

JB VISITATIONS:**August-Michigan State University**

Participated in an Open House for the new enlarged space for the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection and the Turfgrass Information Center at the Michigan State University Library. This was a much needed improvement that will greatly increase the efficiency of those working at the facility and also visitors doing literature searches and studies of the Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection. The Turfgrass Information File is an excellent system that allows anyone throughout the world to conduct literature searches by subject area and acquire abstracts of the scientific and popular articles published in the turfgrass area since 1973. This assumes the availability of a computer, printer, and telephone modem access. The annual fee for access to the TGIF literature search system is extremely modest and is a technical support facility that all modern turfgrass managers should utilize. For more details please contact, Turfgrass Information Center, 3 West Main Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1048.

Phone: 517-353-7209

Fax: 517-432-3693

Web Address: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif>

Also attended the Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day and a reception ceremony for dedication of the Kenyon T. Payne Antique Turfgrass Collection the night before. This is a cooperative project with the Turfgrass Program at Michigan State University, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Michigan State University Museum. It is a very important activity dedicated to preserving a part of our heritage as a turfgrass industry. Those having items they may wish to donate to the collection for refurbishment and future display should contact Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Director, Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1325.

Phone: 517-2370. Fax: 517-432-2846.

E-mail. dewhurst@museum.cl.msuedu

September - Milano, Roma & Torino, Italy.

Conducted an assessment visitation to the Turfgrass Research Plots near both Torino and Roma, Italy, organized by the Italian Golf Federation. At the creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* var. *stolonifera*) plots on a high-sand root zone, a significant fairy ring infestation had developed during the previous year. Two applications of the fungicide, flutalonil, were applied in late spring and in early summer of 1996, which resulted in total control of the fairy ring infestation. Attempts are still being made to identify the specific causal organism.

The warm-season turfgrass plots near Roma for fairway and sports field conditions have now been established for one year and are progressing quite well on a sandy native root zone. A fairly complete range of *Cynodon* and *Zoysia* cultivars are included. It was noted that a group of three seeded *Zoysia japonica* cultivars have not performed as well as Meyer Japanese zoysiagrass during the first year in terms of both rate of establishment and the shoot density achieved.

Also visited several golf courses north of Milano to guide putting green and fairway conversion programs from near 100% *Poa annua* to creeping bentgrass. On one golf course that had putting greens of *Poa annua*, a substantial thatch problem, and a heavy clay soil, a program of intense vertical cutting, frequent topdressing with a high-sand mix, and an annual interseeding with Pennncross creeping bentgrass has been followed. It has resulted in a 95+% conversion to Pennncross over a 4-year period, with the exception of two putting greens that are very small size and positioned in a dense shaded environment. A fairway conversion program resulted in only 10% Pennncross the first year due to the learning process. The second year interseeding resulted in a 30% stand and the third year in excess of 65% Pennncross, with some fairways being over 90%. The timing of the interseeding process relative to climatic conditions appears to be a critical factor determining the speed with which the bentgrass conversion occurs.