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### **President's Message**

By Chris Carson, NJTA President



Chris Carson
NJTA President

Real world problems... Real world solutions!

It was hot at the Rutgers Field Days: close to 100 degrees. I, the NJTA Board, and the folks from the Center for Turfgrass Science were concerned that attendance might be low, that turfgrass professionals would keep their "nose to the grindstone" and stay home to keep on top of their responsibilities. But we were delighted to find that more than 500 people toured the farms during the two days, and it struck me that these professionals were in fact doing just what they should be doing: learning how to cope with the problems we face from the finest turf

program in the world.

The research is all the more valuable, because the professors of the Center have designed their studies to mirror the conditions we see out in the field. The informative anthracnose study at Hort Farm II, for example, is maintained on low cut poa annua which made the study reflect a real world environment, but which makes the maintenance of those plots particularly difficult. And the vast breeding efforts at the Adelphia farm take place in beautiful New Jersey heat and humidity, conditions that quickly "thin the herd" and help identify new varieties that resist the pressures we see in the field, thus making our jobs easier.

I applaud Center Director Dr. Bruce Clarke and the entire team for their collaborative efforts and for their commitment to making their research pertinent to real world conditions. It means a lot more work for them, but it also means more valuable information for us. Five hundred attendees in 100 degree heat is an affirmation that New Jersey turfgrass professionals feel the same way!

The Field Days are put on by Rutgers, and NJTA acts as the coordinators and co-sponsor of the events. The logistical effort expended by executive director Michelle Rickard and by Field Day chairman Pedro Perdomo and by his committee was superb, and they made the days run smoothly. And once again, NJTA Treasurer Barbara Vydro was on the scene managing the business affairs of our Association. Expo 2006 will mark the end of her tenure on our Board, and she's been a great help and driving force for the remarkable growth we've experienced over the last few years. I ask you to thank her in person when you see her at Expo; she'll be the elegant dynamo working behind the counter at registration.

Speaking of Expo, the Education Committee strongly agrees with the approach of the Turf Center that usable solutions and programs are desired by NJTA members, and our program for this year's event (December 5-7) reflects our commitment. With titles like "Developing a total turf management program", continued on page 22

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Jerry Schoonmaker.



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### **Coming Together...The Common Thread**

By Michelle Rickard, NJTA Executive Director

Thave heard it over and over again in various conversations with various industry representatives... "This industry needs to come together." In fact, it has been a vision of many of our industry leaders for decades. And, 2006 seems to be the year of unification...or, at least, the beginning of conversations which will lead the industry in that direction.

Discussions are taking place about the possibility of creating a New Jersey Green Industry Alliance. This new "Alliance" found its genesis at the first "Green Industry Coalition" meeting held at Turf Expo 2004 in Atlantic City. During this initial meeting, roughly 14 associations were present to discuss the need for a unified voice in Trenton to advocate for issues impacting our industry.

The Green Industry Alliance has since had four meetings and is working toward establishing a new association to carry out the vision of bolstering the Green Industry on key legislative issues. Many industry leaders are very supportive of this idea and have given countless hours of volunteered time to initiate and steer this process. NJTA has been actively involved in the discussions and will continue to play a role in the shaping of this new alliance.

And, the coming together of industry forces doesn't stop there. By now, you are aware the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and the New Jersey Landscape Contractors have committed to combine resources and efforts to host the 31st Annual Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo in Atlantic City, NJ. This joint effort is in response to feedback received



by NJTA from our Expo exhibitors that they would like to see associations work together to create one large, industry trade show.

Plans are well underway for Expo 2006, and both NJTA and NJLCA are excited about the possibilities. This year's event promises to be a tremendous success which will bring additional vendors and attendees to the trade show and educational sessions. For more information on Expo 2006, please visit our web site at www.njturfgrass.org or contact NTJA at (215) 757-6582.

Many industry groups have seen the significance of joining forces. As you know, there is strength in numbers. Without your individual support of NJTA and other industry groups, the New Jersey Green Industry would not flourish. So, I encourage you to get involved. Make your opinion count... join the common thread which unites this industry.

Don't miss your opportunity to advertise in *Clippings*. Call (215) 757-NJTA (6582) to learn more.



