

California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation

The California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation is a 501(c)(3) foundation that supports statewide research in the turfgrass and landscape industry. A prior group, known as the University of California Turfgrass Research Committee, had been in existence for 15 years. UCRTRAC was successful for many years and a broader vision was developed to initiate the CTLF.

The CTLF raises funds that will support the research conducted at several universities in California as well as a variety of different locations due to the broad climate across California. Research will focus on turfgrass science and also in the area of landscape management. Currently there are several university staff members throughout the state as well as several independent researchers that are working to solve a variety of issues and problems in turf and landscape.

The research is in a variety of areas including nematodes, diseases, fertility studies, weed control, salinity issues, water quality, air quality, etc. Breeding programs for more drought tolerant varieties are also underway. Dr. James Baird, at the University of California Riverside, has 5 graduate students working on a lengthy list of field testing and problem solving.

The groups that have formed the CTLF are broad in both geography and discipline. It is the desire of the foundation to include people from the 6 distinct geographic regions in California including Nor Cal, Sierra Nevada, Central Cal, So Cal, Desert, and San Diego. The many disciplines will bring together people from golf, sports turf, water districts, PGA, golf associations, USGA, CMAA, researchers, educators, commercial parts of the industry, golf course

superintendents' associations, air quality management districts, sod producers, etc.

At a June 1 organizational meeting the bylaws of the foundation were approved and the governing board of directors was elected. The board shall remain until a September 15th meeting at which time the general assembly will have a meeting of all interested parties at the MWD offices in Riverside, CA.

In the early steps of the transition to the CTLF it was necessary to establish the foundation as a 501 (c) (3). There were also a number of legal issues that need to be accomplished to run as a business. Fund raising is underway and many groups have been receptive to presentations made by Bruce Williams.

We have a goal of raising \$250,000 per year. As soon as we take care of the upfront business expenses then we will be able to receive research grant requests and award appropriate grants for research throughout the state.

The next meeting of the CTLF will take place in the afternoon of the UCR Turfgrass Field Day on September 15th at the offices of the Metropolitan Water District in Riverside. We hope all interested parties will attend as the meeting is a board meeting and also open to the general assembly.

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS

Executive Director

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