

EDUCATION RECAP

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The June meeting education session, featured Pete Cookingham, Project Manager of the Turfgrass Information Center from Michigan State University. He brought good news to the membership of the MAGCS. The TGIF (Turfgrass Information File), formerly a fee paid subscription is now FREE to all MAGCS members. Here it is folks; everything you ever wanted to know about turf is available online for FREE. This is one stop shopping for all of your research and back up documentation on anything turf related. All turf, all the time. Did I mention it's FREE.

TGIF was established in 1983 by the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries. It is now maintained by the Turfgrass Information Center, a division of the MSU Libraries. The ultimate goal of TGIF is to identify all available materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance, to provide access to records representing each item, and when possible to provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item. The TGIF is designed to be flexible for all users, those accessing for the first time or for the more sophisticated researchers/users. TGIF provides bibliographical and descriptive records of all types of works related to turfgrass culture.

Sure you can "google" any turf related stuff but that's the equivalent of a search by a five year old. This is a site specific website designed for professionals like you. There is going to be more stringent requirements, environmental issues and challenges in the future. We live in the "Information Age". You need to have better, more timely, information. This is it. There's' also some old issues of National Greenkeeper magazine that makes for some fun reading. Over 90% of the content was published between 1968 and the present.

Go online to the MAGCS website and look on the homepage under **Resources**. From **Resources**, click down to the **On Course Archives** menu option. Using your Name and your Password, log in to the MAGCS Member-Only Area. Click on "Full Database-Search Now-Turfgrass Information File". Click on "Click here to search TGIF graphic. Follow through with reviewing the conditions and terms and enter the data base. From there it's very similar to a google search using specific phrases.

The TGIF must be accessed via the MAGCS website to get the free discount.

Check it out, any problems; just contact our dedicated on-line nerd, Luke Cella for more information. **-OC**



Cliff Haka, Director of MSU Libraries, and Pete Cookingham, Project Director TGIF, explain the real benefits of our partnership with Michigan State and using the Turfgrass Information File. For an overview of the talk and detailed instructions on how to best use the site visit: <http://tic.msu.edu/magcs-tgif-june-2008.doc>