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Volume 9 Issue 4

July/August 2016

## TPI Elects Officers and New Board Members

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) has announced its 2016-17 officers and board of directors, effective July 1. The officers and new board members were elected during TPI's Annual Business Meeting Feb, 23 at the association's 2016 International Education Conference & Field Day in Houston, TX.

Linda Pittillo Bradley, co-owner of Turf Mountain Sod in Hendersonville, N.C., was elected President; Jimmy Fox, president of Evergreen Turf in Chandler, AZ, was elected vice president, and Eric Heuver, president of Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply in Strathmore, Alberta, CANADA was elected secretary-treasurer.

Also elected to the TPI's board were Tim Wollesen, president/owner of Sales Midwest, Inc. in Olathe, KS, and Mark Tribbett of JB Instant Lawn, Inc. in Silverton, OR.

Continuing their service on the TPI board are:

- John Coombs, Sr. Coombs Sod Farms, LLC - U.S.A.
- Hugh Dampney, ECO Turf - ENGLAND
- Steve Griffen, Saratoga Sod Farm, Inc. - U.S.A.
- Randy Jaspersen, Jaspersen Sod Farm - U.S.A.
- Hank Kerfoot, Modern Turf - U.S.A.
- Will Nugent, (TPI Past President) Bethel Farms - U.S.A.

TPI is comprised of turfgrass sod and seed producers, equipment manufacturers, suppliers and individuals involved in education and turfgrass-related research. Our members are represented in over 40 countries across the globe.

### NOTE:

See the July/August issue of *Turf News* for more information about TPI's new board members, Tim Wollesen and Mark Tribbett, and an in depth profile of TPI's first woman President, Linda Pittillo Bradley.



PRESIDENT — Linda Pittillo Bradley



VICE PRESIDENT — Jimmy Fox



SECRETARY-TREASURER — Eric Heuver



TRUSTEE — Tim Wollesen



TRUSTEE — Mark Tribbett



## Tuckahoe Turf Farms provides turfgrass for the final phase of the National Mall restoration project

Last month crews at the National Mall, were rolling out half a million square feet of turfgrass sod in the final phase of a five year, \$40 million restoration project.

The grass stretches from the Capitol building all the way to the Washington Monument and it is the same turfgrass that is used at Major League Baseball parks and National Football League stadiums across the country.

The sod was harvested around 1:00 a.m. at Tuckahoe Turf in New Jersey and delivered fresh overnight. The goal was to have it all placed within 24 hours.

WJLA –TV reporter Mike Carter quotes sports turfgrass consultant Steve Legros as saying, "It [the turfgrass] gets here really early in the morning and it can get back in the ground and start growing again."

Tuckahoe has also provided its Kentucky bluegrass to Nationals Park, Camden Yards and many other sports venues across the country. Most recently, they provided 100,000 sq ft of sod to Chicago's Soldier Field, home of the NFL's Chicago Bears.

Carter went on to report, "The grass was placed on top of specially-designed soil that can resist compaction under the feet of the Mall's millions of visitors each year. Underneath that soil, there are giant cisterns than can collect 250,000 gallons of rain water. That rain water can then be used to irrigate the grass.

"Installation should wrap up by the end of June but the area will remain fenced off through January to give the roots time to take hold. That means this New Jersey grass will make the Mall great again just in time for the Inauguration and the swearing in of our nation's next President, whomever he or she will be."

*Our thanks to Allen Carter Jr. of Tuckahoe Turf Farms for bringing this story to our attention.*



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service



Photo courtesy of Tuckahoe Turf Farms



## CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID DOGUET

### Golf Digest Names David Doguet as Top Innovator & Influencer of 2016

TPI member and Past President, David Doguet of Bladerunner Farms is listed among select individuals whose work could change the game of golf beyond recognition and in a good way according to Ron Whitten, a contributing writer for *Golf Digest*.

Whitten writes, "If the business of breeding better turfgrass is a turf war, no one is more competitive than David Doguet.."

He goes on to add, "Doguet has made zoysia golf's new super grass. Yes, zoysia, once characterized by quarter-inch-wide blades that provided indestructible hairbrush lies but wouldn't green up until early summer and reverted to tan at first frost. Traditionally, the coarse grass was used only for tees and fairways in transition zone climates—where the winters were too cold for Bermuda and the summers were too hot for bentgrass. Never was it the ideal choice.



"But Doguet's various cross-bred strains, finer-bladed, more disease and insect-resistant and less thirsty have changed that. His latest creation, LIF zoysia, is a sensation. It has been chosen by Tiger Woods for the tees and green surrounds at his first American course, Bluejack National in Montgomery, Texas. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw used it for the tees, fairways and green surrounds at their new Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, a future PGA Tour stop. Gil Hanse planted it at the 2016 Olympics golf course in Brazil.

"In June, Doguet will roll out M85 zoysia. He calls it the ultimate, a near grain-less strain suitable for fairways yet capable of handling the lowest mowing height any PGA Tour official might prescribe. It keeps its color without fertilization and is salt tolerant, so it'll remain healthy despite poor water quality. Because its blades grow very slowly, Doguet predicts M85 fairways and greens will need mowing just once or twice a week."

#### IN A RELATED STORY:

### Rio de Janeiro's Department of Justice concludes Olympic Golf Course has increased local biodiversity — More than a 100 percent increase in vegetation and species following construction of the golf course.

According to an expert report by the State of Rio de Janeiro's Department of Justice, the construction of the Olympic Golf Course in Barra da Tijuca has contributed to the growth of local vegetation in the Marapendi area. Unveiled in November, the golf venue, assesses an expert study, ensured the return of different species of animals to a once degraded area.

The inspection was carried out in December last year at the request of a civil lawsuit filed by state prosecutors who questioned the environmental impacts of the project, and involved prosecutors, legal advisors and environmental specialists. The Rio 2016 Organizing Committee has monitored the changes in the region since the beginning of the work in 2013.



