

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

July/August E-Newsletter

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TPI travels to Canada, Ohio, NC, and Wisconsin

TPI Member Tuckahoe Turf featured in the NY Times

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TPI Winter Conference & More!

Catch TPI at These Upcoming Events

September

Midsouth Turfgrass Council Field Day *Dyer, TN 9/11*

October

NC Sod Producers Field Day *Laurinburg, NC 10/3*

TPI Fall Board Meeting *Minneapolis, MN 10/9-11*

Mid-Atlantic Turf Field Day *Centreville, MD 10/11*

November

Deep South Turf Expo *Biloxi, MS 11/27-29*

December

RTF Producers Meeting. *Austin, TX 12/6*



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE | THE WESTIN CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2019

TPI 2019 International Education Conference registration opens in September!





The Deep South Turf Expo Continues to Roll With the Greens in the Fourth Season

By Melanie Bonds

Plans for the 2018 Deep South Turf Expo are coming together. Information about the 2018 education line-up that serves as the centerpiece of the Expo is available on the website of DeepSouthTurfExpo.org. This year the keynote speaker is veteran industry journalist Pat Jones. Pat will explore why turf is critical to American life today and why it will be even more important in the future.

Expect a fast, furious and funny look at our industry's past, present and future.

In an additional golf segment presentation Pat will discuss how in recent decades, more superintendents have been fired for poor communications than poor turf. He will share proven, effective communications strategies for superintendents including when and how to use social media in his presentation, "Modern Networking: Building Relationships in the Digital Age."

Now in its fourth year, the Expo continues to change and adapt to further meet client's needs across the Southeast. This year's event will host two golf tournaments, a skeet and trap shoot tournament, educational talks, and a trade show. Breakfast, sponsored by Harrells, Syngenta and FMC, will be served on the trade show floor on Wednesday and Thursday morning. The trade show reception, sponsored by Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation, takes place on Wednesday, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. and will include a live band (sponsored by Harrells) during the afternoon! Simplot, Inc., is sponsoring lunch on Wednesday.



Catch up with TPI on the DSTE Trade Show Floor in Biloxi, MS from Nov 27-29th.



The Deep South Turf Expo Board is working hard to ensure that the regional show is relevant to all attendees and exhibitors. Stay tuned for some exciting new announcements over the summer and fall. Please block out those days during the week after Thanksgiving to attend and stay abreast of the latest in the Turfgrass industry and stock up on your pesticide and education points for the next year.



Thanks to the support of our hosts: Alabama Golf Course Superintendents Association, Alabama Turfgrass Association, Gulf Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Louisiana/Mississippi Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Mississippi Turfgrass Association.

Registration information can be found at the link below. We hope to see you there and be sure to stop by the TPI Booth on the trade show floor to hear about new membership benefits, public relations initiatives on natural turfgrass, and of course upcoming conferences and events!

Deep South Turf Expo Registration

<http://www.deepsouthturfexpo.org/home.html>



Parents Push for Warning on Playground Surfaces, Synthetic Turf in Extreme Heat

WASHINGTON - Parent activists are pushing Washington, D.C and school leaders to do more to keep children from synthetic turf and playground surfaces in excessive heat. Experts say synthetic turf surfaces get significantly hotter than grass. The District's fields and playground surfaces are managed by the Department of General Services, which does not appear to have a policy in place when it comes to the surface temperatures of fields or play surfaces.



FOX 5 used an infrared thermometer on Tuesday, which saw high temps throughout the day, to measure surface temperatures at several fields in the District. At Janney Elementary about 5 p.m., children were playing on the field when it registered at nearly 140 degrees, but parents provided readings gathered earlier in the day

that hit above 160. At nearby Murch Elementary, temperatures of the field were around 120 degrees, while nearby grass was in the 90s.

Dr. John Abraham, a professor of engineering at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, provided his expert opinion to DC council members studying the issue last year. Dr. Abraham says the synthetic surfaces can be dangerously hot and recommends that the fields aren't used if registering above 110 degrees. "This isn't just an inconvenience. This isn't just uncomfortably hot. It can be dangerously hot," he said.

This isn't just uncomfortably hot. It can be dangerously hot."

