

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

September/October E-Newsletter

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Hurricane Relief

TPI Travels to Holland, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee, and D.C.

Dodge Trucks put Turfgrass Producers in National Spotlight

A Special Night Honoring Jim Novak

TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, AZ

Catch TPI at These Upcoming Events

November

Deep South Turf Expo
Biloxi, MS. 11/7 - 11/9

Carolinas Golf Show
Myrtle Beach, SC. 11/13 - 11/15

Southeast Regional Sports Turf Conference & Trade Show
Myrtle Beach, SC. 11/13 - 11/15

December

Texas Turfgrass Winter Conf.
Arlington, TX 12/5 - 12/7

NCSU Turfgrass Research Symposium
Raleigh, NC 12/14



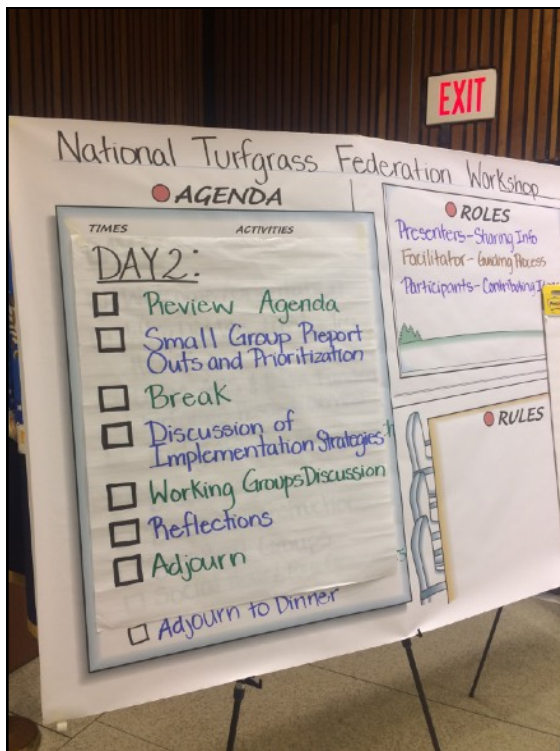
Diamond D Ranch Turf Farm in Nome, TX served as a staging area for livestock supplies during Hurricane Harvey.





TPI Attends National Turfgrass Federation Meeting in Washington, D.C. - Kevin Morris

Approximately 40 attendees participated in a professionally facilitated workshop on September 19th and 20th, 2017 hosted by the National Turfgrass Federation and the U.S. National Arboretum to discuss turfgrass research needs, priorities and funding strategies. Attendees included representatives from golf, parks, seed and sod, lawn and landscape, irrigation, equipment, plant protection/enhancement industries as well as university researchers, non-profits and the federal government.



The historical context and development of the 2004 National Turfgrass Research Initiative (NTRI) was presented, as well as presentations outlining USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), non-profits (United States Golf Association and other turf organizations) and commercial turf industry research accomplishments. Participants were then divided into six groups, with each group being asked to identify and develop their top 5-6 research needs. From these groups, a total of 28 research needs were compiled and presented to all participants and voted on before being consolidated into 18 broad research topics.



Participants came from across the United States and represented the following entities:

- Government: 38%
- Non-profits: 29%
- Industry: 25%
- Universities: 8%



There were many research topics identified which included, but were not limited to, social research to identify green industry perceptions and benefits, quantifying turfgrass, best management practices, alternative turfgrass species, genome sequencing, new cultivars, turf phytobiomes, carbon sequestration, turfgrass water use, urban microclimates, minimum levels for sustainable nutrition, and more...

“NTF participants brought a vast amount of experience, with 63% of them having worked in the Turfgrass industry for at least 10 years.”

-KEVIN MORRIS

Participants were then updated on potential funding mechanisms, as well as encouraged to discuss implementation strategies. The group decided to utilize the 2004 National Turfgrass Research Initiative as a framework, and update NTRI based on research priorities identified by participants. Several participants volunteered to help with an NTRI update, while others offered to further efforts in developing, funding, and implementing these research priorities.

