

International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

May 2017

13th International Turfgrass Research Conference Update

by **Dr. Bruce Clarke, ITS President**
Director, Center for Turfgrass Science,
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ USA

After more than four years of planning, the 13th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC; 16-21 July, 2017) is less than two months away! More than 350 people have registered to date and many of the all-day technical field tours are at or near capacity, so if you haven't registered for the conference yet, you should do so today at (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/?p=reg>). Also, the discounted room block at the **Hyatt Regency New Brunswick** (2 Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ USA 08901), the conference hotel, is almost sold out and the **Special Discounted Conference hotel room rate will only be available through June 23, 2017, based on availability, so reserve your room soon at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ITRC2017>.**

ITRC Program At a Glance

The scientific program committee chaired by Dr. Bingru Huang, Dr. James Murphy, the Editor-in-Chief of the ITSRJ, the Zoysia symposium committee chaired by Dr. Jack Fry, the graduate student competition committee coordinated by Dr. Paul Koch, and the local arrangements committee chaired by Dr. Bruce Clarke have worked hard to arrange an exciting program for this year's ITRC. Over 160 presentations are scheduled for this six day conference including four Keynote addresses, six Zoysia Symposium talks, two graduate student competition sessions, and an impressive number of cutting-edge oral and poster presentations. This coupled with six, all-day technical field tours, an American-Style BBQ, six receptions, a Twilight Dinner

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This is the last edition of International Turfgrass before the 2017 ITRC. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference and hope that you also enjoy the conference. Save some money and join ITS. **If you don't know if you are a member, then go to <http://turfsociety.com/test/ismember.php>** and type in your email address that you used when first registering for ITS, and you will receive an instant response if you are in good standing.

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 September 2017.

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

Sincerely,
 Nathan R. Walker

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Cruise around Manhattan Island and the Statue of Liberty, and an optional tour of the Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program on Friday, 21 July promises to make the 13th ITRC one of the most enjoyable and scientifically stimulating conferences in the 48 year history of the International Turfgrass Society. An

ITRC Webprogram with the times, titles and abstracts for all of the oral and poster presentations will be available soon on the ITRC Website (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/>). Here is an overview of the key aspects of the Conference:

Sunday (16 July)

- 11:00 - 20:00 Registration
- 13:00 -17:00 Pre-Conference ITS Board Meeting (Invitation only)
- 15:30 -17:30 Industry Session (reception first 45 minutes)
- 19:00 - 22:00 Welcome Reception – Mardi Gras Theme and Live Jazz Band

Monday (17 July)

- 7:00 - 18:00 Registration
- 7:00 Poster Set-up (posters on display all day)
- 8:00 - 8:30 Opening Ceremony
- 8:30 - 11:00 Keynote Presentations
- 11:00 - 12:00 Poster Viewing (without Authors)
- 12:00 Lunch Buffet
- 14:00 - 16:00 Ecology & Conservation Oral Session
- 14:00 - 16:00 Physiology & Genetics I Oral Session
- 16:00 - 17:00 Ecology & Conservation / Physiology & Genetics
1 Minute Lightning Poster Talks
- 17:00 - 19:00 Ecology & Conservation / Physiology & Genetics
Poster Session Reception with Authors
- 19:00 - 21:00 James Watson Celebration (followed by Reception)

Tuesday (18 July)

- 7:00 – 17:00 Registration
- 7:00 Poster Set-up (posters on display all day)
- 8:00 - 10:00 Grad Student Competition I Oral Session
- 8:00 - 10:00 Establishment & Management I Oral Session
- 10:30 - 11:15 Grad Student Competition II Oral Session
- 10:30 - 11:30 Physiology & Genetics II Oral Session
- 11:15 - 12:00 Turf Pests I Oral Session
- 12:00 Lunch Buffet
- 14:00 - 16:00 Establishment & Management II Oral Session
- 14:00 - 16:00 Turf Pests II Oral Session
- 16:00 - 17:00 Establishment & Management 1 Minute Lightning Poster Talks
- 17:00 - 19:00 Establishment & Management
Poster Session Reception with Authors
- 16:30 - 23:30 Citi Field Baseball Park (NY Mets vs St. Louis Cardinals)
- 19:00 - 22:00 Wine and Cheese Tasting (Zimmerli Art Museum)

