

Pre-Conference Tour, ITRC 2017 Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, PA USA

July 11 – 15, 2017

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Overview

The Nation's capital, **Washington, District of Columbia** is home to the United States' most significant buildings, National parks, museums, monuments and memorials. The city is rich in arts and culture and has a vibrant restaurant scene. Both reflect the eclectic nature of America's heritage. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the extensive turf and grounds renovations just completed on America's Front Yard, the National Mall; visit the U.S. Botanic Garden; observe turf exhibits at the National Arboretum; and visit Nationals Park, home of the Washington Nationals' Major League Baseball team. This is the nation's first LEED certified ballpark that boasts cutting-edge game presentation and fan experience. Time has been allotted for attendees to explore Washington, D.C.'s significant and historic sites by day and to enjoy D.C. arts, culture, and restaurant scene by night. (Visit <https://washington.org/> for Washington, D.C. tourism information.)



We will be staying at **The Jefferson Hotel, Washington D.C.** (visit <http://www.jefferson-hotel.com/>). Conveniently located north of the White House and The National Mall.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, known as the Birthplace of the Nation, is where the Founding Fathers debated, drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence and, eleven years later, wrote the U.S. Constitution. The Independence National Park Sites including Independence Hall, The Liberty Bell Center, The National Constitution Center, Carpenter's Hall, Franklin Court and many others are located here. Philadelphia is home to several modern sports complexes, is a significant arts

and cultural center, is known as America's Garden Capital, and has one of the hottest restaurant scenes in the country. (Go to www.visitphilly.com for Philadelphia, PA tourism information.)

We will be staying at the **Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel** in the heart of Philadelphia's original city, steps from The Independence National Park Sites, and at the epicenter of Philadelphia's restaurant scene. (Visit <http://www.sheratonphiladelphiasocietyhill.com/>)

Transportation

Attendees should plan to arrive in Washington, D.C. by Tuesday July 11, 2017. Washington, D.C. is served by Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, and the Amtrak train station at Washington, D.C. Union Station. Hotel check-in is at 3:00 PM (early arrivals can check bags at the

front desk). All transportation during the pre-conference tour is included in the tour package. This includes coach transportation to all organized tour sites, transportation from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia, PA, and transportation to the ITRC Conference Hotel, the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ.

Itinerary

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Hotel Check-In. Early arrivals can check their bags at the front desk and are at leisure to explore historic Washington, D.C.

Welcome Reception and Dinner. To be held at **The Jefferson Hotel.**

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Depart for tours of sites in D.C.

- **The National Mall**, located at the heart of Washington, D.C., is considered America's Front Yard and serves as the world's window to America. The park is home to some of our nation's most recognizable monuments, memorials and important events. The National Mall has 1,000 acres of greenspace and hosts 33 million visitors per year. This has caused significant wear and tear on the once-grassy lawn which extends from the Lincoln Memorial to the U.S. Capitol Building. In response, the National Park Service has just completed a massive restoration project. The turf restoration project was designed to create a healthy and water efficient landscape. All aspects of this restoration will be discussed on our tour by a representative from the National Park Service.
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- The National Mall restoration project, Washington, D.C.
- **The United States Botanic Garden**, located adjacent to the U.S. Capitol, was established more than 200 years ago by President George Washington whose vision for the capital city of the United States included a botanic garden that would demonstrate and promote the importance of plants to the nation. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1820, the U.S. Botanic Garden is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. A 45-minute guided tour of the U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory will be followed by an opportunity for attendees to visit the adjacent National Garden and Bartholdi Park.
 - **National Museum of Natural History**, is located on the National Mall and is one of 19 museums managed by the Smithsonian Institution. (Go to <http://si.edu/> to learn more.) Attendees will be provided a behind-the-scenes tour that gives unparalleled opportunities to hear directly from the Natural History Museum's renowned scientists and curators as they walk you through collections not on view to the general public and update you on their latest research and fieldwork conducted around the globe.
 - **Lunch at the National Museum of Natural History (or similar venue).** Lunch vouchers will be provided.

Afternoon and evening to explore Washington, D.C. on your own OR University of Maryland Turfgrass Field Day (1:00 pm to 7:00 pm) with barbecue dinner.

Return transportation to the hotel (pick-up at the National Mall).

- For those interested, arrangements will be made to attend the University of Maryland Turfgrass Field Day in College Park Maryland. This biennial field day highlights turfgrass research conducted at the University of Maryland and will include a barbecue dinner at the research site.



Pre-conference tour will visit the University of Maryland's 2017 Turf Research Field Day

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Depart for Tours of Sites in D.C. and Philadelphia, PA.