Casey Reynolds, PhD was there on behalf of TPI and The Lawn Institute to participate as well as offer their resources and support for the National Turfgrass Federation. Special thanks to the all of those who participated by devoting their time, resources, and expertise to move this initiative forward and support the future of the turfgrass industry.



Think Pink! Breast Cancer Awareness & Turf Mowers find Common Ground

- Larissa Hodgson

Trimax Mowing System's client Modern Turf has made a clear statement in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. The South Carolina company confronted breast cancer head-on when one of their own, Jennifer Haunert, wife of Modern Turf's VP, BJ Haunert, was diagnosed with the life-threatening disease. The staff and owners of Modern Turf rallied round the Haunerts, giving their total support. Inspired by Jennifer's courage and positive attitude in combatting her breast cancer, the company branded one of their Trimax Pegasus turf mowers with the National Breast Cancer Foundation's colors and logo. To help boost the mower's message, Trimax release this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVmuq4H1G7Y>



Branding the equipment in support of breast cancer awareness was Maintenance Manager, David Strickland's idea. He was inspired by Jennifer's attitude to her diagnosis and subsequent treatment: "It was impressive to see someone so up about something that could be so bad." "I felt like I should do something to bring awareness to other people and hopefully

other people can have her same upbeat attitude about it." Jennifer was given the all clear after five surgeries and was overwhelmed when the newly reconditioned mower was unveiled at the company's Christmas party. She said it was an honor to have a company that was willing to bring awareness to breast cancer. David went to great lengths to see everything was done properly.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (www.nbcf.org) was consulted to ensure the exact color was used. With about 29,000 shades of pink to go wrong with, the paint was professionally mixed to guarantee accuracy, and the results were perfect!



Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship Applications are now being accepted for 2018!

Applications for the Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship and applications are due January 6, 2018! This program, administered by [The Lawn Institute](http://www.thelawninstitute.org), was established to honor a founding father of TPI, while demonstrating the association's commitment to education and offering a valuable membership benefit. Since its inception in 2006, TPI has awarded up to \$10,000 in scholarships annually. Scholarships are available to immediate family or designated staff of a current producer or supplier TPI member in good standing.

Due Date: January 6th, 2018

Eligibility: Available to immediate family of TPI Class A and B members or designated staff, and is limited to one applicant per TPI company membership per year.

Requirements: Current high school senior with a minimum GPA of 2.5 attending college for the first time in the upcoming school year; current undergraduate or post-graduate attending college in the upcoming school year; current enrollee at any accredited public or private college, university, or technical school; will maintain full-time student status if awarded scholarship; specialized study in turfgrass industry is preferred but not necessary.

Application Guidelines: Completed scholarship application, two written essays, 1 letter of recommendations, and a certified copy of high school or college transcript

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

TLI Research Call for Proposals now OPEN!

Researchers, keep an eye on your inbox for information on how to submit research grant proposals to The Lawn Institute for funding in 2018! Detailed information along with the official application can be found in the Research Grants section of the TLI Website below!

<http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/science/research-grants/>



You cannot afford to miss the 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, AZ February 12-15!

- Karen Cooper

Plans are moving forward for the TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day with a week full of learning, networking, and opportunity to connect with major suppliers and industry leaders.

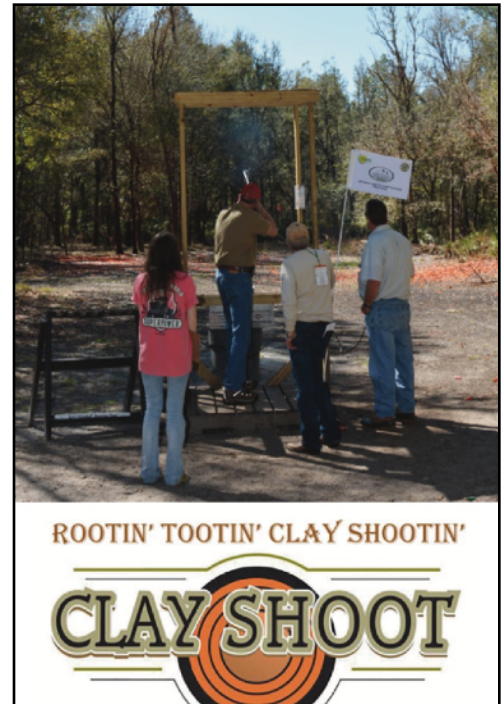
Attendees will be able to hit the ground running on Monday morning with the return of the popular Rootin' Tootin' Clay Shootin' tournament. TPI Board of Trustees member Jim Keeven, of SelecTurf, Inc., says the event brings a great atmosphere to start the week and is a perfect way to make new friends while also reconnecting with old acquaintances.

