

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Tom Gray

Michigan State University and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation extend a most cordial welcome to this 71st Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference at the Holiday Inn – South/Convention Center in Lansing.

On behalf of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to the 71st Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference. The program you will see over the next four days is an example of how this industry supports the MTF's mission statement of Education, Extension, and Research for turfgrass managers and end users.

This Conference would not happen without the great partnership between MSU and MTF and, more importantly, your participation. Your attendance shows how important learning is, how committed you are to face the many new challenges that lie ahead, and how strong this program is. Each year the conference planning committee does a great job of identifying important subjects and lining up speakers, and this year is no exception. In fact, it is hard to choose which topic to attend in person. Whether you learn new ideas in a workshop, formal session, or by talking to fellow managers, you will increase your professionalism, and ultimately provide better, healthier turf and environments for those you serve.

To conclude, I would 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 will learn and the friends you will meet. Become an active member. Contact one of your MTF Board members on how to get involved in building a stronger MTF. It is an exciting time and well worth the effort. See you at the **ANNUAL MEETING**.

The publication of these Proceedings serves two purposes: (1) to disseminate information presented at the Conference to other educational organizations associated with turfgrass management, and (2) to serve as a reference for attendees; a reminder of sessions they attended and an overview of presentations they missed. The value of this publication should not be underestimated. It is hoped you will refer to it throughout the year.