

WELCOME

Fritz McMullen, President
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

I would like to welcome you to the opening session of the 61st Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference. It is indeed a pleasure to see the large number of people attending this conference, we expect a registration of 1,200 people. The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation works very closely with the professors at Michigan State University in planning and sponsoring the conference each year. I would like to compliment the M.T.F. Conference Planning Committee chaired by John Maddern and the Michigan State University staff for another outstanding program.

Recognizing the ongoing need for research, the foundation board donates nearly \$80,000 a year for specific research projects at Michigan State University. In the year 1990 we were able to start two new programs at MSU: 1) the hiring of an Environmental Turfgrass Specialist to help educate the turfgrass industry on environmental issues (we would like to welcome Frank Rossi to MSU as our Environmental Turfgrass Specialist), and 2) we were able to start our first Turfgrass Mechanics program this year. This program is part of the Life Long Education system at MSU and is being taught by Dr. Cliff Jump and Frank Galbavi.

We must remember that it is a joint effort that makes all of these programs possible. Michigan State University, the professors and grad students, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, fund raising events, donations and you the members through your membership dues, make it all possible. We trust that you will benefit from the research reports and educational programs that we will share with you throughout the conference and throughout the year.

Again, welcome and thank you for your support.