

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

November/December E-Newsletter

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Catch TPI at These Upcoming Events

January

NC Sod Producers Conference
Greensboro, NC. 1/17

Sports Turf Managers Assoc.
Forth Worth, TX. 1/16 - 1/19

Iowa Turfgrass Conference
Altoona, IA. 1/23 - 1/25

February

Golf Industry Show
San Antonio, TX 2/3 - 2/8

TPI International Education
Conference & Field Day
Tucson, AZ. 2/12 - 2/15



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration for the TPI 2018 International Education Conference &
Field Day is NOW OPEN at www.TurfgrassSod.org.





TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day!

By Karen Cooper

TPI's 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day will be an exciting week of learning and networking opportunities that you cannot afford to miss! The education program features breakout sessions covering business, communication, leadership, stress management, technology, natural turfgrasses vs. synthetic surfaces, turf physiology, and the ever-popular Show & Tell sessions with Jim Keeven of SelecTurf, Inc. and Keith Wittig of Central Turf Farms, Inc.

Every year, members report that the information they gain at this event through the classroom sessions, from networking at a reception, to negotiating a purchase in the exhibit hall, more than pays for the cost of the trip. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your business and make new connections at the 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day!

The list of educational topics include:

- Meeting the Challenges of Leadership in Today's Workplace
- Partnership is the New Leadership
- Ain't Nuthin' Like the Reel Thing: Natural Turfgrass vs. Synthetic Surfaces
- Who Dun-it? Fraud and Ethics in the Workplace
- Show & Tell: Jimmy Keeven of SelecTurf, Inc. from Jefferson City, Missouri and Keith Wittig of Central Turf Farms in Wharton, TX.
- Reducing Inputs through Site-Specific Management



- Turfgrass Cultivar Selection for Drought and Cold Resistance
- Why My Sod is Better: Communicating the Value of Natural Turfgrass
- Technology Tools for Sod Producers
- Managing Stress and Avoiding Burnout
- Salt and Sodium: It Ain't the Same
- Seeding Your Fields while Having a Cocktail on Your Porch

R&R Products Manufacturing Facility Tour

There will also be a tour of R&R products, which was established in 1971 and manufactures and supplies quality replacement parts, sod harvester blades, golf course accessories, irrigation, power equipment, and tools for the commercial golf and turf industries. Family owned and operated with over 275 employees, R&R has grown from less than a hundred parts in 1971 to over a thousand in 1985 to over 25,000 parts today. The manufacturing and distribution facilities in Tucson, Arizona include computerized numeric controlled lathes and mills for precision machining, punch presses, state-of-the-art laser cutting center as well as five heat-treating systems for complete control of the temper on blades. Be sure to join us for a special lunch sponsored by R&R Products and this impressive tour of their facilities!

Field Day

Evergreen Turf, located in the desert near Eloy, AZ began as a 120 acre farm with a single center pivot and the simple goal of producing high quality sod for landscape contractors. When Jeff called his friend, Jimmy Fox to help look for an investor, he never dreamed that someday the two of them would be partners, with farms in three states and managing over 2,500 acres of sod production. Today the Eloy farm is a 655-acre farm with three center pivots, one lateral irrigation system, three reservoirs, and seven different varieties of sod. Summer days can reach 120 degrees, while winter nights dip into the low 20s, so much of the bermudagrass is overseeded with perennial ryegrass in order for customers to receive green grass year-round.

Details on specific events, topics, and registration can be found by downloading the Attendee Brochure at <http://www.turfgrasssod.org/pages/events/international-conference-field-day/>



Trebro Autostack II headlines TLI Live and Silent Auctions

This year, TPI's 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day will offer a number of exciting ways to support The Lawn Institute's initiatives related to research, education, and the promotion of natural turfgrass, including a live and silent auction, the annual clay shoot, and a series of gun draws.



Headlining this year's fundraising efforts is a a Trebro Autostack II courtesy of Trebro Turf Equipment with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit The Lawn Institute.



Download BidPal from the app store or log onto BidPal.com to start bidding!

After logging in, search **TPI**, **TLI**, or **TPI2018** to enter The Lawn Institute auction and start bidding. Bidding opened on December 15th and will remain open until Wednesday, February 14th at the TLI Dessert Reception in Tucson. Anyone can place bids online or using the app and will receive real-time updates if a competing bid occurs.

