

# TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

## January/February E-Newsletter

### In This Issue

TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, AZ Conference RE-CAP!

TPI Unveils New Trade Show Booth!

New Mexico State University Researches Water Use of Synthetic Surfaces

TLI funds over \$50,000 in Turfgrass Research

### Catch TPI at These Upcoming Events

#### March

Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario (NSGA)  
*Vaughan, ON. 3/19 - 3/21*

Minnesota Turf Association  
*Andover, MN. 3/22*

#### April

National Turfgrass Entomology Workshop  
*Wilmington, NC. 4/9 - 4/10*

#### May

Turfgrass Producers of Florida Annual Meeting & Field Day  
*Mount Dora, FL. 5/3 - 5/4*



Over 700 attendees inspecting products & equipment at the TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day in Tucson, AZ.





## TPI Brings Green to Tucson, Naturally!

*Karen Cooper*

TPI's 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day attracted more than 700 people who enjoyed a whirlwind week of learning, networking, catching up with old friends, and meeting new ones from February 12th – 15th in Tucson, Arizona. Attendees came from 41 states and 16 countries and traveled from as far away as South Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, and even Japan to take part in the energy and enthusiasm of this event.

The week started on Monday morning with almost 100 participants at the Rootin' Tootin' Clay Shootin' event to benefit The Lawn Institute (TLI). Attendees sharpened their shooting skills by taking aim at clay targets on a scenic desert course at the Tucson Trap and Skeet Club and Southwest Regional Training Center for the US Olympic Shooting Team.



**And they're off! TPI Attendees head to the course!**



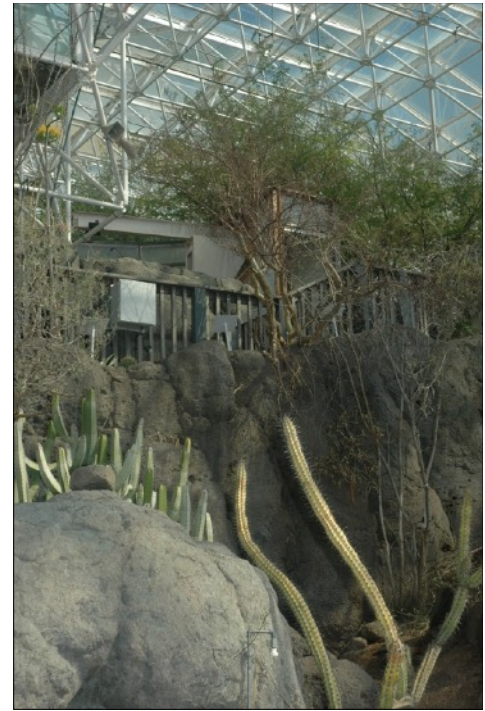
**TPI Member takes aim at the Rootin' Tootin' Clay Shoot in Tucson!**

After a group breakfast, it was off to the ranges where teams competed for the title where clay targets were thrown from various places over many stations on the course. After it was all over, the top three teams included TPI members from (1st place) Texas, (2nd place) Australia, and (3rd place) Canada! Congrats to all of the winners!



Another busload of attendees visited the University of Arizona’s Biosphere 2. Biosphere 2 is one of the world’s most unique facilities dedicated to the research and understanding of global scientific issues.

It serves as a laboratory for controlled studies and has as its mission to serve as a center for research, outreach, teaching, and life-long learning about Earth and its living systems. TPI attendees got a chance to see this unique world-class scientific facility first-hand!



Later that evening, TPI president Jimmy Fox opened the conference on to a packed house at the Opening Reception on the Foyer of the Westin La Paloma. Here attendees got a chance to relax on the outdoor patio overlooking the scenic Catalina mountains of Tucson, AZ.





## **Education**

The 2018 Education Conference presented attendees with many options to solve their biggest business challenges. Monday's pre-conference seminar featured Lynda Pinnington, PhD, of Pinnington Training & Development, in a class entitled *Meeting the Challenges of Leadership in Today's Workplace*. Tuesday's education slate kicked off with Ty Bennett of Leadership Inc. talking about investing in people with his talk, *Partnership is the New Leadership*. The rest of the day's topics included research comparisons of natural versus synthetic surfaces, communicating the value of a natural turf surface, information about drought- and cold-resistant cultivars, and site-specific turf management tools. Featured speakers included Jack Fry, PhD, Kansas State University; Gerald Henry, PhD, University of Georgia; and John Sorochan, PhD, University of Tennessee.