Wednesday(19 July)

- 7:00 - 17:00 All Day Technical Field Tours
- 16:30-22:00 Reception & BBQ Dinner - Beach Party Theme (Rutgers Hort Farm 2)
- 20:00 - 22:00 Shuttle Buses (return to Hyatt every 30 min)

Thursday (20 July)

- 7:00 -17:00 Registration
- 7:00 Poster Set-up (Posters on display all day)
- 8:00 - 8:45 Turf Pests
1 Minute Lightning Poster Talks
- 8:45 - 10:30 Turf Pests (Poster Session with Authors)

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10:45 - 12:30	Turf Pests III Oral Session
12:30	Lunch Buffet
13:45 - 16:00	ITS Quadrennial Meeting & Grad Student Presentation Awards
16:45	Depart for Dinner Cruise
19:00	Twilight Dinner Cruise Manhattan (Return Hyatt 23:30)

Friday (21 July)

7:00 – 10:00	Registration
8:00 - 12:30	Zoysia Symposium
12:30	Conclusion of 13 th ITRC (Hotel Checkout)
13:00-17:00	Optional Rutgers Adelphia Turf Research Farm Tour (Box Lunch)
13:00	Post-Conference ITS Board Meeting (invitation only)

Additional Conference Highlights

Turfgrass Industry Session

There will be a special Turfgrass Industry Session Sunday afternoon, 16 July just prior to the evening welcome reception. This event will feature a brief mixer followed by a 1.5 hour session highlighting recent advancements in the turfgrass industry.

Opening Reception

The Conference itself will kick off with an opening reception on Sunday night with a Mardi Gras theme. The reception is something that the entire family will want to attend and will feature a Dixieland Jazz Band, a magician, and plenty of *Mardi Gras* beads. This is an opportunity to socialize, network with new acquaintances from all over the world, and just sit back and enjoy a night of music, drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Keynote Presentations

Keynote addresses will be presented on Monday morning, 17 July by internationally renowned scientists focusing on the conference theme “*Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment.*” Dr. Timothy Colmer (University of Western Australia) will present “*A review of warm-season turfgrass evapotranspiration responses to deficit irrigation and drought resistance.*” Dr. William Meyer (Rutgers University, USA), will present a talk on “*Breeding improved cool-season turfgrasses for stress tolerance and sustainability in a changing environment.*” Dr. Jerry Hatfield (National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, Iowa, USA) will talk about “*Turfgrass and Climate Change,*” and Dr. Christine Hawkes (University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA) will present a talk entitled, “*Microbial tools in agriculture require an ecological context: stress-dependent non-additive symbiont interactions.*”

Student Oral Competition

A Student Oral Paper Competition will be held on Tuesday, 18 July and will showcase some of the exciting, cutting edge research that our students are conducting. Be sure to attend their presentations and don't miss the awards presentations at the ITS Quadrennial Business Meeting on Thursday afternoon, 20 July.

Dr. James Watson Celebration

ITS will host an evening program on Monday, 17 July highlighting the many contributions of Dr. James Watson, one of early leaders of ITS and a pioneer in the turfgrass industry (see article on page 12). Come listen to Dr. James Beard (President and Chief Scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute, Inc.), Dr. Paul Rieke (Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University), and Dr. Kimberly Erusha (Managing Director, USGA Green Section), family and friends reflect on Dr. Watson's accomplishments. Hear about the founding of ITS and socialize with other attendees at the reception that follows this special event.

Technical Tours and a BBQ Dinner

A full day of technical tours is planned for Wednesday, 19 July highlighting the extraordinary range of turf venues in the New Jersey/New York City region. The six tours include:

- 1) The United States Golf Association Museum / Testing Facility and Baltusrol Golf Club (the host location for the 2016 PGA Championship).
- 2) The Red Bull Arena (home of the New York Red Bulls Major League Soccer Team) and Bayonne Golf Course, called “the most audacious golf course in the world” by Sports Illustrated Magazine.