TPI members who create a BidPal account before February 14th and enter the TPI2018 auction will automatically be entered to win a Mossberg 590A1 series shotgun!

TPI Members who download the BidPal app are automatically entered to win a Mossberg 590A1



Other Items in the TLI Silent Auction include:

- **Brouwer BTR30 Turf Roller**
Courtesy of Brouwer Kesmec
- **Custom Hand-made Quilt**
Courtesy of Karen Cooper, TPI
- **Dinner for 8 in your home with Private Chef**
Courtesy of Modern Turf, Inc.
- **2-day Turkey Hunt for two at private lodge**
Courtesy of Bethel Farms
- **And more!!!**



Gun Draws

A great selection of guns will be given away during the week of the conference in a series of gun draws. Individual tickets cost \$25.00 or you can buy a bundle of five for \$100.00. Advance tickets are on sale through February 1, 2018 (while supplies last—tickets are limited to increase your chances of winning). A VISA gift card equivalent to the stated market value of the gun can be substituted as a prize at the winner's discretion. Winners do not need to be present to win!

Tickets are available online at <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/2018-gun-raffle/> or by clicking the "Support TLI" button on the TLI website. Official Rules are posted on The Lawn Institute website.



Synthetic Surface Failure results in 10-minute Delay in Championship Game

American football fans all over the United States witnessed a bizarre event unfold during the Big10 Championship football game on December 2nd. About one-third of the way into the 4th quarter, Wisconsin running back Chris James scored on a one-yard run but as defenders were trying to keep him out of the end zone, the synthetic surface beneath their feet ripped apart. This caused a 10-minute stoppage of play while Erik Harlow of the grounds crew at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN made the repairs. Luckily for everyone, Erik has a degree in Turfgrass Science from Purdue University and was able to salvage it for the rest of the game.

Video of the incident can be seen here:

<https://www.sbnation.com/2017/12/2/16729378/ohio-state-wisconsin-ripped-turf-big-ten-championship>



Sod Farm and Installation Company on 220 acres for sale in the Southwest, FL area with revenue over \$3M per year. Asking price is \$7.9M. Contact us at (561) 514-1122 or info@landscapedepotinvestments.com for more information on this rare opportunity!



Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship Application Deadline Approaching!

Applications for the 2018 Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship are now being accepted by The Lawn Institute. The award was established by The Lawn Institute (TLI) Board of Trustees in 2006 to honor a founding father of Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) and to help to mitigate the rising costs of college and post-graduate education. It is available to all Class A and B TPI members, their family members, their employees, and their employees' family members who are pursuing higher education. Applications are due January 5th, 2018. Please visit www.TheLawnInstitute.org for complete details.



To download the application and read the official details of the application, please visit <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/science/scholarships/>

TPI Travels to Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas

TPI continues it's outreach with new staff members Casey Reynolds, PhD and Karen Cooper. Fresh off from trips to Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Holland, it was time in November and December to visit the deep south with trips to Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. The 2017 Georgia Urban Ag Council's Sod & Turfgrass Producers Field Day was held in Perry, GA from Oct 31st - Nov. 1st and included educational sessions along with a field day on a bright, sunny, and windy day at TPI Member Super-Sod's farm in Fort Valley, GA. Vendors from all over came to exhibit new products, services, and of course to demonstrate the latest equipment.

Some of these vendors then packed up their bags and headed further south for a week at the Deep South Turf Expo in Biloxi, MS. Casey Reynolds was there on behalf of TPI at the Deep South Turf Expo Trade Show, but also was an invited speaker during the educational sessions. His topics include *Interpreting Pesticide Labels, Shade & Implications for Turfgrass*



Health, and Current & Future Issues Affecting Turfgrass Production. For more information on *Shade & Implications for Turfgrass Health* check out the January / February issue of *Turf News*!

In addition to the Deep South Turf Expo, TPI also had trade show booths at the 2017 Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Conference & Trade Show from November 13-15 in Myrtle Beach, SC and at the Texas Turfgrass Association Conference & Show from December 5 - 7th in Arlington, TX. While at the Carolinas GCSA conference, Casey Reynolds and TPI Secretary / Treasurer Hank Kerfoot of Modern Turf were able to visit with turfgrass producers from South Carolina during the SC Sod Producers Association business meeting, held at the same convention center. Hank and Casey shared new and ongoing information relative to TPI initiatives, memberships, and the upcoming 2018 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, AZ. Dr. Bert McCarty was also in attendance to discuss updates on Clemson University's turfgrass program and the ongoing problem of herbicide resistance weeds. TPI would like to extend a special thanks to the SC Sod Producers Association for hosting us and letting us be a part of their event.



