

International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

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The Impact Factor and the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal

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Some turfgrass scientists in academia have expressed the need for the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal (ITSRJ) to have an impact factor. Recently, Dr. Tom Hsiang's survey of ITS membership showed a mixed response on the importance of the impact factor and the decision to publish in the ITSRJ. Nevertheless, the major reasons cited for not publishing in ITSRJ are institutions and universities may not provide funding for research grants or conference travel if the manuscript intended to be produced is not published in an impact factor journal, and also because promotion and tenure decisions are based on publications only in impact factor journals.

What is the "impact factor"? The impact factor (IF) is a quantitative measure that reflects the average

number of citations to recent articles published in a journal. The IF number or index is used to gauge the relative importance of a journal within its field of scholarship, so a journal with a higher IF is deemed to be "more important" than a journal with a lower IF. The IF was "invented" by Eugene Garfield, who founded the Institute of Scientific Information (now the Healthcare and Science Business unit of Thomson Reuters). The Journal Citation Reports is published annually by Thomson Reuters, and lists IFs beginning in 1975 for those academic journals that have an IF. Here is an example of how the IF is computed:

In a given year, the IF of a journal is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal during the two preceding

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I hope some of you will notice that this newsletter has arrived a month earlier than past February newsletters. The Board Members and Officers agreed at the last ITS meeting in Beijing to now offer a tri-annual newsletter. This is in an effort to provide greater communication among ITS membership about turfgrass related activities occurring around the globe. Just looking at the past and future events discussed in this edition, there is a lot of activity related to turfgrass efforts worldwide. We hope you find the addition helpful.

Also, if you have any newsworthy stories or information for readers of International Turfgrass, I hope you will consider submitting an article for the next newsletter in May 2014.

I hope you enjoy the very good articles in this edition.

Sincerely,
Nathan R. Walker

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years. For example, if a journal has an impact factor of 3 in 2008, then its papers published in 2006 and 2007 received 3 citations each on average in 2008. The 2008 impact factor of a journal would be calculated as follows:

A = the number of times that articles published in that journal in 2006 and 2007, were cited by articles in indexed journals during 2008.

B = the total number of “citable items” published by that journal in 2006 and 2007. (“citable items” are usually articles, reviews, proceedings, or notes; not editorials or letters to the editor.)

$A/B = 2008 \text{ impact factor.}$

The IF is highly dependent on the academic discipline and on the speed with which papers get cited in a particular field or discipline, and therefore IFs should not be used to compare journals across disciplines. A major criticism, however, is that the IF is used to measure a journal’s importance, and that journal editors and/or publishers could possibly engage in practices to “boost” their journal IF. There are many other criticisms about the appropriate use of IFs.

How does a journal obtain an IF? Some authors who submitted manuscripts to ITSRJ (volume 12) asked for an IF, which is not a random number the ITS could assign at will. The basic requirement is that a journal has to be published a minimum of four times per year, and then three to possibly five years is required to start calculating an IF for that journal. Currently, the ITSRJ is published once every four years, to correspond with the quadrennial International Turfgrass Research Conference. The ITS Board is currently exploring the feasibility and any and all options of obtaining an IF for the ITSRJ. The ITS President, Dr. Bruce Clarke, charged a committee (Drs. Don Loch, Trygve Aamlid, Jim Murphy, and John Cisar) to investigate this matter and assemble options for the ITS to consider. This process is not as easy as submitting an application and waiting for approval, and the actual process could take several years. From January 2008 through July 2013, the ITSRJ has published the highest number of turfgrass articles among all the journals that ‘house’ turfgrass research (Table 1), and again this is from a publication that is produced once every four years.

Table 1. Refereed turf/turfgrass articles published in January 2008 through July 2013.

Journal	Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
Inter. Turfgrass Soc. Res. J. ^(2,3)	234	20.6
Crop Science	201	17.7
HortScience	126	11.1
Applied Turfgrass Science ⁽³⁾	105	9.3
J. Environ. Quality	90	7.9
Acta Horticulturae ⁽³⁾	86	7.6
Weed Technology	64	5.6
Agronomy Journal	49	4.3
HortTechnology	43	3.8
Weed Science	35	3.1
J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.	34	3.0
Plant Disease ⁽⁴⁾	26	2.3
Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.	13	1.1
Phytopathology ⁽⁴⁾	7	0.6
Canada J. Plant Pathology	6	0.5
European J. Agronomy	5	0.4
Canada J. Plant Science	3	0.3
Crop Protection	3	0.3
Mycologia	2	0.2
Advances in Agronomy	1	0.1
Fungal Biology (UK) ⁽⁵⁾	1	0.1
Vadose Zone J.	1	0.1

⁽¹⁾ Total number of articles = 1135.

⁽²⁾ 111 in volume 11, year = 2009; 123 in volume 12, year = 2013.

⁽³⁾ International Turfgrass Society Research Journal, Applied Turfgrass Science and Acta Horticulturae do not have an impact factor.

⁽⁴⁾ Number includes only refereed articles.

⁽⁵⁾ Mycological Research was continued by Fungal Biology in 2009.