Photo of Rio Olympic golf course provided by Marcelo Green Grass

**"The environmental gain in the region is visible. Besides the flora, which increased extensively, we can observe the different species of animals that have returned to the area. The report now provides a scientific stamp to what we had already observed"**

- Carina Flores, Rio 2016 sustainability coordinator

Among the environmental benefits in the report are the 167% increase in vegetation, which led to a "positive cycle for fauna development". The report also indicates that 263 species are found in the area now – before the construction there were only 118 species.

## What does it take for a high school FFA Turfgrass Team to win the state championship?

# ANSWERS

The Loris High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter in Loris, South Carolina bested all the state teams to earn the title of champions in the turfgrass competition held at Piedmont Technical College in Saluda, SC on May 14.

If you think the competition was easy, consider this: Each team was comprised of four students who were judged independently and the top three scores go toward the team score. The event was made up of individual and team challenges. Part of the competition included individual tests that were comprised of a 50-question multiple-choice written exam that included questions on turfgrass, lawn management and sports turf management.

The challenge included the following:

**Grasses:** 10 grasses were selected for students to identify. Each grass sample was worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.

**Weeds:** 20 weeds were selected and had to be identified. Each weed sample was worth five points for a total of 100 points.

**Equipment:** 20 pieces of equipment had to be identified. Each correct answer was worth five points for a total of 100 points.

**Pests:** 20 pest samples had to be identified and each correct answer was worth 100 points. Students didn't just have to identify the pest, some of the questions pertained to lifecycles, the insect's mouth parts and/or additional follow up questions.

**Team activity:** The team activity was worth 150 points and challenged students to work together to complete a problem solving activity.

The winning LHS Team included Matt Stevens, Brianna Gerald, Payton Todd and Ashlyn Gerald.

**The FFA Mission** - The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



A THOUSAND THANKS  
TO A THOUSAND FANS

facebook



## A THOUSAND THANKS

TPI's FACEBOOK page exceeds 1000 followers

To visit the TPI Facebook page click on the graphic to the left or go to <https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>.

You don't have to be a Facebook subscriber to visit the page. If you are already a Facebook subscriber, be sure to click **LIKE**.



TOTAL  
**landscape**  
 CARE

## House panel approves H-2B returning worker exemption

[David Rountree](#) | June 22, 2016

As featured in [Total Landscapecare.com](http://TotalLandscapecare.com)



On Wednesday, June 22 the House Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment that would extend for one year the exemption of returning **H-2B** workers from the program's annual cap on temporary foreign worker visas.

While representatives of the green industry's two main trade groups were delighted by the action, both cautioned that opponents of the exemption could succeed in plucking it out later in the budget process.

The House Appropriations Committee passed the amendment on a voice vote Wednesday afternoon.

"Today's vote is the first leg in a long journey," said Paul Mendelsohn, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP).

Craig Regelbrugge, senior vice president of AmericanHort, called Wednesday's vote "a critical step," but whether it will be enough to sustain the returning worker exemption for another fiscal year remains uncertain.

The one-year extension of the H-2B returning worker exemption was offered as an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security's budget by Rep. Andy Harris, R-Maryland. Although several committee members argued strongly against the amendment, it was ultimately adopted on a voice vote.

NALP and AmericanHort consider the H-2B program crucial to the green industry's success. Under the program, foreign workers come to the United States as "non-immigrants" for a period of 10 months to work in certain industries, including landscaping, hotels and

resorts, seafood processing and others. (H-2B is separate from the migrant farmworker program.) The landscaping industry is by far the largest employer of H-2B workers. Current law limits the number of H-2B visas to 66,000 a year.

The exemption from the cap of "returning workers" – that is, workers who received an H-2B visa during any of the past three fiscal years – was successfully inserted into the omnibus spending bill approved by Congress in December 2015. The one-year exemption will expire Sept. 30.

Both NALP's Mendelsohn and AmericanHort's Regelbrugge said any extension of the returning worker exemption – while essentially doomed if Wednesday's vote had gone the other way – will now depend on how the budget process plays out in the coming months.

"The victory today is really significant," Regelbrugge said, "because, had we lost today ... well, game over. Plus, this is now a policy that has been upheld by Congress" in light of the Appropriations Committee's approval.

Mendelsohn agreed that without Wednesday's vote, "there was really no chance" of extending the exemption. "We're very pleased by today's action, but we recognize we still have work to do," he said.

Our thanks to David Rountree, editor of Total Landscape care.com for permission to reprint his article. To see more timely news visit: <http://www.totallandscapecare.com/>



## The 2017 International Turfgrass Research Conference will be packed with Educational and Social Activities

**New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA**

**July 16-21, 2017**

The *International Turfgrass Society* (ITS) is a not-for-profit scientific organization established in 1969 to encourage research and education in turfgrass science, and to promote personal communication among the international community of turfgrass researchers by organizing international conferences to present turfgrass research and information on all phases of turfgrass production and use.

The [International Turfgrass Research Conferences](#) (ITRC) are held at 4-year intervals. The hosts for past conferences have been England (1969), the United States (1973, 1993), Germany (1977), Canada (1981, 2001), France (1985), Japan (1989), Australia (1997), U.K. (2005), Chile (2009), and China (2013).

**by Dr. Bruce Clarke, ITS President  
Director, Center for Turfgrass Science,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ USA**

Plans are progressing rapidly for the 13th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC); one of the most anticipated events in 2017! This is one conference that you will not want to miss.

The ITRC will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel located in New Brunswick, NJ USA from 16-21 July, 2017; the first time the conference has been held in the U.S. since 1993.