This is moving day!

- **The U.S. National Arboretum's [Grass Roots Initiative](#)** is a four-year, in-depth look at the science behind "Turfgrass," this familiar, but often misunderstood, landscape plant. Grass Roots is an interactive display at the arboretum and a cooperative initiative of the U.S. National Arboretum, USDA-ARS, and the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc.
- **Nationals Park**, home of the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team. The grounds manager will provide a guided tour of this outstanding modern sports facility.
- **Arlington National Cemetery** is a lasting tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our nation. This hallowed ground is where more than 400,000 United States service men and women and their family members are laid to rest.
- **Congressional Country Club** was constructed in 1924 as place where Members of Congress could meet with businessmen. Today is a world class golf course that has played host to US opens, and PGA tour event.

Arrive at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel.

Dinner on your own. Dining options will be provided.



U.S. National Arboretum, Grass Roots Initiative, Washington, D.C.

Friday, July 14, 2017

Visits to Philadelphia's Independence National Park Sites.

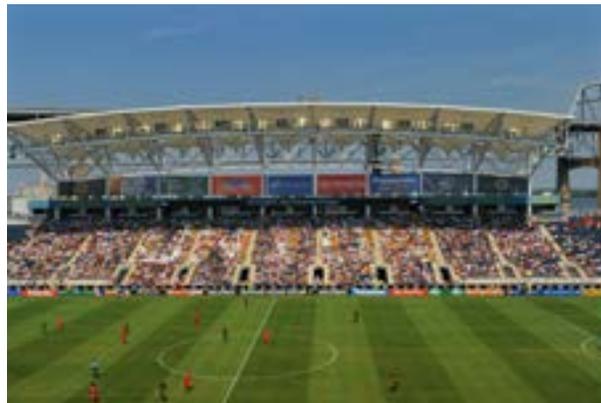
- Independence Hall. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside this building.
- The Liberty Bell Center. View the bell that bears a timeless message: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof". A must see location when visiting historic Philadelphia.

Visits to Philadelphia's Sports Complexes.

- Walk onto Lincoln Financial Field and observe a state of the art stadium that play host to the Philadelphia Eagles football, collegiate football, concerts and more.
- Talen Energy Stadium, a state-of-the-art 18,500-seat Major League Soccer stadium, serves as home to Philadelphia Union.

Visits to Philadelphia's Cultural Centers (<http://withart.visitphilly.com/> and <http://www.avenueofthearts.org/>).

- The Philadelphia Museum of Art is a landmark building with a world-renowned collection. Climb the steps and have your picture taken with the statue of Rocky.
- Rodin Museum is a unique ensemble of Beaux-Arts architecture and a formal French garden in which to experience the sculpture of Auguste Rodin. The Museum was designed by French architect Paul Philippe Cret (1876–1945) and French landscape designer Jacques Gréber (1882–1962).
- Barnes Foundation holds one of the finest collections of post-impressional and early modern paintings.



Talen Energy Stadium, Chester, PA

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Free morning to explore Philadelphia.

Lunch on your own.

Afternoon departure for The Brandywine Valley, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

- **Brandywine River Museum of Art** is renowned for its vast collection of the Wyeth family of artists, the Museum features galleries dedicated to the work of N. C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth. The Museum's outstanding Heritage Collection is a cross section of American art, with a special focus on artistic practice in the Brandywine valley. In summer 2017, an exhibition entitled, *Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect* will bring together both well-known and rarely seen works that reveal the subjects that continually inspired Wyeth and the evolution of his imagery. Attendees will be offered a guided tour of the exhibition and Andrew Wyeth's studio. (Go to <http://www.brandywine.org/museum> for more information.)

- **Longwood Gardens** is one of the world's great gardens. Longwood Gardens is the living legacy of Pierre S. du Pont, inspiring people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education, and the arts. From the intricate fountain systems, to the meticulous gardens, to the architectural grandeur, awe-inspiring discoveries await at every turn. Years before it was a public garden, the land on which Longwood Gardens stands was home to the native Lenni-Lenape Indian Tribe and Quaker farmers. Since then, the land has undergone significant transformation to become the magnificent property that is enjoyed by more than a million guests each year. (Go to <https://longwoodgardens.org/> for more information.) Attendees are free to explore Longwood Gardens on their own during the late afternoon. Dinner will be provided at Longwood Gardens and attendees will have the opportunity to view the magnificent fountain and light shows in the gardens after dark.



Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Depart Philadelphia on bus for New Brunswick, NJ for the ITRC.

For additional information contact Michael Agnew at Michael.agnew@syngenta.com.