-DR. JOHN ABRAHAM, ENGINEERING PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF ST THOMAS IN MINNESOTA



Alex Dimsdale says her son got second-degree burns from a playground surface at the Harrison Recreation Center in 2016. She says there should be warnings for all parents about how much hotter the surfaces can be than natural grass. "If they can put a warning on my cup of coffee from McDonald's saying warning contains extremely hot liquids, they should be able to do the same for something that kids are running on," said Dimsdale.

DC Public Schools did not respond to questions about the policies. The DC Department of General Services (DGS) sent FOX 5 a statement, which did not answer questions asked about whether or not the surface temperatures are measured or at what point the fields are closed. The statement reads, "DGS has posted an advisory online and continues to work with agency partners and frontline staff to notify the public on any heat-related risks when using facilities. In partnership with our Interagency Working Group on Artificial Turf and Playgrounds, DGS regularly reviews applicable research and science to inform our policies and ensure the continued safe use of all of our fields."

"If they can put a warning on my cup of coffee from McDonald's saying warning contains extremely hot liquids, they should be able to do the same for something that kids are running on."

-CONCERNED PARENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The warning DGS posted to Twitter acknowledges that artificial surfaces can get very hot and offers advice to use them safely, including limiting use from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, students were spotted on the fields later in the evening when temperatures were still reading significantly higher than surrounding grass. Both Montgomery

County Public Schools and Prince George's County Public Schools did not specifically say if their synthetic fields are monitored for surface temperature but indicated they limit the use of fields when the air temperature is excessively hot.

Link to Full Story on Fox5 News Video

<http://www.fox5dc.com/news/parents-push-for-warnings-on-playground-surfaces-synthetic-turf-in-extreme-heat>



TPI Member Featured in NY Times Online

The New York Times

(A version of this article appears in print on July 9, 2018 and online at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/08/sports/world-cup/soccer-turf.html>)

HAMMONTON, N.J. — On the biggest soccer weekends, the players come from New Jersey, Canada and beyond, their noses pressed flat against car and bus windows as they marvel at the sea of fields and the even larger panorama beyond: acres of lush, green, pristine grass.

This place is far from the glamour of big-time soccer and the World Cup in Russia. There are few amenities down at the end of this dirt road: just 35 full-size fields, endless parking, dozens of portable toilets and a cluster of food trucks. But there are no bleachers, no scoreboards, no public-address systems for the matches. Here, the soccer dreams of the young players, under the watchful eyes of soccer moms and dads, and dozens of college scouts, are contained only by the sidelines.



Almost none of them know the back story of why they are here, of the economic crisis that led the property's owner, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, to welcome youth soccer onto a fraction of



the 800 acres of sandy loam soil it owns in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The grass they play on eventually will be rolled up and installed in college and professional stadiums.

Once it is ready, Tuckahoe's blend of cool-season sod is trucked to Heinz Field in Pittsburgh; to Lincoln Financial Field and Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia; to Red Bull Arena, in Harrison, N.J.; FirstEnergy Stadium in Cleveland; and Fenway Park in Boston. Sometimes, the company lays its sod over stadiums' artificial surfaces for a week or two, for international soccer matches like the coming International Champions Cup, an annual preseason tournament that attracts many of the world's top clubs. But first, the youth players give it a workout.

"There's grass as far as the eye can see, and it makes the kids feel special," said Alan Shilling, the chief executive of the event management company EDP Soccer, which has been hosting soccer tournaments at the farm for about five years. One tournament, over Memorial Day weekend, attracted more than 300 teams and about 25,000 visitors. "We could put 100 perfect and pristine fields down and not use half the facility," he said.

Allen Carter, a farm employee who was drafted into a public-relations position, said the size of the farm has given Tuckahoe a "huge marketing opportunity." A decade ago, things were not nearly as optimistic. "EDP approached us when the economy was going bad for us, the housing market took a dive and sod production was cut more than half," Carter said. "We rented the facility to try to stay alive. They did one tournament and kept coming back to do more."