### ITRC 2017 Highlights

The Conference will kick off with a grand reception on Sunday night featuring a Dixieland band that the entire family will enjoy. This will be followed by a week packed with educational and social opportunities (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/pdf/Preliminary-Meeting-Schedule.pdf>) that will allow you to meet with old friends and network with new acquaintances from all over the world.

Some of the highlights of the 2017 ITRC will include keynote addresses from internationally renowned scientists; an evening reception to recognize Dr. Jim Watson - one of the pioneers in the turfgrass industry; a full day of technical tours that will highlight the extraordinary range of turf venues in the NJ/NY city region; an American-

style BBQ at the Rutgers Turf Research Farm at Hort Farm; A full day of technical tours is planned including a stop at the USGA; a Twilight Dinner Cruise of the NY/NJ Harbor, Statue of Liberty, great views of the NY City skyline, and a Zoysiagrass Symposium showcasing invited speakers who will give a world-wide perspective on this important and underutilized turfgrass species. plus much more.

The Conference will conclude with an optional afternoon tour of the world-famous Rutgers Breeding Program's Adelphia Research Farm.

Plan to attend the largest and most comprehensive gatherings of turfgrass professionals anywhere in the world. Learn about the latest discoveries in turfgrass science and get inspired by the scientific sessions, field tours, and stimulating discussions.

Online Conference and Hotel Registration Opens October 1, 2016. Conference and Hotel Registration (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/?p=reg>)

Mark your calendars now to join the more than 500 participants from 26 countries who are anticipated to attend the 13th ITRC in New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA from 16 to 21, July 2017.



ITRC will coincide with **TPI's 2017 Summer Program** in New Brunswick, NJ. More details will be forthcoming in future issues of *Turf News* and the TPI newsletter.





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 please submit their name for consideration.

Submit a separate form for all individuals you would like to nominate.

## 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)

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(Attach additional page if necessary.)

Please submit your Nomination Form on or before October 31, 2016 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](mailto:info@TurfGrassSod.org)



# TurfSide-UP

## **SORRY MR. HEUVER BUT . . . YOUR ROBE IS UNACCEPTABLE.**



When TPI member Eric Heuver of Eagle Lake Professional Landscape Supply in Strathmore, Alberta, Canada hosted a recent event at the Sparkling Hill Resort & Spa in Vernon, British Columbia he was understandably excited.

The hotel and wellness center take pride in their European-inspired design elegance. Nestled in the mountains near Vernon, BC, and overlooking Lake Okanagan, it provides “a personal journey to whole body health and wellness among British Columbia resorts”.

Unfortunately, Eric was unaware that there are specific guidelines to enter the spa. When he showed up in his personal robe\*, swim shorts, his “I Love Calgary” towel and his royal flip-flops he was kindly told that his attire was not acceptable and he was asked to leave the spa.

We understand he strolled back to his room and watched television. What did he watch? Our guess is either “Camelot” or “The King’s Speech”.

\* The above story is true. It should be noted however that Eric’s personal robe wasn’t quite as elegant as what is depicted in the above photos.



“We’ve reduced wetting agents by 50%, and saving 50,000-100,000 gallons of water per night.”



CHEMICAL-FREE WATER SOFTENING TREATMENT  
[RainlikeWater.com](http://RainlikeWater.com)





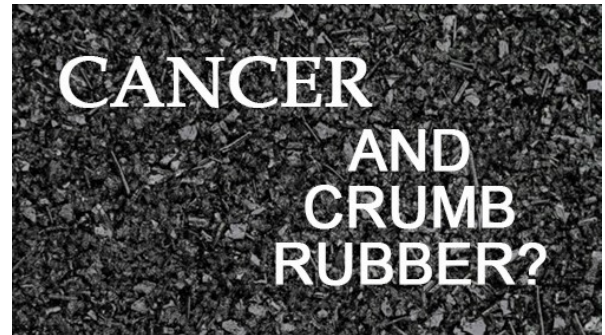
# CANCER LIST AMONG ATHLETES PLAYING ON CRUMB RUBBER KEEPS GROWING.

The cancer cases among athletes who have played on synthetic turf fields are being gathered in an ever lengthening list, reports Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), an organization of physicians and public health professionals.

Because there is still no government agency collecting data on the cancer cases among athletes who have played for a number of years on synthetic turf fields, the collecting of the cancer data has been left to Amy Griffin, Associate Head Soccer Coach at the University of Washington.

But starting in 2014, news reports emerged questioning whether crumb rubber causes cancer. An ESPN report featured University of Washington soccer coach Amy Griffin, who started a list of soccer players who played on crumb rubber and have been diagnosed with cancer.

[http://mtstandard.com/why-won-t-the-government-say-whether-this-artificial-turf/youtube\\_d9ce3f6e-86fb-511c-89eb-c6a6231a7394.html](http://mtstandard.com/why-won-t-the-government-say-whether-this-artificial-turf/youtube_d9ce3f6e-86fb-511c-89eb-c6a6231a7394.html)



In May 2016 CBS4 in Denver and ESPN reported Griffin's list of athletes with cancer who have played on synthetic turf now now exceeds 200 athletes, 158 of whom are soccer players. Of those soccer players, 101 are goalkeepers.



## CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE



**If tires aren't safe in landfills, how can they be pulverized and than be considered safe on the playgrounds and sports fields where kids play?**



# LOOK BEFORE YOU PUMP OR PAY THE CONSEQUENCES



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT  
INSTITUTE

Many people don't pay attention to what type of fuel they put in their outdoor power equipment but maybe they should. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reports that according to most engine manufacturers, gasoline containing greater than ten percent ethanol (E10) can damage or destroy outdoor power equipment, including lawn mowers, chain saws, generators, utility vehicles and other small engine equipment such as motorcycles, snowmobiles and boat engines.

