

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

July/August E-Newsletter

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@TLIHealthyLawns

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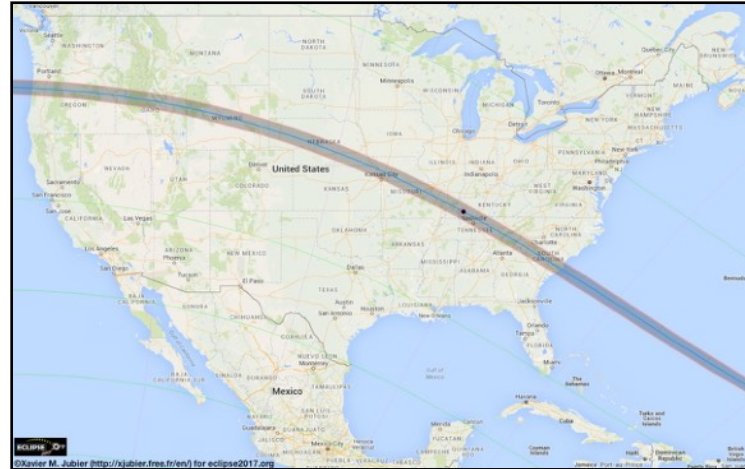


TPI Member John Coombs brings kids and natural turfgrass together for the Green Street Challenge in Stroudsburg, PA.



Solar Eclipse

Turfgrass producers from Oregon to South Carolina will be in for a real treat on Monday, August 21, 2017 as a total solar eclipse will be visible in a small path that travels the length of North America. The whole continent will experience a partial eclipse lasting two to three hours, but for those lucky enough to be in the path, the experience will be much more dramatic. Approximately halfway through the event, anyone within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina will experience a brief total eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun for up to 2 minutes and 40 seconds.



Visible Path of 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

The fact that eclipses even occur is a weird coincidence of cosmic geometry. The moon just happens to be about 400 times smaller than the sun, and the sun just happens to be about 400 times farther from Earth than the moon. So, the apparent diameter when viewing them from the Earth's surface is about the same. As a result, during the new moon phase when the moon passes between the earth and the sun there is the chance for the moon to partially or fully block the sun, resulting in an eclipse.

How often does a total solar eclipse occur? Believe it or not, about every 18 months a total solar eclipse is visible from somewhere on Earth. However, don't make future plans to see an eclipse on this path again anytime soon. The global average for seeing a total eclipse in the same place on Earth is only about once every 375 years!

**How often do
total solar
eclipses occur?**

So, for those in the path of the 2017 total solar eclipse keep your fingers crossed for clear skies, because a solar eclipse is one of nature's grandest spectacles. Be sure to visit NASA's website for more information: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>