The farm hosts about seven tournaments a year, with the biggest ones taking place over the Easter, Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. There is also a late-season event over the Thanksgiving holiday. Sometimes, school board members, coaches and recruiters return home and call back to ask about sod for their home stadiums. The company has embraced the opportunity, and the added revenue. But longtime employees bristle at the idea that they have changed their business. "We have issues with being called a soccer complex," Carter said. "It's not what we are. It is a working farm."



Third Annual NCSU Turfgrass Research Symposium - Registration is NOW OPEN!

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

TurfFiles CENTER
Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research & Education
www.TurfFiles.ncsu.edu

North Carolina State University's
Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research & Education
Third Annual Research Symposium

Keynote Speakers:

		
Lane Tredway Senior Technical Representative Syngenta	Casey Reynolds Executive Director Turfgrass Producers International	Vance Crowe Director of Millennial Engagement Bayer

Thursday, December 6th 8:00AM – 3:30PM EST
NC State University Club

The symposium will be **streamed live**
For registration: **events.reporter.ncsu.edu/turf**

Live Streaming

The symposium will be streamed live online for those unable to attend in person. To attend the symposium via streaming, you will need to register [here](#). Please notice that the link for live streaming will be sent out Wednesday, December 5th at 5:00pm EST. You must be registered by Tuesday, December 4th in order to receive the link.



The 6th European Turfgrass Society Research Conference

By Stewart Brown, ETS President

The European Turfgrass Society recently held its 6th Research Conference in Manchester, United Kingdom. This is the first time this prestigious event has been held in the UK with past conferences in Italy (2008), France (2010), Norway (2012), Germany (2014), and Portugal (2016). The ETS Conferences are a forum for scientists, lecturers, consultants, companies, and practitioners to discuss technical research and issues related with the study of turfgrasses in Europe. The theme of this year's conference was "Different Shades of Green" to reflect the many varied sports surfaces and amenity facilities the industry encompasses.

Delegates attended from around the world including Europe, Canada, China, Australia, and the USA. In total, 19 different countries were represented at the three-day conference comprised of two days of research presentations and a third day for a technical tour of sports turf facilities. Keynote speakers included Steve Isaac (Director of Sustainability for the R&A), Dr. Micah Woods (Asian Turfgrass Center), Dr. Ruth Mann and Dr. Tom Young (Sports Turf Research Institute), and Dr. Mike Richardson (University of Arkansas, USA). In total, 43 research papers and posters were presented on a variety of turfgrass topics.

2018 ETP Seminars & Turf Expo

Registration for the 2018 European Turfgrass Producers (ETP) Seminars and Turf Expo is now open! Check out the website below for more information on how to attend!

ETP Seminars & Turf Expo Registration

<http://www.turfgrassproducers.eu/2018turfshow/>

ETP SEMINARS & TURF EXPO 2018

24-26th OCTOBER 2018 - PORTUGAL



TPI Staff are on the road!

July and August were exciting months for TPI staff as they traveled to sod producer events in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Canada to visit with turfgrass producers, promote the industry, and discuss future TPI plans and initiatives. Karen Cooper, traveled to Franksville, Wisconsin for the Wisconsin Sod Producers Association (WSPA) Field day, on Thursday, July 19, at Jasperson Sod Farm where there were approximately 135 individuals from farms in



Bird's-eye view of Jasperson Sod Farm in Franksville, WI, site of the 2018 Wisconsin Sod Producers Field Day

Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio, as well as vendors/representatives from about 20 different companies. Mr. Randy Jasperson, of the TPI Board of Trustees, was instrumental in organizing this event, which included many equipment demonstrations as well as open networking time and a pig-roast lunch. The event also served as a fundraiser for The Lawn Institute (TLI) as vendors and growers combined together to donate \$4,400 to TLI.



TPI Staff are on the road! (continued)

TPI Executive Director Dr. Casey Reynolds was in Galloway, Ohio on August 15th for the Ohio Sod Producers Association (OSPA) Field Day and in Edmonton, Alberta from August 21st to 24th to speak at the Alberta Sportsturf Management Field Day. Turfgrass producers from Ohio and surrounding states gathered for lunch, demos, and static exhibits at Wilson's Turf Farm. This was a great opportunity to interact with TPI producer and supplier members as well as time to discuss new ways to collaborate. A special thanks to Mike Ward of EastGate Sod and Nancy Giles of Ward+Thornton Landscapes for organizing this event.