**Ty Bennet, founder of Leadership, Inc. speaks to TPI members in the Tuesday morning General Session.**

Kevin Cross started Thursday's education program with his story of fraud, redemption, and workplace ethics. The breakout sessions covered new and emerging technologies for turf management, novel techniques for seeding grass in a soybean field, ways to manage personal stress, and information about salt and sodium. Thursday's speakers included Lisa Goatley, LPC, Blacksburg, Virginia; Doug Karcher, PhD, University of Arkansas; Dave Kopec, PhD, University of Arizona; Ed Lee, Summit Seed; and Mike Wagner, M&M Turf.

## **Inspirational Breakfast**

TPI Past President Will Nugent of Bethel Farms was the featured speaker at Thursday's Inspirational Breakfast as he shared his intensely moving story of faith and family.



## **Annual Business Meeting**

TPI Officers and Staff led the 2018 TPI Annual Business Meeting where they presented information on TPI and TLI budgets, TLI scholarships, current and new initiatives, and more. The TPI Board of Trustees also presented two new by-law amendments to the membership in attendance regarding changing the current



TPI membership and fiscal years to align with the calendar year, as well as other TPI procedures. These amendments were formally put on the table, discussed, and approved by the TPI membership and will become effective January 1st of 2019.



**TPI Vice-President Eric Heuver presented 2 Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarships to deserving recipients**

TPI Executive Director Casey Reynolds, PhD spoke about TPI's current and future endeavors in attending and speaking at turfgrass events throughout the world, involvement in regulatory affairs, developing new benefits for TPI members, new supplier categories, and a new TLI website that will be launching soon.

He also provided updates on a new public relations initiative that will be launched in 2018 and will include consumer and market research on turfgrass as well as new TPI resources that will allow members to promote natural

turfgrasses and their use. "We're excited about getting this underway and promoting the use of natural turfgrasses while also putting more resources in the hands of TPI members", says Casey Reynolds, PhD.



### **Exhibit Hall and Field Day**

The Exhibit Hall opened on Tuesday with a tremendous crowd ready to visit with the 52 exhibitors lining the hall. The energy was high in the action-packed aisles for more than two hours as vendors were able to share information about their products with the attendees. Then it was off to field day at nearby Evergreen Turf in Eloy, Arizona where the rain held off as crowds flocked to visit 31 exhibitors and learn about new products and technologies while enjoying a beautiful mountain view!



**TPI members visit with suppliers and manufacturers during the first of two trade show sessions.**



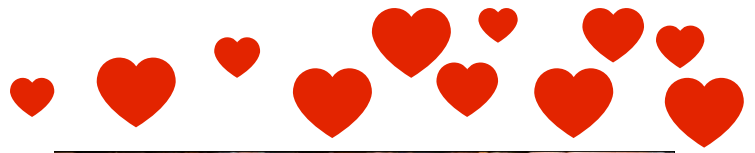


# TLI Valentine's Day Dessert Reception Raises over **\$123,000** for Turfgrass Research!

## TLI After Hours Dessert Reception

Many attendees flocked to the TLI reception on Wednesday night to enjoy some after-dinner Valentine desserts with friends and family while raising money for TLI's research, scholarship, education, and PR initiatives. A variety of items were auctioned off to benefit

TLI including an Osceola turkey hunt in Florida, a Texas hog hunt, a Brouwer Turf Roller, a gourmet Dinner for 8, a NASCAR driving package, a homemade quilt, a TPI 2019 conference registration and lodging package, and more!



**TPI Members enjoy Valentine's desserts during the TLI After Hours Dessert Reception & Auction to raise funds for TLI.**



The evening ended with the auctioning of a Trebro Autostack II harvester, courtesy of Trebro Turf Equipment which went to Anthony and Sonia Heilig of A&S Heilig t/a Go Turf in Beerburum Queensland Australia!



**Greg Tvetene and Ian True of Trebro Turf Equipment congratulate the winning bidders on their new Autostack II Harvester.**



### **R&R Products Manufacturing Tour**

TPI Attendees were treated to a real surprise Tuesday with a field trip and lunch tour of R&R Products, a leading manufacturer of replacement parts for the commercial golf and turf industry. With over 275 employees, this family-owned and operated corporation manufacturers over 25,000 parts and TPI attendees got a chance to see many of them being made while touring the 300,000+ square feet manufacturing facility in Tucson, AZ.



