



Gauteng Newsletter

March 2010

The Xmas dinner dance was a huge success, we had a good turnout and the floorshow was excellent. It was great to see the rekindling of camaraderie amongst our members. A special thanks to Gareth Manson who organized the event.

Autumn is now upon us and thankfully the rain seems to be abating. Some areas in Gauteng have already recorded over 1000mm this season. Our dams are full and the water table has recovered so on the positive side, our water supplies are secure for the coming season.

Not all regions have been so fortunate – the Eastern Cape is still in the grips of the worst drought that the area has experienced in 70 years. As a result, stringent water restrictions have been instituted and irrigation from municipal supplies has been banned. Severe penalties have been imposed for any transgression of the restrictions. The LIA is currently establishing a new regional chapter in this area, headed up by Bryn Mukheibir, one of our long standing country members. Bryn says that the irrigation contractors have shifted their attention to installing rainwater tanks, booster pumps and borehole pumps. If only some of our excess rain could be rerouted to them.

The LIA members in the Free State have now established a fully operational chapter in Bloemfontein. They recently held their first AGM. Dan Blake and John Gordon travelled down to assist their Exco with the AGM and the regional launch of the Code of Standards. Their new committee includes the deputy head of the Parks Department and a representative of the Public Works Department. With the

involvement of these parties we are certain that they will grow from strength to strength.

On the home front the Gauteng Exco has been busy organizing the following events and functions;

GARDENEX

The LIA has managed to negotiate a large stand – 84m² of prime exhibition space at Gardenex which is the largest dedicated horticultural exhibition in Gauteng. This has been made possible by the creation of a cooperative irrigation stand in which products of the participating distributors will be displayed. The exhibition will be held over 3 days from the 26th to 28th March

This is the ideal venue to promote the LIA to the public and reinforce the reasons why consumers should use a LIA member in preference to the cockroaches. Pamphlets listing our members will be handed out on the stand.

This exhibition provides members with the opportunity to gain leads for new business by manning the stand. Our display will include 2 discussion areas, each able to accommodate 2 persons to answer the public's queries and pick up leads.

The show will open at 10am and close at 6pm each day. To allow as many members to take advantage of the stand, we will have 2 four hour shifts per day i.e. 10am to 2pm (4 members) and 2pm to 6pm (4 members) those who wish to man the stand will receive complimentary "exhibitor" passes to the show. Please contact Andre Herman at 011 708-7950 or 082 306 8039 to book your shift on the roster. Bookings will be on a "first come first serve" basis, so book today to secure your place on the show.

In addition to the irrigation distributors, we have brought a number of horticultural suppliers on board who will provide the trees, shrubs, plants, lawn and paving to "green up" the stand.

We take this opportunity to thank the following distributors who have contributed to the costs of the stand.

Controlled Irrigation

Inclendon

Turf Ag

Stewarts & Lloyds

Wetec

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Yvonne sent out the awards entry forms 6 weeks ago and a reminder last week – response has been slow. Remember you can enter any irrigation system that you have completed since the last awards which were held in 2007.

As mentioned before, the gold and silver awards will be featured in the Landscape SA magazine and this exposure amounts to free advertising.

Owing to the slow response the Exco has moved the closing date for entries to Monday 29th March and the judging will take place during the week of the 12th April. For further assistance contact Gareth Manson on 011 608 0767 or 082 331 3647 or e-mail him at gareth@conirr.co.za. Please forward your entries to Yvonne as soon as possible.

AGM

As previously mentioned, the meeting will be held at the Rivonia Sports Club on Thursday the 15 April at 6-30pm for 7pm. A sit down dinner will be served at the conclusion of the meeting – approximately 8-30pm. The minutes of the previous AGM and the financials for this past year will be sent out at the end of the week.

TRAINING

1. Irrigation Auditing

This course will be held on the Saturdays 17th and 24th April. This course has been specifically developed to allow LIA members to attain the position of **Certified Irrigation Auditor**.

Similar courses are offered in the USA and Australia. Members who achieve this status will be able to widen the scope of the services that they can offer clients – NB - at a price, because this is a professional service that only our members can provide.