On a historical note regarding the ITSRJ, the first six International Turfgrass Research Conferences (ITRC), from 1969 to 1989, resulted in published conference proceedings, with all manuscripts juried by an editor and a review board. The 7th ITRC in 1993 established a more rigorous and formal peer-review process to produce a refereed research journal, called the ITSRJ - volume 7. The most recent journal published in 2013, the ITSRJ - volume 12, improved upon the procedure of a formal peer-review process by utilizing new publication standards patterned after

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those used by Crop Science and other peer-reviewed turfgrass science-related journals.

The International Turfgrass Society (ITS) began in 1969 with publishing a refereed conference proceedings, then in 1993 published a formal refereed conference journal. The business of obtaining an IF has raised many questions. Will the ITS be able to obtain an impact factor within the next few years? If so, what will that IF be, compared to IFs from other journals that publish turfgrass research (Table 2)? Today, just having a journal IF seems satisfactory to administrators/granting agencies, but will there be a time when an IF number > 5 (for example) would be required for grant funding or promotion? Perhaps in the future, the IF will be considered out-dated, and a new rating scheme will be used, such as the

Immediacy Index, Eigenfactor Score, or Article Influence Score (Table 2). Be extremely careful about drawing conclusions from the data shown in Table 2, since IFs are increasingly under validity-assessment scrutiny, and in particular from the perspective of a niche literature like turfgrass science. Also, will an individual's metrics and their own citation ratings on Google Scholar replace the IF for decisions on funding and promotion? All good questions, but in the meantime, all turfgrass scientists worldwide are encouraged to continue to publish high-quality research in the peer-reviewed ITSJR.

Reference

Journal Citation Reports: http://thomsonreuters.com/products/ip-science/04_031/jcrwebfs.pdf

Table 2. Five-year evaluations for refereed journals that contain turfgrass research published in 2008 through 2012.

Impact Factor		Immediacy Index		Eigenfactor Score		Article Influence Score	
Advances in Agronomy	5.512	J. Environ. Quality	0.688	J. Environ. Quality	0.01653	Advances in Agronomy	1.833
European J. Agronomy	3.311	Plant Disease	0.663	Crop Science	0.01551	European J. Agronomy	0.960
Phytopathology	3.087	Phytopathology	0.624	Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.	0.01490	Phytopathology	0.935
Plant Disease	2.722	European J. Agronomy	0.500	Phytopathology	0.01345	HortScience	0.928
Vadose Zone J.	2.672	Mycologia	0.463	Plant Disease	0.01269	J. Environ. Quality	0.812
J. Environ. Quality	2.599	Advances in Agronomy	0.458	Agronomy Journal	0.01056	Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.	0.745
Mycologia	2.288	Fungal Biology (UK)	0.387	Vadose Zone J.	0.00854	Plant Disease	0.731
Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.		Vadose Zone J.	0.373	Crop Protection	0.00807	Mycologia	0.702
Crop Science	2.096	Weed Science	0.333	Mycologia	0.00672	Fungal Biology (UK)	0.642
Fungal Biology (UK)	2.082	Agronomy Journal	0.312	HortScience	0.00670	Crop Science	0.598
Agronomy Journal	1.989	Crop Science	0.311	European J. Agronomy	0.00579	Agronomy Journal	0.574
Weed Science	1.770	Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.	0.275	Weed Science	0.00415	Weed Science	0.501
Crop Protection	1.598	Crop Protection	0.246	Advances in Agronomy	0.00408	Crop Protection	0.435
J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.	1.281	Weed Technology	0.177	Weed Technology	0.00265	J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.	0.324
Weed Technology	1.197	HortScience	0.160	Fungal Biology (UK)	0.00260	Canada J. Plant Pathology	0.313
HortScience	1.122	Canada J. Plant Science	0.156	J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.	0.00237	HortScience	0.258
Canada J. Plant Pathology	1.020	J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.	0.109	Canada J. Plant Pathology	0.00207	Weed Technology	0.250
Canada J. Plant Science	0.764	HortTechnology	0.087	HortTechnology	0.00174	Canada J. Plant Science	0.221
HortTechnology	0.701	Canada J. Plant Science	0.053	Canada J. Plant Science	0.00140	HortTechnology	0.165

In Memory of Dr. David Aldous (1946 – 2013)

By John Neylan

Turfgrass Consulting and Research, Australia

The Australian turf industry is in shock following the sudden death of Dr. David Aldous. David collapsed at his home just a few hours after returning home from a trip to Canada with his wife Kaye. Despite being rushed to hospital, he passed away peacefully on Friday 1 November with his family at his side. He was 67.

His death was sudden and unexpected given that he was part of the Australian contingent at the International Turfgrass Research conference in Beijing China just a few short months before he passed away. At the conference David was his normal jovial self as he presented a paper on Durbangrass and publicised the upcoming 29th International Horticultural Congress to be held in Brisbane in August 2014. To all those that knew him our lasting memory of David will be that he seemed to be involved in so many events, whether it was presenting a paper, organising a seminar or conference, chairing a meeting or writing a book or article.

David had many strings to his academic bow. A B.Sc. Hons from University of Sydney, a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. respectively from Cornell University and University of Michigan State both in the USA, and more recently a Grad Dip in Education Management from RMIT and a TAFE Certificate IV in Training & Assessment.

