

THE
ANNIVERSARY



Michigan Turfgrass **CONFERENCE**

January 7-9, 2020



MICHIGAN
TURFGRASS
FOUNDATION
MTF
Education • Research • Extension
FOUNDED 1957

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

• • •

TO REGISTER: www.michiganturfgrass.org

Why Support the **Michigan Turfgrass Foundation?**

Not to be confused with trade organizations, membership in the MTF is direct support for research at the Turfgrass Research Program at MSU.

The MTF Mission Statement:

“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 turfgrass or derive pleasure from the results of such management.”

Your membership dues fund a significant portion of the research that the MSU Turf Team conducts each year.

Thank you for supporting Turfgrass Research and continuing research education at MSU.

Sincerely,

MTF Board of Directors

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What You Need to **KNOW**

Conference Hotel:

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
219 S. Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-432-4000
Website: Kelloggcenter.com

Welcome to the 90th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Conference

This year marks the 90th year for the Michigan Turfgrass Conference. As a tribute to the 90 years, the MTF would like to recognize the classes of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 from the MSU Turf Program. We will be displaying some class pictures at the vendor halftime show, and welcome any graduates to submit any items of interest that may relate to their time at MSU Turfgrass Program.

We have put together three full days of education consisting of golf, athletic fields, grounds, lawn care, and equipment. You will get up to date findings on many topics including fertility, soils, diseases, weeds, pesticides, and many other related turf topics. Check out the schedule and plan to attend! Education credits are available, and online registration is now open.

The vendor halftime show has been a crowd favorite for the conference for many years and always draws a large crowd. It's a great way to unwind from an engaging day of learning with some food, drinks and to catch up with old colleagues. The annual silent auction will also be set up during that time to help raise money for the Dr. Paul Rieke Endowment, which supports the graduate assistant program at MSU. If you're a venter looking to get some exposure to a wide variety of people you won't want to miss this show. Tables are filling up quick so contact us now to reserve your table!

The Kellogg Center provides us an incredible place to host our conference and provide past MSU turf students a chance to come back and visit the campus. Lunch is offered across the street at Brody Hall. The Kellogg Center also offers an in-house dining and bar at the State Room for your enjoyment.

As always, I would like to thank the following people for their continuous hard work and dedication putting together this outstanding event: Dr. Kevin Frank, Carey Mitchelson, Dan Mausolf, Mark Wildeman and Scott Rettmann.

See you soon!

Curt Boak

Vice President/Conference Chair
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation
cmb@lawntechofmi.com



Please Contact the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center for Hotel Reservations

Phone: 800-875-5090
Group Code: **1901MITURF**
Group Rate: \$120.00 per night. Exp. 12/04/19

ATTIRE: Business Casual (slacks and a collared shirt for men and comparable for women) is the preferred conference attire. Jeans, t-shirts, and ball caps are discouraged.

DINING: On your own

MDARD PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS -

Tuesday, Jan. 7 — 6 3A, 3B, 6, Comm Core
Wednesday, Jan. 8 — 6 3A, 3B, 6, Comm Core
Thursday, Jan. 9 — 7 3A, 3B, 6, Comm Core

GCSAA EDUCATION POINTS -

Tuesday, Jan.7 — 0.60 education points
Wednesday, Jan. 8 — 0.60 education points
Thursday, Jan. 9 — 0.75 education points

STMA CEUS - TBD

INDIANA CCHS -

Tuesday, Jan.7 — 6 3B, 1 7A, 1 8, 7 RT
Wednesday, Jan. 8 — 6 3B, 6 RT
Thursday, Jan. 9 — 3 3B, 3 RT

ON-SITE REGISTRATION HOURS:

Tuesday 8 am-noon
Wednesday 8 am-noon
Thursday 8am-10am

Michigan Turfgrass Conference Speaker Spotlight



Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University: “What’s New in Golf Turf Cultivation and Organic Matter Management” Wednesday 11 am and “Selecting Kentucky bluegrass and Tall Fescue Cultivars” Thursday 2:30 pm

Cale Bigelow is a Professor at Purdue University specializing in Turf Science and Ecology and is part of the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department. He is heavily involved in undergraduate instruction and advising. His applied research program is focused on urban sustainability issues. This involves the evaluation of turfgrass species and cultivars for the region, studying nutrient management and soil related problems in fine turf areas, management programs utilizing plant growth regulators for recreational turf areas and more recently has been focused on urban water use, acute drought events and best management practices to conserve water.



