Zoysiagrass Symposium Speakers and Panelists Set for International Turfgrass Research Conference

Jack Fry, Ph.D., Kansas State University USA

There is worldwide interest in zoysiagrass (Zoysia spp.). In 2015, an International Zoysiagrass Symposium was held in Okinawa, Japan with speakers from Japan, Korea, China, and Australia. Interest arising from this gathering led to an informal meeting of those involved with zoysiagrass research and management at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego in 2016 at which individuals from eleven countries attended.

We will continue building on this interest by holding a half-day zoysiagrass symposium on the morning of Friday, July 21, 2017 at the International Turf Research Conference (ITRC) in New Brunswick, NJ USA. Invited speakers will provide a worldwide view of zoysiagrass research, use, and culture. In addition, a panel including industry professionals will offer their perspective on zoysiagrass management. Before and after the symposium, and during a one-hour break, attendees will have an opportunity to view posters and interact with others conducting research on Zoysia spp. Those presenting research on zoysiagrass at the ITRC in an oral session earlier in the week have the additional option to create a poster for viewing during the symposium, and those presenting a poster earlier in the week can show their poster again during the symposium (there is no need for these authors to submit an additional title summary).

Speakers will give 30 minute oral presentations covering material contained in manuscripts that will be published as part of the ITS Conference. Topics and presenters:

- Implications of Zoysia Species, Distribution and Adaptation for Management and Use of Zoysiagrasses
  Don Loch, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland Australia

- Evaluation and Breeding Zoysiagrass using Japan’s Natural Genetic Resources
  Masumi Ebina, Forage Crop Genome Unit, Institute of Livestock and Grassland Science, Tochigi, Japan

- Zoysiagrass Use and Culture in Europe
  Simone Magni, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

- Occurrence, Distribution and Introduction of Zoysia spp. and their Management and Current Use in Australia
  Peter McMaugh, Turfgrass Scientific Services, Carlingford, New South Wales Australia

- Zoysiagrass (Zoysia spp.) History, Utilization, and Improvement in the United States: A Review
  Aaron Patton, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana USA

- Molecular Advances in Zoysiagrass
  Ambika Chandra, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Dallas Texas USA

Industry panelists who will share their experiences and perspectives on zoysiagrass are
Tim Bowyer, Ph.D., Patten Seed Company, Lakeland, Georgia USA; David Doguet, Bladerunner Farms, Poteet, Texas USA; Jim Prusa, Sky72 Golf, Incheon, South Korea;
David Stone, The Honors Course, Ooltewah, Tennessee USA.

If you have questions, contact Jack Fry (USA) at Kansas State University: jfry@ksu.edu; 785-532-1430.

Zoysia Planning Committee:

Jack Fry (chair) Kansas State University USA,
Ambika Chandra, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Dallas Texas USA,
Don Loch, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland Australia,
Aaron Patton, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana USA,