### **NJTA Launches Totally Redesigned Website**

By Dr. Karen Plumley, NJTA Vice President

If you haven't visited the NJTA website recently (http://www.njturfgrass.org), you're in for a big surprise! The communications committee, with the help of a professional website designer, has totally redesigned the NJTA website. The new design is easier to navigate and find the information you need. It has also been designed to be expandable, so that as NJTA grows the site can grow, too. In fact, it already has! Since the relaunch of the site this spring, we have already added to it. NJTA members and non-members alike can now enjoy the convenience of on-line preregistration to all NJTA sponsored events, including our upcoming Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo in Atlantic City. The on-line payment system was launched just prior to the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days this past August. Nearly 30% of attendees used the on-line option to pre-register for the field days the very first time this registration option was available. The on-line registration system is not

only convenient for attendees, but it also streamlines the registration process for our NJTA staff and volunteers, making it an all around winning proposition. NJTA is currently accepting on-line (and paper) registrations from vendors for our upcoming Turfgrass and Landscape Conference and Expo December 5, 6 and 7, 2006. The on-line registration option will be available to conference attendees registration opens September 15 (check our website for details).

Now that the phase one redesign and implementation of the online registration system are complete, the committee will turn our attention to phase two: expanding the information available on the site. Our goal is to expand the site to include much more information which is relevant to turfgrass management in New Jersey.

While we expand our public offerings, we also plan to incorporate information into the site that will be accessible only to our members (on-line membership directory, etc.). So check in on our progress from time to time this fall and into 2007 as we continue to expand and update the site. As always, your comments are welcome. The communications committee, like other committees, exists to conduct the business of the association and serve its members. Let us know how we can serve you better.

Please contact NJTA at (215) 757-6582 with any comments or questions. ■

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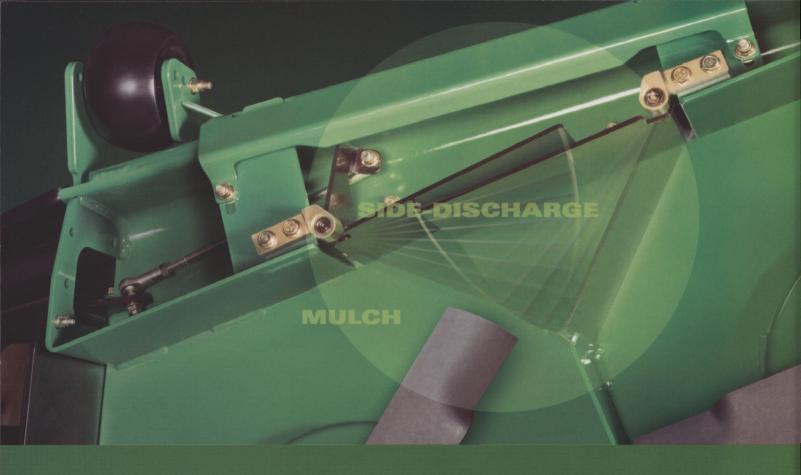


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Mike Dykstra, Dykstra Landscape Services Inc., Grand Haven, Michigan







4

### 2nd Annual Green Industry Fundraiser

By Michelle Rickard, NJTA Executive Director

Michelle Rickard, NJTA Executive Director, was honored to represent the New Jersey Turfgrass Association at the 2nd Annual Green Industry Coalition Fundraiser. This dinner, hosted by the Alliance for Environmental Concerns (AEC) on June 20, 2006 in honor of Assemblyman John F. McKeon, was a tremendous success.

Assemblyman McKeon serves as the Assistant Majority Leader, is Chair of the Environment and Solid Waste Committee, and is a member of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The evening kicked off with a cocktail hour which gave each guest, representing all areas of the green industry, a chance to meet Assemblyman McKeon and his staff. Following the cocktail hour, Assemblyman McKeon and members of his staff rotated from table to table allowing each group an opportunity to formally discuss the critical issues facing our industry.

The importance of industry fundraisers is far-reaching. These events give our industry a forum to meet with key legislators and their staff to discuss the issues one-on-one. Attendees are able to express areas of concern, answer questions, and educate the legislative staff about our industry and its impact on the state of New Jersey.

The Green Industry Fundraiser is a success, because it gives representatives from all areas of the Green Industry a chance to come together and show our unified support of key issues.

