



MICHAEL J. BLADON EDUCATIONAL LINK TO MSU ESTABLISHED

GRANTING ACCESS TO WORLD'S MOST EXTENSIVE PUBLIC COLLECTION OF TURFGRASS MATERIAL

The Sports Turf Association, at its Annual Meeting on February 19, 2008, announced the establishment of the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link to the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). The blanket subscription provides an opportunity for the association to not only make the resources of the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) available to its membership, but also as a way to support the continued expansion of the content and availability of the center's information

History of the Turfgrass Information Center & the Turfgrass Information File

In the 1960s, the Michigan State University (MSU) Library began to collect printed turfgrass materials. In 1968, the personal collection of the late O.J. Noer, pioneer turf agronomist, was added to the library holdings through the O.J. Noer Foundation. Later gifts have included the Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection (on indefinite loan), the Scotts Company Archive, and most significantly, the James B. Beard Turfgrass Library Collection. Today, the combined

collections are recognized as the most extensive public collection of turfgrass material in existence.

Between 1983 and 1992, the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Program supported the development of the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). Using the Noer Collection as a foundation, TGIF was designed to systematically inventory published turf research and make the bibliographic information available via a computerized database (<http://tic.msu.edu>).

The TGIF database is now accessible online. With over 125,000 searchable items using over 300,000 keywords, these resources cover the full scope of the turfgrass industry. The database monitors over 320 journals and magazines, including the STA's *Sports Turf Manager*, research reports, and conference proceedings. In addition, the database includes records for extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, theses and dissertations, web documents, published Q & As, scanned golf course plans, and video interviews with selected members of the American Soci-

ety of Golf Course Architects, sample photographs from the Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection, and more!

The Michael J. Bladon Educational Link

It is only fitting that the portal to this information resource be named after the Sports Turf Association's founder, Michael J. Bladon. It was Michael who provided the impetus for the inaugural meeting in 1987. He became the association's first president and has since served as past president, director, and editor of and contributor to the *Sports Turf Newsletter*, now the *Sports Turf Manager*. He has played a role in most, if not all, association initiatives. Mike was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the year 2000. He retired from the Board of Directors in 2002.

In an era of increasingly restricted chemical use and water availability, an ever-wider range of techniques and tools will be needed by managers to respond to user expectations. The TIC is the vehicle by which the information required to support research, education and management is made available for all of these efforts.

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The TGIF provides access to better information, which converts to more effective management of turf facilities, whether athletic fields, golf courses, or other managed landscapes.

Sports Turf Association members can now access this information via the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link. Login to www.sportsturfassociation.com and follow the link under the members only section. ♦

Above: Recently retired STA Director Bob Sheard (left) with Michael Bladon and his wife Elaine at STA's Annual General Meeting.