

## Director's Column



### What to Write About

by Dennis Wilson, CGCS

I could write a few lines about the Arrangements Committee and all the help I have received from Joel Purpur, Steve Cummings, and Brian Green, or maybe the Fall Dinner Dance and people like Dave Behrman, Carol Goodman and Dave Nadler who, by the way, picked up the cost of cocktails after dinner that night.

In January, we are always welcomed at Arrowhead Golf Club and this year was no exception. The speaker was Michael Crandal and he spoke for an hour to 100 plus members on performance enhancement. Bob Breen, Jr. we thank you and the staff at Arrowhead Golf Club.

Orlando, Florida and it's convention time. Dave and Penny Meyer did a great job, as usual, on the M.A.G.C.S. Hospitality Room, and of course thanks to those who supported the Golden Tee Club.

How about the Nordic Hills Golf Club lunch. We had 84 members enjoy a fine buffet and an insect update with Roscoe Randell. Afterwards, bowling and racquetball, compliments of Nordic Hills. Our thanks to Gene Thomson for setting up a great afternoon.

Lincolnshire Country Club meeting was great, with a mini equipment show, lunch on a great course, hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour and dinner. We wish to thank Lincolnshire Country Club and our best to Superintendent, Jerry Cooper at his new position.

Our Association is off and running into the 90's and I'm looking forward to being a part of the M.A.G.C.S.

### "The Fast Lane"

A touch of Summer's on It's way,  
And will summersault to Summer Day's.  
Same old question always arrives,  
Will It singe or fry alive?  
Be It wet or dry, cloudy or sunny,  
Bet You're gonna earn Your money.  
So enjoy the challenge that's on hand,  
For It will dominate Your plans.  
Heavy Play — lots of compaction,  
Relax — enjoy — You're in the Action.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

## Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Creates Research Endowment at MSU

East Lansing, MI — The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) has pledged \$1 million to Michigan State University's turf program, creating an endowment to fund faculty and graduate student research.

The gift supports MSU's first universitywide Capital Campaign, MSU 2000: Access to Opportunity, a five-year effort launched in May 1988.

"This gift continues a longstanding partnership between the university and the state's turf industry," said MSU President John DiBiaggio. "We are extremely grateful to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation for this gift and for the support of its members over the past 60 years."

The foundation's gift — its largest ever to MSU — will establish the Michigan Turfgrass Research Endowment Fund. Annual income from the new endowment will enable MSU to attract more graduate students. "Because our research is so labor-intensive, bright, dedicated graduate students are absolutely vital," explained Joseph M. Vargas, professor of botany and plant pathology whose work in turf management is world renown.

Vargas is investigating alternative pest management strategies, using biological methods to control pests and diseases and to minimize pesticide use. Developing environmentally safe methods is both time-consuming and expensive, he said. "The endowment will give us the flexibility to pursue this type of research."

MTF will solicit contributions to the endowment from its 1,000 members and from others interested in turfgrass research. Members include golf course superintendents, landscapers, lawn sprayers, sod growers, parks and recreation directors, schools, and cemeteries throughout Michigan. Gordon LaFontaine, executive secretary of the foundation, reported that 10 percent of the \$1 million goal has been raised so far.

"Our members see this as a sound investment in the state's fast-growing turfgrass industry," he said. Groups such as the Michigan Lawn Sprayers Association and the Michigan Cemetery Association have also joined the effort.

Since its founding nearly 60 years ago, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation has provided more than a half million dollars to support faculty and students at MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Foundation members played a major role in the development of the Hancock Turf Center, a research and educational facility on MSU's campus.

"The foundation offers not just financial support, but expert advise and guidance to our turf studies," said James H. Anderson, vice provost and dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Their involvement is a prime example of a state industry and the university working together to benefit students, faculty and, ultimately, Michigan's economy."

MSU's \$160 million Capital Campaign has raised more than \$130 million to date for student and faculty endowment, building projects and program enhancements.

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