If you, or someone from your staff, is interested in participating in future events, please do not hesitate to contact NJTA at (215) 757-6582. We will be happy to answer any questions and assist you with getting involved. We hope to see you at the next Green Industry Fundraiser!



Assemblyman John F. McKeon (center) is joined by NJTA Executive Director Michelle Rickard (left) and AEC Executive Director Nancy Sadlon (right).

### Distinguished Participants:

Michael Oleykowski - AEC Nancy Sadlon - AEC

Mickey Stachowski - AWC
Paul Cowie - Bartlett/NJ-ISA

Steve Chisholm - Committee for the Advancement of

Arboriculture (CAA)

John Perry - CAA
Justin Gayliard - Dow AgroSciences

Robert Windish - Fairway Green, Inc.

Brian Minimier - GCSANJ

Roger Stewart - GCSANJ

Steve Rogers - IANJ

Ed Santolone - IANJ

Ray Buckwalter - Lebanon

Tom Hannigan - Lesco

Matt Sweatlock - NJ Cemetery Assoc.

Mike Kukol - NJLCA

Brian Phiefer - NJLCA

Steve Doerler - NJNLA

Carl Nordstrom - NJNLA

Gary Lovallo - NJ Society of Tree Experts

Michelle Rickard - NJTA

Hal Bozarth - State Street Assoc. (SSA)

Tony Russo - SSA

Ed Hazzouri - Sunoco

Harry Banker - Trees, Inc.

### 2006 Legislative Day on the Hill

By Nancy Sadlon, AEC Executive Director

Tew Jersey Green Industry representatives were in full force at the 2006 Legislative Day on the Hill. Our NJ group consisted of representatives from AEC, Bayer, Borst Landscape & Design, Farmside Landscape and Design, Lawn Doctor, New Jersey Turfgrass Association, TruGreen ChemLawn, and Spring Green. The group visited all of our 13 congressional delegates and 2 senatorial representatives and voiced concerns on the following industry issues:

- · Comprehensive Immigration Reform and H-2B Guest Worker Extension. In 2005, congress passed emergency H-2B relief that exempted from the 66,000 cap the number of repeat H-2B workers allowed to enter the country each fiscal year. The exemption applied only to fiscal years 2005 and 2006 and will expire on Sept. 30, 2006. Senate Bill 2284, the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2006 will extend the relief for three fiscal years to ensure that the landscape industry and others can continue to have access to a reliable work force beyond 9/30/06.
- Association Health Plans. Senate Bill 406 and House

- Bill 525 the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 would allow for the creation of association health plans (AHPs) which would make affordable health care coverage possible under bona fide associations. NJ delegates were asked to co-sponsor and to vote for these bills.
- Need for a Congressional Water Caucus. Water policy decisions will have a tremendous impact on all our lives. livelihoods, and living conditions. Forward thinking on new approaches to water use, conservation, and quality are particularly necessary.
- Pest Management and Fire Suppression Flexibility Act. Application of agricultural and other pesticides done in compliance with labeling requirements did not require NPDES permits but this is changing due to activist group and citizen law suits challenging the EPA rule. HR 1749 and S 1269 codifies the EPA rulemaking and reaffirms congressional intent with the Clean Water Act. NJ delegates were asked to co-sponsor and to vote for these bills.



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### 2006 Legislative Day on the Hill (cont.)

Our New Jersey team also communicated the value of the NJ green industry and encouraged these leaders and their legislative aides to reach out to the AEC for assistance with technical information pertaining to pesticide, fertilizer, or water quality issues. This event is an empowering experience! Plan ahead for next year (July 07) and witness the government in action!

Voice your expectations to your congressional delegates today! Simply call or email them and ask them for their support on the above referenced bills. Every voice counts more than you might think!





July 25, 2006 - Industry professionals from NJ collectively visited all NJ delegates in both the House and the Senate to inform them of green industry concerns with various legislation. Left to right above: Brian Feldman, Miles Kuperus, Nancy Sadlon, John Buechner, Kim King, Michael Caprio, and Don Lund.



