

## **President's Welcome Message**

### **Tom Smith**

On behalf of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, I would like to welcome you to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference. This annual conference is one very important and visible way MTF fulfills its mission to support teaching, extension, and research at MSU for the betterment of all involved and interested in turfgrass. The program you will experience over the next four days represents the best and the brightest in the field of turfgrass science. Michigan continues to be a leader in turf, and this Conference provides a showcase for MSU and our turfgrass industry.

I would also like to welcome our out-of-state speakers and guests, who add a rich depth to all of us attending this Conference. The committee continues to do a remarkable job in attracting such a talented group.

In addition to fulfilling our mission, this 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference illustrates the tremendous partnerships MTF has developed. First is the partnership we have with Michigan State University. This relationship continues to flourish because of the dedication of faculty, staff, and administrators at MSU. I thank you!

But the MTF is a partnership itself, made up of various segments involved in the culture, management, and growth of turfgrass in Michigan. Our funding demonstrates this, as well as our commitment to answer basic and applied scientific questions related to all areas of turfgrass. Our strength lies in this unified effort.

Without doubt, our most important partner is you. By attending this Conference, you send a message that you are committed to knowledge and professionalism. That commitment hopefully extends beyond this Conference to involvement in our industry on a regular basis. History is best measured from a distance, and as we look back on the rapid growth and success of our industry and the valuable partnerships we may now take for granted, it is clear that our success is a result of the hard work and dedication of individuals like yourself. I urge you to stay involved to continue this legacy of 72 years that we celebrate this week.

Finally, what would this Conference be without the renewal of friendships, the exaggerated stories of the past, and the remembrances of those who are no longer with us. This 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference continues to be about people. Make new friendships, renew old ones, and enjoy your time learning!

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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.