Paul Giordano, Bayer Green Solutions Team: “Perception vs. Reality: Dispelling Misinformation with Scientific Reasoning” Thursday 10 am, and “Creating a Weed Management Program for Sports Fields” Thursday 2:30 pm

Dr. Giordano is a turfgrass pathologist and member of the Bayer Green Solutions Team. He provides technical sales support and product development insights to the turf and ornamental industry throughout the Northeastern U.S. Prior to joining the U.S. team, Paul served as the technical lead and R&D coordinator for Bayer Environmental Science in Canada. He has experience in both applied and basic turfgrass research earning a B.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences, a M.S. in Plant Pathology and a Ph.D. in Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences from Michigan State University.



Dr. Brandon Horvath, Univ. of Tennessee: “Planning a Disease Management Program for High Value Turf” Wednesday 10 am; “Managing Pythium Diseases” Wednesday 12:30 pm; Thursday 9 am “A Brief History of Turf Management Practices”; “Considering Granular Fungicide Applications” Thursday 1:30 pm

Brandon Horvath is an associate professor of turfgrass pathology in the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Tennessee where he’s been since May 2009. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in turfgrass pathology from Michigan State University. He received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University in agronomy with a minor in plant pathology. He has worked at several championship golf courses and conducts research in the area of turfgrass disease epidemiology that enables turfgrass managers to maintain healthier turfgrass stands with fewer chemical inputs.



Gina Rizzi, ARCUS Marketing Group: “You Know You’re a Badass - What does Everyone Else See? And Why Does it Matter” Wednesday 2:30 pm, “High-Octane Teamwork! Transitioning Crews into Cohesive Teams” Thursday 10 am

Gina Rizzi, President of ARCUS Marketing Group and Radius Sports Group, is a speaker and passionate advocate for helping organizations drive innovation and financial performance while positively impacting society and the environment. Founded in 2010, ARCUS provides marketing strategy, sports marketing, media, and corporate social responsibility services for Fortune 500 companies. Radius, a wholly-owned subsidiary, provides sustainability consulting within golf and sports.

Gina received her MBA, Cum Laude, from the University of Notre Dame, BA Advertising, High Honors, from Michigan State, Certificates in GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards, Sustainable Energy Management from Presidio Graduate School, and Sustainability Best Practices from the Global Business Travel Association. She is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, WE ARE GOLF Diversity Task Force, and a GCSAA Affiliate member.



Julie Stachecki, Site Specific Inc.: “Protect your Oak Trees: Oak Wilt, an Invasive Fungus” Wednesday 10:30 am, and “Tree Problems – What’s Going to Kill my Trees Next?” Wednesday 1:30 pm

Julie Stachecki represents Site Specific, Inc, a company she founded in 1994. Site Specific provides turfgrass, tree and ornamental consulting services and training for golf courses, cemeteries, commercial and residential landscapes. Prior to an early career in landscape design, Julie’s roots started at Michigan State University where she graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Horticulture, as well as, Park and Recreation Resources. Julie holds a Master’s of Science Degree in Crop and Soil Sciences with a turfgrass management emphasis also from MSU. She has been a Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture since the late ‘90’s, and currently serves as President of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan.



Bob Vavrek: “30 Years as a USGA Agronomist – Tales from the Road” Tuesday 10 am

After 30 years with the USGA, Bob recently retired. During his time with the USGA he managed Green Section activities, such as Course Consultation Service visits and USGA Championship preparation, for golf facilities

throughout the 13 state Central Region. He is the author of numerous articles regarding various aspects of turf maintenance in domestic and international publications.