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- Level 2 Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter\* content, soil textural class
- Level 3 Sand Root Zone Test

\*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

For more information please call us at 732/932-9295, or visit us on the web at: www.rcre.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab.

www.rcre.rutgers.edu/services

### 2006 PLANET Renewal & Remembrance

By Michael R. Hunsberger, THE WASHINGTON TIMES SECTION: METROPOLITAN; Pg. B03 Printed July 25, 2006

The sounds of tractors and power equipment filled Arlington National Cemetery yesterday as hundreds of landscapers from across the country donated their skills and equipment for the day.

Tree and lawn care crews worked from 8:30 a.m. to about 1 p.m. spreading lime over 278 acres of the more than 600-acre cemetery, installing an irrigation system and planting trees and shrubs services valued at more than \$250,000.

The work is part of the Renewal and Remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery, a program now in its 10th year.

"We have people here who have literally closed up their

businesses to be here," said John Gibson, president of Professional Landcare Network, or Planet, an international association of landscaping professionals that organized the event.

The group estimates that the Renewal and Remembrance program has over the years contributed more than \$1 million in services to Arlington National Cemetery and Historic Congressional Cemetery in Southeast.

Yesterday's turnout was the largest ever, with more than 250 people from 27 states. In addition, all of the supplies were donated, Mr. Gibson said.

The day began with a ceremony, featuring a joint color guard, to dedicate the day of work to veterans who gave their lives to defend America.

Then teams named after patriotic themes such as "Independence" and "Democracy" scattered across the cemetery to begin the landscaping projects.

Some of the crews cabled large trees to prevent them from splitting. Others went to the Congressional Cemetery, at 1801 E St., to eradicate weeds and prune trees.



Joint Color Guard Photo Courtesy of Brian Feldman, NJTA

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### 2006 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Review

By Pedro Perdomo, NJTA Board Member

The forecast for this year's Turfgrass Research Field Days event was very sunny, very hot, and very humid. The heat index neared 115° F, but that didn't scare the nearly 500 lawn care and golf course professionals who attended the event. You may recall that last year's program was held under similar conditions. Those conditions seem spring-like compared to this year.

Over the past several years, attendees have commented that the event could be shortened. The biggest reason was that this would free them up to return to their respective golf courses, athletic fields, or other places of work and check in on their turf. The field day committee took this



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under consideration during the planning meetings and the decision was made to shorten the afternoon portion of the events. Careful planning of the stops was made to ensure that the quality and value of the program did not suffer from the new schedule. The result was that we were able to avoid the hottest part of the day, while producing one of the more successful events in recent memory.

It was great to see the Rutgers' faculty members are working on so many issues that are both important and current to the turf community. The stops were all very informative and attendees picked up new tips or techniques that they could use on the job. The presenters were also happy to

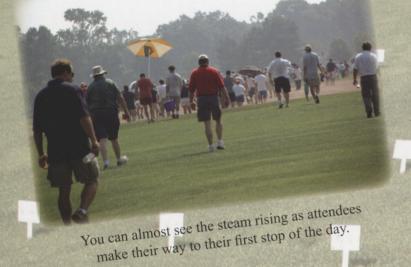
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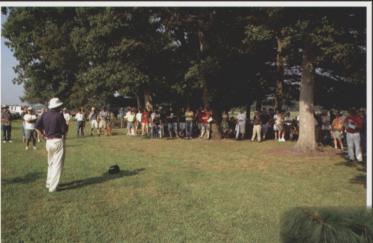
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Marlene Karasik
Ingrid Kern
Buddy Perdun
Jerry Schoonmaker
Barbara Vydro
Michelle Williams
George Ziemienski & Adelphia Farm Crew

# 2006 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days





Rich Buckley, Rutgers, presents samples at the Adelphia Farm Field Day.

Dean Goodman welcomes attendees at the Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at Adelphia Farm.



New Jersey Turfgrass Association



Dr. Bruce Clarke (left) and Dean Robert Goodman greet attendees at Field Day.



Dr. Bill Meyer leads a tour stop for hundreds of attendees.



Attendees brave the hot sun to visit each of the tour stops.