Their sales philosophy has always been to offer a top quality product at an attractive price and have them in stock at all times for immediate delivery. The Rogers family





says, “All R&R reels, bedknives, and tines are guaranteed against defects for the life of the product and R&R ships 98% of all orders the same day.”

This was definitely one of the most unique parts of TPI 2018 in Tucson. It’s not every day you get a chance to tour a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. Not only did TPI members get to see where much of their turfgrass replacement parts were made, but they also got treated to a lunch with local flavor and custom R&R Products Keychains!



### **Show and Tell**

Board members Jim Keeven of SelecTurf, Inc., and Keith Wittig of Central Turf Farms, Inc. wrapped up events in Tucson by sharing their farms with members at the always-popular Show and Tell Sessions. Both farms are multigenerational operations that are flourishing after having survived devastating floods in recent times. These sessions are always popular for attendees because it provides an opportunity to hear about the successes of other operations, as well as the challenges and the solutions to them. Thanks to Jim and Keith both for sharing their stories.

**“Thanks to R&R Products not only for hosting such a cool tour, but also for the custom R&R Products keychains! I’ve already put mine to use”**

*-TPI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASEY REYNOLDS*



**Precious. Pure. Perfect.**





## **Coweta County, GA Home Builders Must Make Sure Grass Grows**

*Sarah Fay Campbell - Newman Times-Herald*

New Coweta homeowners should no longer be stuck with muddy back yards under changes approved by the Coweta County Board of Commissioners.

The changes, which require builders to be responsible for the full “stabilization” of back yards as well as front yards, take effect with building permits issued March 1.

Georgia’s Erosion and Sedimentation Control rules require “full stabilization” of disturbed areas before a land disturbance permit can be closed out. Traditionally, builders put down sod in the front yard, but simply “seed and straw” backyards. If that backyard grass didn’t thrive, the homeowner was stuck with it, though technically it was the builder’s responsibility.

In September, Coweta’s director of Development and Engineering, Tod Handley, appeared before the commissioners to talk about the issue.

The law requires “final stabilization,” and seeding and strawing doesn’t meet that requirement. Instead, 100 percent of the disturbed area must have permanent plant material growing at 70 percent density.

Handley’s department planned to start enforcing the rules on Oct. 1, but the commissioners decided to delay action. Commissioner Rodney Brooks, who works in the construction industry, said at the time that he had been getting calls from builders and developers who were concerned about the change.

Handley said his department is recommending to builders that they plant the grass a few weeks before they plan to get a certificate of occupancy instead of a day or two before. But in the winter, getting desirable grass to grow can be difficult, if not impossible.



Under the plan approved Tuesday night, if all the disturbed land isn't fully stabilized at the time a certificate of occupancy is issued, the builder must post a bond in an amount sufficient to install sod in the area, if necessary. The builder also must agree to continue erosion and sedimentation maintenance on the site until it is fully stabilized.

Brooks suggested making the change effective immediately, but Handley suggested giving builders a bit of warning. Someone who was planning to pull building permits in the next day or two could have a budget already planned out that wouldn't provide for the bond or extra time, Handley said.

"I appreciate Commissioner Brooks and anybody else that was involved bringing this to our attention," said Commissioner Tim Lassetter. "Mr. Handley and his staff are just trying to protect those who may not have a clue about things like this."

## TPI's Fresh New Look for Conferences & Trade Shows

Attendees at regional, national, and international conferences and trade shows will now see a fresh new look from TPI. This new display was unveiled in Fort Worth, TX at the Sports Turf Managers Association conference in January.

TPI staff were also present with it at the Golf Industry Show in

**"We bring Green to life, naturally!"**





San Antonio, TX in early February and so far it has received a very positive response. “One of the things we are trying to capture in this booth is to highlight the fact that our members produce a natural product”, says Casey Reynolds, PhD and Executive Director of TPI. “Our members also ‘bring green to life’ in the physical sense (seeding, sprigging, and growing it in), in the geographical sense (by shipping it from the farm to people’s homes, fields, and golf courses), and in the metaphorical sense such that we bring it to people’s lives where they can enjoy it with their families.”

This booth will also serve as a meeting place for TPI members to catch up with old friends and make new ones at conferences and trade shows. It will also soon feature a computer monitor and TPI video for viewing during events! “We want to make sure we’re representing TPI at the highest level during professional events and having a new booth with video capabilities is certainly something we’re excited about”, says Casey Reynolds.