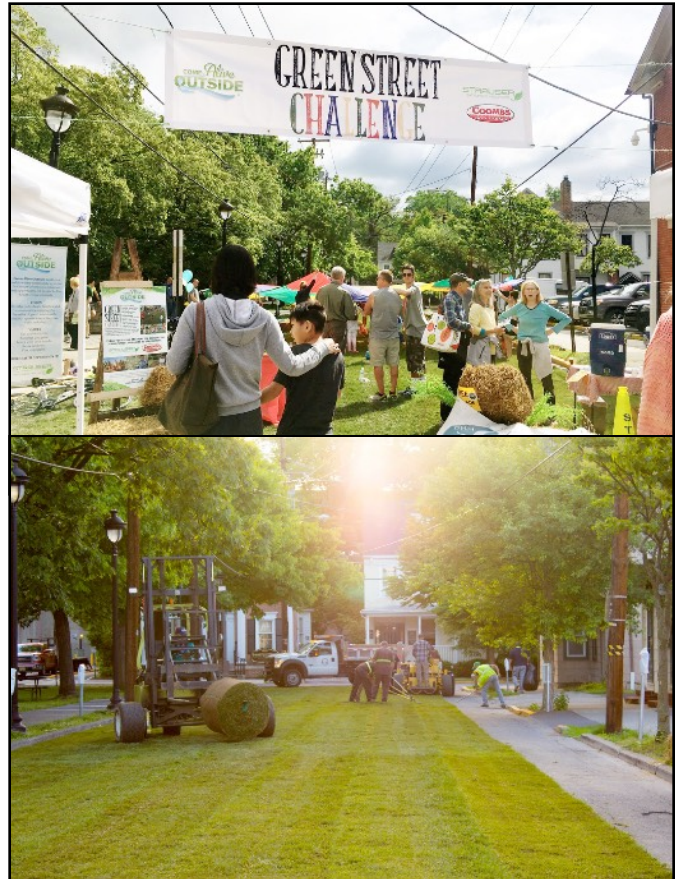
Green Street Challenge comes to PA

The Green Street Challenge is a day-long event that creates the opportunity to celebrate the importance of outdoor, unstructured play by laying down sod and creating temporary parks on prominent streets in communities across North America. It is sponsored by Come Alive Outside, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that works closely with partners in the landscape profession, as well as college horticulture and landscape architecture departments, in order to get people off the couch and back outside in communities across North America. Its mission is to inspire collaborative community systems that create the awareness, intention, and opportunity for people to live healthier lives outside.

TPI Board of Trustees member John Coombs decided to get involved after hearing a “Come Alive Outside” presentation at a recent TPI event. As a result, at 5am on May 27th, 2017 Coombs Sod Farm delivered 6,000 sq ft of Kentucky bluegrass sod to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania to be laid on Monroe Street prior to the 8am opening of the Saturday Morning Farmer’s market. Hula hoops, straw bales, balls of various kinds, lawn games, and more were provided for kids and their families to just enjoy the day.

One attendee and mother stated to a reporter, “It’s good to explore because nowadays you don’t see kids playing with toys or just outside enjoying. Everybody is in front of a screen, and I look back to my childhood and I loved just running outside.” Another person stated, “What a great project, thank you!”

Come Alive Outside has plans for 12 events in 2017 in Canada and is looking to expand further into the United States in 2018. For more information on their organization and





future Green Street Challenges, please check out their website at <https://comealiveoutside.com/greenstreet/>.

TurfMutt Named Official Education Partner of U.S. Green Building Council

The [U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#) announced earlier this summer that they were naming [TurfMutt](#), the environmental stewardship and education program for students in grades K-5, as an official education partner.

“With each new education partner, we diversify our community and grow as a movement,” said Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO, USGBC. “The expertise that TurfMutt will provide to students of Learning Lab will be invaluable as we continue to press forward for a more sustainable, resilient and socially just future.”

USGBC provides online education to professionals who transform communities through sustainable design and leadership; and in support of LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design), the most widely recognized and widely used green building program across the globe. LEED is transforming buildings, homes and communities in all 50 states and more than 165 countries and territories worldwide. USGBC estimates that nearly five million people experience a LEED building on a daily basis.

Look for TurfMutt on Facebook, Twitter, and www.TurfMutt.com.



Dogs and kids love natural turfgrass!





TPI Staff Attend Local Producer Events

One of the many goals of Casey Reynolds, Ph.D., and Karen Cooper when they joined the TPI staff in May was to begin attending local, regional, and national events in order to meet growers, suppliers, and others in the turfgrass industry. On July 11, they attended a joint function in Chicago hosted by the Wisconsin Sod Producers and the Sod Growers of Mid-America and were also in Texas during May for a joint meeting between Thomas Turfgrass and Sod Solutions.



In the coming months, they will be traveling to events in Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee as well as the European Turfgrass Producers meeting. If you have an event in your area that you think would be beneficial, please reach out to a TPI staff member for discussion. We'd love to see you!

Member Needs Survey Launches this Fall

Watch your inbox for a TPI member needs survey. This brief survey is designed to gather information about the needs and preferences of TPI members concerning various TPI functions, events, member benefits, and publications as well as businesses, labor issues and budgets for seeds, supplies, and equipment. This information will remain anonymous and will be used in aggregate by TPI staff to improve member experiences as we plan for future years. Please be on the look out!