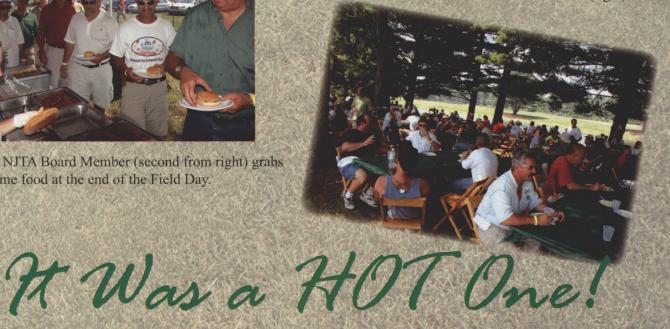
Barbara Vydro assists with the Field Day credits after the program.



NJTA President Chris Carson (center) takes a break to talk business with Treasurer Barbara Vydro (left) and Executive Director Michelle Rickard (right).



Thom Ritchie, NJTA Board Member (second from right) grabs some food at the end of the Field Day.



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### What is Rutgers Cooperative Extension?

By Pedro Perdomo, NJTA Board Member

Have you ever wondered what Rutgers Cooperative Extension means and how it relates to the turfgrass industry and to you? This entity was formed to help the residents of New Jersey in many aspects of life including agriculture and horticulture. Personnel are located in one of 4 departments that make up Rutgers Cooperative Extension. These departments are the Extension Specialists, Agricultural and Resource Management Agents, Family and Community Health Sciences, and 4-H. The Extension Specialists Department has a statewide base, whereas the other departments are all county based.

The 4-H department devotes its programming to children and young adults by providing club activities and in many cases organizing the county fairs. The Family and Community Health Sciences Department works on health issues such as nutrition and childhood obesity. These two departments are important to the state as a whole, but may not directly interact with you or your business.

The remaining departments are the ones responsible for

much of the turfgrass educational and research programming conducted at the College. The Extension Specialists have statewide responsibilities in their areas of expertise which can be anything from greenhouse construction, to water quality, to turfgrass pathology, and they are charged with conducting applied research and training in these areas. They are not the basic science faculty at the institution; however, they cooperate with these scientists to develop applied research to help the New Jersey community. In the turfgrass area, research efforts include the control of crabgrass and annual bluegrass, management of anthracnose and brown patch, identifying stress tolerant turfgrasses, soil amendments, fertilizers, and turfgrass breeding. Many of the speakers at the Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days and the New Jersey Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo are in fact extension specialists. These faculty members also develop many of the fact sheets and bulletins that you have read on countless topics. We are fortunate to have an excellent turfgrass program and the faculty is regularly

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension - continued from previous page.

invited by other states to present their research.

The Agricultural and Resource Management Agents Department is county based and complements the extension specialists. Agricultural Agents are generalists and their responsibilities may include several areas such as greenhouse, nursery, landscape, turfgrass, and fruit production. The Agents are trained by the Specialists on the latest findings in their areas of responsibilities. The Agents, in turn, provide local programming to get this information to the local community through workshops, symposia, newsletters, or one-on-one consultation. Your local Agricultural Agent is located in the County Extension Office and can be located in the blue pages of the phone book under county government, or see below. You may be familiar with this office if you have purchased pesticide training manuals or soil test kits. This office also stocks an inventory of Rutgers fact sheets and bulletins developed by the Specialists, listings of pesticide recertification courses, as well as other resources that may be of use to the turfgrass community.

The Extension Specialists and Agricultural Agents make the viability of the New Jersey Turfgrass Industry a top priority.

### **Extension Offices**

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Clippings & Green World is NJTA's quarterly newsletter publication. It is sent out each Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

Through the years, we have worked to increase the size, scope, and usefulness of this periodical.

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### ➤ Breeding for Salt Tolerance in Cool-Season Turfgrass

Applied Turfgrass Research from Rutgers, the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

#### Editor's Note:

Each year, NJTA and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foudation work to raise funds for Rutgers University. These funds are used to provide scholarships for students interested in pursuing careers within the green industry and to help fund the many research projects that are conducted at Rutgers.

Tater conservation is a necessary and responsible practice especially in high water using urban landscapes and golf courses. These turfgrass areas are targeted environments for the use of alternative nonpotable water sources (i.e. effluent water, seawater and/or gray water) for irrigation. The use of alternative water sources would reduce the demand for high quality potable water for irrigation and conserve potable water for human consumption. However, these alternative sources are often high in total soluble salts and can result in salt stress injury and poor turf quality. The development of salt tolerant turfgrasses that can tolerate irrigation with alternative water sources while maintaining safe, acceptable quality would provide turfgrass managers with a tool to promote water conservation and utilization of alternative water sources. The goal of this project is to evaluate germplasm and develop screening techniques in order to select coolseason turfgrasses for salt tolerance.