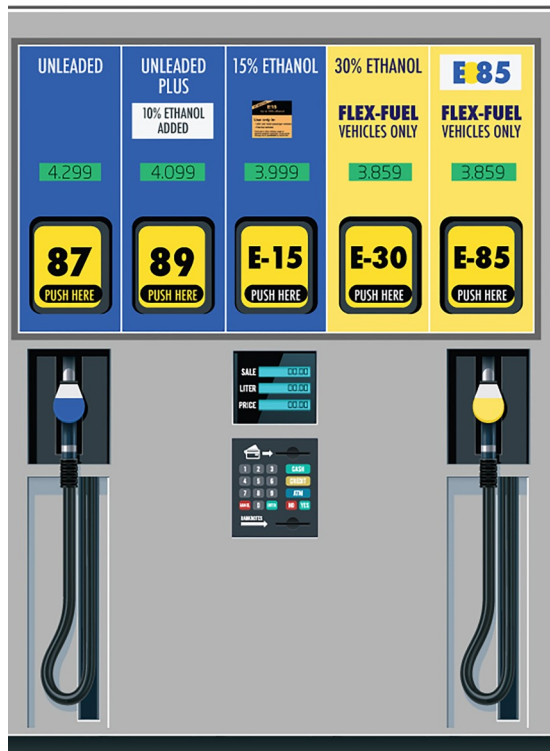
A recent [survey](#) by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) found that two-thirds (64 percent) of American adults age 18+ who own outdoor power equipment say they either are not sure (42 percent) or do not pay any attention (22 percent) to what type of fuel they are using. Yet, the poll shows 66 percent of Americans will use the least expensive grade of gasoline whenever possible.

To help consumers pay attention at the pump, OPEI has created the attached infographic and hope people will share it through their social media channels and use hash tag #LookB4UPump.

To request other file formats contact [ami@fourleafpr.com](mailto:ami@fourleafpr.com).  
Ami Neiberger-Miller  
Four Leaf PR (on behalf of OPEI)



Do you pay attention to what kind of fuel you put in your lawn mower, string trimmer, chain saw or other outdoor power equipment?



## 2/3 OF AMERICANS

who own outdoor power equipment say they either are not sure or do not pay any attention to what type of fuel they are using.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Gasoline containing greater than 10 percent ethanol (E10) can damage outdoor power equipment and other small engine equipment such as motorcycle, snowmobile and boat engines.

## LOOK BEFORE YOU PUMP

- ✓ Only use gas with 10% ethanol or less.
- ✓ Only use fresh fuel that is less than 30 days old.
- ✓ If the gas you use for your small engines is more than 30 days old, dispose of it properly.
- ✓ Label your gas can with the date you bought your fuel.

[www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com)

#LookB4UPump



## Every \$1.00 spent on turfgrass in the state of Tennessee results in \$1.66 contributed to the state's economy.

The Tennessee turfgrass industry contributed and estimated \$5.8 billion to the state's economy and over 67,000 full and part-time jobs. For every two jobs created from turf expenditures, an additional job is created in other industries throughout the state.

Source: Based on UTIA 2016 infographic and B.C. English et al. 2015, *Tennessee's Turfgrass Industry: Economic Contributions, Problematic Issues, and Perceptions of Future Growth*.

### TURF BRINGS GREEN TO TENNESSEE

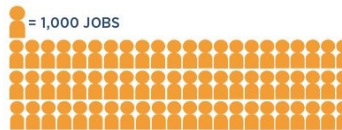
THE TENNESSEE TURFGRASS INDUSTRY'S TOTAL 2013 ESTIMATED ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION WAS

**\$5.8 BILLION**

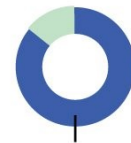
OUT OF \$582.5 BILLION OF THE TOTAL STATE ECONOMY



THERE IS A **166%** RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO THE STATE ECONOMY FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON TURFGRASS



TOTAL 2013 EMPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTION WAS **OVER 67,000 JOBS**



**HOMEOWNERS** CONTRIBUTE THE GREATEST % OF THE ESTIMATED ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS



## Send us your PHOTOS!

Do you have some old photos that capture how the turfgrass industry has changed over the last 50 years? Photos of equipment, ASPA/TPI events, you and other members at ASPA/TPI functions? If so, we would like to include them in the creation of a photo history of how things have changed in half a century.

If you have photos to share please contact Jim Novak at the TPI office 847-649-5555 or send copies to: [info@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:info@TurfGrassSod.org).



J.T. Patton & Sons Farm, Silver Springs, Maryland—1960's



Eddie Keeven Jr. and Ray Weekley—1986



Charles Lain, Sr., Pine Island Turf—1971



## SEED WITH CONFIDENCE

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





## DO THESE FACES LOOKS FAMILIAR?

The second in a series of quizzes that will be featured in each issue of the newsletter as TPI prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary next February in Tampa, Florida.

These photos were pulled from the TPI archives. All of these individuals have been associated with TPI for a good number of years and it's likely you have met some or all of them at a TPI conference, field day or social event. How many can you identify? Their identity is revealed on the next page.

**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**



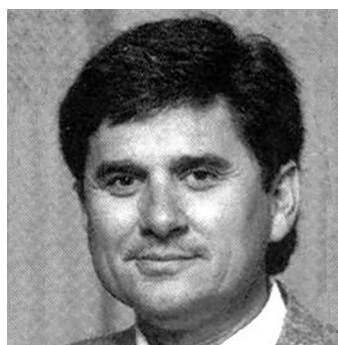
**5**



**6**



**7**



**8**



**ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ — “DO THESE FACES LOOK FAMILIAR?”**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| (1) Chip Lain         | 0 CORRECT — Welcome to TPI. We take it you’re a new member?                              |
| (2) Eddie Keeven, Jr. | 1 CORRECT — We won’t tell.   |
| (3) Ray Weekley       | 2 CORRECT — Look at it this way . . . in baseball you would have a 250 batting average.  |
| (4) Randy Tischer     | 3 CORRECT — Not good, but not bad.   |
| (5) Ben Copeland, Sr. | 4 CORRECT — You are entitled to some bragging rights . . . when talking to First Timers. |
| (6) Nancy Aerni       | 5 CORRECT — Excellent!   |
| (7) David Doguet      | 6 CORRECT — Outstanding!   |
| (8) Darin Habenicht   | 7 CORRECT — Fabulous!  |
|                       | 8 CORRECT — You’re obviously a long time TPI member . . . with a good memory.            |



**Vintage Equipment Wanted**

Do you have some vintage equipment you would like to show off during TPI’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Tampa, Florida during TPI’s 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day - February 20–23, 2017?

