live-show-and-tell>



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS

THE PROFESSIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK (PLANET) TO BECOME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

The National Association serving landscape professionals launches renewed strategic vision and a new name, to better serve their members and advance the industry.

Lisa Schaumann, Public Relations Manager for the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) announced the organization's name will change to the **National Association of Landscape Professionals** as of April 1, 2015.

The association is the only national trade association built by the collaboration of landscape professionals who specialize in landscape, lawn and tree care, irrigation, landscape design and installation, and interior plantscaping. Its diverse membership also includes manufacturers and suppliers as well as consultants, faculty and students.

"The Professional Landcare Network was formed 10 years ago with the merger of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America," said PLANET CEO Sabeena Hickman, CAE, CMP. "We are the national association that represents companies across all sectors of the landscape industry, but our name didn't reflect the unity and breadth of our membership and our industry."

The National Association of Landscape Professionals will continue to provide business and safety education to its members, certification through the Landscape Industry Certified designation, as well as lobbying on behalf of the industry with lawmakers and promoting the industry to the public.

"Our new name will more accurately reflect our industry and our members, bringing higher visibility to the professionalism and care that our members bring to creating and maintaining the nation's landscapes," said PLANET President, Jim McCutcheon, Landscape Industry Certified.

The rebranding process produced more than just a new name and logo. It also included six months of member research to refine the strategic direction of the association, making sure the organization's vision, mission and goals represented member needs and delivered solutions to support landscape companies and advance the industry.

"Our association has always provided a wide variety of programs and services to landscape industry companies and their employees, but now, we are hyper-focused on delivering results in the top three areas that our members identified: unparalleled education, advocating for the industry, and promoting professionalism in the industry through safety education, career development and certification," said Hickman.

For more information about PLANET's rebranding and to watch a [video](#) about NALP, visit the [web page](#) for more information.

In celebration of the launch of the National Association of Landscape Professionals brand, NALP will offer first-time members, 20 percent off of new contractor membership in the association. Visit <http://bit.ly/landscapeprofessionals> for more information.

About NALP (as of April 1, 2015)

The National Association of Landscape Professionals is the voice of 100,000 landscape and lawn care industry professionals who create and maintain healthy green spaces. The association advocates on issues impacting its members and offers mentoring and education programs that inspire its members to excellence. Many members become Landscape Industry Certified, achieving the highest standard of industry expertise, business professionalism and knowledge. For more information contact Lisa Schaumann at: lisaschaumann@landcarenetwork.org



NATIONAL GREENSCAPE CORRIDOR

National Cherry Blossom Festival Greenscape Corridor Bike Ride

Kevin Morris
President
National Turfgrass Federation, Inc

The National Greenscape Corridor will be initiated with a bike tour sponsored by the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Each site will discuss the value of turf and landscapes and as the last stop on the tour, the National Arboretum's **Grass Roots** exhibit will be featured and explained to tour participants. The National Turfgrass Federation, along with the National Arboretum, is underwriting some of the costs of this event, in hopes that the Greenscape Corridor becomes a DC tourist destination.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time: 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: BicycleSPACE, 440 K Street, NW Washington DC

Cost: Ride is free; pre-registration required



For additional information go to:

<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/national-cherry-blossom-festival-greenscape-corridor-bike-ride/>

Join the fun of an 11 mile bike ride through downtown DC that explores green spaces around our nation's capital including Arlington National Cemetery, the National Mall and the U.S. National Arboretum.

The ride begins at 11:30 am on April 18 at BicycleSPACE. Bikers will proceed to Arlington National Cemetery, where a member of the horticultural team will discuss key points of interest.

Next, riders will cycle to the National Mall to learn about its restoration. The last stop is the U.S. National Arboretum where cyclists can enjoy refreshments while exploring the Grass Roots exhibit, an interactive look at turf and science-based lawn management. Activities include putting on its golf green and games for children. The ride is open to 100 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

Advertising opportunities you don't want to pass up!



Archived issues of BOTH Newsletters are on the TPI website which received nearly 150,000 visits in 2014.

Advertising Contact:
Anne Footle, afootle@TurfGrassSod.org or call
847-649-555, ext. 102

TPI Business Management Newsletter

Single Advertiser per issue (every other month)

Front page logo sponsorship & second page banner ad, both linked to your company website.

TPI Member Rate: \$200/issue

Non Member Rate: \$300/issue

TPI E-Newsletter

Multiple Advertisers per issue (every other month)

Bottom banner ads are eye catching and integrated into the E-Newsletter pages and linked to your website!