We have initiated several projects to screen germplasm and begin a salt tolerance cool-season turfgrass breeding program at Rutgers. We have developed a sand culture system to evaluate salt tolerance under greenhouse conditions. This is being conducted in the greenhouse facilities of Rutgers University/Cook College. Chambers covered in plastic were designed to apply saltwater overhead to simulate field conditions (Figure 1). This way, plants are exposed to salt stress directly on the leaves and in the growing medium. Very few previous experiments have evaluated salt stress on turfgrass plants from overhead salt applications. The saltwater drains back into a reservoir tank which contains a circulating pump to apply the saltwater back onto the plants. Five cultivars of perennial ryegrass



Figure 1. Re-circulating salt chambers for salt tolerance greenhouse screening technique.

were evaluated in the initial experiment, Nui, Applaud, Paragon GLR, Brightstar SLT and Palmer III. These cultivars represent several generations of breeding efforts in perennial ryegrass. Turfgrass plants were established in plastic tanks containing a 100% sand medium. Plants were treated with four salt treatments either no salt, or a salt solution containing 5 ds/m, 10 ds/m, or 15 ds/m salt concentration. As a reference, the concentration of sea water in approximately 50 ds/m. The plants were exposed to salt stress for 10 weeks. Clipping weights, plant heights, and percent green ratings were taken weekly. Root lengths, root weights and shoot weights were taken at the end of the 10 week salt stress period. Significant differences were observed between salt treatments. The highest salt treatment (15 ds/m) caused the most stress on the perennial ryegrass plants.

Field screening for salt tolerance is critical for the practical evaluation of potential salt tolerant cultivars. During the summer of 2005, a 5000 plant mowed spaced-plant nursery established at the Adelphia Research Center including Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, velvet bentgrass, Deschampsia, and perennial ryegrass was evaluated for salt tolerance (Figure 2B). Each plant in the trial was irrigated with 0.13 gallons of saltwater solution with an EC of 10

# Green World

Applied Turfgrass Research from Rutgers, the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

(approximately 1/5 seawater) (Figure 2C). Approximately 150 perennial ryegrass plants, 3 creeping bentgrass, 12 velvet bentgrass and 40 Deschampsia plants were identified with improved salt tolerance. All of these plants were increased and established in spaced-plant nurseries in the fall of 2005. These plants were intercrossed in the spring of 2006. This fall the selections will be planted in two salt-affected sites – a coastline area along the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and at the edge of a salt marsh at Atlantic City Country Club to evaluate for salt stress tolerance.

Additionally, in the fall of 2005, 150 clones of perennial ryegrass varying in salt tolerance were established in two trials in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with 6 replications each. One of the trials was watered with regular irrigation water, while the other trial was watered with the salt solution described above. The plants receiving the salt treatments showed signs of salt stress and significant differences between these plants are evident (Figure 2A and D). The clones in these two trials will be compared to determine the heritability of salt tolerance in perennial ryegrass. This will help improve our understanding of the inheritance of salt tolerance so that we can optimize our breeding efforts to make improvements in this characteristic.

In order to correlate the greenhouse screening technique described above with the field screening technique, we initiated another study including all of the perennial ryegrass clones (44) originally screened in the salt greenhouse chamber study. This field trial was planted in the field in spring of 2006 in a randomized complete block design with 3 replications. These plants are currently being treated three times per week with an overhead salt water solution (EC~10) as described above. Additionally, 12 cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass are also being evaluated for salt tolerance in the field under the same conditions. This fall (2006), a field trial will be established with 20 cultivars of perennial ryegrass, 20 cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass and 10 cultivars of creeping bentgrass for salt

tolerance evaluation in the spring and summer of 2007. This will be continued through 2008. A second run of the same perennial ryegrass cultivars is planned for the fall of 2006 and more salt chamber greenhouse screening of other species and cultivars is planned for the fall and upcoming years.

