



# International Turfgrass



June 2007

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

The ITS Board of Directors meets at the invitation of President Carol Müller in Santiago in a few weeks time. Some ITS members have brought the need to develop a robust review of the paper refereeing and publication process to the attention of the Board. The evolution of the review process has been ongoing since our quadrennial publication changed its name from the ITRC Proceedings to the ITS Research Journal. Improvements and fine-tuning of this process will be discussed and implemented. If the purpose of the Journal is to give ITS more status in the scientific world at large, it needs to be acknowledged independently as a publication with a recognised citation rating (such as that compiled by the Institute of Scientific Information). This is easier said than done! The Board will also finalise the format and scientific content for the 2010 conference, and from my correspondence with Carol, one of the main themes of the conference will be 'Environmental Stewardship' and certainly ITS has the potential to lead our industry in attacking the global responsibility for reducing, and even mitigating against, damage to the world's ecosystems. Holding our conference in Chile will give us an ideal opportunity to learn from the less publicised agronomic practices of South American turf exponents. Maybe we will be inspired by new ideas and develop new synergistic research partnerships. ITRC 2009 provides much opportunity.

I hope to be able to report in detail the deliberations and decisions of the Board Meeting in the next newsletter.

## UPDATE ON THE DIGITIZATION PROCESS FROM THE TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The process is progressing nicely and you can now access the journal/proceedings archive through the members only pages of the ITS web pages (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/itsweb/>).

Here are some current numbers for the ITS archive site, for the conferences/journal for years 1969-2001, inclusive:

- 1) 430 authors have granted permission; 992 still need to do so (ie. 37.2% complete).
- 2) 240 articles are linked (all authors having granted permission); 802 remain unlinked (ie. 23% done).

Perhaps also of interest is the fact that the "Search" capacity does search the TGIF records for all 1269 papers/abstracts published 1969-2005 — whether the articles are linked to full text versions or not. Continuous tweaks and improvements (as well as, hopefully, additions) will be made but it will clearly be a long process to obtain permission for publication of the majority of the papers. You, and your co-authors are still encouraged to contact Peter Cookingham granting permission for the publication of your papers, preferably using the pro-forma that appears, as a gentle prod, in International Turfgrass newsletters.

The process will become easier with future ITS Journals as permission will be built into the publication process for 2009 and beyond.

As agreed by the Board, ITSJRJ 10 (2005) will become available online after July 2007.

If you have any suggestions for implementation of the resource, let Board Members know and they will pass the information on to Pete.

### Contact:

Pete Cookingham

Turfgrass Information Center

Michigan State University Libraries

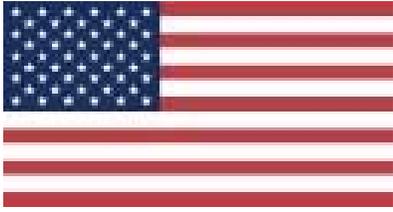
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# U.S.A

## RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

### RESEARCH EXCELLENCE HONORED AT RUTGERS AWARDS CEREMONY

New Brunswick, NJ— Costantino Vetriani, Weilin Huang, Judy Storch and Bingru Huang have been chosen as the winners of the 2007 School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College) and NJAES Research Excellence Awards. The awards will be presented at the 14th Annual School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College) and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) “Celebration of Excellence” Awards Ceremony on April 26. Jerome J. Kukor, dean of academic and student programs, will present the awards. **Bingru Huang**, professor of plant biology and pathology, will be awarded the Research Excellence and Impact award. This award is presented to a SEBS or NJAES faculty member whose research has had significant impact on industry, government, public policy, or the general public. Bingru Huang is best known for her creative and productive research in turfgrass stress physiology and for applying basic research information to practical use in turfgrass management. Her innovative approaches have led to invaluable discoveries in turfgrass physiology and novel methods for improving turfgrass germplasm and cultural practices. Her research group recently discovered a grass species adapted to hot soils in geothermal areas. This new species is capable of growing in soil temperatures up to 50 degrees Centigrade, whereas commonly-used turfgrass species in the same genus die at temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Centigrade. This discovery enabled her to identify useful physiological traits and molecular markers for the improvement of heat tolerance in turfgrass and other crops.