Bruce Williams: “Negotiating Tactics for Golf Course Superintendents” Tuesday 9 am, “Developing Skills that Set You Apart” Wednesday 9 am, and “50 Years of Industry Tips, Tricks, and Lessons Learned in Golf and Turf”, Thursday 1:30 pm

Bruce Williams has been making presentations to golf and turf groups for over 45 years. Born and raised on a golf course he is the son of a renowned golf course superintendent, Bob Williams. Bruce is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and also Michigan State University in the Turfgrass Management Program. He spent 21 years as the golf course superintendent at Bob O’Link Golf Club in Highland Park, IL and 14 years as Director of Golf Courses and Grounds at The Los Angeles Country Club. Bruce has been involved in leadership positions for 4 decades in golf and turf. He has been the president of the following chapters: Midwest, Chicagoland, Southern California and California. In 1996 he was the President of the GCSAA as was his father in 1958. Currently Bruce serves as a Director for the California Alliance for Golf. He also serves on the USGA Green Section Committee and is the Executive Director of The California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation.



Dr. Chris Williamson, University of Wisconsin: “Ants, Worms, and Pesky Insects in Golf Turf”, Tuesday 9:30 am and “Insect Management in Lawns” Thursday 3:30 pm

GOLF SESSION (Big Ten A)

- » **9:00 AM**
Negotiating Tactics for Golf Course Superintendents – Bruce Williams
- » **10:00 AM**
30 years as a USGA Agronomist: tales from the road – Bob Vavrek
- » **11:00 AM**
Turfgrass Pathology Research Update – Dr. Joe Vargas, MSU
- » **11:30 AM**
Reviewing 2019: Dead Grass and Nutrition Research Update – Dr. Kevin Frank, MSU

LUNCH 12:00 PM

- » **1:30 PM**
Creating Championship Turf: The Importance of Having Sharp Cutting Units – Doug Veine, Bernhard and Company
- » **2:30 PM**
Heavy Metal, Speed, and Weed – Dr. Thom Nikolai, MSU
- » **3:30 PM**
Understanding the Basic Principles of Sprinkler Audits – Michael Kuhn, Michael Kuhn and Associates, Inc.

- » **4:30 PM** Annual Meetings MiGCSA, MTF, MiSTMA

LAWNS, ATHLETIC FIELDS, AND GROUNDS SESSION (Lincoln)

- » **9:00 AM**
Recommendations for Solving Turf Problems: Mixing Science and Common Sense – Dr. Kevin Frank, MSU
- » **10:00 AM**
Smart Lawns, Minimum Pesticide Use, and Organic Lawn Care – Dr. David Smitley, MSU
- » **11:00 AM**
When Applications Don't Work: Figuring Out Why? – John Stone, MSU

LUNCH 12:00 PM

- 1:30 PM**
Understanding Turf Diseases: Identification, Cultural Management, and Fungicide Recommendations – Dr. Joe Vargas, MSU
- » **3:30 PM**
Working Safely around Biting Stinging Insects – Howard Russell, MSU

- » **4:30 PM** Annual Meetings MiGCSA, MTF, MiSTMA

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS SESSION (Hancock Turfgrass Research Center)

- » Making the change from being a mechanic to an equipment manager – Skip Heinz, Royal Poinciana Golf Club
- » Electrical Trouble Shooting – John Garlets, Spartan Distributors

GOLF SESSION (Big Ten A)

- » **8:00 AM**
Grad Student Research Presentations – Ryan Bearss and Thomas Green
- » **8:30 AM**
Trying to Understand Nematodes – Fred Warner, MSU
- » **9:00 AM**
Research Update – Dr. Trey Rogers, MSU
- » **9:30 AM**
Ants, Worms and Pesky Insects in Golf Turf – Chris Williamson, PBI-Gordon
- » **10:30 AM**
Preventing Oak Wilt and Resources to Address It – Julie Stachecki, Site Specific Inc.

LUNCH 11:00 AM

GOLF SESSION (Auditorium)

- » **12:30 PM**
Managing Pythium Diseases – Dr. Brandon Horvath, Univ. Tennessee
- » **1:30 PM**
What's New in Golf Turf Cultivation and Organic Matter Management – Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University
- » **2:30 PM**
You Know You're a Badass - What does Everyone Else See? And Why Does it Matter – Gina Rizzi
- » **3:30 PM**
Scholarship Awards
- » **4:00 PM**
Vendor Half-Time Show

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS SESSION (Hancock Turfgrass Research Center)

- » Exploring the World of Equipment Managers – Skip Heinz, Royal Poinciana Golf Club
- » Cut Quality and After Cut Appearance – Bill Stone, John Deere/JW Turf
- » Panel Discussion on Tier 4 and Much More – Skip Heinz, John Garlets, and TBD