The planning committee is working on details so interested members can showcase antique equipment as part of the Field Day or feature the equipment in static displays during the conference.

Or, if you have any old pictures you’d like to share, please contact the TPI office so we can make them part of a TPI history display.

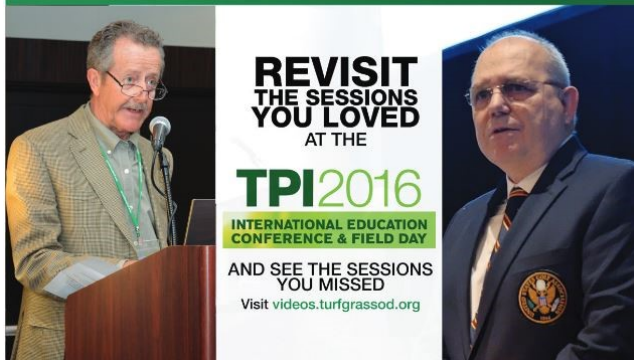
Watch for more details in the TPI E-Newsletter and in upcoming issues issue of *Turf News* magazine.



# Turfgrass Educational Center

**FREE for a limited time to non-members**

Turfgrass Producers International has launched a brand new video communications and education platform - TPI Turfgrass Educational Center. This multi-channel video platform will inform, education and inspire turfgrass professionals and help to improve their knowledge, skills and business best practices.

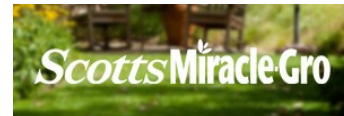
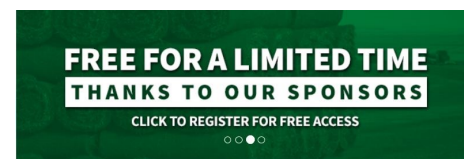


The QR Code provides a direct link to the Turfgrass Educational Center. Watch on your computer, Smartphone or tablet, anywhere, anytime.

VISIT: <http://videos.turfgrassod.org/product-category/channel/turfgrass-educational-center>

**Viewed by over 3800 visitors**

SOURCE: WorkerBee.TV



Current videos feature presentations from TPI's 2016 International Education Conference & Field Day including:

1. **Tornado Hunter—Greg Johnson**
2. **Creating New Business, Firing Difficult Customers**
3. **The Power of Turf: Reducing Soil Erosion**
4. **Weed Control—New Herbicides and the Future of Sod Production**
5. **Show & Tell—Randy Jaspersen (Franksville, Wisconsin)**
6. **Show & Tell—John Coombs (Elmer, New Jersey)**
7. **Show & Tell—Steve Griffen (Stillwater, New York)**
8. **Understanding Seed Test Reports and Interpreting Seed Labels**
9. **The Emperor Has No Clothes! Do you have the Courage to Point it Out?**
10. **Making Sales—Maximizing Value**
11. **Everything You Need to Know About Immigration 2016**
12. **Family Feud! Team Biograss VS Team Pine Island**
13. **Selecting, Training and Keeping Those That Make a Difference: The Power of People.**





DONALD DANFORTH  
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

## USGA taps into Donald Danforth Plant Science Center to improve golf course sustainability.

### Research will advance the development of salt-tolerant turf varieties.

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center announced it is collaborating with Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Georgia to develop methods to study salt tolerance in seashore paspalum through the United States Golf Association, USGA, Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program.

Soil salinization is a global challenge. On average, 2,000 hectares (4,942 acres) are lost daily through salinization, with more than 60 million hectares (over 148 million acres) of the world's irrigated land having already been compromised. Scientists are only beginning to understand the genetic basis of salt tolerance, especially in species that are already somewhat salt-tolerant such as seashore paspalum.

Principal Investigator, Elizabeth Kellogg, Ph.D., Robert E. King Distinguished Investigator at the Danforth Center, is leading a team including Ken Olsen, Ph.D. of Washington University, David Goad, a Washington University Ph.D. student supervised by Kellogg and Olsen, and Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., USDA research scientist and associate member at the Danforth Center, to study

the highly salt-tolerant grass to improve turf varieties. "With this grant we will begin to uncover the genetic basis of salt-tolerance in seashore paspalum," said Kellogg. At Washington University, Goad will conduct greenhouse experiments growing plants in different concentrations of salt water. In each experiment he will measure plant growth rate and chlorophyll content (greenness) to determine the effect of salt. In addition, the research group will apply ionomics to measure the amount of salt in the plant. This new ionomics method was developed and has been used extensively by the Baxter lab. Finally, the information on growth rate and salt content will be combined with extensive genome sequence data.

"The USGA is committed to advancing the game of golf through science and innovation, especially in turfgrass research," said Michael Kenna, Ph.D., research director, USGA.



## Thank you industry publications

Our thanks to Georgia *Urban Ag Council* magazine and *Golf Trends* magazine for featuring TPI and TLI related articles that included: "Grass Varieties – What you need to know to make your turf selection" and "Turfgrass producers give back to the community".