The TPI Booth is set up and ready to talk turfgrass with producers later that day at the Ohio Sod Producers Field Day!





TPI Staff are on the road! (continued)

Eric Heuver, TPI Vice-President, hosted Dr. Reynolds with a tour of his sod farm, Olds College Turfgrass Research Program, and other facilities as well as introduced him to several local producers and TPI members. Mr. Heuver also organized a meeting of Canadian turfgrass producers in Edmonton where they enjoyed dinner, social time, and a presentation session to discuss the direction of TPI as it works to serves its members.



TPI Vice-President Eric Heuver visits Old College (above) and speaks to Canadian Turfgrass Producers (below)



TPI plans to attend the following events in the coming months, we hope to see you there!

Midsouth Turfgrass Council Field Day, 9/11 in Dyer, TN (midsouthturfgrasscouncil.org)

NC Sod Producers Field Day, 10/3 in Laurinburg, NC (NCsod.org)

Mid-Atlantic Turf Field Day, 10/11 in Centreville, MD (marylandturfgrass.org)

If your state or regional association planning an upcoming field day, please contact TPI Associate Executive Director Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org to find out how TPI can help.



TPI Awards Program: Nominations Open!

Do you know a deserving individual who should be recognized for their contributions to the industry? If so, please consider nominating them for recognition through the TPI Awards Program open to TPI members and non-members alike. Categories include:

HONORARY MEMBER - Outstanding contribution to the research, planting, growing and marketing of turfgrass sod.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - Outstanding devotion of time, talent and energy to TPI, its programs and objectives for five or more years.

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR - Unique and significant achievement that advances turfgrass sod production through research, engineering, training, marketing, public relations or environmental improvement, etc. (Must be a current TPI member)

TURFGRASS EDUCATOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - Outstanding contribution to the turfgrass industry through academics, public outreach, and/or involvement with turfgrass associations, turfgrass producers, suppliers, manufacturers, researchers, etc.

All award recipients will receive recognition in Turf News, the TPI Membership Directory and during the TPI International Education Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Nomination forms for mailing or faxing, or completing online are found at: <https://www.turfgrassod.org/pages/about-tpi/honors-awards-and-scholarships/>

The deadline for submissions is September 30th, 2018.



Precious. Pure. Perfect.





TPI's Winter Conference is full of education sessions you cannot afford to miss!

By Karen Cooper

The TPI Conference and Education Committee has developed an outstanding slate of education presentations for the 2019 International Education Conference that you cannot afford to miss! Learn about the scheduled events and then go online to register at www.TurfGrassSod.org!



Keynote Presentations

Tuesday: Former US military war correspondent Shawn Rhodes. He will be addressing successfully managing change in your organization and in your life in his talk entitled "Creating A Pivot Point: Leveraging Change Without Sacrificing Results." Mr. Rhodes also will be leading a breakout session on Tuesday for attendees who wish to delve a little deeper into how to prepare for and adjust to changes.

Wednesday: "The Grass Is Always Greener... Until It Isn't: The Changing Perceptions of Public Opinion" will be given by Philip Davis of Tungsten Branding. Mr. Davis will highlight how industries, such as the dairy, pork and egg industries, have faced perception challenges and how they have successfully rebranded themselves by highlighting their strengths and repositioning their brands' public perception.



TPI 2019 Winter Conference (continued)

Tuesday and Wednesday Breakout Sessions

Business Office Best Practices (panel discussion): Members of this panel will discuss innovative practices implemented in their offices that increase farm productivity and efficiency. Prepare to learn and walk away with new ideas for your office!

Innovative Farm Management: Join Greg and Diane Mischel of DeBuck's Sod Farm of Michigan as they discuss the innovations they've implemented as third-generation growers. Diane grew up on a farm started by her grandparents. She earned a degree in Crop and Soil Sciences with a specialization in turf management from Michigan State University. After they married, Greg joined her on the farm equipped with a degree in horticulture from MSU and some experience from the greenhouse business. Come learn about how they've combined Diane's experience with Greg's "fresh eyes" to make cost-effective changes and updates.