LAWNS, ATHLETIC FIELDS, AND GROUNDS SESSION (Lincoln)

- » **8:00 AM**
Weed Management: Everything I Know in 120 Minutes or Less – Dr. Thom Nikolai, MSU
- » **10:00 AM**
Planning a Disease Management Program for High Value Turf – Dr. Brandon Horvath, Univ. Tennessee

LUNCH 11:00 AM

- » **12:30 PM**
Developing a Fertilizer Program for High Value Turf – Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue Univ.
- » **1:30 PM**
Co-Existing with Trees: Tips for a Lasting Relationship – Julie Stachecki, Site Specific Inc.
- » **2:30 PM**
You Know You're a Badass - What does Everyone Else See? And Why Does it Matter – Gina Rizzi
- » **3:30 PM**
Scholarship Awards
- » **4:00 PM**
Vendor Half-Time Show

ASSISTANT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS SESSION (AUDITORIUM)

- » **8:00 AM**
Tips for Running an Effective Committee Meeting – Erwin McKone, Turf Ventures
- » **9:00 AM**
Developing Skills that Set You Apart – Bruce Williams
- » **10:00 AM**
Tournament Preparation – Bob Vavrek
- » **10:30 AM**
Reflections of a First Year Superintendent – Dave Makulski, Indianwood Golf & CC

LUNCH 11:00 AM

GENERAL SESSION (Big Ten C)

- » **8:00 AM**
Perception vs. Reality: Dispelling Misinformation with Scientific Reasoning – Dr. Paul Giordano, Bayer
- » **9:00 AM**
A Brief History of Turf Management Practices – Dr. Brandon Horvath, Univ. of Tennessee
- » **10:00 AM**
High-Octane Teamwork! Transitioning Crews into Cohesive Teams – Gina Rizzi, ARCUS Marketing Group
- » **11:00 AM**
When MIOSHA Visits: Consultation and Enforcement – Joseph Bantau and Augustine Syrový

LUNCH 12:00 PM

INNOVATIVE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS SESSION

- » **1:30 PM**
50 Years of Industry Tips, Tricks, and Lessons Learned in Golf & Turf – Bruce Williams
- » **2:30 PM**
Government Relations – Kyle Barton, Tam O'Shanter CC
- » **3:00 PM**
Staging the Inagural Rocket Mortgage Classic – Jake Mendoza and Evan Herman, Detroit Golf Club
- » **3:30 PM**
Renovating Essex Golf and Country Club – Chris Andrejicka, Essex Golf & CC
- » **4:00 PM**
Staffing Solutions that Work – Mike Morris, Crystal Downs CC

ATHLETIC FIELDS SESSION

- » **1:30 PM**
Pitching Mound Construction and Repair – Kelly Rensel, Great Lakes Loons
- » **2:30 PM**
Creating a Weed Management Program for Sports Fields – Dr. Paul Giordano, Bayer
- » **3:30 PM**
An Hour with Turf Doc – Dr. Trey Rogers, MSU

LAWN CARE SESSION

- » **1:30 PM**
Considering Granular Fungicide Applications – Dr. Brandon Horvath, Univ. of Tennessee
- » **2:30 PM**
Selecting Kentucky bluegrass and Tall Fescue Cultivars – Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue Univ.
- » **3:30 PM**
Turfgrass Insect Management – Dr. Chris Williamson, PBI Gordon

» **4:30 PM** Adjourn

VENDOR HALFTIME SHOW & SILENT AUCTION

January 8, 2020 • 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

In support of the Dr. Paul Rieke Graduate Assistantship Endowment, the Silent Auction returns to the 2020 MTF Conference, January 7-9 at the Kellogg Center on the beautiful MSU campus. The MTF is seeking contributions and gifts for the auction to support funding for an ongoing turfgrass graduate student position at MSU.

Your support can reflect your business, product line, or simply be a “good will” gesture of any non-related item. We will display your company name and logo along with your contributed item.

Dr. Rieke’s desire to ensure an ongoing turfgrass graduate assistant at MSU is a result of his active career of teaching, research, and extension work to promote turfgrass science. Dr. Rieke understood how critical these graduate assistants were to his endeavors and upon his retirement this endowment was created to honor his legacy.