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Keynote addresses will be presented on Monday morning, 17 July



Dr. Timothy Colmer of University of Western Australia will present “*A review of warm-season turfgrass evapotranspiration responses to deficit irrigation and drought resistance*”



Dr. Christine Hawkes of University of Texas at Austin, TX, USA will present a talk entitled, “*Microbial tools in agriculture require an ecological context: stress-dependent non-additive symbiont interactions*”



Dr. Jerry Hatfield of the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, Iowa, USA will present “*Turfgrass and Climate Change*”



Dr. William Meyer of Rutgers University, USA, will present “*Breeding improved cool-season turfgrasses for stress tolerance and sustainability in a changing environment*”

3) The Met Life Stadium Practice Facility (Home to the New York Giants and Jets Football Teams) and Yankee Stadium (home of the world famous New York Yankees and the New York City Football Club of Major League Soccer).

4) Tuckahoe Sod Farm (one of the largest and most successful sod farms in the USA) and Monmouth Park Racetrack (the site of the 2007 Breeders Cup, one of the premier horse racing events in the world).

5) Central Park (the iconic green space on Manhattan Island) and the American Museum of Natural History /Hayden Planetarium (one of the world’s pre-eminent scientific and cultural institutions renowned for its exhibitions and scientific collections).

6) The Bronx Botanical Gardens (a National Historic Landmark and one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world, with its diverse landscape and extensive

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collection of plants and gardens).

The day will conclude with a cocktail reception, an American-style BBQ, and an opportunity to informally view research plots at the Rutgers Turf Research Facility at Hort Farm 2 in North Brunswick, NJ. Brief, YouTube videos of the research trials will be accessible during the evening via free wireless internet. Wednesday night's BBQ will have a 'Beach Party' theme and live music, so dress casually and come ready to have a great time under the stars.

Twilight Dinner Cruise of the NY/NJ Harbor and Statue of Liberty

Immediately following the ITS Quadrennial Business Meeting and the Graduate Student Awards Presentations on Thursday, 20 July, attendees will board buses for a night on the town featuring a Twilight Dinner Cruise of the NY/NJ Harbor and Statue of Liberty, with awesome views of the New York City Skyline, great food and dancing. This is a once in a life-time event that your entire family will want to experience.

Special Zoysiagrass Symposium

The last day of the conference will include oral presentations and a Zoysiagrass Symposium Friday morning (see article on page 7) showcasing invited speakers who will give a world-wide perspective on this important and underutilized turfgrass species.

Optional Events

- Wine and Cheese Tasting, Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University - Tuesday, 18 July (19:00-22:00) (<http://www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu/>)
- Night at Citi Field Major League Baseball Park, New York City - Tuesday, 18 July (16:30-23:30) (<http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/nym/ballpark/>)
- Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program Tour – Friday, 21 July (13:00-17:00) at the Rutgers Plant Science Research and Extension Farm, Adelphia, NJ (<https://turf.rutgers.edu/facilities/adelphia.html>). This tour will take place at the end of the ITRC. Come see the largest cool-season breeding program in the world, and hear about the latest advances in turfgrass breeding. Buses will leave from and return to the Hyatt. There is no additional charge for this tour, but pre-registration is required.

Bring the Family

Accompanying persons will have a full range of enjoyable activities to choose from during the week of the conference (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/pdf/Accompanying-Persons-Tours.pdf>) including: a trip to Longwood Gardens (one of the world's great gardens and a former summer estate of Pierre du Pont), the Bronx Zoo (one of the largest zoos in the United States), the Liberty Science Center (a state of the art science center with an IMAX theater), the Camden Adventure Aquarium (home to the largest collection of sharks on the East Coast, hippos, blue penguins and the longest shark bridge in the world), the American Museum of Natural History /Hayden Planetarium, and even a day trip to the beautiful white sand beaches of Point Pleasant, NJ.

Pre-Conference Tour to Washington, DC and Philadelphia

A five-day Pre-Conference Tour of Washington, DC and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will provide a mix of history, fun, and of course turfgrass. Hotel accommodations will be in close proximity to the Nation's Capital, the Lincoln Memorial, and a myriad of museums including the Smithsonian in Washington, DC (see article **on page 9**). There will be plenty of time for sightseeing and visits to turf-related venues that will include the newly renovated National Mall, the Grass Roots exhibit at the National Arboretum, the National Botanical Gardens, Congressional Country Club, and National Park (home of the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball Team). In Philadelphia, participants will visit Lincoln Financial Field (home of the Philadelphia Eagles American Football Team), PPL Park (home of the Philadelphia Union Soccer Team), as well the iconic Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, local museums, and Longwood Gardens.

