



## MICHAEL J. BLADON EDUCATIONAL LINK TO MSU ESTABLISHED

### GRANTING ACCESS TO WORLD'S MOST EXTENSIVE PUBLIC COLLECTION OF TURFGRASS MATERIAL

The Sports Turf Association, at its Annual Meeting on February 19, 2008, announced the establishment of the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link to the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). The blanket subscription provides an opportunity for the association to not only make the resources of the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) available to its membership, but also as a way to support the continued expansion of the content and availability of the center's information

#### History of the Turfgrass Information Center & the Turfgrass Information File

In the 1960s, the Michigan State University (MSU) Library began to collect printed turfgrass materials. In 1968, the personal collection of the late O.J. Noer, pioneer turf agronomist, was added to the library holdings through the O.J. Noer Foundation. Later gifts have included the Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection (on indefinite loan), the Scotts Company Archive, and most significantly, the James B. Beard Turfgrass Library Collection. Today, the combined

collections are recognized as the most extensive public collection of turfgrass material in existence.

Between 1983 and 1992, the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Program supported the development of the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). Using the Noer Collection as a foundation, TGIF was designed to systematically inventory published turf research and make the bibliographic information available via a computerized database (<http://tic.msu.edu>).

The TGIF database is now accessible online. With over 125,000 searchable items using over 300,000 keywords, these resources cover the full scope of the turfgrass industry. The database monitors over 320 journals and magazines, including the STA's *Sports Turf Manager*, research reports, and conference proceedings. In addition, the database includes records for extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, theses and dissertations, web documents, published Q & As, scanned golf course plans, and video interviews with selected members of the American Soci-

ety of Golf Course Architects, sample photographs from the Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection, and more!

#### The Michael J. Bladon Educational Link

It is only fitting that the portal to this information resource be named after the Sports Turf Association's founder, Michael J. Bladon. It was Michael who provided the impetus for the inaugural meeting in 1987. He became the association's first president and has since served as past president, director, and editor of and contributor to the *Sports Turf Newsletter*, now the *Sports Turf Manager*. He has played a role in most, if not all, association initiatives. Mike was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the year 2000. He retired from the Board of Directors in 2002.

In an era of increasingly restricted chemical use and water availability, an ever-wider range of techniques and tools will be needed by managers to respond to user expectations. The TIC is the vehicle by which the information required to support research, education and management is made available for all of these efforts.

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The TGIF provides access to better information, which converts to more effective management of turf facilities, whether athletic fields, golf courses, or other managed landscapes.

Sports Turf Association members can now access this information via the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link. Login to [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com) and follow the link under the members only section. ♦

**Above:** Recently retired STA Director Bob Sheard (left) with Michael Bladon and his wife Elaine at STA's Annual General Meeting.

# More Sports Turf Association News

## 2008/2009 Officers & Directors

The Sports Turf Association (STA) elected its 2008/2009 officers and directors at the annual meeting held during the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, February 19, 2008.

Gord Dol, of Dol Turf Restoration Ltd., continues as President of the STA for a second term. Elected officers include Paul Gillen of AerWay/Vice-President, Andrew Gaydon of Vanden Bussche Irrigation/Secretary, and directors Jane Arnett-Rivers/Town of Oakville, Dave Chapman/City of Toronto, Bob Kennedy/Sport Turf Management Solutions, Grant Mckeich/Town of East Gwillimbury and Paul Turner/G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. Others currently serving are Rick Lane of Haldimand County/Treasurer and directors Cam Beneteau/Ridley College, Murray Cameron/City of Guelph, Bill Clausen/University of Guelph, Paul Cooper/Turf Care Products Canada, and Rob Field/Plant Science, Inc. Longtime director Robert W. Sheard has stepped down from the Board of Directors.

## 2008 Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Recipient

The Sports Turf Association Scholarship Program was established in 1993 to encourage, support and provide leadership



to those considering a career in the sports turf industry. The 2008 recipient of the R.W. Sheard Scholarship, announced at the Association's annual meeting, is Timothy Armstrong. Tim, a second year student in the University of Guelph's Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program, is from Blenheim, Ontario and spent his required summer internship working at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. He was previously seasonally employed by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Parks and Recreation Department. He graduates this spring. For scholarship details and an application form, visit the STA website.



## STA WEBSITE UPDATE

[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

As part of our 20th anniversary tune-up, a project to revise and update our website was implemented. In the primary phase, the improvement was in the approach, not the appearance, as we moved to a content management system. The password-protected members only section was introduced and the *STA Membership Roster*, historically updated by annual print inserts, was replaced with a web-based version.

We have recently 'gone live' with the secondary phase of the project. In this phase the changes are very much 'out in front' and we hope you like our new look.

In order to access the members only resources, you will need to login as a user on the website.

In order to do this for the first time, please follow the directions outlined below.

1. Click on 'Login' (upper right corner below the header picture);
2. Click on the link 'Forgot Password?';
3. Enter your email address in the field provided, click on 'Send Password' and a user name & password will be sent to your email address;
4. Once you receive your user name and password you will be able to login, allowing you access to all password-protected areas;
5. Upon initial login, please review your profile information and update, if necessary. This forms the basis of our membership directory.

We trust you will find the improved STA website to be a valuable resource!

**STA  
MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTORY NOW  
ONLINE**