Karen Cooper was able to attend the 2017 Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA) where she was able to connect with TPI supplier and producer members in Texas. This was a special year for the Texas Turfgrass Association as they honored 70 years of Past Presidents as well as their long time Executive Director Shirley Duble.

TPI member Thomas Turfgrass's Emory Thomas is on the Board of Directors for the Texas Turfgrass Association and TPI Executive Director Casey Reynolds is a past advisor to TTA.



University and Educator NEWS!

TLI Research Call for Proposals now OPEN!



The Lawn Institute Research Committee invites you to submit a request for research funding as part of the 2018 TLI Research Call for Proposals. Grant funding is available beginning June 2018 for studies that impact turfgrass farmers, distributors, and consumers. Of particular interest is research in the following areas:

- Cultural Impact of Turfgrass
- Extending Harvested Turfgrass Shelf Life
- Environmental Awareness
- Production Cost

Compilations and Summaries of Existing Research on:

- Nutrients and Plant Protection
- The Role of Turfgrass in Protecting the Environment
- Benefits of Turfgrass

Applications can be downloaded at Research Grants on The Lawn Institute Website or at this link. <http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/science/research-grants/>





NEW Complimentary TPI Memberships for Turfgrass Educators welcomes 20 new members last month!

In recognition of the valuable service that university turfgrass researchers, educators, and extension specialists provide to TPI and the turfgrass industry, the TPI Board of Directors voted on and passed a complimentary membership class for all educators or other individuals engaged in turfgrass research, teaching or extension work.

“The TPI Board of Trustees believes that growing the involvement of our educator members will provide a great benefit to our producer and supplier members by improving our education programs and giving growers more opportunities to become involved with research, leading to the continued promotion of the turfgrass industry,” says Casey Reynolds, PhD.

TPI Educator Membership

- **Standard (\$75):** Receive all benefits of membership as well as a printed copy of *Turf News*
- **Complimentary:** Receive all benefits of membership, including an electronic subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, *Turf News*

Since rolling out this program in November of 2017, TPI has already welcomed 20 new university researchers and extension specialist from all over the globe. For information on how to join as a TPI Educator in either the Standard or Complimentary category, please contact Casey Reynolds (creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org) or Karen Cooper (kcooper@TurfgrassSod.org)



Precious. Pure. Perfect.





TPI Board of Trustees Member John Coombs, Sr. receives Salem County Board of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award



Each year the Salem County Board of Agriculture selects an individual who they feel has been of great service to the agriculture industry in their local community. It was in high school that John realized the farm life was for him. After graduating from Penn State with an Agricultural degree, he returned home to join the ranks of the family farm as an 8th generation farmer. He enjoyed many daily farm tasks but seemed to especially like disking the ground ahead of planting as well as planting potatoes. He likes it so much that he often joked he would plant the moon if they would let him, and his family states that he would actually do it if he could figure out a way to get his John Deere Tractor up there.

“I could not have accomplished any of the things I’ve done without Donna and the boys. The best part of my life is working with the boys and watching them continue my legacy”

-JOHN COOMBS

John has always been involved in the community and has held various positions with the Salem County Board of Agriculture, the NJ State Agricultural Museum, the Upper Pittsgrove Township Land Use Board, the Salem County Utilities Authority, the NJ Cultivated Sod Association, and more. He has always instilled the love of the land and a passion for growing plants in all three of his children, inspiring future generations to carry on the family tradition of growing things from the land. Leading by example, he has taught future generations to not be afraid of getting involved and taking on leadership positions in things they find important to them.

It’s his love of agriculture and his commitment to being involved in his community and agriculture industry that has earned John Coombs, Sr. the Distinguished Service Award.



TPI Explores Corporate Partnerships with Bayer, BASF, Syngenta, Helena, and others

Turfgrass Producers International is currently exploring a new supplier membership model designed to further develop relationships with its corporate partners. Suppliers and manufacturers are represented in TPI by those companies who are actively involved in providing equipment, manufactured goods, support systems, services, and products or supplies to turfgrass producers.