Additional details and the cost of the tour are provided on the ITRC Website (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/?p=home>).

Excellent Sponsorship Opportunities are Still Available

More than three dozen companies and organizations including Syngenta, Bayer, Aquatrols, the USGA, BASF, TORO, Intelligro, DLF, PGG Wrightson Seeds, Ocean Organics, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association / Foundation, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science are the major supporters of the 2017 (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/?p=reg%20-%20sponsors#sponsors>). Plenty of excellent sponsorship opportunities are still available (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/pdf/ITRC-Sponsorship.pdf>). *So show your organization's support of turfgrass research and become a 2017 ITRC Sponsor today!*

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13th International Turfgrass Research Conference Sponsors

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Pre-Conference Tour Sponsor  **Session Sponsor** 

IIRC Supporter      

  **Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation**

Bus Sponsor  

So, **REGISTER TODAY** (<http://www.turfsociety.com/itrc2017/?p=reg>) to attend one of the largest and most comprehensive gatherings of turfgrass professionals anywhere in the world. Learn about the latest discoveries in turfgrass science and get inspired by the scientific sessions, field tours, and

stimulating discussions. Share your research with colleagues from throughout the world, and meet friends, network and see all that the New York City/New Jersey area has to offer. I look forward to seeing all of you at the 13th ITRC in July!

Zoysiagrass Symposium Speakers and Panelists Set for International Turfgrass Research Conference

by Jack Fry, Ph.D.,
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS, 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, 21, July 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.

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

(article originally published in IT January 2017)

Titles 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 History, Utilization, and Improvement in the United States
Aaron Patton, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana USA

Molecular Advances in Zoysiagrass Development
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.

STERF yearbook 2016 - 10 years of exceptional progress

by Maria Strandberg and Brune Hedlund
STERF, Sweden

The logo for STERF, featuring the word "Sterf" in a stylized, green, cursive font.

2016 STERF celebrated ten-year anniversary. It all started in 2006, when a small Swedish regional foundation was transformed into a pan-Nordic research foundation, with the ambition to become “A leading international centre of competence and knowledge in environmental aspects of turfgrass management for golf, delivering ‘ready-to-use research results’”. The Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation – STERF – was founded! Now, 10 years later, we are proud to say that STERF has gained a leading position on the international turfgrass scene.

STERF’s ambition is to stimulate and support the golf and turfgrass sector and industry to:

Take the initiative - Work proactively - Create change

This is the only viable attitude if we want to overcome current challenges and develop a sustainable future. Today STERF is recognized as a substantial funder of turfgrass research, an international publisher of ready-to-use research findings and a highly valued partner to different stakeholders in the golf and turfgrass sector.

Despite 10 years of ongoing progress, the challenges are even greater today for the golf sector. The climate change impact is exceeding the worst expectations, strong restrictions on the use of chemicals, fertilisers and energy are expected and there is an accelerating loss of urban green areas and biodiversity. All this calls for more research and innovation for the future.

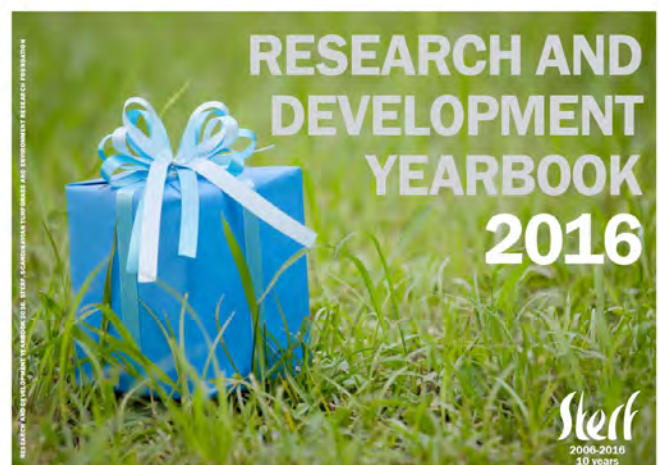
STERF’s focus for the coming 10 years will be on:

- Increased co-operation and resources, to tackle the global challenges; and
- Improved dissemination of “ready-to-use research results” for better effect in solving today’s problems.