Rising to Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne's School of Land & Environment, David retired in 2007 to Queensland where he became an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Queensland. In 2011 he was granted an Honorary Professorship by the University of South Africa.

David will be well known to many Australian turfies and horticultural students as a principle lecturer at Burnley College (School of Land & Environment campus of the University of Melbourne). I had the pleasure of lecturing with David starting in the early 1980's where we lectured in the Certificate of Recreational Turf Management which was coordinated by David and Burnley College. The Certificate was a well-recognised and respected qualification which eventually morphed into the Advanced Certificate, Diploma and Degree where David was the driver for these advanced qualifications.



David had the knack of enticing overseas researchers to take a sabbatical in Australia where he would corroborate in research projects with them as well as run his Burnley Turf Management lecture series. Over the years he hosted scientists such as Dr. David Huff (*Poa annua* and plant breeder), Dr. Brian Holl (Soil microbiologist), Dr. John Haydu (Turf Industry Economist), Dr. Sowmya Mitra (Soil scientist/wetting agents) and Dr. Kenneth Marcum (Turfgrass salinity tolerance). Because of David's enthusiasm for this visiting scientists program it was an opportunity for several Australian turfgrass agronomists to be exposed to these researchers and to collaborate on a number of research projects. Included in this work was the screening of a large bentgrass collection for salinity tolerance, assessing the effects of various herbicides on different *Poa annua* biotypes, studying the effects of various biostimulants on soil microbial activity and the evaluation of some of PennStates new *Poa annua* cultivars. These connections have been invaluable for many of us over the years when undertaking further research.

David was a great educator and would willingly tackle any turf related topic. He had an appetite for researching the literature and becoming expert in many different areas. He regularly organised

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seminars with his visiting scientists and they were well attended events. David was a prolific writer whether it was a research paper, industry magazine article, conference proceedings or one of several books that he produced.

In addition to David's activities in turf he was just as involved in the area of recreational parklands and urban open space. First joining the Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation (RAPIR) in 1973, David served on the Victorian regional councils for both RAIPR and later Parks & Leisure Australia (PLA) - his overall contributions were acknowledged in 2005 with PLA's highest accolade, the Frank Stewart Award, "in recognition of significant innovation and best practice in the parks and leisure industry". He was a member of the organising committees for several Victorian-based PLA National Conferences and in recent years served on the PLA NatConsulting Board.

His enthusiasm and foresight included being instrumental in establishing the much acclaimed National School in Park Management at the University of Melbourne, running annually from 1996 to 2007 - providing mid-career training to over 350 participants in those twelve courses.

In 2006 on behalf of PLA and along with Garry

Henshall, David helped develop and subsequently delivered annual Certificated Park Management training to the Singapore National Parks Board's Centre for Urban Greenery & Ecology.

Also very active with International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration (IFPRA), David was an Australian Commissioner, becoming its Asia-Pacific Chair and subsequently World President (1998-2001) and was a member of its Science Task Force. He received its Australian Award for 'leadership in the field of parks and recreation' in 1995 and just days before his unexpected death was the recipient of its Silver Medal.

Since 2008 David had been the Chair of the International Society for Horticultural Science's Commission on Education, Research, Training & Consultancy and was a member of the current organising committee for the Society's 2014 World Congress.

David was a genuinely good guy and always seemed unfussed and I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. Even when we were in China and stuck in a traffic jam eating cold "Big Macs" he was unfazed and with a smile on his face. David will be sadly missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Copies of the 12th International Turfgrass Society Research Journal and Proceedings are available



The 12th International Turfgrass Research Journal and Proceedings are available as either a hard copy journal or as a CD. There are very few hard copies left at his time. Both versions are \$300 USD each plus \$15 in the US and \$60 for international shipping and handling. Contact [John Cisar](#) if you would like a copy in either format.



A Special Remembrance of Dr. James “Jim” Watson

by Suz Trusty

From Turf Magazine (<http://www.turfmagazine.com/blog-5839.aspx>)

Dr. James R. Watson, Jr. passed away peacefully at 11:30 pm on October 1st. He was 92 (12/24/1920 to 10/1/2013). A devoted family man, Doc died surrounded by the family that he loved so dearly. He and wife Audrey would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary later this month. He left the field of turfgrass science greener, better, and safer.

Agronomy was his profession; turfgrass was his passion. Doc was a pioneer in turfgrass research starting back in the 1950s, before turfgrass management was “cool.” Doc was an innovator. What are you seeing? Why do you think that’s happening? What do you want to accomplish? And always, why? With Doc Watson it was about digging deeper, searching harder, finding the why. Because once you found the why, you could begin to discover the how. It was always seeking a better way.

According to his biography on The Toro Company’s website: “Watson joined The Toro Company in 1952 as director of agronomy. During his 46 years with Toro, he pioneered important turf and water management research around the globe. Many of the world’s leading golf courses, parks and sports facilities frequently sought Watson’s advice and counsel whenever they faced difficult turf challenges.”

He was never too busy to help with a turf problem, to offer a word of support and encouragement. He was a hands-on scientist, in the trenches with you, digging for answers. Mentor to many, his love of learning and enthusiasm were contagious, making everyone around him a little more focused, a little bit wiser, better equipped to tackle the job at hand.