### CENTER FOR TURFGRASS SCIENCE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE DENNIS FENTON GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD

New Brunswick, NJ—Bruce Clarke, director of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, has been selected as this year’s winner of the Dennis Fenton Graduate Alumni Awards at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College). The award is given to an alumnus whose outstanding accomplishments in his or her professional, civic or volunteer work reflects dignity and distinction upon SEBS. It will be presented to

Clarke by Alan Grossman, president of the Cook College Alumni Association, at the 14th Annual “Celebration of Excellence” Awards Ceremony today. Clarke received his B.S. in forest management from Cook College in 1977 and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Rutgers Graduate School in 1982. He has been employed at Rutgers since 1981 and has been director of the Center for Turfgrass Science for 13 years. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing leadership to foster internationally recognized research, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional education and service programs in support of the turfgrass industry. He is an authority on root-infecting fungi associated with patch diseases of turf and is recognized for his work on the development of integrated disease control strategies to reduce pesticide use. Clarke was named first occupant of the Ralph Geiger Chair in Turfgrass Science by the Rutgers University Board of Governors in September, 2005. Other recent honors include being named a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and has receiving the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association’s Hall of Fame Award and the Abraham Weisblat Award from SEBS and NJAES. Clarke is a frequent speaker at educational conferences throughout the United States and has presented his research to turf managers in Australia, China, Europe, and Japan. Clarke has published two books on turfgrass pathology and has authored numerous articles for professional journals and trade magazines. The Dennis Fenton Award was created by the Cook College Alumni Association in 2003 to honor alumni from the Rutgers graduate programs offered on the Cook campus.



Dr Bruce Clarke

## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

### MICHAEL HURDZAN, ASGCA RECEIVES DONALD ROSS AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, PRACTICAL GOLF PROMOTION

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, ASGCA Past President, recently received the annual Donald Ross Award for “being a respected, passionate voice of reason and knowledge for golf.” Hurdzan received the award on Apr. 30, 2007 during the American Society of Golf Course Architects’ 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

Hurdzan’s work to educate the golf industry on environmentally-sensitive development and advocate for affordable, accessible golf were what brought him to the attention of the group’s Awards Committee. Hurdzan is a past president of the Environmental Institute for Golf and has written two editions of the well-received book “Building a Practical Golf Facility: A Step-by-Step Guide to Realizing a Dream.”

#### Inspirational Acceptance Speech

Hurdzan accepted the award before an audience of golf industry leaders and ASGCA members. In his acceptance speech, he described the current marketplace for golf course architects, observing that the “only requirement to be a golf course architect is to have a client. It’s a totally free market.” That’s why it is imperative that golf course decision-makers carefully evaluate the credentials of the golf course architect they hire. He went on to congratulate those who had just joined the organization and pointed out that “to hire an ASGCA designer is to get the full package with complete confidence that things will be done right.”



Dr. Mike Hurdzan

He also said that ASGCA members have become the “‘go to’ guys on technical issues” in golf course design, and called for the ASGCA logo to “carry the name recognition of the PGA, USGA, GCSAA, PGA TOUR, etc.” He recognized that “in the global marketplace we are now entering, reputations will be made or lost on one’s ability to adapt to new site conditions, limitations in available construction and maintenance equipment or materials...you will only get one chance to make a good impression.”

Hurdzan was the 32<sup>nd</sup> winner of the Donald Ross Award. ASGCA founder and Past President Robert Trent Jones was the first honoree in 1976.

#### ASGCA BACKGROUND

Founded in 1946 by 14 leading architects, including Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones, Sr., the American Society of Golf Course Architects is a non-profit organization comprised of 182 golf course designers located throughout the United States and Canada. Members are actively involved in the design of new courses, the renovation of existing layouts, and issues affecting the future of the game.

For more information about ASGCA, including a current list of members and other available publications, log on to the ASGCA website at <http://www.asgca.org> or call (262) 786-5960.

#### Past Donald Ross Award Recipients

- 2006- Jim Awtrey, CEO, PGA of America
- 2005- John Singleton, Irrigation Pioneer
- 2004-Thomas Cousins, Philanthropist, Urban Golf Developer
- 2003-Bill Campbell, President, USGA, Captain, Royal & Ancient Golf Club
- 2002-Byron Nelson, Professional Golfer
- 2001-Jack Nicklaus, Professional Golfer, Golf Course Architect
- 2000-Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, Owner, President, Valderrama Golf Club
- 1999-Arnold Palmer, Professional Golfer
- 1998- Judy Bell, President, USGA
- 1997-Gene Sarazen, Professional Golfer
- 1996-Ron Whitten, Golf Writer
- 1995-Pete Dye, Golf Course Architect



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**A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BRINGS TURFGRASS  
PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL'S SUMMER  
CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS TO MADISON,  
WISCONSIN, USA**

Madison, Wisconsin will serve as the backdrop for the 2007 Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Summer Convention & Field Days scheduled July 23-27. What makes this year's Field Days event especially unique is the fact that TPI joined forces with the Midwest Sod Council and the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association to make the Field Days an expanded learning opportunity. Kirk Hunter, TPI's executive director commented, "The cooperative interaction and planning between TPI, MSC and WTA has created a synergy that is sure to make this year's Field Days in Madison a 'must attend' event that will benefit attending turfgrass producers from around the world."