TPI Member Rate: \$350/issue

(50% Discount for current *Turf News* advertisers)

Non Member Rate: \$525/issue

TPI MEMBERS RIDE THEIR WINNING BID IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



Gary Kogelmann leaning against the Yellowstone National Park sign (photo on the left) takes advantage of a photo op while Steve Chont stands nearby.

During TPI's summer show last year in Philadelphia attendees had an opportunity to bid on several items to support The Lawn Institute. Among the items up for bid was a three-day Snowmobiling Adventure in Yellowstone National Park donated by Trebro Manufacturing. Winning bids came from **Gary Kogelmann** of Kogelmann Creek

Side Sod Farms in Macomb, Michigan and **Steve Chont** of Waltz Green Acres Sod Farm in New Boston, Michigan. In January, Gary and Steve enjoyed snowmobiling in beautiful Yellowstone.

Ian True, National Sales Manager for Trebro reported that a good time was had by all.

Unique "Day of the Wedding" Gift?

When David and Linda Bradley's son Luke was getting married, his bride to be, Solari Garren, fell in love with Kenmure Country Club in Hendersonville, North Carolina. But, there was one slight problem, the ceremony was to take place by the lake on a black asphalt parking lot. The guest-conscious bride said she wouldn't do that to her wedding guests on what could be a hot June day.

Linda Bradley told her soon-to-be daughter-in-law there wasn't a problem . . . "we'll just sod it!" And so, in the early a.m. on the day of the wedding, David Bradley and a crew laid the freshly harvested sod over the asphalt to create a gorgeous green lawn that everyone enjoyed. And it wasn't just the bride, groom and their guests who benefited, so did one of Turf Mountain Sod's customers.

Linda writes, "Not only did David and the crew go and take-up the sod the morning after the wedding, they delivered it to a job at half-price to one of our best customers - seemed to be a win-win for EVERYONE, huh!" And yes, the newly weds are doing just fine.



Thank you to Linda Bradley for the story and photos.



**Superior Performance
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TurfSide-UP

ROLLING TURFGRASS SOD - 101



Young Sebastian Walker (son of Brian Walker, Riverside Turf, Charles City, VA) was determined to help a crew that was stripping tees at a golf course project. But it seems Sebastian became preoccupied when he pondered, "Hmmm . . . Wonder how easy it is to hand roll turfgrass?" After several unsuccessful attempts to get a perfect roll he shouted out to a somewhat amused on-looking crew, "Well, now I know why there's such a high demand for automated harvesters." - Jim Novak

Our thanks to Sebastian for allowing us to use these photos.

THE GREEN GREEN GRASS OF . . .



When we received these photos from Duane Klundt of Grassland Oregon we immediately had several questions: Where were these taken? Was this a one-time only artistic venture or is it a year-round feature? Was this achieved with paint, fertilizer or multiple grasses? This was Duane's response: "This is of our lawn at our office in Salem. It was done with various grass species and we have done several designs. This is long term and we are working on more." If you go to Google Earth and type in Grassland Oregon you can get an aerial view.





INVESTIGATIVE REPORT SUGGESTS

LACK OF SYNTHETIC TURF TESTING & MAINTENANCE PUTS ATHLETES AT RISK

An Eyewitness News report featured by WTHR-Channel 13 in Indiana puts a whole new spin on the issue of using tire crumb rubber on artificial turf fields.

While some recent news reports have expressed concerns about the very presence of crumb rubber on artificial turf fields, the Channel 13 report suggests the pendulum is swinging the other way too, it seems some fields don't seem to have enough of the stuff.

The Eyewitness News investigation found that some of those synthetic turf fields that thousands of Indiana children play on are putting youngsters at an increased risk of skull fracture, infection or other injury due to inadequate maintenance and safety testing.

The Channel 13 report states, "Despite the sales pitch, synthetic turf is not maintenance-free and can pose a heightened risk of serious injury if not properly maintained. 13 Investigates discovered some artificial turf fields in central Indiana receive little or no safety testing after they are installed, and even those that do receive routine maintenance can easily fall below basic safety standards designed to keep athletes safe."

"I honestly hadn't thought about it before," said Stephanie Shepard, as she watched her 8-year-old son, Owen, practice on an indoor field at the [Zionsville Youth Soccer Association](#).