## Turfgrass Producers of Florida Annual Meeting & Show May 3-4, 2018

Join us in Florida in May for **Growing Better!**



Turfgrass Producers of Florida will host **Growing Better: the 2018 Annual Meeting & Field Day** on Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4 at the Mission Inn Resort in Howey in the Hills and nearby Lake Jem Farms in Mount Dora (just north of Orlando). Growing Better provides an exceptional mix of educational and networking opportunities in a compact format specifically designed to help growers connect with the people, products and innovations that can help their businesses thrive!

This year’s Growing Better kicks off on Thursday with the association’s Annual Meeting lunch (featuring guest speaker Nathan Whitaker, co-author of Tony Dungy’s memoir *Quiet Strength*), followed by an afternoon skeet shoot on the Mission Inn’s El Cazador range. Guests can relax and unwind at the popular Field Day Reception & Dinner on Thursday evening.



Lake Jem Farms will host Friday's on-farm Field Day and Trade Show, where guests can grab a cup of coffee, browse through vendor displays, and watch equipment demonstrations. Admission includes Everglades Farm Equipment's always-amazing lunch and the chance to win something awesome in our "FUN" draising Bucket Raffle.

growing  
Better

The TPF Annual  
Meeting and Show

For more about Growing Better, including Exhibitor Information and online registration, visit [www.floridaturf.com/events](http://www.floridaturf.com/events) or contact TPF executive director Betsy McGill at 863-675-2144. To subscribe to TPF's e-news about the show (and other topics), send your request to [betsymcgill@floridaturf.com](mailto:betsymcgill@floridaturf.com).

## NMSU Compares Artificial Turf to Real Turfgrass in Water Use

LAS CRUCES - As a turfgrass specialist, New Mexico State University professor Bernd Leinauer is asked a lot of questions relating to artificial grass and whether it actually is a water-conserving alternative to real grass, as is marketed and portrayed to the public. So, he sought the help of a Ph.D. engineering student and his mentor to ask the question, is artificial turf actually saving water compared to real grass?

When Leinauer approached Ahmed Kanaan and NMSU engineering professor Igor Sevostianov, he was told a small equation could calculate the answer to his question.





“I’m usually a little bit skeptical about (theoretical calculations), so we agreed that Ahmed would first do the equation so we can see what the model tells us and how much water would be needed to keep the artificial turf cool. Then we will actually go out and measure and see if the model holds true and if the two numbers line up,” Leinauer said.

After receiving his answer from the equation, Kanaan set up his experiment over the summer on the artificial turf located on the infield of NMSU’s baseball field. He set up a parameter of 40 by 40 feet on the turf and installed a temporary irrigation system.

“After I set everything up, I decided to run the irrigation system for 20 minutes to see how long it would take to heat back up. I took two readings each day, one in the morning and one at noon, just to see the distribution of temperature,” Kanaan said. “The model I used calculated the amount of water required to cool the artificial turf correctly with an acceptable margin of error but there was no information how long it takes for the field to heat up again.”

**“20 minutes of irrigation cooled the artificial turf down to body temperature but within an hour it was back up again. In these 20 minutes, we put enough water out that would last a bermudagrass field an entire day.”**

*-AHMED KANAAN*

“He measured the surface temperature and one and two meters above the ground, so you could see the heat buildup over the field. He turned on the irrigation and cooled the turf and then measured and documented how long it takes to cool, when the artificial turf gets hot again and how long does it take for that to happen,” Leinauer said.

Reports have been published that artificial turf can reach temperatures as high as 180 degrees, making it a concern for athletes who face the possibilities of getting injuries while playing on the field. While artificial turf can withstand more traffic from play compared to real grass that faces wear and tear and needs recovery time, the question remains, does it need less water than real grass?

“At the end of the day what was still stunning to me was we irrigated for 20 minutes and in these 20 minutes we cooled the artificial turf down to more or less body temperature so that it would be comfortable for any athlete but within an hour after irrigation we were up at the high temperature again. So, if we irrigated at the beginning of a soccer game, the cooling wouldn’t even last the entire soccer game and then we’re hot again. And in these 20 minutes, we put out enough water that would last for a Bermudagrass field for an entire day.”

Not only would the artificial turf need to be irrigated multiple times a day to keep it cool, anything surrounding the turf would also be impacted by the heat.

“The surrounding buildings and grass are going to get affected because of the reflection of the heat. I had Bermudagrass next to the artificial turf and the Bermudagrass increased in heat causing it to be damaged by the heat.” Kanaan said. “When I would go to the field to get measurements I could not stay on the ground to do it. I burnt the back of my neck and my wrists, but I had no other choice I needed to sit down there and get the measurements. When the heat reflected on to you, you cannot breathe,” Kanaan said.

