

## WELCOME

**Fritz McMullen, President  
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation  
Forest Lake Country Club  
Bloomfield Hills, MI**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this opening session of the 62nd Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, one of the longest running conferences in the country. We are pleased to see so many people here to participate in the conference. Historically, we have placed a strong emphasis on the educational program for our conference. Again, we believe we have excellent speakers and interesting topics. Special thanks go to the M.T.F. Conference Planning Committee for their efforts in planning the conference. I especially appreciate the leadership of Jon Maddern, chair of the committee. Planning for a conference like this takes a lot of time and careful organization.

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and Michigan State University cosponsor this conference. We work very closely with the professors and administrators at M.S.U. in many ways. For example, M.T.F. donates nearly \$80,000 annually to support turf research at M.S.U. Additionally, we will invest \$50,000 in the expansion of the research plots at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Many companies have also contributed equipment and supplies for the maintenance of the plots as well as the expansion efforts. We support the educational programs with scholarships to encourage bright young people in the industry. Additionally, we have been very active in bringing Dr. Frank Rossi to M.S.U. Many of you have already benefitted from his environmental education programs throughout the state and recognize the importance of this type of activity in our profession. We want to continue to support research, teaching and extension programs at M.S.U. As an industry, we can be proud of the support we provide to the university. We believe the results will benefit all of us.

For any venture to be successful, a cooperative effort is necessary. We recognize it is necessary for all of us to work together in continuing to keep turf management strong in Michigan. I encourage you to be involved in the various activities which support turf: this conference, the Field Day on August 20; various fund raising events, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and your local turf organizations. Get involved. Communicate your ideas to one of the members of the Board of Directors of the M.T.F. or to one of the turf professors.

We trust you will benefit from the educational part of this conference, as well as from discussions with other turf professionals. Thank you for your ongoing support of M.T.F. and have a great conference.