We have been developing this course for the last six months and this will soon be available to the other regions. An article will be published in the March / April issue of Landscape SA highlighting the benefits of conducting an irrigation audit and the savings in water and energy that may be achieved through the auditing process. To the landscape architects, developers and local authorities, this will reinforce the reasons why they should only use LIA members. The article also points out the potential improvements in water conservation that can be effected by implementing the audit recommendations. A copy of this article (not including the pictures) **is attached**.

Please contact Yvonne to book your place on the course. Should you require any additional details pertaining to the course contact John on 083 700 2965 or e-mail him at johng@netdial.co.za

2. Res Com

The next 2 week course will be held on Monday 24th May to Saturday 5th June. If you need to upskill any of your staff, or know of any associate that would benefit from the course, please forward the details to Yvonne. .

3. Advanced Course

The call for delegates attending this course has historically been small and we have accordingly held this only every 2nd year. To date the course has only been held in the Western Cape and Gauteng. Recently, the other regions have shown interest in having the course presented, but the numbers do not yet justify individual courses. Instead, John will present the course on a webinar format (similar to Skype and video conferencing) this will enable delegates throughout the country to participate. Further details will be announced in our next newsletter.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

With the restructuring of the LIA's administration, the Exco has been successful in curtailing expenses whilst offering the members more value for their subs. We have lost our country members to the newly formed regions, but we believe that this will be offset by the strengthening of the national presence of the LIA.

In spite of the reduction in income, the Exco has managed to allocate a greater proportion of the subs to marketing and functions than has been the case for the last few years. The good news is that, irrespective of the reduction in income, we will be able to maintain the fees at the current level without sacrificing the services that are provided to the members.

Yvonne has recently sent the invoices for the 2010 / 2011 annual subscriptions. As previously mentioned, our debit orders are again operational and we urge those members that would like to make use of this facility to please contact Yvonne

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Regards,

Roy Cross

NEW PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRY NEWS

1. TURF AG PROMOTION – see below
2. RAINBOW WATER TANKS – see attachment
3. RAINBIRD'S NEW CONE NOZZLES – see attachment



Turf-Ag partners with many commercial, residential and sporting projects throughout South Africa. All the products from international dealerships, such as Hunter Industries, represented by Turf-Ag meet our exacting quality standards. Local products are Dan Micro sprinklers and Dragline Systems, Techline Drip and Centre Pivots.



DESIGN TEAM

Turf-Ag is entirely service-orientated and is fully-equipped in our Design Office at all our branches to assist with specific client needs. Turf-Ag specializes in Auto-CAD computerized designs to suit every landscape, golf, sports or agricultural requirement. Turf-Ag has a dynamic design team that strives to improve their workmanship and educate themselves on the most appropriate solutions when it comes to Irrigation Design. Our designers are all either LIA and/or SABI qualified professionals and the team includes a qualified Landscape Technologist and Horticulturist. We pride ourselves on giving excellent before-sales and backup service and we only deal with reliable, warrantable products. Our new improved design features such as improved design templates and database, together with innovative products from Hunter to promote water savings, is offered as a unique free service to Landscape Architects, Contractors and clients.

Turf-Ag is doing its part in conserving the planet through reducing our footprint whether it is in our new **"Go Green"** in-house campaign to make recycling and other "going green" initiatives a part of our daily routine, but also in reducing our natural resources by design water efficient and water saving systems. A wide variety of products from Hunter Industries with water saving attributes, are being specified in our designs, seeing as everyone is trying to save where they can! This is why year after year we are acknowledging some of the industry's most coveted international awards!

