



## Seasons Greetings

from Lee & the Board of the Sports Turf Association

### TURF... LIKE A FINE WINE?

Wine connoisseurs are noted for their unique and vibrant descriptions of fine wines. Having said that, have you ever wondered how turfgrass might be described if it were judged in somewhat the same manner?

Turfgrass Connoisseur  
Natural Turfgrass, 96-100 points  
"Provides a refreshing scent of nature combined with an earthy aroma that encircles the senses in a joyous celebration of environmental effervescence. Can be enjoyed throughout the day; be it in the early hours as dew enhances and brings out its inviting fragrance; midday with its cool-to-the-flesh approachability, or in the early evening when its lush and robust scent seems to cloak the air like a wondrous yet faint perfume that elevates the consciousness, the human spirit and the senses. The soft, subtle fragrance provides refreshing hints of childhood memories and memories yet to be."

— Jim Novak, *Turfgrass Producers International E-Newsletter*, Vol. 1 (5) Dec. 2008

## STA PARTNERS WITH MSU TO INCREASE FULL TEXT ACCESS TO TURF RESOURCES

**A**t its Annual General Meeting in February 2008, the STA announced the establishment of the Michael J. Bladon Educational Link to the Michigan State University's (MSU) Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). The blanket subscription provides an opportunity for the association to make the resources of the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) available to its membership and, in addition, support the continued expansion of the content and availability of the Center's information.

make available *to the public* the complete back files of our *Sports Turf Newsletter* and *Sports Turf Manager*. Future issues will be accessible on the archive site six months after publication. In embarking on this project, scheduled for completion in 2009, we join the ranks of such publishers as the International Turfgrass Society, Sports Turf Research Institute, Sports Turf Managers Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association who, along with

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**MSU has the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world.** And the Sports Turf Manager is now part of this invaluable resource. STA members can access it via our website.

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Access to the *full text* (not just abstracts) of research reports, periodicals and other management content can be challenging as most turf professionals don't live near a research library. This access is changing. The Turfgrass Information File, originally conceived to index and abstract the literature of turfgrass, has now taken dramatic steps to increase user access to the full text of articles. And the STA is on board.

The Sports Turf Association is partnering with MSU to digitize and

others, provide the more than 35% of linked full text articles in the TIC's primary database.

The Turfgrass Information Center contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. STA members can 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.

### LETTER

#### To President Gord Dol, Members of the Board of Directors, Executive Manager Lee Huether and Fellow STA Members

Thank you for the extraordinary gift of the Michael J. Bladon Link to the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File. There were many who played an important role in the formative years of the Sports Turf Association and to whom appreciation must be expressed. These include my wife Elaine and family for their administrative contributions, and the many members of past boards whose hard work and dedication has brought the association where today it plays an important role in the sports turf industry. I am pleased that the board has made this link available as an invaluable resource for those involved in turf for both present and future generations.

Sincerely  
Michael J. Bladon