If turf managers are expected to utilize non-potable water for irrigation of golf courses, residential areas and other urban landscapes, they need cultivars that can maintain adequate turf quality while being irrigated with water high in total soluble salts. This research will provide information on the salt tolerance of commercial cultivars and foster the development of new cultivars with improved salinity tolerance. Additionally we will begin studies on the inheritance and mechanism of salt tolerance, by using molecular markers that could be used for screening plants more quickly and other genomic applications. Most importantly this research could provide the tools (through the utilization of salt tolerant cultivars) for the successful transition to alternative water sources in order to help conserve our natural resources on turfgrass areas.

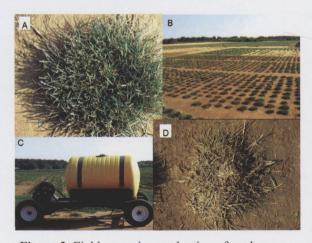


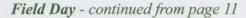
Figure 2. Field screening evaluation of cool-season turfgrasses for salt tolerance, A and D) Perennial ryegrass plants exhibiting salt tolerance (A) and salt sensitivity (D), B) Field screening of single mowed-spaced plants, C) Saltwater was applied using a salt solution made of NaCl and CaCl.

### President's Message - continued from page 3

"Implementing a school IPM program," "Preparation for the 2007 US Open at Oakmont," and many more we will once again be offering cutting edge information that will be immediately usable by turf professionals. And the social opportunities of Atlantic City coupled with the camaraderie of all of our friends and peers makes it a must attend event. I look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, I'd like to extend my personal thanks to Mary Lou DesChamps, Storr Tractor, and the Toro Company for their remarkable donation of a \$100,000 irrigation system for Hort Farm II. An NJTA Hall of Fame member, Mary Lou has always been a strong champion of the Rutgers turf program and of NJTA, and our Association and the Rutgers program is stronger because of her commitment. Thanks Mary Lou, from all of us.

Regards,



answer any questions that were brought up during the stops. The field days also proved to be great opportunities for networking amongst industry colleagues, and business cards were routinely exchanged.

Keeping hydrated was the key to making the hot days bearable. Joe Bianco and Buddy Perdun took on the task of making sure that everyone had water. Their means of transportation were the familiar golf cars donated by Vic Gerard Golf Cars. SynaTek donated two pallets of water for the event and when all was said and done only a few bottles remained.

The day ended with the barbecue lunch to which we have all become accustomed. One would have thought the attendees would have opted to skip lunch in order to avoid the heat. This was not the case and most people remained to talk to Rutgers' faculty, NJTA Board members, colleagues, and friends. After all was said and done, the events turned out just right.

Thank you to the volunteers for helping to make this year's events successful. Thank you to the attendees for supporting the program. And, as always we hope to see you again next year!

#### Renewal & Remembrance- continued from page 10

Jeff Bisker, of Columbus, Ohio, served as captain of team "Liberty" and was in charge of spreading lime on 13 acres near the Tomb of the Unknowns to prepare the lawn for fertilizer in the fall.

"I am here to pay respects to all the soldiers who are buried here," he said, cutting open another bag of lime and emptying it into a spreader.

Many of the landscapers expressed a connection to the cemetery, either through relatives or friends buried there or through their own military service.

When Bob Dodson heard about the event, he immediately signed on to help install a high-tech irrigation system near the visitor lot. The Vietnam War veteran said he does not have any relatives buried at the cemetery, but it still "has a special meaning."

"This is a great opportunity for me to lend my skills and to volunteer," he said. ■

### **NJTA Patrons...**

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Cherry Hill Hotel Cherry Hill, NJ Contact: (732) 246-3210

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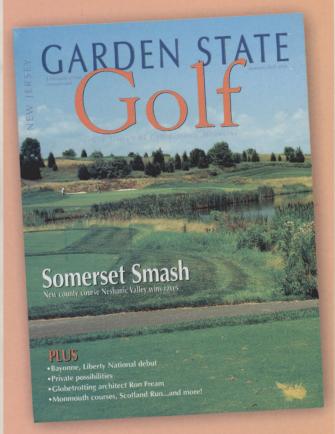
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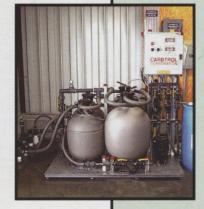
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