MINI-CLIK

ET SYSTEM

WIND-CLIK



RAIN-CLIK

FREEZE-CLIK

NEW INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

PSUltra

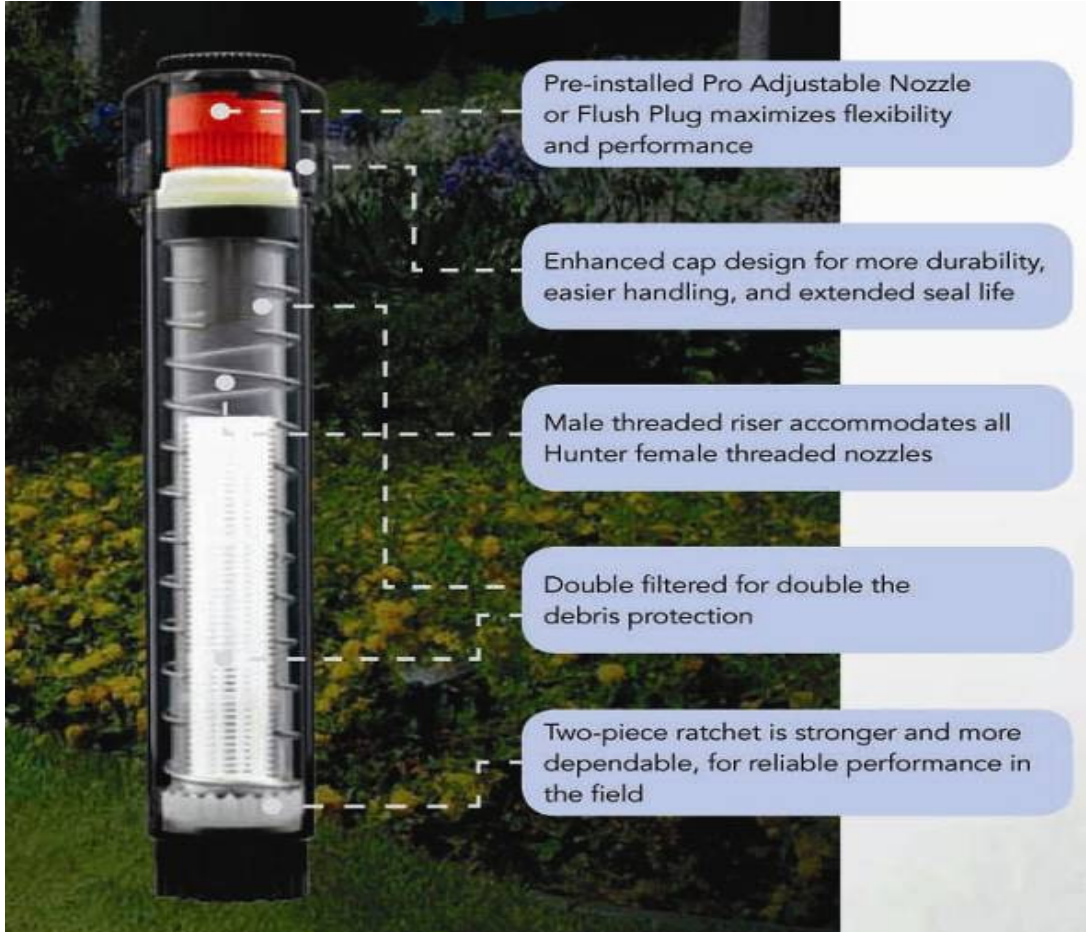
**PS ULTRA COMBINES PERFORMANCE AND VALUE.**

The 2", 4", and 6" compact sprinkler comes with a pre-installed 10', 12', 15', or 17' Pro Adjustable Nozzle. Crisp, well-defined edges, ease of adjustment, matched precipitation rate throughout nozzle selection and even distribution should make your decision an easy one when choosing a slim line spray. This new spray body incorporates a reliable two-piece ratchet, durable cap, male threaded riser, and large filter screen providing double filtration on 4" and 6" models. Additionally, the 2" and 4" models are retro-compatible with existing PS spray bodies allowing a quick and easy upgrade to an exceptional new product. A pre-installed Pro Adjustable Nozzle or a flush plug version is available, allowing for maximum flexibility when choosing the right tool for the job.

