

# ASSOCIATION UPDATES

## 6th European Turfgrass Society (ETS) Field Days - Padova, Italy May 27 – 28, 2019

The European Turfgrass Society, thanks to the collaboration with the University of Padova and the Golf della Montecchia, is pleased to welcome ETS members and other turfgrass specialists to the 6th ETS Field Days in Padova, Italy, on May 27 and 28, 2019.

The ETS organizes its Field Days every two years: Valencia – Spain (2009), Ghent – Belgium (2011), Monte Carlo – Monaco (2013), Helsingør – Denmark (2015), and Brno – Czech Republic (2017) were the previous hosts of this international Field Days. The ETS Field Days is a two-day event intended to promote the exchange of information among turfgrass specialists from universities, official bodies, private companies and practical greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Italy has been chosen to host the 2019 event, in the heart of the Veneto region, home to beautiful natural scenery and internationally renowned works of art. The meeting venue is the Hotel Sporting, at the Radisson Blu Resort, Terme di Galzignano (Padova).

The seminars will be held at the University of Padova on the morning of May 27, and at the Golf della Montecchia on the morning of May 28, while the afternoons of both days will be dedicated to the technical visits.

The Organizing Conveners of the Field Days, Dr. Stefano Macolino, University of Padova, and Alessandro De Luca, Italian Golf Federation, are preparing this international Field Days under the theme: "Transitioning Turfgrasses" for the peculiar climate of this area and of Italy in general.

With the introduction of the EU Directive on the sustainable use of pesticide, it's forbidden to apply these products. Furthermore, the management of turfgrasses is facing weather extremes due to climate change, legislation restrictions and various environmental challenges. That means it's even more difficult to maintain the turf quality in the transition zone.

It is our ambition to provide a forum to spread innovative applications for the benefit of the turfgrass industry promoting the exchange of information among turfgrass specialists.

For more information and for registrations, visit: [www.turfgrassociety.eu/ETSFD\\_2019/](http://www.turfgrassociety.eu/ETSFD_2019/)

### Program – Day 1, May 27

*Buses depart from the hotel to the University of Padova at 8:00 AM.*

**9:00 AM:** Agripolis Authorities - University of Padova Welcome Address

**9:15 AM:** Dr. Marco Volterrani – Researcher at Certes, University of Pisa. "Autonomous Mower Saves Energy and Improves Quality of Lawns"

**9:45 AM:** Dr. Gerald Henry – Associate Professor - Environmental Turfgrass Science, University of Georgia. "Site-specific Management for the Reduction of Turfgrass Inputs"

**10:00 AM:** Professor Diego Gomez de Barreda Ferraz – Professor at Universitat Politècnica de Valencia. "Challenges and opportunities for growing grass in the transition zone"

**10:15 AM:** Coffee break

**10:45 AM:** Dr. Lucia Bortolini – Researcher TESAF, University of Padova. "High distribution uniformity of irrigation systems to ensure turf quality and efficient use of water"

**11:00 AM:** Dr. Cristina Pornaro – Researcher DAFNAE, University of Padova. "A new hyperspectral based system for the estimation of weeds and botanical composition of turfgrasses"

**11:15 AM:** Dr. Geunhwa Jung – Professor of Turfgrass Pathology and Plant Breeding & Genetics University of Massachusetts. "Dollar spot management: rolling, really?"

**11:30 AM:** Sponsor presentations

**12:30 PM:** Transfer to the Azienda agricola of the University of Padova & light lunch

**1:30 PM:** Visit at the experimental plots of the University of Padova

**4:30 PM:** Transfer and visit at LandLab Company (Vicenza)

**7:00 PM:** Dinner at LandLab and close of the day

### Program Day 2 - May 28

*Buses depart from the Hotel to Golf della Montecchia, Selvazzano Dentro – Padova at 8:30 AM.*

**9:00 AM:** Golf della Montecchia President Dr. Paolo Casati. Welcome Address

**9:10 AM:** Dr. Michael P. Kenna – Director of Green Section Research USGA. "An outline of the US experiences on sustainable turfgrass management"