Plant and Soil Interactions for Turfgrass Producers: Learn to create the best possible soil environment for your turfgrass as Drs. Nick Christians and Adam Thoms from Iowa State University team up to talk about the nutrient levels in your soil. They will cover both macronutrients and micronutrients, as well as discuss at what levels deficiencies

occur. You will learn how to manage soil pH to improve growth and how to identify problems in the field, especially during establishment. Attendees are encouraged to send their soil tests to Dr. Christians and Dr. Thoms in advance or bring them to the presentation for discussion. Contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org for more information.





TPI 2019 Winter Conference (continued)

Tuesday and Wednesday Breakout Sessions

Principles and Practices for Extending Sod Shelf-Life:** Join Drs. Roch Gaussoin (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and Jay McCurdy (Mississippi State University) as they discuss this important and timely topic. You'll learn about the variables that impact shelf-life and hear about the best practices for improving the shelf-life of your cut sod, including new research from TLI-funded research. *** Indicates TLI-funded research*

New Natural Turfgrass Marketing Tools in the TPI Member-Only Toolkit

Join TPI's Executive Director Dr. Casey Reynolds and representatives from our public relations (PR) firm FleishmanHillard as they demonstrate the new TPI Member-Only Toolbox and show you how the PR pieces created specifically for TPI members can help you market your business and promote the use of natural turfgrass!

Turfgrass May Not be as Thirsty as Your Neighbors Think:**

Join Dr. John Stier (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) and Dr. Douglas Karcher (University of Arkansas) to learn the how much water turf really uses as they show results from a Lawn Institute study from six states ranging from the West to East coasts, Upper Midwest to the South. Learn new information from the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) and the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance (TWCA) on cultivars that can retain green color during drought, and how sensors can aid smart irrigation for lawns. *** Indicates TLI-funded research*





TPI 2019 Winter Conference (continued)

Tuesday and Wednesday Breakout Sessions

What I Wish I'd Known (panel discussion): Come hear several long-time TPI members discuss their experiences in the turfgrass industry, including how the industry has changed and what changes they think we must make to face the future effectively. They'll share some of the good advice they've received over the years and talk about what they wish they'd known when they started. This will be a fun and informative discussion with something for everyone!



“Registration includes a networking lunch on Tuesday, dinner in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday and Exhibit Hall lunch on Wednesday, and the TLI Banquet on Wednesday night. These are all great places for attendees to interact with each other and vendors!”

-KAREN COOPER, TPI

Other Activities

Exhibits and Networking with up to 62 vendors, 39 of which are already booked!

Tours of NASCAR facilities including Charlotte Motor Speedway, Hendrick Motorsports, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame!

Tour of Bank of America Stadium, home of the National Football League's Carolina Panthers!



TPI 2019 Winter Conference (continued)

TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction

The 2019 International Education Conference will be capped off with a TLI banquet and fundraising auction on Wednesday evening at the NASCAR Hall of Fame directly across from the conference hotel. Don't miss your chance to support TLI with your friends and colleagues. The Lawn Institute is hosting a banquet and benefit auction at



the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Wednesday, February 20, in conjunction with TPI's 2019 International Education Conference. It's easy to take part—the Hall of Fame is located across the street from the Westin Charlotte (the conference's host hotel) and the event is **FULLY INCLUDED** with **your conference registration!**

The evening will kick off with a cocktail hour, and will include a southern-themed dinner, a live auction to benefit TLI, and a raffle drawing for a Chevrolet Corvette, courtesy of Brian Bouchard of Kingston Turf.

Attendees will be able to enjoy the entire Hall of Fame facility and explore the history of NASCAR, race friends in virtual stock car races, and compete against other attendees for bragging rights in a pit crew challenge!