Sevostianov said there was no previous literature on this topic and said more research is needed to investigate in more detail. “When we started looking for literature, we found many aspects of artificial turf discussed in literature, mostly economical ones. But nobody considered aspects of watering and nobody compared it to natural grass,” Sevostianov said. “So, it definitely opens a lot of possibilities, we are definitely thinking about going deeper and asking for external support. It was also a nice example of collaboration between two completely different disciplines in two colleges.”



**Irrigation water being applied in an attempt to cool a synthetic athletic field.**



# TLI Research Committee Funds 5 University Research Proposals during Annual Research Committee Meeting in Tucson, AZ



The Lawn Institute Research Committee met in Tucson, AZ during the TPI 2018 International Conference & Field Day to review, discuss, and vote on research proposals submitted by university researchers from throughout the world. The committee received 19 research proposals this year focused on items including turfgrass insects, diseases, genetics and plant breeding, turfgrass water use, turfgrass cooling effects, biostimulants, plant growth regulators, and sod harvestability.

The committee decided to fund five university research projects that have the potential to impact turfgrass producers and the industry throughout the world. They include:

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project	Duration	Funding
Matt Elmore, PhD	Rutgers University	Turfgrass Pest Control Recommendations Guide (Weed Control)	2018	\$2,500
Jay McCurdy, PhD	Mississippi State University	Harvest Aids for Improved Turfgrass Shelf-Life and Transplantation Success	2018	\$10,000
Lee Miller, PhD	University of Missouri	Turfgrass Pest Control Recommendations Guide (Disease Control)	2018	\$2,500
Marco Schiavon, PhD	University of California Riverside	Mapping and Monitoring Turfgrass Cooling Effects from the House to the City Scale in Inland California	2018-19	\$20,000
Ben Wherley, PhD	Texas A&M University	Environmental Impacts and Runoff Dynamics Associated with Turfgrass Removal and Urban Landscapes	2018-19	\$30,000





## April is National Lawn Care Month

April is National Lawn Care Month in the United States! The start of the spring season is the perfect time to harness the public's excitement about the outdoors and remind them of the benefits of a well-kept lawn, according to TPI partner The National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP). Check out some of these graphics for "cool-ing" stats about lawns!

**LAWNS DO THAT?**  
A few facts about what grasses do for you.

**Create Oxygen**  
1 ACRE OF GRASS Produces More Oxygen than...  
1 ACRE OF RAINFOREST

**Reduce Run-off**  
4 MILLION GALLONS  
The amount of rain an average golf course absorbs during a 1-inch rainstorm.

**22 MILLION**  
The grass and trees along the US interstate system provide enough oxygen for 22 million people.

Source: International Society of Arboriculture | Source: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension | Source: 1996 Maryland Turfgrass Study, UMD

On a hot summer day, lawns can be...  
**30° COOLER**  
than a blacktop driveway

Shhhhh.....

Using turf instead of concrete on road embankments = **200%** reduction in traffic noise

Source: Greenroofs.com | Source: University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension | [www.thelawninstitute.org](http://www.thelawninstitute.org)

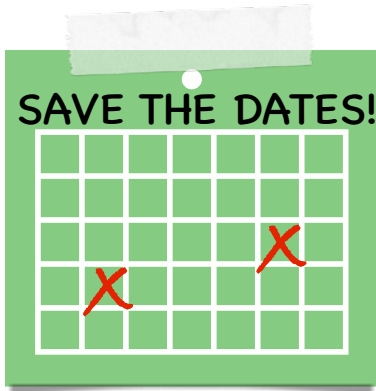
**Relaxing...** ...is the **most common** use of a yard/landscape (26%)

The **most important** reasons to maintain and improve their yard/landscaped area:

- 42%** showing pride in their home
- 16%** creating an outdoor relaxing space
- 15%** raising or protecting property value