The auction will be held during the vendor halftime show January 8, from 4:00-6:30 pm. If you would like to show your support for this vital endowment, please call or email me as noted below. You can also go to the MTF website at www.michiganturfgrass.org to make a contribution online. Thank you in advance for supporting the MSU turfgrass program and the Dr. Paul Rieke Graduate Assistantship Endowment.

Enjoy the conference!

Mark Wildeman, CGCS
mrwildeman@outlook.com
810.252.0848
www.michiganturfgrass.org



Fritz McMullen

2020 MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Fritz was raised in Caro, Michigan, a small farming community 30 miles east of Saginaw in the thumb. He graduated from high school in 1964. He married Dorinda Kellogg, also from Caro. They have 2 sons: Marc and Todd. Marc is married to Susie and they blessed the family with two grandsons, Connor 17 and Sean 14. Marc is a Golf Course Superintendent at North Star Resort in Truckee, CA. Todd lives in Manhattan, N.Y. and is General Manager of Kirsh Bakery and Restaurant.

Fritz went to Ferris State University in the fall of 1964 in the Industrial Arts program getting a degree in Arc Welding. He continued in 1965 in general studies. He played on the golf team at FSU in the spring of '65 and '66. In the fall of 1966, he enrolled at M.S.U. in the first class of the Turfgrass Management 2 year program, graduating in the spring of 1968.

He then became the Golf Course Superintendent at Inverness Country Club, a nine hole semi-private course outside of Chelsea, Michigan. In 1970, he became the Pro-Supt. manager of the club. In March of 1973, he became the Golf Course Superintendent at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. In 1978, he took on the role of Superintendent/General Manager at the club. In 1982, he returned to the position of Golf Course Superintendent until his retirement in the fall of 2011 after being at the club for 39 years.

As a superintendent, he spent many enjoyable hours with the following associations:

Michigan Golf Course Superintendent’s Association

Joined in 1968
Served on the Board of Directors for 8 years
Served as President in 2004
Representative on Michigan Golf Hall of Fame committee from 2012 - 2015

Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

Joined in 1969
One of the 100 original members of the Founder’s Society
Served on the Board of Directors for 11 years
President in 1990 and 1991

Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of America

Joined in 1968
Class A member in 1971
Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1976
Attended his first Convention in 1969, continuing each year through 2013 Served on the G.C.S.A.A. Golf Tournament committee for several years, starting in the 1970’s
In 2012, he was given the Superintendent Award of Merit from the G.A.M., M.T.F., M.G.C.S.A., M.S.U. & M.G.C.O.A.



With the closing of the 2019 season at hand it is my pleasure to reflect on the efforts of the MTF and update what lies ahead. A thank you to all the Board of Directors who provided the leadership of the finest Turf Foundation in the Country. The amount of time each of these individuals put into the Foundation is remarkable and is the reason for our success.

The past year the MTF had a great deal of interaction with the Michigan State University. Our commitment to providing the Turf Team with Graduate Assistantship on an annual basis began in earnest with the selection of two students to be awarded The Paul Rieke Turfgrass Endowed Graduate Assistantship. Jackie Guevara and Ann Souffer-Hopkins were chosen this spring and join Thomas Green as a past recipient in receiving this award. The Turf Team was asked how the MTF could best serve their efforts in research and the unanimous answer was to provide Graduate assistantship and the Foundation took their request to heart. Also, within the University, a new Chair was chosen for the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences and our own Turf Graduate Brian Horgan was selected to lead the Department into the future. Brian returns to MSU with passion and leadership that will benefit all those under his guidance.

The Mission of the Foundation is to financially support the MSU Turf Team and we thank all those who participated in our key events – TeeTimes4Turf, LaFontaine Golf Outing, Field Day and the Annual Turf Conference. The committees of each of these events were driven to bring the best results possible and provided plans to continue for future years.

Looking into the upcoming years the Foundations agenda includes reviewing membership designations and presenting the concept of “Research Supporters”. This natural terminology has been suggested over the years and the current MTF Board of Directors are considering the options available to more reflect our mission. Coming soon will also be our “20 for 2020” (20 clubs to support research in 2020) effort to engage golf clubs to help them better understand the significance of Turf Research and how their support of the MTF will ultimately benefit them as well.