Casey Reynolds, PhD and Karen Cooper visit with Stephanie Darnell at the Bayer Bee Care Center in Raleigh, NC.

TPI been working together with supplier members since its inception and is examining new options for supplier memberships. Casey Reynolds adds, "We recognize that many of our larger suppliers have many employees throughout the world that may enjoy the benefits that TPI has to offer, particularly at local levels where they interact with turfgrass producers. As a result, we'd like to create a membership model that works more efficiently for large multinational manufacturers and distributors while still maintaining our current Class B Supplier membership for smaller, family-owned companies."

In the last two months, TPI staff have been in discussions with Bayer, BASF, Syngenta, and Helena to determine how best to increase interactions and collaboration in a way that is mutually beneficial to them and TPI members. The staff at TPI will present two new supplier membership classes to the Board of Trustees for their approval and then move forward accordingly. "We will continue to reach out to supplier members to see how we can support their businesses while also bringing more resources to producers. We welcome and encourage any current or potential supplier members to contact us with comments or questions, and we will certainly stay in touch as this develops", Casey Reynolds, PhD and Executive Director of TPI.



Wintry Weather hits the Southern US!

A winter storm dumped snow as far south as Galveston, TX in early December and made for some great pics! Snowfall totals ranged from a trace to up to 5 inches across South Central Texas before moving north and east into the Mid-Atlantic states and up the northeast coast.

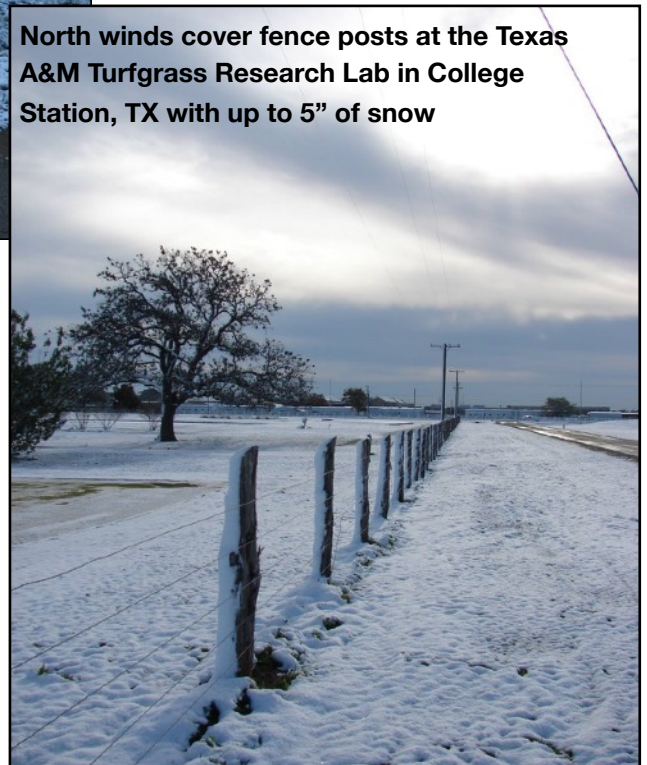
Snow on Palm Trees?



TPI Board Member Keith Wittig of Central Turf Farms Shared this picture of his farm in Wharton, TX



North winds cover fence posts at the Texas A&M Turfgrass Research Lab in College Station, TX with up to 5" of snow



Corpus Christi, TX





New Members! Please join us in welcoming the following organizations who have recently joined TPI!!

Mark Aldrovandi
LiftKing Manufacturing
Woodbridge ON L4L 1V9

Wells Hula
Riverside, Turf, LLC
Charles City VA 23030

Jay Peterson
Green Horizon Farm & Turf
Woodland WA 98674

Jay Carl
Carl and Son Turf
Harrisonville MO 64701

Kelly Kopp
Utah State University
Logan UT 84322

Eric Smilsky
Smilsky Sod Farms Ltd.
Cookstown ON L0L 1L0

Blake Fleeman
Georgia Seed Development
Athens GA 30605

Joe Masingo
Hoosier Turf
Otisco IN 47163

Agnaldo Xavier
Gramas Xavier
Sao Paulo Brazil 18270-000

If you are interested in joining TPI, please visit www.TurfgrassSod.org or contact us at any of the information below.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the TPI Board of Trustees and Staff! We wish you safe and happy holidays and look forward to working with you in 2018!





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Comments

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

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