Monday afternoon features an outstanding pre-conference seminar addressing some of members' most pressing challenges as Lynda Pinnington, PhD, presents *Meeting the Challenges of Leadership in Today's Workplace*.

Topics will include

- Attracting and retaining staff in today's work environment
- Generational differences and their impact on workplace relationships
- Creating an environment where people can do their best
- Employee engagement and motivation

Everyone will have the opportunity to make new connections and meet up with friends at the President's Welcome Reception on Monday evening. Tuesday and Thursday offer non-stop activities and education opportunities as well as dedicated time in the exhibit hall to learn about new products and technologies from the most important suppliers in the sod production industry.





New this year is a tour of R&R Products, a TPI supplier member and leading manufacturer of replacement parts for the commercial golf and turf industry. The tour will leave from the hotel after the morning education sessions and travel to R&R, where attendees will have lunch and tour R&R's facility. R&R is a truly unique business in that it is highly automated, enabling it to ship out 98% of orders on the day they are received. R&R manages its inventory of more than 25,000 items with approximately 275 employees. In TPI tradition, it is a family-own and operated business. Attendees will return to the hotel in time for the afternoon education sessions.

Wednesday's Field Day activities will be at Evergreen Turf, hosted by Jeff Nettleton and TPI President Jimmy Fox.

General session speakers and topics scheduled for the week include:

- **Partnership Is the New Leadership**—Ty Bennett, CEO, Entrepreneur, and Best-Selling Author
- **Ain't Nuthin' Like the Reel Thing: Natural Turf versus Synthetic Surfaces**—John Sorochan, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Plant Science, University of Tennessee
- **Who Dun-it? Fraud and Ethics in the Workplace**—R. Kevin Cross, CPA, Author, Financial Counselor, and Federal Tax Expert

Presentations scheduled for the breakout sessions include:

- **An Overview of Technology Tools, Available for Sod Producers**—Doug Karcher, PhD, Professor of Horticulture, University of Arkansas
- **Managing Stress and Avoiding Burnout**—Lisa Goatley, MS, LPC, The Cascade Group Blacksburg, VA
- **Why My Sod is Better: Communicating the Value of Natural Turf**—John Sorochan, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Plant Science, University of Tennessee



- **Reducing Inputs and Enhancing Turfgrass Growth through Site Specific Management**—Gerald Henry, PhD, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Georgia
- **Turfgrass Cultivar Selection For Drought and Cold Resistance** —Jack Fry, PhD, Professor of Turfgrass Science, Director of Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center, Kansas State University
- **Seeding Your Fields While Having a Cocktail on Your Porch**—Mike Wagner of M & M Turf Farm and Ed Lee of Summit Seed, Inc.
- **Show & Tell:** Jimmy Keeven, SelecTurf, Inc.
- **Show & Tell:** Keith Wittig, Central Turf Farms

A promotional banner for the TPI 2018 Tucson event. The background is a scenic view of a desert landscape with green grass in the foreground and rugged mountains in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds. The text "TPI 2018" is in large orange and yellow letters, with "TUCSON" in large black letters to its right. Below this, it says "INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAYS" and "WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT". A dark orange bar contains the text "TUCSON, ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 12-15, 2018 Host Farm | Evergreen Turf, Inc.". At the bottom, it says "IT'S EASY TO SAVE THE DATE WHEN THIS VIEW AWAITS!". The TPI and Evergreen Turf logos are in the bottom right corner.

TPI 2018 TUCSON
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE & FIELD DAYS
WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT
TUCSON, ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 12-15, 2018 Host Farm | Evergreen Turf, Inc.