**Georgia Urban Ag Council** - May/June issue: (Pages 40-43)

**Turf Trends** Summer 2016 issue: (Page 49) link:

<http://read.uberflip.com/ii683571-summer-2016-turf-trends>



**Sample of program content:**

- Social media for turf farms
- Using your accountant to understand real farm profitability
- Implementing precision turf farming
- Learning how the turf levy is being used to improve industry profitability
- Determining future levy funded Research & Development initiatives
- Understanding how to identify and influence different personalities

**Scheduled State Forums:**

- Sunshine Coast, QLD - 27 July, 2016 (graphic on right)
- Oakville (near Windsor), NSW - 16 August, 2016
- Melbourne, VIC - 25 August, 2016
- Perth, WA - 1 August 2016

Registration is essential and can be organized by contacting Rachel Layt, phone +61 (0) 2 4588 5735 or email [admin@turfaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@turfaustralia.com.au)

Turf Australia reports they will be holding a combined National Conference & Field Day in the Hunter Valley of NSW, the first week of June 2017.

## Turf Australia plans State Forums in 2016

Richard Stephens, Business & Industry Development Manager of Turf Australia has reported that Turf Australia is not planning a National Conference & Field Day event in 2016 but they are having several State Forums consisting of relevant presentations.

QUEENSLAND TURF GROWERS  
**STATE FORUM**  
Wednesday  
27th July 2016

### Improving your productivity & profitability

#### Afternoon Forum, Networking Drinks & Dinner

Venue: The Sebel, Pelican Waters, Caloundra

Time: 12.30pm - 8.30pm

Cost: \$55 pp (incl. GST)

In 2016, Turf Australia will be holding state forums to provide growers with up to date national and state based information.

At Queensland's State Forum, Cynthia Mahoney will spell out social media quite simply and explain how turf growers can generate more business by using social media. Other key presenters such as John Keleher from ALC will give growers an insight into implementing variable rate irrigation on a turf farm and how savings can be made. Horticulture Innovation will also be on hand to update growers on how the turf levy is being used to make turf growing more profitable, and you will have the opportunity to input ideas on research and development for the turf industry. In addition, accountant Greg Sharpe will outline how simple accounting techniques can improve your profitability.

The afternoon will conclude with networking drinks and an enjoyable dinner.

Time	Topic	Speaker
12.30pm	Arrival and light lunch	
1.00pm	Welcome	Ross Boyle (TA President)
1.05pm	How turf growers can generate more business through social media	Cynthia Mahoney (Director, Cynthia Mahoney and Associates)
1.50pm	Using your accountant and your taxation figures to improve your profitability	Greg Sharpe (Director 3D Accounting)
2.35pm	Tea & Coffee	
3.00pm	Implementing Precision Farming on a turf farm	John Keleher (ALC QLD)
3.30pm	How the turf levy is being used to make turf farming more profitable	Senior Executive HIA
4.00pm	Interactive Workshop Your top five issues for industry research and development	Richard Stephens (TA Business & Industry Development Manager)
4.30pm	Interactive Workshop Generating more business by better understanding how to identify and influence different personalities	Cynthia Mahoney (Director, Cynthia Mahoney and Associates)
5.30pm	Networking Drinks	
6.30pm	Dinner	
8.30pm	Close	

To register: • **Go online:** [www.turfaustralia.com.au](http://www.turfaustralia.com.au)  
• **E:** [admin@turfaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@turfaustralia.com.au)  
• **T:** Turf Australia (02) 4588 5735

For more information contact Rachel Layt:  
[admin@turfaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@turfaustralia.com.au)  
Mobile: 0438 883 754



Ross Boyle



Cynthia Mahoney



Greg Sharpe



John Keleher



Richard Stephens

Don't miss this informative event.  
**BOOK NOW!**

STATE BASED FORUM **QLD**







## Louis & Ginger Brooking present a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Farm Challenge to all TPI members

In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TPI (ASPA) in Tampa, Florida, February 20-23, 2017, Louis and Ginger Brooking of Brookmeade Sod Farm in Doswell, VA, have issued a fund-raising challenge to all turfgrass producers.

The Brookings pledged to donate \$100 for every year they have been an ASPA/TPI member. The Brookings state, "We have enjoyed the many benefits of being members of ASPA and TPI. We'd like to give back to help offset some of the cost so this great organization and all of its members can really celebrate 50 Fabulous years during TPI's 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day. Since we connected with ASPA in 1972, when Louis attended his first meeting, we want to celebrate our 45 years of membership with a \$4,500 donation to The Lawn Institute. We challenge other farm members to match our donation based on their years of membership."

If you would like to join Louis and Ginger Brooking in helping to make the TPI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary an unforgettable experience, contact the TPI headquarters office for more information. With your support we can make the upcoming conference in Tampa especially memorable. Donations of any size are welcome.



Louis and Ginger Brooking are looking forward to TPI's Fabulous 50th celebration planned next year in Tampa, Florida.



Or visit: <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/tpis-50th-anniversary/>

[Click here to donate](#)



### Contest is open to all TPI members, their family and employees!

How would you like to see everyone wearing your T-shirt design at TPI's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Tampa, FL this February? All TPI members, their families and their employees are invited to submit their design ideas to TPI by October 14, 2016.

The winning entry will be featured on T-shirts at TPI's International Education Conference & Field Day in Tampa, FL on February 20-23, 2017.

You don't have to be a great artist to enter. Submit your ideas to TPI at [info@turfgrassod.org](mailto:info@turfgrassod.org) or mail them to T-Shirt Contest, Turfgrass Producers International, 2 East Main Street, East Dundee, IL 60018.

### DESIGN A T-SHIRT TO CELEBRATE TPI'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY





## DUES RENEWAL DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2016

### Secure your company's listing in the 2017 TPI Membership Directory.

Payment must be received no later than July 31. Payments can be faxed or mailed to the TPI office or pay your dues on line using PayPal (you do not have to have a PayPal account to use this service).