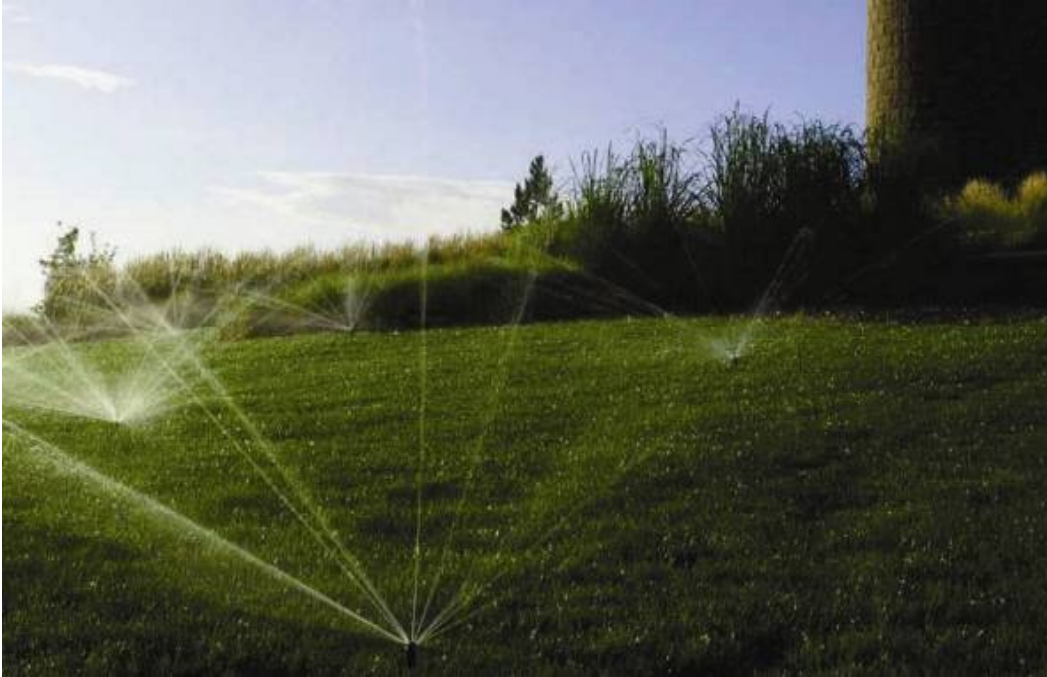


In addition to our standard models with a pre-installed Pro Adjustable nozzle, a Flush Plug version is available without a nozzle or filter screen. So now you have maximum flexibility to choose the best nozzle for the job.

AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE P S ULTRA



Eco Rotator



ECOLOGY & ECONOMY

Want to keep it green while saving resources? Get to know the Eco Rotator. You get an economical, eco-logical choice that minimizes water use and installation time and maximizes flexibility and performance. This compact sprinkler comes with a pre-installed MP Rotator, providing up to a 30 percent water savings over traditional nozzles. Add that to a spray body with a reliable two-piece ratchet, durable cap, and large filter screen with double filtration, and you have a tough combination to beat.

AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE ECO ROTATOR



I-Core



GET BEAUTY AND BRAINS

Want it all? Gorgeous turf, advanced programming capability, and an intuitive interface? Meet the I-Core. Designed for demanding commercial and high-end residential applications, the full-featured I-Core controller is easy to use, easy to install, and easy to program, with a variety of new features that will redefine irrigation intelligence.

SWITCH IT UP

Modular means more options. And more options mean an easy install. The I-Core plastic is expandable from 6 to 30 stations and the metal is expandable to 42, for a broad range of choices to meet all of your customers' needs.

GO WITH THE FLOW

I-Core's real-time flow monitoring capability provides overflow protection and flow totaling to minimize the potential for water waste.

YOU WANT IT; I-CORE'S GOT IT!

Other new features include seasonal adjustment independent by program, which can be set globally, monthly, or through Solar Sync; Easy Retrieve™ Memory to save preferred settings in case of power loss; six language options; and four fully independent programs for customizable irrigation scheduling.

To find out more, visit our website at

www.turf-ag.co.za

or contact your nearest branch!

FREESTATE (051) 432-7319

EASTERN CAPE (041) 581-8987

CAPE (021) 551-0790

GAUTENG – CENTURION (012) 661-4561

GAUTENG – KYA SANDS (011) 708-7800

NELSPRUIT (013) 752-8365

Turf-Ag focuses on “Greening” the environment through improving our environmental responsibility and ensuring that our products keep your side of the fence greener!