IT'S EASY TO **SAVE THE DATE** WHEN THIS VIEW AWAITS!

Visit www.TurfGrassSod.org for additional details.

The logo for Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) features a stylized globe with green grass blades growing from the top. To the right of the globe, the letters "TPI" are written in a large, bold, green font. Below "TPI", the words "NATURAL GRASS" are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the full name "TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL" is written in a small, green, sans-serif font.The logo for Evergreen Turf features the words "evergreen" in a green, sans-serif font above the word "TURF" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a stylized green leaf icon.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT
www.TurfgrassSod.org

Turfgrass Producers Step Up to Help when Hurricanes Slam the Southern US - Steve Trusty

**Photos courtesy of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Keith Wittig*

One of the farms that experienced temporary flooding was Doguet's Diamond D Ranch Turf Farm in Nome, TX. Owner Mike Doguet is a brother to member David Doguet of Bladerunner Farms and Doguet Ventures. While much of the farm was under water, his warehouse facility was high and dry. Mike reports that his local veterinarian called and asked if the facility could be used as a staging area for hay and other livestock and pet foods.

Even though Mike and family had to be rescued from their home by boat, the house itself did not flood, and he lost over 300 round bales of hay himself, he said, "Sure, anything we can do to help." With the assistance of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service they set up a distribution system to accept donated hay and feedstuffs and disseminate it throughout the affected area. Mike reports that donations poured in from all over the country. In one afternoon alone, over 500 round bales were delivered from the supply point. Mike's son-in-law, Matt Willey, reported, "There were trucks lined up all along the road. We had an assembly line inside the warehouse getting dog and cat food unloaded." The supply yard was still in operation the second week of October, but was winding down.

Keith Wittig, Central Turf Farms owner, is a TPI Board of Trustees member, reported an average of four to five feet of water over his entire farm. Some areas had as much as six to eight feet and some with as little as two feet. The entire area not only had to deal with the rain falling (about 25 inches), but the amount of rainfall caused the Colorado River to flood, adding to the deluge. The major flooding occurred three to four days after the





hurricane. The rain water was being absorbed into the soil but with what wasn't running off, the river flooding was too much.



Almost all of Wittig's employees were affected. There was a great community effort to help. All employees were back to work by the first part of October. Wittig also wanted to make it known that he was very appreciative of the TPI members' outreach. On Saturday, September 2, TPI Associate Executive Director Karen Cooper, who lives in New Braunfels, TX, delivered 221 pounds of chicken, 20 bags of potato chips, 350 paper plates, napkins, and

plastic-ware to provide meals to over 200 first responders in the Wharton area. Wittig says, "We have been really blessed. People brought food. Calls from all over the country offered trucks, generators, anything that we might need or use."

In addition to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma hit Florida on September 10th, and after roaring through West and Central Florida it started breaking down as it traveled North and affected parts of Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina before officially dissipating September 16. Central Florida turf farms received the brunt of the damage. Gary Bradshaw, our Field Day host last February at SMR Farms, reports that they fared far better than some just a county away. Some of the homes on the property also suffered roof damage. Bradshaw says, "We were really blessed, many people had it far worse."

Betsy McGill is executive director of the Turfgrass Producers of Florida. She also reports that the damage across the state was sporadic. She said that there are two farms with potential total damage. She adds, "There is going to be a lot of wait and see. Lost production and harvest time was very significant." Damages are still being tallied, but totals to sod producers will be in the millions of dollars. There will be a definite impact on supply and on timing.



Do you want to help?

TPI is ready to assist in helping members affected by these storms. A fund has been started. If you'd like to help please contact TPI at 847-649-5555 or info@TurfGrassSod.org. If you were affected or know someone that needs help, please let TPI know.

Ram Trucks highlights Turfgrass Producers during nationally televised TV Campaign



If you haven't been watching football this fall you may not have seen the Dodge Ram Truck commercials highlighting turfgrass producers. It has aired over 2,200 times and has a 96% Positive Sentiment rating according to ISpot TV. Be sure to tweet out to @RamTrucks and @TPI_TurfTalk to show your appreciation for bringing natural turfgrass into viewer's homes all across the country!

