



Distinguished Turfgrass Entomologists Remembered

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Within the past year, the turfgrass industry has experienced the loss of two highly influential and distinguished turfgrass entomologists, colleagues and friends. Drs. Paul Heller (Professor, Penn State University) and Haruo Tashiro (Professor Emeritus, Cornell University) were two of the early entomologists to do research as well as provide relevant extension information on insects and mites in the turf system. Their work has profoundly influenced the turf industry, and they helped pave the way for the turfgrass entomologists of today.

Paul Heller, known also as “Big Bug” by his students and friends, was the epitome of a mentor and advisor to students as well as his numerous industry constituents. He had a tremendous influence in many of his student’s lives and career paths. Paul constantly and selflessly strived to improve his classes for the benefit of his students. He was instrumental in the creation and teaching of his Penn State World Campus on-line classes. Paul’s work with golf course superintendents and other industry stakeholders was something he thoroughly enjoyed, becoming friends with many of them over the years. Another aspect of Paul’s life and influence is his involvement at the local Christian radio station in State College, WTLR, where he was most affectionately known by his listeners as “Uncle Paul.” Likely one of Paul’s greatest gifts was the support and uncanny intuition he was always ready to share. Above all, Paul was generous

with all his resources and nearly always placed others first. Paul is and will be greatly missed by all, especially his number one fan, his wife June.

Haruo Tashiro, most affectionately known as “Tash” by many of his friends and colleagues, was a world leader in the biology and management of insects and mites on turfgrass and woody ornamentals. Throughout Tash’s scientific career, he produced numerous publications on the biology, ecology and management of insects affecting horticultural crops and turfgrass. Tash is probably best known for his 1987 publication, *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*. This widely used text book was the first comprehensive reference to bring together a discussion of practically all insects and other arthropods destructive to turfgrass. Tash was not only an excellent scientist but an accomplished artist. His detailed drawings of anatomical features of insects, his skill in cartography and his photographs are numerous in his text book. Tash will always be remembered as a gentleman, excellent scientist and an inspiration to his family and friends.

Despite their passing, Drs. Heller and Tashiro will continue to remain iconic pillars in the turfgrass community, especially to those who personally knew, were directly influenced, or may have utilized one or more of their turfgrass insect management recommendations. May the both rest in peace. 🌱

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2010 SUMMER FIELD DAY

JULY 27, 2010

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