Also from the Toro website: “Watson remained active in the industry following his retirement from Toro in 1998 as vice president of customer relations and agronomist, serving as a consultant to both the company and industry. He also participated on a number of prestigious turf and water management boards, organizations and research efforts. Watson was the inspiration behind Toro’s cutting-edge turf and water management research in the company’s Center for Advanced Turf Technology.”



Dr. Jim Watson, Photo courtesy of Toro

Sitting in on a discussion between Doc Watson and fellow turfgrass pioneers Eugene Mayer and George Toma was more information-packed than a typical college classroom or conference session. Conversations were filled with tales of struggles; tales of success; procedures once so innovative, now industry standards; and looking forward, exploring current challenges and seeking solutions.

Yes, it was about turfgrass. But it was so much more. Gentle, humble, patient and kind, with a ready smile and that special twinkle in his eye Doc had a knack for making everyone at ease in his presence. He welcomed questions. No matter how basic or how complex the topic, he always found a way to deliver information in a way that the questioner could understand.

Doc Watson was instrumental in the establishment of STMA’s SAFE Foundation. In fact, it was his idea. After Doc took part in an STMA Certification Committee meeting in Chicago, he suggested formation of a separate foundation to support research and education specifically focused

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on sports fields. And once lighting the spark, he volunteered his expertise, serving on the formation committee to assist in making it a reality.

Doc gave back to so many arms of this industry, earning the recognition and admiration of all those whose lives he touched. In 1979 he became a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science of America. In 1991, STMA awarded him their highest honor, The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award. GCSAA awarded him their highest honor in 1995, the Old Tom Morris Award. These are just a few of his many awards.

While he appreciated receiving these awards, for Doc, the advancement of the industry was

what really mattered. He loved that Toro funded scholarships awarded in his name for the top student applicants in both the STMA and GCSAA scholarship programs. But more than that, he loved the students. He wanted to meet them, hear about their studies, explore their ambitions, and help them achieve their goals.

Even while mourning this loss - to the industry and personally - it's impossible to think of Doc Watson without a smile in remembrance of how he touched our lives - the true tribute to a great man.

Editor's note: Suz Trusty and her husband Steve Trusty are partners in Trusty & Associates, Council Bluffs, Iowa, which managed the Sports Turf Management Association for many years.

A personal reflection of Dr. James “Jim” Watson (1920 – 2013)

By John Cisar

University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Dr. Jim Watson recently passed away at age 93. Always a leader and visionary, Jim served his nation in war and then the turfgrass profession with excellence and he will be missed. His impact on the turfgrass industry and the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) cannot be overstated. Jim was instrumental in the development of the ITS from the very beginning and his foresight and guidance and his natural consensus-building approach helped the Society grow from its infancy to where it is today. Jim was a champion of communication and he envisioned the ITS as an ideal way to increase communication between different regions of the world to promote turfgrass science and industry and to solve the great issues in the field. His fingerprints on the ITS can be found everywhere, from the Society's by-laws to the way the conference is handled to the editing and publishing of the journal to the sense of volunteerism and sharing of information. He oversaw the great growth in the Society in terms of members, number of countries involved and papers.

My first interactions with Jim came about through the 7th ITRC. Because of Jim's efforts the ITS meeting was brought back to the USA after a 20 year absence as the host country for the 7th ITRC and he was elected President. With varying options for a USA location for the conference, he let the members choose and when south Florida (Palm Beach) was chosen, I had the great pleasure to learn from Jim about negotiation and organization as part of the local

arrangements committee for the event. Moreover, his quiet confidence provided me with great re-assurance when times got tough. The success of the 7th ITRC is a testament to his personality, skills and efforts.

In addition to the success of the Conference, Jim had a great impact on the financial stability of the Society that persists to this day. His work with then ITS Director Dr. Bill Meyer to seek financial support for the Conference and Society helped to underwrite the 7th ITRC and then provide the financial foundation that continues to grow and support the Society's activities. Jim also led the effort to improve the quality of the research published by the Society and steered the Society Conference Proceedings into a refereed journal. With the guidance of the Co-editors of the 7th ITRC Journal, Drs. Bob Carrow, Bob Shearman, and Nick Christians, new instructions for peer-review were developed and initiated in 1993.

As a leader of the turfgrass industry in his research and agronomic role with the Toro Company, Jim was comfortable in both settings. He understood the needs of both the academics and industry and he brought those two worlds together in the ITS. His kindness, his generosity, and his efforts on behalf of the ITS and the turf industry everywhere will not be forgotten.

Farewell Jim, God bless you!

Fall 2013 Meeting of Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science

by Hidaki Tonogi

Mitsui Bussan Agro-Business Co., Ltd, Japan

The meeting was held in Miyazaki, starting on the first day, Friday November 8th, there were three Division meetings which included School Yards, Turfed Parks, and Ground Cover Plants. On the second day, Saturday the 9th, there was one division meeting concerning golf courses and related symposia. The golf course division meeting theme was “Initiatives efforts against global warming with Miyazaki Prefecture”. There were two reports including “*Zoysia matrella* putting green management and challenges”, and “winter-overseeding golf course management and challenges” plus a report on the “2013 Spring-meeting golf division which included “Advances of mowing equipment over the last five years”. On the last day, Sunday the 10th, there was a field trip to turf related application sites within Miyazaki area.

