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Mike Bavier — President

### *The President's Message*

Two of the finest conferences in some time were held here in Illinois this fall — the Illinois Turfgrass Conference and the Midwest Turfgrass Clinic. It was unfortunate for those of you who were unable to attend for one reason or another.

The Illinois Conference held the latter part of November was well attended by the Chicago area boys, and I think we are finally realizing what a great asset we have in the Illinois Turf Foundation and Dr. Turgeon. Dr. Turgeon has many outstanding programs started at Illinois but would probably admit his research program is just getting a good start. The local organizations have helped by showing moral and financial support to the Illinois Turf Foundation.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents were fortunate a few years ago to have the foresight to start a research fund for the Illinois Turf Foundation. Paul Voykin was on the education committee and Midwest board at this time and was very instrumental in starting the research fund, which now has turned out to be one of the best moves the Midwest has ever made. The need for continued research is endless. The benefits returned are many, not only to us but to our comrades and clubs in other areas. We must continue to support I.T.F. through membership, research grants, and our participation.

Not far behind the Illinois Conference was the Midwest Turfgrass Clinic. The change to one day seemed to work out quite well. The program participants were superb. The superintendents on the program did a commendable job — in fact, they did as well as the "pros". Fred Opperman and Dave Meyer should be congratulated on this fine meeting and also on bringing back our good friend Dr. Paul Alexander. One comment that was mentioned during the Clinic about superintendents discussing topics other than turf diseases had an adverse effect on me and maybe on some of you. When we get to the point we know all there is to know or want to know about turf diseases, maybe it is time to get into another business. My club, and I'm sure yours, too, still pays me for growing grass (a couple of my members might question this!). So it is of the utmost importance to continue to strengthen our knowledge through repetition and to seek new remedies in solving our turf problems. Don't get me wrong — we need diversification, too.

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