

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Gary Bartsch

Michigan State University (MSU) and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) extends a most cordial welcome to this 70th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center, 6820 South Cedar, Lansing.

On behalf of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to this year's conference. The MTF is proud of its long standing and productive relationship with MSU. The mission of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is to work in partnership with Michigan State University supporting ongoing programs in research, education, and extension in the area of professional turfgrass management, that will benefit all individuals who manage or derive pleasure from the results of such management. Your MTF Board of Directors continue to work hard in keeping our mission statement. This year's conference is no exception. Please take advantage of everything that you as a member can receive over the next four days.

This conference would not happen without the remarkable partnership that occurs between MSU and the MTF, and more importantly your participation. Your attendance shows how important learning is and how committed you are to face the many new challenges that lie ahead of you. As in the past, this year's program is excellent. Each year the conference planning committee does an outstanding job of setting up topics of interest and speakers. Whether you learn new ideas in a workshop, a formal session, or by talking to fellow turf professionals, when you return home and apply them, you will be increasing your professionalism, plus providing a better, healthier turf and environment for those who you serve.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to grow with you these past two years. It has been an exciting journey, filled with enthusiasm, support, dedication, and professionalism. I am proud to be a part of such an outstanding organization and ask each member of the MTF to take the next step and get involved in your industry. There is no greater reward than volunteerism. You will be amazed at what you learn and what friends you will meet. Become an active member and contact one of our MTF Board members to find out how to get involved in building a stronger Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Please take advantage of everything this conference has to offer you.