The overall symposium theme was developed in collaboration with local communities, turfgrass researchers and those involved turfgrass technologies. The theme relates back to a 1999 meeting where a comprehensive management system for sports turf was developed and the results these efforts over the last 14 years was reviewed. It was discussed and confirmed that the current approach to introduce lawn and turfgrass research and technologies has worked for the community of Miyazaki Prefecture. The keynote Speaker was Dr. Akashi, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture at Miyazaki University. There was discussion about lawn and turfgrass research, turfgrass research to promote infrastructure, development and education, Toi Cape wild horse grazing grasslands and its related social benefits, research reports from the collaboration with local communities, a history of the landscape in southern Miyazaki, and lawn and golf course management technologies.

Future meeting sites are as follows: 2014 spring meeting at Fukushima University, 2014 fall meeting at Sendai University, 2015 spring meeting at Nihon University (Fujisawa city, Kanagawa Prefecture) and 2015 fall meeting will be held in Okinawa in mid-November. The international autumn symposium is in preparation. The current direction is on Zoysiagrass breeding with participants from abroad participating in the symposium in Okinawa which has the largest Zoysiagrass breeding programs.



Participants attending the fall, 2013 meeting of the Japanese Society of turfgrass Science



Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) would like to take this opportunity to personally invite all European turfgrass producers to attend the TPI 2014 International Conference and Field Day, February 24 –27 at Disney’s Contemporary Resort in Orlando, Florida USA.

One complementary registration packet is available to anyone who has not previously attended a conference

For a preview of the program and scheduled activities visit TPI’s website at <http://www.turfgrassod.org/> and click on TPI 2014 International Conference & Field Day.



The Third Meeting and Fourth Symposium of Course Committee of China Golf Association

Dr. Liebao Han, Dr. Shuxia Yin

Beijing Forestry University, P. R. China, 100083

On November 17th, 2013, “The Third Meeting and Forth Symposium of Course Committee of China Golf Association” was solemnly held in Chengdu Brilliance Garden Hotel, Sichuan province. The meeting was supported by the Course Committee of China Golf Association and hosted by Golf Education & Research Center of Beijing Forestry University. The meeting was packed with guests who were delegates of golf courses domestic and abroad, representatives of academic institutions, golf course designers, constructors, managers and relevant enterprises’ representatives. Almost 500 people were in attendance and gathered together to renew their friendship and discuss the issue of golf development.

The theme of this meeting was “Development & Challenge of Golf in China under the New Situation”. The meeting was rich in content which covered academic reports of golf course design, construction and management, included a technical tour, appraising and commending, supplementation of standing members, and a golf fellowship competition.

International Golf Course Architects; Dr. Deying Li, associate professor of North Dakota State University; Mr. Sam McGarey, vice president of Dye Designs Group Ltd.; Mr. Jianzhong Men, superintendent of Sheshan International Golf Club. The key speakers delivered their splendid speeches from all aspects of golf course design, construction, and turfgrass management.

During the meeting, the delegates also visited



Dr. Liebao Han delivering his presentation

Sichuan Guoguang Agrochemical Co., Ltd, research and development department, manufacturing shop, and golf and garden pavilion where they made on-site inspection to learn about the production processes and quality assurance of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

In the afternoon of November 18th, Forward Group, Greenman Machinery Company, Syngenta (China) Investment Company Limited and others were awarded as the “Top Ten Facilitators of China Golf”. The meeting also appraised and elected 91 Chinese golf course Senior Designers, Senior Constructors, Senior Shapers, Senior Superintendents, Excellent Superintendents as well as Excellent Supervisors. At the same time, new members of the council were elected.

On the morning of November 19th, the tee off ceremony of Greenman Cup Golf Contest of 2013

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Opening ceremony for the meeting

Eight well-known golf experts were invited to the meeting to give keynote presentations, which included Dr. Liebao Han, professor of Golf Education & Research Center of Beijing Forestry University; Mr. Christopher P. May, superintendent of Hainan Shanqin Bay Golf Club; Mr. Gang Yu, chairman and general designer of Beijing New Nature Golf Course Construction Co. limited; Mr. Changxu Yan, chairman of Sichuan Guoguang Agrochemical Co., Ltd; Mr. Steve P. Forrest, chief designer of Hills & Forrest

was held at Sichuan International Golf Club, more than 100 delegates participated in this fellowship competition.

Golf accords with the demand that the modern pursues the healthy life, and construction of golf course also meets the needs of ecological civilization, therefore, golf is a sunrise industry. Compared with other countries, golf in China is having a hard time and it survives in the crack. However, as a “Green Career”, golf needs supports from all of us. The purpose of this meeting held by Course Committee

of China Golf Association was to provide a good platform for experience summary, communication and learning innovation of this industry. Also we need to soberly realize the difficulties we are facing nowadays as well as our own problems. Compared with other golf-advanced countries, Chinese golf industry is not mature in many aspects. How to develop Chinese golf healthily and orderly is what we need to think deeply about and make efforts on. We believe the golf industry in China will embrace healthier and more vibrant development in the future.