If you have not received your dues statement, contact Geri Hannah at 847-649-5555 Ext. 100 or [ghannah@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:ghannah@TurfGrassSod.org).



### ATTENTION SOD PRODUCERS WITH SECONDARY FARMS

Ensure prospective customers can find all your business locations.



Turfgrass producers who own and operate multiple farm locations can purchase a membership for their secondary farms for only \$150. Secondary farm locations will receive the same benefits as primary locations including *Turf News* and a separate listing online and in the TPI Member Directory. Customers use the online listing to search by postal code, so be sure to list all of your locations to secure their business.

# TOGETHER WE GROW STRONGER

Grow your business—  
become a member of TPI.

TPI's Membership Campaign encourages all members to promote our great organization to potential members. TPI represents: Purpose, Expertise, Support, Education and Commitment.

Go to [www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org) and click on the *Become a Member* tab or wherever you see the **Together We Grow Stronger** logo for more information on how you can help TPI GROW STRONGER.





Do you have something of interest that's informative, beneficial, and worth sharing with turfgrass producers? TPI is inviting members, manufacturers, educators, researchers, etc. to submit presentation proposals for TPI's 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tampa, FL.

Topics can pertain to research, innovative technology, reducing operating costs, new product offerings, improving operating efficiencies, and just about anything you feel will benefit turfgrass producers in managing and operating their business more efficiently. If you have information worth sharing we would like to consider it as part of the educational program at the TPI Conference.

### CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Fax (+1-847-649-5678)

Email at ([info@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:info@TurfGrassSod.org))

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PRESENTATION PROPOSAL IS AUGUST 15, 2016

If the subject you propose to address is selected as part of a panel presentation at the Conference, you will be notified by November 1, 2016.

*Please print or type*

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: (check one box):  Research  Innovative Product  Management Hardware/Software  New Technology  
 Other (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

Desired Time:  15 Minutes  30 Minutes  45 Minutes  60 Minutes

How will turfgrass producers benefit from this information: (150 words or fewer – you may attach a second page)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The speaker indicated above agrees to attend the Conference in Tampa, FL, February 20-23, 2017. Speakers will not be paid an honorarium. Speakers may be considered for travel support if requested.*





Thomas L. Dempsey, then Chairman and CEO of Penton Publishing, a subsidiary of the Fortune 500 Pittway Corporation, developed Saddlebrook Resort after Pittway purchased the 480-acre property in 1979. The property was originally part of the Porter Family ranch and was the home to horses, cattle and indigenous wildlife.

Dempsey, who prefers to be called T.D., even by his grandchildren, envisioned a resort that would allow guests to experience abundant wildlife, preserved lakes and woodlands, colorful birds, and an area covered with green vegetation in harmony with the natural layout of the hotel grounds.

The resort formally opened in 1981 and served to entertain the company's magazine advertisers. It was an ideal location for sales meetings, product exhibits, and other business meetings to the resort.

In 1988 T.D. purchased the resort from the company to create an independent family-owned property. He took a lead role in the design and development from the start and continues to have a hands-on role, and takes pride in stating that many of the managers have been associated with the property since its beginning.

In 1992, the Saddlebrook Preparatory School was founded to offer student athletes a comprehensive educational experience with concurrent enrollment in either the Saddlebrook Tennis Program or Saddlebrook Golf Academy. Saddlebrook The school is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Florida Council of Independent Schools.

Over the years, the resort has become an acclaimed destination for Tampa conferences and events as well as a nationally-recognized training center for golf and tennis. The resort features 45 tennis courts, two 18-hole golf courses, as well as a 16-acre golf training center.

Saddlebrook has been named one of the 'Top 100 Golf Resorts in North America, Atlantic, Ireland and Scotland' by *Condé Nast Traveler*, listed among the 'Top 25 Tennis Resorts in the World' by *Tennis Resorts Online*, and received 27 Pinnacle Awards from *Successful Meetings*, as well as 29 Gold Key, 23 Gold Tee, and 9 Gold Platter awards from *Meetings & Conventions* magazine, which also lists Saddlebrook as a Gold Hall of Fame member.

T.D.'s grandchildren, both involved in the family business, speak highly of their grandfather and the values he has

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

**The host hotel for TPI's 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day is family owned and operated. AND PROUD OF IT!**

instilled in them and others. His grandson, Masterson, an experienced guest activities specialist, corporate team building facilitator, athletic event referee and fitness instructor recently stated, "Our grandfather did everything for our family, and this attitude is reflected in his work – his leadership, service, and support to make the business successful. He believes in the importance of service leadership, and we had the privilege of witnessing it firsthand. Now that my sister and I are starting our professional careers in the family business, it's an 'open competition' and we intend to push each other to be the best that we can be."

Granddaughter, Alexis, who serves as the resort's Catering and Conference Services Manager commented, "Saddlebrook is home and family wrapped into one. There is a sense of camaraderie here that cannot be explained. Our team members look out for one another and support each other in every endeavor - many of which joined our team and have stuck with us through thick and thin since before my brother and I were born. We owe all that we have to T.D.'s vision and perseverance. Day in, day out he leads us by steadfast example of integrity, generosity, and fairness. It is our responsibility to give it all we have and live by the values he continues to teach us every day".



T.D. (center) who received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Saint Leo University in 2008 and is a *Trustee Emeritus* got to personally present his grandchildren, Alexis and Masterson Dempsey with their degrees at graduation.

And how does their grandfather feel about them? The feeling is mutual. "I have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow up. Alexis is a superstar and doing a fantastic job at the resort. Masterson already has over four years of experience at Saddlebrook and is pursuing his passion for music. I am extremely proud of them both, and presenting them with their degrees [when they graduated from Saint Leo University in April], was a special moment indeed," states T.D.