Owen and his teammates are running – and frequently falling – on synthetic blades of grass that are supported by thousands of pounds of pulverized rubber. The tiny pieces of used car and truck tires are known as crumb rubber or in-fill, and the substance plays an integral role in the safety of the turf.

Maintaining the proper amount of crumb rubber is crucial.

"That granulated material mixed in with the fibers gives the field its cushioning," said Andy McNitt, director of Penn State University's [Center for Sports Surface Research](#). "Slowly the crumb rubber leaves with the athletes. It doesn't happen all at once, but slowly and almost imperceptibly the crumb rubber leaves the system over a period of three to five years. As the rubber leaves, your cushioning leaves so the surface becomes much harder."

A harder surface increases the risk of a concussion when a player's head hits the turf.

Too much crumb rubber softens the surface to the point where athletes must exert extra energy to perform. Some field managers say that places extra strain on joints and muscles, putting athletes at a higher risk for ankle, knee and lower back injuries.

That's why the NFL now mandates testing on every field before every game – primarily to detect if a playing surface is too hard and poses an increased concussion risk for its players.

McNitt oversees the [NFL's turf testing program](#), which calculates each field's [Gmax level](#).

"The Gmax is really, in layman's terms, how hard that surface is when you fall on it," he explained.

It's actually pretty simple. A human head weighs about 12 pounds. So to calculate Gmax, a portable computerized device drops a 12-pound weight to determine the amount of force between the weight and the field at impact. The harder the surface, the higher the Gmax score and the higher the risk of a concussion.

"We definitely want the Gmax level below 200," McNitt said. "At 200, there is a danger that there would be a skull fracture."

Franklin Community Schools tells WTHR it has now asked its turf installer to perform a Gmax test in April so the school district can address any potential problems before its turf warranty ends this summer.

Zionsville Community Schools says it has scheduled a Gmax test for this spring, as well.

RoundTripper Sports Academy in Westfield is taking action immediately.

The indoor facility's Community Health Network training field is covered in synthetic turf that is more than a decade old, and the owner admitted the turf had never had a Gmax test.

"I've never even heard of it. I didn't even know what that was," RoundTripper owner Chris Estep told WTHR last week.

When he learned about WTHR's investigation, Estep scheduled a test right away.

In some areas of the turf, the test results were – in Estep's own words – terrible. Crumb rubber levels were depleted to less than half their original depth, creating a dangerously hard playing surface with some Gmax readings topping out above 250.

To view WTHR's Investigative Report in its entirety go to: <http://www.wthr.com/story/27979749/trouble-in-the-turf-lack-of-synthetic-turf-testing-maintenance-puts-athletes-at-risk>



HONORS and AWARDS

Nomination Form

The TPI Board of Trustees feels it is important that individuals be acknowledged for their contribution to TPI and the turfgrass industry.

If you know someone who deserves to be honored we encourage you to submit their name for consideration.

Award Categories

HONORARY MEMBER - Outstanding contribution to the research, planting, growing and marketing of turfgrass sod. (Need not be a current TPI member.)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - Outstanding devotion of time, talent and energy to TPI, its programs and objectives for five or more years. (Need not be a TPI member.)

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD - Unique and significant achievement that advances turfgrass sod production through research, engineering, training, marketing, public relations or environmental improvement, etc. (Must be a current TPI member.)

TURFGRASS EDUCATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - Outstanding contribution to the turfgrass industry be it in the area of academics, public outreach, involvement with turfgrass associations, turfgrass producers, suppliers, manufacturers, research, etc. (Need not be a current TPI Member.)

(Check only one) ☐ **Honorary Member** ☐ **Distinguished Service**
☐ **Innovator of the Year Award** ☐ **Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence**

Nominee (Nominee's name and contact information)

Name _____ Company _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____
 Country _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Submitted By (Fill in your name and contact information)

Name _____ Company _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____
 Country _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Reason (List the most compelling reasons this nominee should be considered for this award)

(Attach additional page if necessary.)

Please submit your Nomination Form on or before October 1, 2015 to:
Turfgrass Producers International Honors & Awards Program
 2 East Main Street East Dundee, IL 60118 U.S.A.
 Phone 847/649-5555 Fax 847/649-5678
 email info@TurfGrassSod.org



They're new ... they're a reality ... and they're here!

Natural and synthetic hybrid systems have arrived.