Irrigating Turfgrasses with Recycled Water **Slide Monograph by Ali Harivandi**

Review by Dr. Dale J. Bremer
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

I am pleased to present my review of the CSSA Turfgrass Slide Monograph, *Irrigating Turfgrasses with Recycled Water*, for the ITS Newsletter. After viewing the slides and reading the descriptive information given with each slide, I was impressed by the comprehensiveness, organization, and conciseness of the presentation. It begins from the ground up by describing why recycled water is increasingly important in our world (i.e., growing populations and limited fresh water supplies) and the uses, benefits, and limitations of using recycled water to irrigate turfgrass. The monograph also defines the various ways recycled water is treated and discusses which byproducts are safest to use for irrigating turf.

In my view, the scope of the monograph is appropriate in that it provides enough detail to be of practical benefit to turf managers who may be considering using recycled water, but stops short of overwhelming viewers with unnecessary detail that could be found elsewhere. For example, the monograph covers potential benefits of using

recycled water, such as N-P-K in the water that can be used by turf, and the more environmentally friendly use of recycled water to irrigate turf versus discharging it directly from treatment plants into local rivers,

lakes, or bays. Potential issues are also discussed, such as salinity, sodium, suspended solids, and other toxins that may be problematic to plants and soils; relative sensitivity of common turfgrass species to salts from recycled water; the importance of good drainage and thatch management; blending of poor and good quality water; and soil and water amendments that can reduce damaging effects of sodium and ion toxicity. The slide monograph contains helpful photographs that illustrate the various topics.

Finally, the monograph includes practical equations to help the user in their management of recycled water (e.g., calculating N-P-K content), and tables that describe various thresholds of water quality, toxicity levels for salinity and sodium, leaching fractions, etc. While I think this is a good resource, I think the monograph could be improved by including references to additional sources outside of the monograph for those interested in learning more.

In summary, I believe this slide monograph is a valuable resource for anyone in the turfgrass industry who wishes to learn about recycled water, or for academics to use in their teaching or extension activities related to turfgrass irrigation with recycled water.

The slide monograph is available at www.societystore.org



A report from the 3rd European Turfgrass Society Field Days

By Simone Magni

University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

From 30 September to 1 October 2013, the European Turfgrass Society held its 3rd Field Days in the prestigious venue of Riviera Marriott Hotel La Porte de Monaco in Monte Carlo, Monaco. The ETS Field Days are a two day event that is organized every two years in different European countries and it is intended to promote the exchange of information among turfgrass specialists from universities, official bodies and private companies.

The 2013 hot topic is well summarized by the title: “Integrated turfgrass management: towards the limitation of the use of agrochemicals”. The matter arose from the European Community Directive 2009/128/EC, establishing a framework for community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides, that will soon produce a set of legislations in Member States which in the near future will limit the use of agrochemicals in urban green areas. Keynote speakers both from the European Community and the United States were involved to share their experiences with the 95 delegates coming from 18 countries, and to bring their views to foresee the new conditions that turf managers will face in the few years ahead.

Drs. Larry Stowell and Wendy Gelernter (PACE Turf, CA-USA) gave a North American perspective of the reduced input management approach and pointed out monitoring and innovation are key factors to reach a good balance between reduced inputs, turf quality, and profitability of turf management.

Dr. Anne Mette Dahl Jensen (University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen – DK) gave the audience a presentation on pesticide regulations in Denmark. Mainly focused on the relationship between pesticides use and groundwater contamination, the presentation highlighted the importance of supporting policy decision makers with research and development programs to set limitations for pesticide use that could be both effective for environmental protection and applicable for turf managers.

Dr. Simone Magni (University of Pisa, Pisa – IT) gave a presentation reporting on the opportunities offered by warm-season species for turfgrass IPM

in the Mediterranean transition zone. Where the environmental conditions allow for their cultivation, warm-season turfgrasses should replace cool-season turfgrasses since research and experience have demonstrated their suitability for golf courses and winter games pitches, coupled with reduced needs for water and pesticide use required for their cultivation.

Dr. Trygve Aamlid (Bioforsk, Grimstad – NO) reported the results of the research activities conducted in Norway on leaching of fertilizers and pesticides from golf greens. Based on scientific data, it is evident how difficult it is to set legal limits on the use of chemicals in turfgrass management given that benefits and environmental risks vary from product to product, that new products will be released, that soil profile characteristics are involved, and the synergistic effect of chemicals can even reduce their impact on environment.

In the presentation of Dr. Paolo Croce (Golf Environment Organization, Scotland – UK) the Golf Environment Organization was outlined and its mission declared: to make golf universally known for its positive contribution to people and the planet and as a leader in sustainability. Well in the direction of pesticide use reduction, this vision ends with the hypothesis that golf course management can be virtually free of chemicals.

Prof. John Moverley (The Amenity Forum – UK) presented a completely different position of the turf industry. Based on the assumption that the use of pesticides will play an important role in the management of high quality turfs, a way to reduce the environmental impact of chemical inputs has been developed in the UK as voluntary program whose aim is promoting responsible use of pesticides, spreading best use practices, and organizing education and training sessions for practitioners. The initiative, named The Amenity Turf Forum, involves manufacturers, distributors, contractors, and local authorities and is recognized by the UK Government on matters relating to weed, pest, and disease control in the amenity sector.