NEW member joins TPI family during Thomas Turfgrass event on May 9th!

May 9th, 2017 was quite an eventful day for new TPI executive director Casey Reynolds. He attended his first event on behalf of TPI at Thomas Turfgrass in Paige, TX and less than one hour into it he received the call that his wife was going into labor with their first child. Dr.

“I’ll always remember my first TPI event as the day our daughter was born.”

-CASEY REYNOLDS

Reynolds recalls, “I asked my wife that morning how she felt and whether or not it was safe for me to make the 90 minute drive to Thomas Turfgrass and she said she felt great. Not long after arriving though, she called me and said I may want to come home just in case. Less than 4 hours later, Clara Elaine Reynolds was born. I remember telling Erin Wilder of Sod Solutions and Seth Thomas of Thomas Turfgrass that morning that my wife wasn’t due for another week so we should be fine. Little did I know how wrong I was!”



Precious. Pure. Perfect.



Be sure to renew or join by August 15th to have your name included in the printed directory!!

2018 Membership Directory Coming Soon!

The 2018 Membership Directory is scheduled to mail on October 1. This 200+ page directory is a one-stop shop for all TPI resources including member contact information, suppliers, TPI working groups, TLI committees, history, and more. Remember to support fellow members and directory sponsors!

The Lawn Institute is now on Twitter @TLIHealthyLawns

The Lawn Institute (TLI) has launched a new Twitter account to promote research-based information on natural grass lawns, athletic fields, and golf courses and their positive impacts in urban environments. “This account will be used as just one more way to promote TLI and the many benefits of turfgrasses in urban environments”, says TLI executive director Casey Reynolds, PhD. Each year, the Lawn Institute sends out a call for proposals to fund turfgrass research and these results can be shared through many outlets, which now also includes Twitter.



What TPI's New Database Means for You

Earlier this summer, TPI launched a new database which provides members the ability to review and update information for their businesses online. Members can access their customized profile with role-based permissions, edit their personal or company information, renew their membership, register for events, and more. This new system is only one part of recent updates and modernization of IT systems designed to increase staff efficiency, reduce costs, and improve member experiences.



Call for Presentations for 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson

TPI invites members, manufacturers, educators, researchers, and others to submit presentation proposals for the TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, Arizona, February 12-15, 2018.

Specific topics desired for the 2018 program include the following:

- New or developing technologies for the turf industry, such as GPS, drone usage, precision agriculture techniques, or variable rate applications
- Sustainable farming techniques, including water management or drought tolerant turfgrasses
- New or emerging issues for turfgrass production, the agriculture industry, or family farms (what does our future look like?)
- Social media--what is it good for, how can it help farms, and what are some best practices for effective use?
- Marketing your farm effectively
- Hosting successful farm tours and using them to promote your business
- Industry best practices--what works and doesn't work for your business

All submissions are due electronically through this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3LTMVM to TPI by September 1, 2017. Please contact Karen Cooper at 847-737-7631 or kcooper@turfgrasssod.org if you have any questions about presenting or problems with the electronic form.



Tuckahoe Turf Reel Mower Makes Big Impact on Twitter

As the saying goes, “The only difference between men and boys is the size of their toys.”

TPI members attending the Tuckahoe Turf Farm tour as part of the 2017 TPI Summer Conference in New Jersey got a real treat during the Wednesday session when they witnessed a larger-than-usual mower in action. This unit, with 31 reels and an approximate cutting width of 60 feet, was one of the many highlights of the tour. It also made quite the impression on Twitter. Dr. Casey Reynolds, who manages the The Lawn Institute Twitter account says, “Its always fun to see tweets like this take off. This tweet literally made 10 times the impression on Twitter than any other tweet I’ve made since joining TPI.” I can see why too, because I never get tired of seeing farm and turf equipment in action. Especially when its this size!”