By Jim Novak



Most people have accepted the reality that natural grass and synthetic turf will continue to coexist. The battle lines have been drawn between advocates of one over the other in given situations, and there is little doubt there will continue to be a debate regarding traditional synthetic turf fields comprised of plastic and tire crumb rubber. But the unique coming together of natural and synthetic systems is relatively new in the U.S. and it is drawing considerable attention. (See Suz Trusty's article **"The Emergence of the Natural and Synthetic Hybrid System"** in the March/April 2015 issue of *Turf News* magazine.)

In recent years several companies have heightened the visibility of these so called "natural and synthetic hybrid systems". Although various hybrid systems are currently available and they differ in design or methodology, the desired results are much the same – combine the environmental benefits of natural grass with the durability of synthetic turf.

XtraGrass

XtraGrass defines itself as a natural grass turf reinforced with artificial fibers to give it a winning formula of great natural grass playability and a surface that is much more resistant to wear was developed in The Netherlands and refined in Europe over the last 10 years. XtraGrass identifies itself as being a unique and patented turf reinforcement system that provides the flexibility to adapt to the different surface conditions that exist at every location. The company suggests that Hybrid turf is the perfect solution for clubs that find it difficult to maintain a natural grass pitch but do not want, or are not permitted, to play on a 100% artificial turf pitch.

James Graff, Co-owner of Graff's Turf in Fort Morgan, Colorado is quoted in *Turf News* as stating, "Some folks have a tough time wrapping their head around a sod producer and a synthetic turf company working together. I think we can have our differences and our preferences. We want to see a natural grass field and they want a synthetic field that plays like a natural grass field. But when we combine them in a hybrid system we have a solution that keeps natural grass on the field while gaining the durability of synthetic turf."

Graff has been working with AstroTurf on the XtraGrass product and is the U.S. distributor for the product. Graff is quick to make it clear that the relationship between the two companies is a partnership in which both parties know and understand what expertise the other can bring to the table. Trusty's article also reports that Dr. John Sorochan, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science for the University of Tennessee is currently conducting research on XtraGrass having established plots in which bermudagrass, turf type tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and bluegrass are being studied. For more information and details visit the Xtra-Grass website: <http://xtragrassusa.com/>.

Mixto

Dr. Camillo De Beni, a turfgrass agronomist consultant has announced that in Italy the Mixto Company, born of a partnership between two Italian leading companies in their respective fields, Rappo for natural grass and Limonta Sport for artificial grass, have also developed an innovative system called Mixto. It is a woven artificial turfgrass mat through which natural grass grows and where the "special" artificial tufted fibers, called Max-S, are used to reinforce the grass.

De Beni states that Mixto grass technology allows natural grass to grow through the artificial component and it's able to produce and develop a deep root system below the surface, ensuring the adsorbing capacity for nutrient and water, the ability to support and maintain leaves, to promote a quick recovery of any damage, and to permit the highest use of football pitches. The system is being used in some important Italian stadiums and soccer training centers.

The company claims that Mixto is a technology that can be installed directly on the soccer field and used within two or three months, or if some specialized nurseries cultivate and install the pitch with big rolls it's ready for immediate use.

The company states that reinforced grass should not be confused with fully artificial turf. The Mixto system is a 'natural' surface which combines wear tolerance, playability, planarity and drainage (if the draining soil foundation is solid and well-performing). For more information and details visit the Mixto website: <http://www.mixtosystem.it/en/>.

EZ Hybrid Turf, Inc.

Another product on the market that is drawing some attention is EZ Hybrid Turf, Inc. Established in 2012, EZ Hybrid Turf hopes that the uniqueness of the hybrid turf idea will make a huge impact on the landscape, golf and pet industry.

Their website states: "At EZ Hybrid Turf, we specialize in five foundational concepts: innovation, versatility, easy installation, low maintenance, and cost efficiency. Striving to satisfy the customers' needs by bringing them an innovative, high quality and functional product is our goal."

The company's promotional literature states that EZ Hybrid Turf's revolutionary design allows for natural grass to grow right on up and blend in with the synthetic turf to create a natural look and feel. It helps to combine the positives of natural grass and artificial turf rather than having to compromise by using one or the other.

EZ Hybrid Turf is constructed on a honeycomb type backing which allows natural grass to grow and combine with the product. Areas that suffer from heavy traffic, areas that don't receive sunlight, areas that have trouble getting rainfall all could benefit from the hybrid turf. For more information and details, visit the EZ Hybrid Turf, Inc. website: <https://ezhybridturf.com/>.