Continued on next page

After the technical lectures ETS Board Member Prof. Scott McElroy of Auburn University coordinated an EU-USA Round Table entitled “Legislation towards the limitation of agrochemicals: EU and USA experiences and best practices”. The audience and the speakers experienced a vivid debate on most of the aspects that were discussed in presentations. The general feeling at the end of the exchange of ideas was that a general ban of pesticide use would be detrimental to the turfgrass industry with probably no detectable benefits for the environment. On the other hand the turfgrass industry should play a proactive role in research pertaining to sustainability, establishing programs that minimize the use of pesticides, and developing a widespread sensibility for environmental protection through an integrated approach to pest management. A general conclusion of the round table was also that assistance should be provided to policy decision makers in order to prevent European directives or national laws to come into force without a real adherence to scientific data or effective practices.

Carlo Golf Club in La Turbie, up on the hills above Monte Carlo, where, due to the altitude, only cool-season turfgrass species are grown.



Delegates during the visit at Louis II Stadium in Monte Carlo, Monaco.



Delegates at the Monte Carlo Golf Club.



Delegates attending the round table coordinated by Scott McElroy.

The debate is far from a definite conclusion and probably it will be discussed again at future ETS meetings. The next event, planned for 2014, will be held in Osnabrueck, Germany, and future convener Prof. Martin Thieme-Hack presented the program for the Conference which is already under preparation in collaboration with the German Turf Society (Deutsche Rasengesellschaft e.V, DRG). The conference keynote theme will be: “Balancing turfgrass performance and sustainability”.

On the second day, delegates were offered the possibility to visit the Monte Carlo Louis II Stadium, which was recently been converted from cool-season to warm-season turfgrass, and the wonderful Monte

The event was very successful thanks to the efforts of the organizing committee (Filippo Lulli - Turf Europe, Scott McElroy - Auburn University, Claudia de Bertoldi - Turf Europe, Lisa Caturegli - University of Pisa, Franck Nicolas - AS Monaco, Marc Lamour - Monaco Golf Club) and the invaluable support of sponsors (Bottos, Ibergreen, Parcs et Sports, and Top Green).

More details on future and past events are available at www.turfgrasssociety.eu

4th ETS conference 2014 in Germany is in good progress

by Klaus Mueller-Beck, OC-ETSC 2014, Germany

The ETS organizing committee at the University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrueck is happy to report on an excellent response to submit scientific papers for presentation at the 4th ETS conference from 6th to 9th July 2014 in Germany. The convener, Prof. Martin Thieme-Hack from the faculty A&L and the Institute for Landscape Construction, is enthusiastic that we got almost 100 papers as short abstracts per end of the deadline! In close connection with the chief editor, Alessandra Zuin, the review process starts in January 2014.

In partnership with the “German Turfgrass Society” (DRG), the “German Golf Association” (DGV), the “German Football Association” (DFB) and the “Research Society for Landscape Development, Landscape Construction” (FLL) the organizing team is preparing a turfgrass demonstration field on the campus and is scheduling a turf tour to present turfgrass variety testing at the “Bundessortenamt” (BSA) in combination with golf areas and soccer pitches in a stadium.



Newly installed turfgrass plots at the University of Applied Science Osnabrueck, Germany

Under the main topic: “Balancing turfgrass performance and sustainability” the conference is going to perform posters and oral presentations from researchers out of 18 countries. So European and international research institutions are involved in this conference. As in past years, the focus of the congress lies on discussion of the latest research results in the area of turfgrass in its most diverse manifestations from institutions in Europe and overseas, especially in North America.

Registration is online at www.ets-conference-2014.eu. Here you find also more information about the “authors instructions” or “hotel accommodation” besides general instruction.

The University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrueck and the German Turfgrass Society are looking forward to a lively participation in this 4th ETS conference.



Meeting in Osnabrueck to prepare the 4th ETSC 2014: From left, Arthur Wollenswinkel (ETS Board Member), Martin Thieme-Hack (Convener ETSC) and Klaus Mueller-Beck (President DRG)



Introducing Some of the New International Turfgrass Society Officers (term: 2014-2017)

Hideaki Tonogi
representing Japan



Hideaki Tonogi graduated Chiba University, Japan in 1985 and worked at Shin Numazu Country Club as an assistant superintendent for three years. Then, he studied at Texas A&M University under Dr. James B. Beard from 1988 to 1989 and also obtained training at Michigan State University under Dr. Paul Rieke during the summer of 1989. After that, he worked in turf industry related businesses concerning construction of golf courses and sports fields, sales promotion for turf products including bentgrass and fertilizers for 25 years. Now he is an adjunct professor at Chiba University since 2008 (Turfgrass Science and Culture), and works at Mitsui Bussan Agro-Business Co., Ltd as a general manager of the business administrative unit. He has been a member of the Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science since 1985, a director for 8 years, member of editing committee and now head of international relation committee. He delivered an oral presentation “A newly developed zoysian-net planting system for quick establishment of zoysiagrass” (Chapter:No.126) at the 7th ITRC in US in 1993. He also have presented an oral paper “Fuji Kogen 7-year Study: The relationship among high turf quality, root zone functions, and low-cost culture of putting green constructed with a high-sand root zone” (P947) at the 9th ITRC in Canada in 2001.