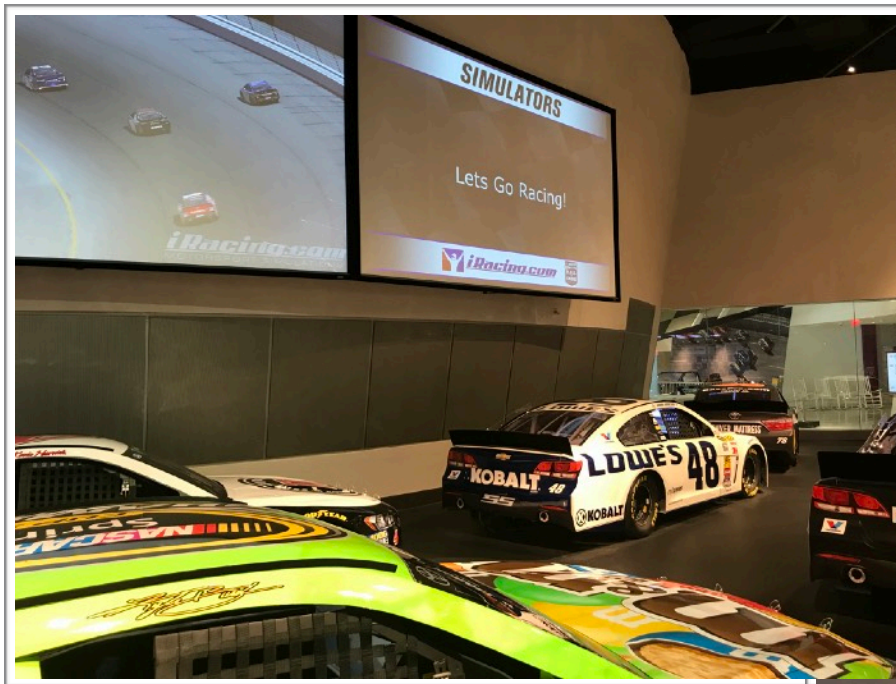




TPI 2019 Winter Conference (continued)

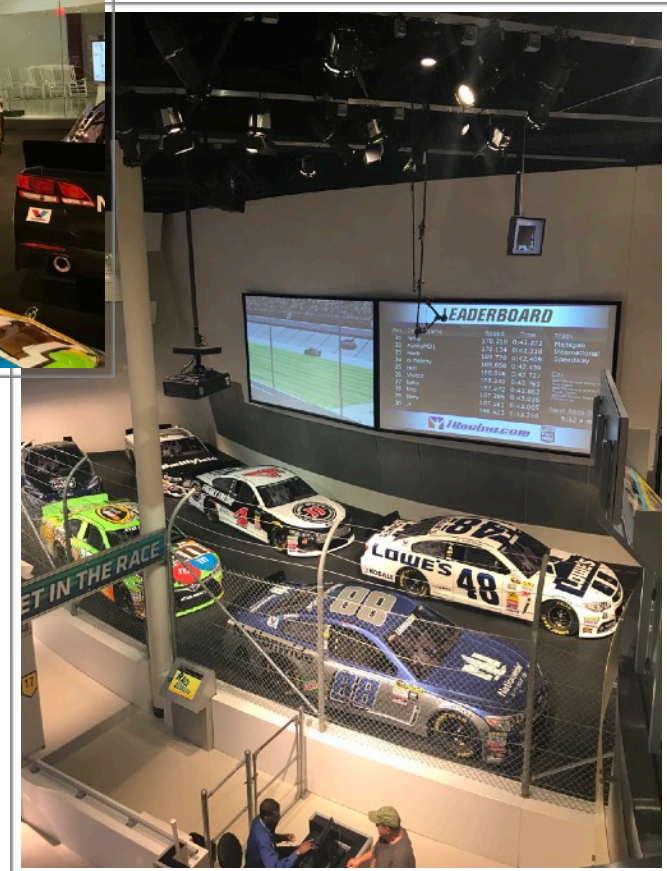
TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction (continued)

Ever wonder what it's like to race in a stock car around Charlotte Motor Speedway? Want to have a friendly little competition among fellow TPI producers and suppliers? Then be sure to attend the TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction to participate in a TPI stock car race!



Race your TPI friends and colleagues in a full-size *NASCAR* simulator!

We hope to see you in Charlotte!





Thanks to the TPI 2019 International Education Conference Sponsors! Please be sure to drop by and see them!

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THE LAWN INSTITUTE



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 or contact us at any of the information below!



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