Check it out at the link below!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j6BiEGjQfo>



A Night to Remember

- Jim Novak

When my wife Kathy and I were informed months ago that the TPI Board wanted to throw a goodbye / thank you dinner to acknowledge my retirement I was somewhat apprehensive. I wasn't sure what to expect. Would the food be good? Would anyone care to sit with us? Would I have to chip-in for our portion of the meal?



Upon arriving at Morton's Steakhouse promptly at 6:30 as requested, Kathy and I advised the hostess that we were there for the TPI function. She had no idea what we were talking about. We said, "Perhaps it's under the name Reynolds? (Sandy or Casey)," she said, "No, we don't have anything under TPI or Reynolds." We were somewhat concerned that we might be at the wrong Morton's Steakhouse, there are six in the Chicagoland area and I am noted for often getting lost. Kathy then asked, "Could it be under Turfgrass Producers International?" The hostess responded, "Oh, you mean the turfgrass people!"



TPI Vice-President Eric Huever looks on as Novak tries to explain what he did for twelve years.

We were then led through several dining areas, down a dimly lit hallway, made a few turns and finally arrived at a room filled with many familiar faces. Greetings were exchanged. And after some friendly conversation everyone scampered off to a table for dinner. The meal was delightful and so too was the conversation. After everyone finished eating Sandy Reynolds began what could be described as a poor man's roast and I was to be the roastee!



Sandy was joined by Geri Hannah in recalling some humorous stories regarding a few of my misadventures over the years at TPI and everyone had a laugh including yours truly.

Sandy had a half dozen blown-up head shots of me, all of which depicted a seemingly troubled soul, and had placed them on ping-pong paddles. She waved each photo and proceeded to describe my expression in each photo; it went something like this: “This is the not so happy Jim. This is the grumpy Jim. This is Jim when he’s in a good mood, I know it’s hard to tell the good mood Jim from the grumpy Jim, but that’s Jim.” After Sandy and Geri did their tag-team comedy routine, Linda Bradley advised everyone that I visit the old TPI office once a week to check the building and run the water. She then presented me with a few gifts from the board. They included a toilet plunger, a roll of bathroom tissue, a toilet scrub brush, a can of air freshener and a pair of yellow latex gloves. It can’t get much better than that after twelve years of dedicated service.



Following Linda’s presentation, Jimmy Fox got a bit more serious as he kindly acknowledged my contribution to TPI, the board and its members during my career. His thoughtful remarks, the recognition extended to me, and the response from those in attendance was deeply moving. Jimmy also presented me with a personal gift from the Board to show their appreciation for my years of service.

At the close of the evening I shared a few light-hearted and personal stories and expressed my sincere gratitude to everyone for their thoughtfulness and told them how much I appreciated the opportunity to say goodbye to everyone in such a warm setting.

After Kathy and I left the restaurant we sat in the car for a while, we looked at one another and agreed, we’re going to miss working with such wonderful people. It truly was a night to remember.



University and Educator NEWS!

2017 American Society of Agronomy Fellows

The 2017 American Society of Agronomy Fellows awards were presented in Tampa during the recent meetings in Tampa, Florida. Fellow is the highest recognition bestowed by the American Society of Agronomy. Up to 0.3 percent of the Society’s active and emeritus members may be elected Fellow. Congratulations to the following 2017 ASA Fellows:

- Mike Fidanza, Pennsylvania State University
- Bernd Leinauer, New Mexico State University
- Grady Miller, North Carolina State University
- John Stier, The University of Tennessee

Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award

This award was presented to Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University in recognition of significant career contributions to the turfgrass industry in the last 15 years.

Crop Science Society of America Early Career Award

This award was presented to Dr. Jay McCurdy of Mississippi State University in recognition of outstanding contributions within 7 years of completing his PhD.