Alejandra Acuña
representing Chile



Alejandra Acuña was born in Santiago de Chile, from 1993 to 1998 she studied Agronomy at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, she majored in Crop Science and her undergraduate thesis was “Weed control in a *Hypericum perforatum* crop”. She spent one year at the Patagonia (southern Chile) working with vegetable production in greenhouses. In 1999, she joined Monsanto Chile in where she performed several trials related with insect control using mating disruption and supervised the monitoring of key insects in fruit orchards in three regions of Chile. She arrived at the United States in 2003 and worked for a year at the Ohio State Biotechnology Center where she did molecular and field work with corn. During 2004 she joined Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center to work for a couple of month before applying for the Master of Science program at the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, where she worked for two years under the direction of Dr. Hannah Mathers. After her Master’s graduation she started her Ph.D. work under Dr. Gardner’s guidance working with herbicide dissipation and efficacy in a turfgrass environment. In May 2009, she obtained her Ph.D. from the OSU Turfgrass Science Program. Actually she is back in Chile doing research on turfgrass carbon sequestration in Central Chile, testing new turfgrass cultivars, teaching sport turfgrass management at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Universidad de Chile and helping Chilean municipalities to create more “public green spaces”.

Nikolaos Ntoulas
representing Greece



Nikolaos Ntoulas earned his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Crop Science, Agricultural University of Athens. He has also fulfilled his B.Sc and pursued his M.Sc. in Landscape Architecture at the same Department. His dissertation concerned turfgrass growth and culture in adaptive extensive green roof systems. In addition, as an undergraduate student his research project involved turfgrass growth and anchorage in compost amended substrates. Since 2007 he is working as a Research Associate at the Laboratory of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Agricultural University of Athens. He has collaborated in more than 12 funded research programs from which several involved turfgrass issues. Apart from his expertise in turfgrass management and science he is also experienced in native plant species and green roof systems. His research has led to more than 20 scientific publications in impact factor journals, international and national conferences and technical magazines. He is a member of the International Turfgrass Society and European Turfgrass Society.

Ruth Mann
Representing The United Kingdom



As Head of Research at STRI, Dr. Ruth Mann, manages the Soils and Pathology laboratories and oversees all research on pests, weeds, diseases and associated disorders, including integrated management programmes (IPM). She is also responsible for grass cultivar testing and product testing, including plant protection products, fertilisers, wetting agents, application technology and machinery testing. Ruth manages over 100 trials annually either onsite at STRI's extensive trials ground or at sports facilities throughout the UK and Ireland. She is responsible for input into STRI's global management plans, which include focus on golf courses, stadia pitches and other sports surfaces. Ruth is an experienced and regular speaker at international conferences and the author of several scientific papers and industry articles. Ruth is a highly respected trainer and delivers professional qualification courses on how to advise on plant protection products in the UK and runs bespoke courses for Sports Turf Managers across the world, as well as being an approved trainer for BASIS Amenity Horticulture and Guardian courses. Ruth is currently mentoring and supervising two Ph.D. students: one investigating basidiomycete activity on UK golf courses and the other investigating the effect of stress on grass species.

Mogens Toft Jensen
Representing Denmark



In regards to his education, he graduated from the Agricultural University of Copenhagen in 1980 and has been working in the seed industry ever since. He has basically been with the same company owned by seed growers in Denmark but this has developed from a smaller European production company into a World Wide active company with extensive research and development, sales and marketing and an estimated share of around 25% of the production and sale of cool season grasses in the world today. He has been dealing with seed production, marketing and product management for a number of years and is currently the Head of Product and Market Management. Product management is the link between research and development and sales/customers and he believes he may have an un-official “World Record” in having actively promoted seed by customer visits and seminars in close to 40 countries. This has given him a broad understanding of the needs of species/types and varieties for various climatic zones. Only in the tropical areas is the company he works is not active. Market management involves the production planning of the right products for the right markets, market information and also the royalty business.

Shuxia Yin
Representing China



Dr. Shuxia Yin, received her Bachelor degree and Master degree in agronomy from Gansu Agriculture University in 1997 and in 2000, respectively, and received her doctorate degree in agronomy from Beijing Forestry University in 2005. She is an associate professor at Beijing Forestry University with both teaching and research responsibilities. She teaches several classes including Turfgrass Management, Technical English for Turfgrass Science, and Turfgrass Management Seminar. Her research is focused on turfgrass disease management and turfgrass breeding esp. space flight mutation breeding. Her research program has been funded by industry partners, National Nature Science Foundation of China, and Aolin Golf Foundation. She has been to Michigan State University to engage in advanced studies for 5 months in 2005. From 2006 to 2011, she was the coordinator of Turfgrass Management Program that is the Joint Higher Education Program between Michigan State University and Beijing Forestry University. She is one of the standing directors of China Turfgrass Association. As a secretary, she helped to organize “The 2nd International ISHS Conference on Turfgrass Science and Management for Sport Fields” successfully in Beijing in 2007. She also helped to organize “The 12th International Turfgrass Research Conference” perfectly in Beijing in July, 2013.

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The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is April 15, 2014