**SAVE THE DATE  
FEBRUARY 20-23, 2017**

More information will be coming soon

**A FAMILY AFFAIR**

The host hotel for TPI's 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day offers accommodations ideal for the entire family.



**Two-Bedroom Suites are great for the entire family!**

In addition to their Deluxe Guest Rooms the Saddlebrook Resort offers luxurious 950 square-foot Two-Bedroom Suites that include a spacious living room, separate dining area and a fully-equipped kitchen with a serving bar. The master bedroom boasts a King bed as well as a separate dressing area and elegant marble bathroom.

The second bedroom is thoughtfully-appointed with a Queen bed, as well as an additional dressing area and marble bathroom. Both bedrooms offer complete privacy. Their spacious Two-Bedroom Suites also feature a private patio or balcony that is accessible from the living room. Larger families can combine a Two-Bedroom Suite with an adjacent Deluxe Guest Room and expand their family's living quarters to a Three-Bedroom Suite allowing plenty of room for the entire family.

**Presidential and Executive VIP Suites**

The Presidential and Executive VIP Suites offer 1,350 square feet of elegant living space, with a magnificent master bedroom with a marble bathroom, as well as spacious living rooms, dining areas, and convenient second bathrooms, ideal for meeting executives when entertaining guests. These one-bedroom suites also feature a private patio or terrace overlooking the golf course.



Nearby attractions offer a great way to combine business with family vacation time.

**Tampa Attractions**



**Orlando Attractions**



## Educating the Public About Turfgrass

Featured in USDA Agricultural Research Services—May 2016

In collaboration with the turfgrass industry, ARS scientists developed a new exhibit called “Grass Roots” to educate the public on the importance, diversity, and benefits of turfgrass and their crop relatives. As part of this partnership, ARS developed a 1.3-acre outdoor exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

The exhibit presents fundamental information about turfgrass, including its value as a landscape element and scientific efforts to improve turfgrass and turfgrass management. Tens of thousands of people have visited the exhibit and the Web site to learn about the importance of turfgrass to the U.S. economy and the environment.

### Related Information

[Article: The Greatest Show on Turf Website: The Grass Roots Initiative: A Science-Based Focus on Turfgrass](#)

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/turfgrass.html>



## Deep South Turf Expo October 11-13, 2016

Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Along with more than 100 exhibitors the Deep South Trade Expo will include a full slate of educational sessions for lawn-care and landscape professionals, sod producers, golf course superintendents and other sports turf managers. In addition to leading experts from within the industry, educational sessions will be led by horticultural authorities from Auburn University, Mississippi State University, the University of Florida, Clemson University and the University of Nebraska.

Deep South Turf Expo is sponsored by Southeastern organizations – namely, the Alabama Turfgrass Association, Mississippi Turfgrass Association, and the Gulf Coast, Louisiana-Mississippi, and Alabama chapters of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

For more information go to:  
<http://www.deepsouthturfexpo.org/home.html>

European Turfgrass Producers  
**ETP FARM TOUR**  
 September 28-30, 2016  
 Ginosa, Italy



Turfgrass producers and industry delegates\* from all over Europe will gather in Ginosa, in Southern Italy, to sample local turfgrass production, talk about the challenges and opportunities they face, and have a unique opportunity to meet, network, and share ideas that can shape the direction of this increasingly important industry.

This year's ETP Farm Tour will take place September 28 – 30 and it's open to participants from all over the world.

In addition to planned presentations, an open exhibition to all ETP Industry Sponsor companies and social activities, attendees will visit "I Prati di Marinella" a sod farm in the delta of Metaponto, that grows a tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass mix and bermudagrass on the local sandy soils. The farm is located just one kilometer (less than a mile) from the ancient Greek ruins of Lycian Apollo.

The tour also includes a visit to Plantec Soc. Agr. Srl, the largest sod farm in southern Italy (60 hectares—148 acres) growing a tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass mix, plus bermudagrass, Manilagrass, zoysiagrass, seashore paspalum and Village Green kikuyugrass. The farm is located on a hill made up of almost pure sand and the farm house dates from the mid 1700's in typical Apulian "masseria" style and will also host the evening aperitif and barbecue. Plantec is a member of both ETS and Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) and they have currently undertaken research projects on turfgrass with the Institute of Plant Production of the University of Bari.

The tour will also travel to Bari S. Nicola Stadium in Bari, Italy. The multi-use all-seater stadium was designed by architect Renzo Piano for the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy. The stadium resembles a 'flower'. To create this particular design, the stadium consists of 26 'petals' and upper tiers of the higher ring which are separated by 8-meter empty spaces. It holds 58,248 people and the pitch is Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

For more info and registrations, please visit the 2016 ETP Farm Tour - <http://2016farmtour.turfgrassproducers.eu>

The host hotel is the Kalidria Hotel Spa in Castellaneta Marina, Italy - <http://www.novayardinia.it/kalidria-eng>

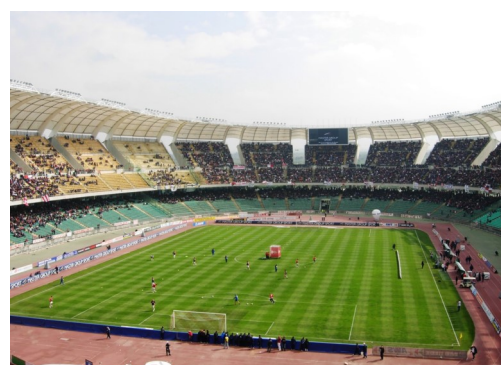
\* ETP Sponsors only



The Lycian Apollo Greek remains across the road from "I Prati di Marinella"



Plantec Soc. Agr. Srl, the largest sod farm in southern Italy.



Stadio San Nicola in Bari was built between 1987 and 1990 to serve as a playing venue for the 1990 World Cup.