Chris Stiegler Graduate Student Travel Awards

The Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) provides annual travel grants for outstanding graduate students to attend the CSSA annual meeting. This award is funded in honor of Dr. Chris Stiegler’s major contributions to the C5 Turfgrass Science Division of CSSA. The 2017 recipients of this award included:

Recipient (MS or PhD)	University	Advisor(s)
Paige Boyle, MS	University of Arkansas	Dr. Mike Richardson
Eric DeBoer, MS	University of Arkansas	Dr. Mike Richardson
Joe Doherty, MS	University of Maryland	Dr. Joe Roberts
Travis Roberson, MS	Virginia Tech	Dr. David McCall
Cameron Stephens, MS	Penn State University	Dr. John Kaminski
Dan Sandor, PhD	University of Arkansas	Dr. Doug Karcher
Chase Straw, PhD	University of Georgia	Dr. Gerald Henry
Mingying Xiang, PhD	Kansas State University	Dr. Jack Fry, Dr. Megan Kennelly



Dr. Aaron Patton joins The Lawn Institute Research Committee

Aaron earned his bachelor's degree in horticulture from Iowa State University, and his master's and doctorate in agronomy from Purdue University. Aaron serves on the faculty at Purdue University. His extension responsibilities are to provide education to Indiana's \$1.4 billion turfgrass industry. His research responsibilities include planning, implementing, and leading projects devoted to managing quality lawn, sod, golf, and sports turf while reducing management inputs. He teaches the senior level turfgrass science course at Purdue University and mentors undergraduate and graduate students. Aaron also serves as the Executive Director of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation.



NEW Complimentary TPI Memberships for Turfgrass Researchers and Educators

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.

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*

"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.

Please contact Geri Hannah at (847) 649-5555 or info@TurfgrassSod.org to join!



TPI Archives Available Soon on TGIF

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) archival information, including research information acquired as the basis for The Lawn Institute (TLI), will soon be available to TPI members around the world through the Turfgrass Information Files (TGIF) at Michigan State University (MSU).

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017, TPI staff members Karen Cooper and Geri Hannah met with Peter Cookingham, head of the Turfgrass Information Center at Michigan State University, to sort and pack 19 boxes of materials for transport to the library system at MSU. There the information will be catalogued, digitized, and properly preserved. These resources will help bolster a collection of materials that is the most comprehensive publicly-available collection of turfgrass resources in the world.

Cookingham says, "The TPI donation, including many materials from The Lawn Institute library, is a wonderful addition to the Collections here, and includes many previously-unheld and unique materials. This donation will also make it possible to create a nearly-complete digital archive of The Lawn Institute Harvests, reaching back into the 1950s, as well as several TPI-produced periodicals."

Cookingham goes on to say, "One especially notable item within the donation is Lawrence Dickinson's personal copy of O.J. Noer's 1928 classic, *The A B C of Turf Culture*, in its original embossed mahogany faux-deco binding. Dickinson was a pioneering turfgrass educator best known for his creation of the turf program at the University of Massachusetts." Cookingham adds, "We're confident there are other gems relating to the history of the turfgrass industry, and obviously sod production in particular, within this material as well."

TPI members have access to the TGIF database through the Member Benefits section of the TPI website and can access more than a quarter million records, more than 60 percent of which link directly to the full-text of the item. For more information, check out the latest edition of **Turf News!**



FREE SEMINAR! In-person or live-streamed directly to your computer!

The poster is for the 'Second Annual Research Symposium' organized by the 'Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research & Education' at 'North Carolina State University'. It features three keynote speakers: Dr. Bob Harriman (Vice President, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company), Dr. Renee Keese (Biology Project Leader, BASF Corporation), and Dr. Mark Schmidt (Principal Scientist/Manager, Global University Relations, John Deere). The event is scheduled for Thursday, December 14th, from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM EST at the NC State University Club. The poster also states that the symposium will be streamed live and provides the registration link: events.reporter.ncsu.edu/turf. The poster includes the NC State University logo in the top left and the Center logo in the top right. The background of the poster is a close-up image of green grass blades.

The turfgrass industry is facing many challenges in climate, regulations, pest populations, technology, etc.. This symposium will present and discuss these future challenges and how the industry is positioning themselves to overcome them.

