



For Immediate Release

Three Industry Leaders Receive TPI Awards in Orlando

East Dundee, IL FEB 2008– Three industry leaders received awards at Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Midwinter Conference during its annual banquet and fundraiser at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. TPI President, George Brandt, owner of American Sod Corp. in Palatine, IL emceed the presentation which had three TPI Past President’s presenting the awards on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire membership.

Warren Bell of Biograss Sod Farm, Sandy Utah presented the *Innovator of the Year* award to **Dr. Doug Brede** of Jacklin Seed of the J.R. Simplot Company for his many accomplishments including the development of over 60 popular turf varieties many which rank at the top of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials. His research team has developed, released and patented top cultivars in nine other grass species. He has authored 53 Plant Variety Protection certificates, 73 peer-review journal articles, 94 technical articles and abstracts, 72 magazine articles and a book entitled, “Turfgrass Maintenance Reduction Handbook”.

Arthur Milberger of King Ranch Turfgrass, Bay City, Texas presented the *Distinguished Service Award* to **David Doguet** of Bladerunner Farms, Poteet, Texas. In presenting the award, Milberbger acknowledged many of Doguet’s accomplishments including his active participation in the association for more than twenty years; having served on the Board for six years including all officer positions; serving as TPI’s President in 97-98; chairing TPI’s Public Relations Working Group for more than a decade and having served as the host of two conventions at his farms. Milberger went on to add, “Under David’s supervision and management, Bladerunner Farms now owns one of the largest collections of warm season grasses in the United States and licenses growers to produce and market these grasses in different areas of the country.”

(MORE)

Louis Brooking, Jr. of Brookmeade Sod Farm, Doswell, Virginia presented the ***Honorary Member Award*** to **Dr. Harry Niemczyk**, Emeritus Professor Turfgrass Entomology at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio. Brooking and reflected on Niemczyk's career and dedication to serving the turfgrass industry stating his research on behavior and mobility of pesticides in turf and the biology, ecology and control of insects and other arthropods in turfgrass has been a tremendous asset to the industry.

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