Hunter went on to add, "Another benefit of this year's Field Days is the fact that it is being held at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility in nearby Verona, Wisconsin. The O.J. Noer station has 13 acres devoted solely to turfgrass research plots and attendees can expect approximately 100 exhibitors demonstrating their latest products, services or equipment. Attendees will also have an opportunity to participate in guided tours of the more than 80 research plots."

The week's events will include equipment and product demonstrations, a wide range of exhibits, an educational symposium, TPI's annual business meeting, tours, social events and The Lawn Institute Memorial Golf Tournament, (a popular fundraiser for turfgrass research and education).

Scheduled tours include Wisconsin's scenic House on the Rock and a Madison City tour that will include visits to the State Capitol, Olbrich Botanical Gardens and the Overture Center of the Arts.

The TPI Symposium will feature leading turfgrass specialists who will address a variety of topics including but not limited to: "Weed Control Options for Commercial Turfgrass Sod Production," "Heat Tolerant Bluegrass – A New Option for Turfgrass Sod Production?," and "Environmental Impact of Lawns: Science & Perception."

Among the scheduled speakers are Chris Williamson (University of Wisconsin), Ron Calhoun (Michigan State University), Travis Teuton (University of Missouri) and John Stier (University of Wisconsin).

Also scheduled to speak is award winning Ag Broadcaster, Max Armstrong of WGN Radio Chicago and host of the nationally syndicated radio show, "Farming America". Max will discuss the "Economic Forecast of the Agricultural Industry". TPI's summer banquet will take place at the Tommy Barlett Water Show in scenic Wisconsin Dells.

Additional information and registration forms are available online at TPI's website ([www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org)). Anyone interested in receiving additional exhibitor or attendee information should contact TPI at 800-405-8873 or 847-649-5555 or e-mail [kbutler@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:kbutler@TurfGrassSod.org)

**FACTS ABOUT ARTIFICIAL TURF AND  
NATURAL GRASS**

*Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass* is the new booklet published by the Turf Resource Center to help decision-makers and the general public make informed judgments regarding the installation of artificial turf or natural grass in their communities. The 30-page booklet is based upon information from some of the industry's most highly respected research scientists, sports field managers, contractors and other professionals.

Written in an easy-to-read format, *Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass* provides answers to questions that key decision-makers must address when considering the possible short and long-term health, safety, fiscal and environmental consequences that artificial turf may unexpectedly present. Throughout each chapter are commonly heard "Myths" about artificial turf and natural grass, followed by scientifically documented "Facts" and reliable information.

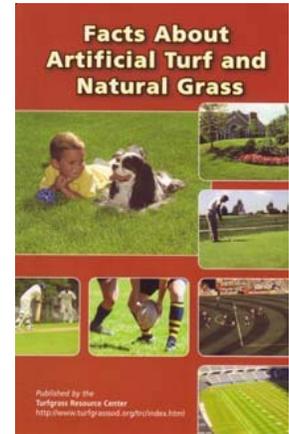
The booklet's first chapter addresses what decision-makers need to know about synthetic turf and natural grass, before selecting artificial turf or natural grass installation in their communities. Subsequent chapters discuss "Financial Considerations," "Wear and Durability," "Human Health Effects," "Environmental Health Effects," "Mental & Emotional Impact" and final considerations for "Choosing Your Future." Each chapter presents credible information about the differences in synthetic turf and natural grass with a comparison of advantages, benefits and disadvantages. Case studies, detailed references and in-depth scientifically-documented information by renowned scientists address true costs, environmental issues, safety and other valid considerations.

The booklet points out, “While there are situations when artificial turf might be an appropriate choice, scientific research documents the significant environmental, health and safety benefits of natural grass which logically should be the first consideration.”

A downloadable and printable version of *Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass* and an Order Form is available at [www.TurfResourceCenter.org](http://www.TurfResourceCenter.org). Individuals, organizations, educators and associations can request 10 or more **FREE** hardcopies of the booklet by paying a minimal shipping & handling fee, subject to approval of the Turf Resource Center. For more information, contact the Turf Resource Center at 847/649-5555.