In STERF yearbook 2016 you will get more information about STERF’s activities during 10 years. You will also get an up-date of STERF’s ongoing activities and projects.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments related to the yearbook. Your feedback on STERF’s ongoing projects and activities would be very valuable for us. Ideas of potential new programmes and projects would also be interesting and inspiring.

The yearbook and more information about STERF’s programmes and projects can be found at www.sterf.org.



Pre-Conference Tour, ITRC 2017 Washington, DC and Philadelphia, PA USA

July 11 – 15, 2017

by Dr. Mike Agnew, Syngenta
Dr. Michael Fidanza, Penn State University
Dr. Nancy Agnew, Longwood Gardens

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, DC's significant and historic sites by day and to enjoy DC arts, culture, and restaurant scene by night. (Visit <https://washington.org/> for Washington, DC tourism information.)

We will be staying at **The Jefferson Hotel, Washington DC**. (Visit <http://www.jeffersondc.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, DC by Tuesday July 11, 2017. Washington, DC is served by Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, and the Amtrak train station at Washington, DC 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, DC 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, DC.

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

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Depart for tours of sites in DC.

- **The National Mall**, located at the heart of Washington, DC, 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

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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.



The National Monument

- **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.



The United States Botanic Garden

- **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, DC on your own OR University of Maryland Turfgrass Field Day (1:00 pm to 7:00 pm) with barbeque 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 Barbeque dinner at the research site.

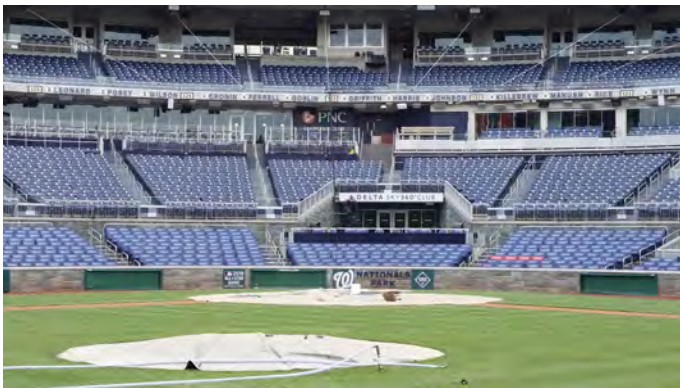
Thursday, July 13, 2017

Depart for Tours of Sites in DC 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.

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Nationals Park in Washington, D.C.

- **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.



Arlington National Cemetery

- **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.

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 Cret (1876–1945) and French landscape designer Jacques Gréber (1882–1962).
- **Barnes Foundation** holds one of the finest collections of post-impressionist and early modern paintings.

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

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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.

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.

(article originally published in IT January 2017)

Dr. James Watson Celebration: Monday, July 17, 2017

by Gwen Stahnke

Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, WA

Dr. James Watson was one of the early leaders of the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) and an integral part of turfgrass research throughout his entire life. In recognition of his many contributions to turfgrass research, the ITS will host an evening program on Monday, 17 July 2017 from 17:30 - 18:45 in the conference hotel (Hyatt Regency). This program was designed to highlight who Dr. Watson was and his many contributions to the industry today, future research, and his promotion of student educational opportunities.

We are honored to have Dr. James B. Beard, President and Chief Scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute, Inc. and Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science, Texas A & M University give a brief overview of how the ITS was founded and the history of Dr. Watson's involvement in the ITS over the years. Dr. Paul Rieke, Professor Emeritus of Michigan State University and Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Managing Director of the USGA Green Section also will speak about Dr. Watson and his involvement in the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee.

Mr. Dana Lonn, Director of the Center for Advanced Turf Technology with the Toro Company



will speak about the Watson Fellowship Award, and a member of Dr. Watson's family will give a brief tribute to Dr. Watson. The celebration will end with some comments from Dr. James Murphy of Rutgers University, who as a student benefited greatly from Dr. Watson's guidance and commitment to turfgrass research.

Please join us to honor the legacy of Dr. James Watson. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments available for the attendees to mingle and visit with each other after this event.

(article originally published in IT January 2017)

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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 complimentary copy of the next Triannual issue of International Turfgrass.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is August 15, 2017