“I’d hate to be the one that has to grind all of those reels”

-TPI TOUR ATTENDEE



2017 European Turfgrass Producers Seminars & Turf Expo



The 2017 European Turfgrass Producers Seminars and Turf Expo will be held from September 28th – 29th, 2017 in the Netherlands. This year's meeting will consist of an intensive 2-day program of seminars at the Hotel Asteria in Venray on September 28th followed by a Turf Expo at nearby Direct Gazon sod farm in Ysselesteyn. Seminar sessions will include topics on revenue and by-products from turfgrass clippings, hybrid turf in sod farms, and more. Dr. Casey Reynolds will be attending on behalf of Turfgrass Producers International, so please feel free to reach out to him with ideas on topics for discussion or making connections while there!

Registration information can be found at the website below.

2017 European Turfgrass Producers Seminars and Turf Expo

<http://www.turfgrassproducers.eu/2017turfshow/>





TPI teams up with the International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) in New Brunswick, NJ

The 2017 TPI Summer Convention was held alongside the International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) from July 16th – 21st in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Over 450 turfgrass researchers and professionals from around the world gathered to discuss the latest turfgrass research findings, see the sights of NYC, and more.

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. ITRC meetings are held every 4 years and this year's theme was *"Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment"*.



The week began with a welcome reception on Sunday and was followed by two days of scientific presentations from leaders in turfgrass science from at least 30 states and over 26 countries. Research areas of interest that were presented included: climate, plant health and physiology, management, planting practices, pest control, nutrient fate, plant breeding, stress tolerance, sports field drainage, new technologies, market trends, consumer preferences, and more.



In addition to classroom educational sessions, ITRC members were treated to several technical tours, which ran concurrently with those scheduled as part of the 2017 TPI Summer Conference. These sites included Yankee Stadium, Red Bull Arena, Met Life Practice Field (home of the NY Giants), Monmouth Park Race Track, Central Park in NYC, Bronx Botanical Gardens, Rutgers Horticultural Research Farms, Trump National Golf Club (home of the 2017 US Women's Open), Tuckahoe Turf Sod Farms, and the USGA Museum and Testing Facility in nearby Far Hills, New Jersey.

Each of these sites had something special to offer anyone interested in turfgrasses, and they certainly rose to the challenge. The faculty and staff at Rutgers University highlighted research on Wednesday afternoon followed by a BBQ dinner and live entertainment and then again on Friday where attendees toured additional research sites. Attendees got a chance to see turfgrasses under shade, drought, traffic, minimal nutrients, and other stresses designed to meet the challenges of a changing environment.



Fine fescue research under dense shade

Tall Fescue under a dry-down shelter after 50+ days with no rainfall or irrigation



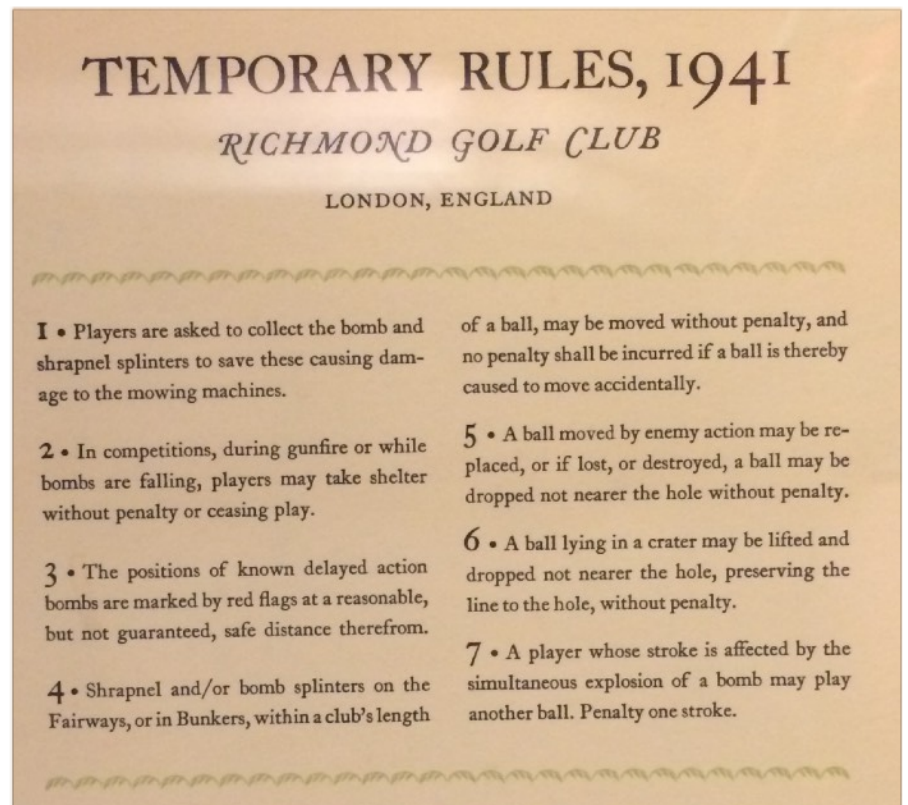
“Our climate will likely become more variable with regard to moisture and temperature so rainfall capture will be vital.”