# ORDER FORM

## *Facts About Artificial Turf and Natural Grass*



**Please send the following:**

**Individual Booklets** (minimum order of 10):

(\*Individual booklets will be shipped via First Class Mail)

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Handling &amp; Shipping Charges</u>		<u>Total S&amp;H Costs</u>
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Via Fax: to 847/649-5678



## AUSTRALIA

### TURF RESEARCH FACILITY IN BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

#### Communicated by Ian Chivers

The northern States of Australia have tropical and subtropical environments and their particular turf research needs were not being met by research facilities in the southern States. The Queensland Government bravely chose to establish a new facility located on the outer edge of Brisbane. The site is quite large and has two distinct soil types, an abundance of water (normally but droughts affect everyone) and is not too far from the major sporting facilities of Brisbane.

The head of the unit is Dr. Don Loch and he has brought considerable expertise in the breeding of forage grasses to bear in the development of this facility. Don is now supported by a significant team of scientists and is backed up by the capacity of the State Government's agricultural researchers. Don provided me with the following information which will be of interest to ITS members.

"Turf research at Redlands Research Station near Brisbane was initiated 7 years ago by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF). The aim is to provide an independent scientific research capacity servicing the Queensland and Australian turf industries. The scope and impact of the Redlands turf research program extends across the entire turf industry, from producers to facility managers, from homeowners to professional turf managers, and from roadsides and urban open space through to golf, bowls and sportsfields.

The Redlands team has grown to six turf scientists to service their growing and diverse portfolio of research projects. To complement the wide range of professional skills already available, the Redlands turf team is also able to draw on additional skills in the wider QDPI&F and through our research partners/collaborators such as the University of Queensland, the University of Western Australia, the NZ Sports Turf Institute and the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Strategically, Redlands (and greater Queensland) provide an excellent subtropical and tropical base for research into warm-season turf grasses. Already, these grasses include a number of species not previously represented internationally in other turf programs (e.g. *Axonopus* spp., *Digitaria didactyla*, *Paspalum nicorae* and *Sporobolus virginicus*).

The Redlands turf team has assembled a comprehensive in-ground collection of more than 130 warm-season turfgrass varieties. As well as its educational value, this material serves as the basic resource for the Redlands research program into water use and bioremediation, stress tolerance (salt, shade and temperature), diseases, nutrition and weed control, characterisation and improvement of sports surfaces, DNA fingerprinting and breeding.

Research currently undertaken or planned at Redlands includes:

- Adaptation and management of *Stenotaphrum* cultivars for shade and water conservation;
- Adaptation and management of new *Cynodon* and *Paspalum* greens grasses;
- Breeding of *Cynodon dactylon* for efficient water and fertiliser use;
- DNA fingerprinting;
- Rootzone amendments to improve soil moisture relations under newly-laid turf;
- Efficacy of surfactants in overcoming soil water repellency;
- Remediation of salt-affected urban open space (i.e. parks, etc) with a range of salt-tolerant grasses;
- Screening of turf grasses to determine their tolerance of saline and low pH soils;
- Developing maintenance soil fertility programs for different turf species in Queensland;
- Phytotoxicity testing of new pesticides prior to registration for turf use;
- Wear tolerance of different turf species and cultivars;
- Disease incidence across turf species and cultivars;
- Developing benchmarking criteria and equipment for sportsfield auditing;
- Best Management Practices for sustainable and safe playing surfaces on community sportsfields;
- Monitoring of elite level sports stadium surfaces.

In addition to this growing portfolio of industry-funded projects, Redlands is a focal point for contract research to register new turf varieties, to import and multiply overseas cultivars, and to provide independent testing of new products for turf use."

For anyone visiting Australia and with the fortune of going to southern Queensland (maybe prior to visiting the Great Barrier Reef) I can strongly recommend a visit to Redlands.

# UPCOMING SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

The following conferences may be of interest to ITS members

June 24-29	2nd International ISHS Conference on Turfgrass Science and Management for Sport Fields(ICTSM)	Beijing, PR China
July1-6	5th International Symposium on Molecular Biology of Forage and Turf Grass.	Sapporo, Japan
July16-19	NZ Turf Conference and Trade Show	Wellington, New Zealand
August 19-23	Eucarpia, Fodder Crops and Turfgrass Section Meeting	Copenhagen, Denmark
September13-14	17th New Phytologist Symposium, Systems Biology and the Biology of Systems.	Buxton, Derbyshire, UK
September 17-18	The inaugural SportSURF Conference: Science, Technology and Research into Sport Surfaces (STARSS)	Loughborough, UK
November 4-8	ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings	New Orleans, Louisiana

**If there are any other conferences that you think might be of interest to ITS members, please let the editor know!**

## TURF RESEARCH POSITIONS

### PRINCIPLE SCIENTIST – LIFESTYLE (AMENITY) HORTICULTURE RESEARCH

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (Queensland, AUSTRALIA) has an immediate opening for a senior research scientist to join and lead the DPI&F turf research group.