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**9:50 AM:** Dr. Alessandro De Luca – Responsible of the Turfgrass section for the Italian Golf Federation. "The experience of "Biogolf Case Study" at the Golf della Montecchia"

**10:10 AM:** Dr. Stefano Macolino – Professor DAFNAE, University of Padova. "Study on the naturalization process of roughs"

**10:30 AM:** Coffee break

**11:00 AM:** Dr. Simone Magni – Researcher at Certes, University of Pisa. "Conversion methods from cool-seasons to warm-seasons grasses"

**11:20 AM:** Dr. Brian Og O'Flaherty – Superintendent of Golf della Montecchia. "Bermudagrass Maintenance above the 45° parallel"

**11:40 AM:** Dr. Massimo Mocioni – Agro Innova, University of Torino. "Management of the main issues observed without the use of chemicals"

**12:00 PM:** Light lunch

**1:00 PM:** Visit at the Golf Course

**3:30 PM:** Visit at the University Botanical Garden in Padova

**6:00 PM:** Visit at the Pratoverde Company, close of the Field Days and final BBQ dinner

### Hotel Accommodation Information

The Radisson Blu Resort Terme di Galzignano Hotel Sporting is located in the stunning area of the Colli Euganei (Euganean Hills), at one of Europe's most important spa sites, and is just a short distance away from Padova and Venice. It is surrounded by the luxuriant flora of a 350,000 m<sup>2</sup> (86.5 acres) natural park.

Contact information: Radisson Blu Resort Terme di Galzignano Hotel Sporting Viale delle Terme 82 35030 Galzignano Terme (PD) – Italy T. +39 049 9195555 [reservations@galzignano.it](mailto:reservations@galzignano.it) or <https://www.galzignano.it/en-GB>  
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** please refer to "European Turfgrass Society - ETS Field Days" when you contact the Hotel.

### PRE-Field-Days Tour: Venice - May 26

For those who will like to enjoy a pre-Field Days tour to Venice, we would be pleased to organize it on Sunday, May 26, and all attendees and accompanying persons are very welcome. Minimum number of participants required is 10 and maximum is 30 for each group. The Venice—Bacari Tour will visit one of the most beautiful and romantic cities in the world, discovering the Venetian culinary traditions.

### Accompanying Person Classic Tour in Padova – May 27

As part of the program, we are offering an accompanying person package for partners or spouses of delegates attending the Field Days on Monday, May 27, the Classic tour in Padova with Spritz Padovano. The minimum number of participants required is 10 and maximum is 28 for each group.

Accompanied by a local tour leader, the tour includes a walk in the city, and coffee in the traditional Caffè Pedrocchi or Spritz Padovano. Padova, the "città dotta" or "city of learning" of the Veneto Region, is a place famous for its hospitality, culture and entertainment. This reputation is due to the presence of one of the oldest Universities in Italy, where such illustrious persons as Galileo Galilei once taught, and home of the perfectly preserved ancient Operating Theatre.

The ETS Office will collect the requests for these tours, and after April 30, you will be put in contact with the Tour Operator for payments and further details. For more information, please contact: [etsoffice@turfgrassociety.eu](mailto:etsoffice@turfgrassociety.eu).

## TGA Announces Turf Shortage in January

The following press release was issued by the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) on January 31, 2019. 2018 was a year of extremes; starting with the "Beast from the East" which hit the UK in early March and then a prolonged cold and wet period for the remainder of March and early April, the UK then headed into a record-breaking hot summer—the average temperature beating that of 1976.

All agricultural industries battled the unusual weather and throughout the UK yields were diminished. The turf industry also faced similar pressures from the year's weather; the difficult growing conditions and the increase in demand has caused a winter shortage of turf.

Looking forward, and assuming that this year will not see a repeat of last year's weather conditions, British turf growers will be in a position to get back to some normality and begin to work on a slow but sure recovery.

Look for information on how the UK has recovered in the May/June issue of *Turf News*.

For further information and tips, please visit the Turfgrass Growers Association website, [www.turfgrass.co.uk](http://www.turfgrass.co.uk).