-DR. JERRY HATFIELD, USDA-ARS WHEN SPEAKING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER SOIL PREPARATION DURING PLANTING



TPI and ITRC attendees interested in golf really received a special treat on Thursday's site visits as the tour stopped at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, NJ and the USGA Museum and Testing Facility. Highlights included a tour of where golf equipment is tested for conformity with USGA rules and a stop in the museum where legendary and timeless golf history is archived including the US Open championship trophies, the moon club that used to hit two golf balls on the moon, and temporary rules of golf in wartime London in 1941.

Rob Wagner, golf course superintendent at Trump National Golf Club, who was kind enough to host us, spent time speaking with TPI members about his relationship with local turfgrass producers and his boss Donald Trump, the President of the United States.

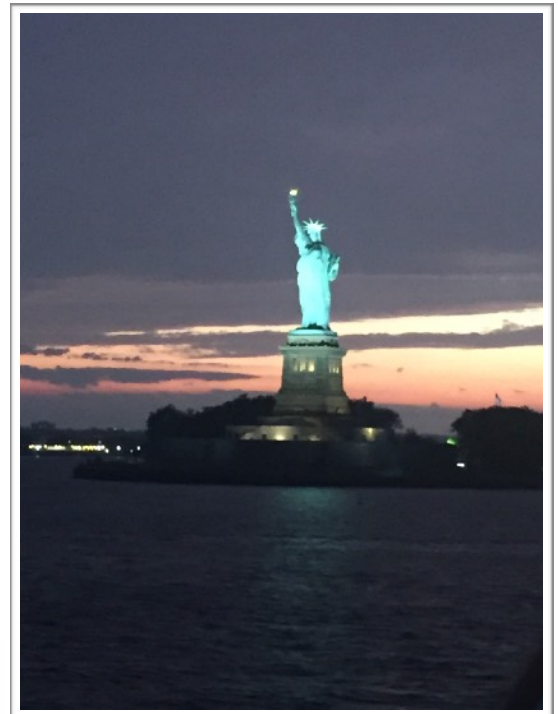


“Seeing a golf ball launched out of a cannon at 2400 rpm is pretty cool!”

-TPI TOUR ATTENDEE



This educational and exciting week was capped off Thursday night with a harbor cruise of New York City which included dinner, dancing, and some unbelievable views. Sites included the Statue of Liberty, One World Trade Center, Empire State Building, and others. Thanks to everyone who attended and we hope to see you again at future conferences!



SEE YOU IN
SUNNY

TUCSON
TPI2018

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAYS
WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT

TUCSON, ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 12-15, 2018

Contact Information

Turfgrass Producers International
444 E. Roosevelt Road, Suite 346
Lombard, IL 60148
info@TurfgrassSod.org
Toll Free: 800-405-8873
Phone: 847-649-5678
www.TurfgrassSod.org

Social Media



@TPITurfTalk



Comments

Please email any comments or suggestions for future E-newsletters to Casey Reynolds.

creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org