Registration

The event is free of charge but pre-registration is required and seats are limited! For registration, please go to events.reporter.ncsu.edu/turf

Live Streaming

The symposium will be streamed live online, but you will need to register at the website listed above. Please notice that the link for live streaming will be sent out Wednesday, December 13th 5:00pm EST. You must be registered by Tuesday, December 12th in order to receive the link.



TPI Travels to Holland, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and Georgia to visit Producers

September and October were exciting months for TPI staff Karen Cooper and Casey Reynolds to visit with TPI members from Texas to Europe.

Karen Cooper traveled to Paris, Tennessee on September 12 to attend the Mid-South Turfgrass Council's Sod Demo Day, hosted by TPI members Jason and Tina Pooler of Tri-Turf Sod Farms, Inc. The day was a great opportunity meet with area growers, several vendors, and representatives from the Tennessee Turfgrass Association (Melissa Martin) and the University of Tennessee Turfgrass Science program (Jim Brosnan and Greg Breeden). While in the area, she was also able to visit several area farms, including Winstead Turf Farms, Inc., McCurdy Farms, A&W Southern Sod Farm, and Rainey Sod Farm, Inc.

The European Turfgrass Producers held the 2017 ETP Seminars & Turf Expo on September 28th and 29th in the Netherlands. Over 150 attendees were present for educational seminars held at the Hotel Asteria in Venray, Netherlands with even more present the next day for field day. Delegates were treated to an afternoon of seminars from industry-leading speakers including Bernd Leinauer of Wageningen University and New Mexico State University, Nicolas Evans of FIFA, Fabio Travaini of Tarkett Desso, ETP Social Media Manager Eef Dijkstra, and TPI Executive Director Casey Reynolds.

“This was an opportunity for us to connect with ETP as well as some of our international members, and it was great to





see them at this event”, says Dr. Casey Reynolds, TPI Executive Director. “I was able to interact with growers and vendors from Germany, Italy, Holland, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, England, the United States, and more all in one place. We share the same goals as ETP of growing the turfgrass production industry and doing everything we can to promote and assist our respective members.”



The Turf Expo continued the following day at a nearby Direct Gazon sod farm where under blue skies and temperatures in the high 70s, more than 400 attendees from 24 countries came together to see the latest in turf machinery and seeds. Harvesters, mowers, vacs, and cultivating machinery were all put through their paces on the immaculate fields at Direct Gazon near Ysselsteyn, courtesy of Rob Bruin.

ETP Secretary, Filippo Lulli, was delighted to welcome Casey Reynolds as a guest. “We’re looking forward to collaborating with TPI on a range of issues common to both associations in the years to come”, said Filippo. TPI is excited about this future relationship and will work hard on behalf of TPI and ETP members in order to maximize the full potential of both organizations. Dr. Reynolds adds, “The worldwide nature of our shared passion for the turfgrass production industry truly is amazing.”

“We look forward to collaborating with TPI on a range of issues common to both associations in the years to come.”

-FILIPPO LULLI, ETP SECRETARY

Cooper and Reynolds also attended turfgrass events in College Station, Texas at the 2017 Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day and in Perry, GA for the 2017 Georgia Urban Ag Council Sod & Turf Producers Field Day. TPI Staff and the Board of Directors were also able to visit the Wisconsin home turfgrass farm of TPI Trustee Randy Jaspersen during their 2017 TPI Fall Board Meeting in Chicago.

If you are aware of future events that TPI staff should attend please reach out to Casey Reynolds (creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org) or Karen Cooper (kcooper@TurfgrassSod.org) and TPI’s staff will make every attempt to attend!



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

Ben Yarborough
Buy Sod
Manning SC 29102

Bart Cash
Buy Sod
Eagleville TN 37060

Tom Miedema
AAA Turf
Hudsonville MI 49426

Justin Finney
Buy Sod
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Donny Brown
Buy Sod
Tarboro NC 27886

George Gregory
Buy Sod
New Kent VA 23124

Eric Knight
Buy Sod
Soperton GA 30457

Justin Finney
Buy Sod
Tryon, NC 28782

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

TPI Members, for more information on many of these stories, be sure to check out the latest edition of Turf News!

**SEE YOU IN
SUNNY**



Contact Information

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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