# TPI 2019 International Education Conference



# TPI 2019 Summer Convention & Field Day





# TPI Launches Video Premiere to highlight the TPI 2018 International Education Conference & Field Day!

**COMING SOON** to a theater near you!!!





## Thanks to our 2018 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day Sponsors!



AQUA-YIELD™





## Thanks to our 2018 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day Exhibitors!

Advanced Equipment Sales	Hose Solutions	Redox Chemicals
A-List	Hydrostraw LLC	R&R Products
Amp Agronomy	Jacklin Seed	RTF Turf Producers
Aqua-Yield	Jonathan Green & Sons	SiteOne
Barenbrug USA	KWMI	Sod Protection Services
BASF	Landmark Turf & Native Seed	Sod Solutions
Big Yellow Bag - Green Horizons Sod Farms	Liftking Manufacturing	STEC Equipment
Brouwer Kesmec	Load Lifter Manufacturing	Syngenta Crop Protection
Bucyrus Equipment Company	Magnation Water Technol.	TAMANET USA, Inc.
Campey Inmants	Master Craft Industrial Equip.	Texas Sod Leasing
Cherrington Enterprises	Mountain View Seeds	The Turfgrass Group
Columbia Seeds	Northstar Equipment	Trebro
DLF Pickseed & Seed Research of Oregon	Northwest Tillers	Trilo
Firefly Automatix	Pennington Seed	Trimax Mowing Systems
First Products Inc.	Pomp's Tire Service	TurfBreed
Geoponics Corporation	Poyntz, Inc.	Turf Merchants Inc
Grassland Oregon	Princeton Delivery Systems	TWCA
Green Valley of Utah	Progressive Turf Equipment	Valley Irrigation/Ag Sense
Harmony Outdoor Brands	Pure Seed	VMOW
Hol-Mac	Redexim North America	



## Thanks to our 2018 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day Host!



evergreen  
**TURF**



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

Member	Company	Location
Jerry Anderson	Anderson Sod Farm	Dewdney, BC Canada
Charles Binney	Riverview Sod Ranch	Leonard, OK
Rusty Brigman	Brigman Sod	Colbert, OK
Allen Brown	Brown Farms Sod	Collinsville, OK
Jennifer Browning	BASF	Salem, OR
Wayne Carter	Elite Sod Farms	Colbert, OK
Miguel Cremades	Tapiz Verde S.L.	Madrid, Spain
Mike Delea	Greenlawn Sod Farms	Wading River, NY
Jack Heimbuch	Heimbuch Turf Farms	Verndale, MN
Bill Jackman		Phoenix, AZ
Mike Johnson	M.L. Johnson & Associates	Garland, TX
Karissa Jones	BASF	Weatherford, TX
Kathie Kalmowitz	BASF	Raleigh, NC
John Loftis	Cimarron Sod	Cushing, OK
James Manry	Manry Farms	Hendrix, OK
Gary Mickey	Greenfield Turf	Gordonville, MO
Kyle Miller	BASF	Chesterfield, VA
Gary Myers	BASF	Holly Springs, NC
Chris Olson	Olson Sod Farms	Meckling, SD
Jim Parizek	Parizek Farms	Yukon, OK
Willie Pennington	BASF	Raleigh, NC



Member	Company	Location
Melanie Peterson	Green Valley of Utah, LLC	Tremonton, UT
George Schubert	Schubert Ranches LLC	Calhan, CO
Joseph Schuh	BASF	Research Triangle Park, NC
Clint Story	Kempfer Sod Co.	Melbourne, FL
Cory Struble	Cherrington Enterprises	Jamestown, ND
Brian Thompson	BASF	Apex, NC
Adam Thoms, PhD	Iowa State University	Ames, IA
Takisha Truss	BASF	Research Triangle Park, NC
Jacky Van De Sluis	VMOW	Sanem, Luxembourg
Jeff Vannoy	BASF	Research Triangle Park, NC
J. Ware, III	Green Horizons Turf	Charles Town, WV
Eric Webb	Raft River Sod	Declo, ID
Gary Weger	Weger Farms	Hendrix, OK
Lacey Weger	Top Notch Turf	Calera, OK
Robin Wicker	Geoponics Corporation	Naples, FL
Lynda Wightman	Hunter Industries	San Marcos, CA
Tommy Winnett	Winner Sod Farm	Colbert, OK





Stay up-to-date with the latest in Turfgrass Production by checking out the current issue of **Turf News**, the only magazine devoted **exclusively** to turfgrass production!

Not a member of TPI and interested in joining? We'd love to have you on our team!

Please visit **[www.TurfgrassSod.org](http://www.TurfgrassSod.org)** or contact us at any of the information below!



**IN THIS ISSUE**

Tackling Labor Issues:  
Finding—Training—Keeping Employees

April is...?

Meet the Tribbetts

... And Much More

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**Comments**

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

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