This is a rare opportunity to lead innovative national turf research and extension projects and to assist in the development of a portfolio of water and irrigation projects. The position requires close collaboration with key stakeholders within the Lifestyle (Amenity) Horticulture industry specifically within the turf and urban landscape areas.

Potential applicants must have outstanding research credentials. Postgraduate qualifications in science, agricultural science, environmental science or applied science specialising in a field relevant to the position would be viewed favourably. A competitive international salary package of up to \$110,000 AUD will be available to the right candidate.

Expressions of interest outlining your current position, previous experience and publication record should be forwarded to Shane Holborn (Lifestyle Horticulture Products and Services Team Leader) on ph. (+617) 3824 9565 or email [shane.holborn@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:shane.holborn@dpi.qld.gov.au) by Friday June 22, 2007.

For specific information on the DPI&F turf research portfolio please visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/turf](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/turf) . Information on DPI&F's organisational environment is available from [www.DPI&F.qld.gov.au/employment/](http://www.DPI&F.qld.gov.au/employment/)



**This is a Re-advertisement**

**Assistant or Associate Cooperative Extension (CE)/  
Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) Specialist  
Turfgrass Management  
University of California, Riverside**

The Department of Botany and Plant Sciences invites applications for an assistant or associate level Cooperative Extension (CE-75%/Agricultural Experiment Station (AES-25%) position in *Turfgrass Management*. This is an academic career-track, fiscal year (11-month) appointment at the University of California, Riverside.

This position provides an opportunity for an individual who can develop a vigorous, innovative, and independent extension and research program within the California turfgrass industry. Responsibilities include strong program leadership, collaboration, and support in mission-oriented research and educational activities related to turfgrass science. The candidate will be expected to establish and maintain excellent relations with clientele at the regional, statewide, and national levels in turfgrass management. The candidate will also be expected to maintain an applied, extramurally-funded research program and provide direction to an existing in-field Turfgrass research facility with an established web site <<http://ucrturf.ucr.edu>>. Research opportunity areas include turfgrass variety improvement and selection, plant stress physiology related to temperature and water, and natural resource concerns, including water allocation and management, energy conservation, atmospheric quality or other issues at the intersection of turfgrass landscapes with native and production agricultural areas. The candidate would be expected to participate in committee service, provide academic leadership at the statewide level, and engage in professional societies related to the Turfgrass community. The individual will be joining the UCR campus at a time of rapid expansion and substantial opportunities to develop significant extension and research programs. Opportunities are available for supervising graduate students.

The review of applications will begin April 9, 2007 and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The position is available as of July 1, 2007. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in agronomy, crop science, plant science or a related field with a minimum of 1 – 3 years of postdoctoral experience. Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Interested individuals should submit the following: (1) a curriculum vitae (2) statements of interest in both research and extension activities, and (3) three letters of reference (Assistant Professor) or names of three references (Associate Professor) to:

Chair, CE Specialist in Turfgrass Management Search Committee

Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, 2150 Batchelor Hall

University of California, Riverside, CA 92521

E-mail: [bpssearch@ucr.edu](mailto:bpssearch@ucr.edu)

Phone: (951) 827-4619 Fax: (951) 827-4437

Information about the College is available at <http://www.cnas.ucr.edu/> (see also <http://www.ucrturf.ucr.edu>). The University of California, Riverside has an active career partner program, and is an Affirmative Action equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

**INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS SOCIETY  
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Regular Membership Fee (2006-2009)                      \$220.00 USD

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Revised October 2005

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2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Proceedings no longer available *9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Journal are 2 books - \$10 mailing and handling fee applies			<b>Total amount</b>	

**TO AVOID HEAVY COLLECTION FEES, ONLY CHECKS FROM U.S. BANKS OR U.S. AFFILIATED BANKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS SOCIETY.**

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revised August 2005

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Please send comments, feedback, and turfgrass news articles for future issues to the editor.

If you know any non-members, new faculty staff and new personnel involved in turfgrass research who might be interested in joining ITS please forward their e-mail address to me and I will send a complementary copy of the next quarterly issue of 'International Turfgrass'

**Article submission deadline for the September 2007 issue is Monday 27th August**