Finally, many thanks to our membership and our Board of Directors for their vote of confidence and entrusting me with the affairs of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. We are on solid ground and will continue to be dedicated to continuous improvement.

Carey Mitchelson
Executive Director
Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

Candidates for **ELECTION** to the 2020 Board of Directors



BRAD LAZROFF

Brad is a proud graduate of the 2-year Golf Turf Management Program at MSU and has spent the last 12 years as a golf course superintendent. Currently Brad is the Golf Course Maintenance Supervisor at Huron Meadows Metropark in Brighton, MI where he oversees an 18-hole public golf course, a 1500-acre park with hiking trails and picnic facilities, and in the winter one of Southeast Michigan's top cross-country ski programs. Brad believes that being involved with the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is an opportunity to give back to the industry that has given him countless opportunities. The research being done at MSU with the MTF's support is an intricate part of our industries future, and it is exciting to be a part of that.



DAN MAUSOLF

I have been part of the green industry for a little over 22 years dedicating 19 of those years to golf turf and many aspects of golf business. Beginning in 2016, I altered career paths to pursue the professional lawn care industry. Currently, I serve as the General Manager at Stine Turf & Snow and have taken on responsibilities and titles including Landscape Industry Certified Manager, Certified Snow Professional as well as Advanced Snow Manager.

I am completing my first term on the Board of Directors and have served in several capacities including; Secretary, chairperson of Research and Field Day, Co-chair of the LaFontaine Outing and serve on the Conference committee. As current Treasurer of the Foundation I look forward to continuing my efforts to support the MTF and providing leadership for future boards.



DOUG JOHANNINGSMEIER

Doug Johanningsmeier here. I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and would like your support. Currently President of MTF it is my desire to stay involved with this organization that I have deep respect and passion for. I was first elected to the board in 1994 at the urging of Jim Bogart then President and spent nine years working on the Board before leaving in 2002. Re-elected to the Board in 2014 & 2017, and having worked on various committees including Membership, Field Day, Conference, Long Range Planning, Endowments, Founders, and Treasury feel confident my skillset would continue to benefit the mission of the Foundation in Education and Research grants in Agronomy through MSU. If reelected, it is my plan to seek a second term as president of the Foundation in 2020 then continue as a regular Board member through 2022, the end of the next term.

Starting with Turfgrass Inc. and currently employed by Harrell's LLC 2020 marks the 44th year in the Michigan Turfgrass industry. Seems like yesterday when I was one of the “young guys” Thank you for your support.



MATT GAVER

I started working on golf courses at 15 years old and found my passion for it early. I completed the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management 2-year program in 2002 and started full time at Winged Foot Golf Club. I was lucky enough to be part of hosting major events and worked my way up to West Course Superintendent. I then took on the challenge of a new course construction and grow in near Annapolis, Maryland, where I stayed for 5 years. Once my wife and I were expecting our daughter, we decided to get back to our home state of Michigan. I was excited to become the Golf Course Superintendent at Spring Lake Country Club in west Michigan in early 2013, and am still there today. Throughout my career, I have benefitted abundantly from data that turfgrass research provides. I have been honored to serve on the MTF Board for the past 3 years, and am eager to continue to do my part for such an amazing foundation.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Doug Johanningsmeier, Harrell's LLC
2020 Representing: Commercial Turfgrass

VICE PRESIDENT

Curt Boak, Lawn Tech
2020 Representing: Lawn Applicator

TREASURER

Dan Mausolf, Stine Turf and Snow
2020 Representing: Lawn Maintenance

SECRETARY

Mark Wildeman, Clio Country Club
2020 Representing: At-Large



To learn about other sustainable events on campus you can visit our website:
<http://bespartangreen.msu.edu>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expire 2020

Doug Johanningsmeier, Harrell's LLC
Representing: Commercial Turfgrass

Matt Gaver, Spring Lake Country Club
Representing: Western Michigan District

Brad Lazroff, Huron Meadows Golf Course
Representing: At-Large

Dan Mausolf, Stine Turf and Snow
Representing: Lawn Maintenance

Terms Expire 2021

Craig Moore, Marquette Golf Club-
Greywalls & Heritage
Representing: At-Large

Dan Lucas, Kingsley Club
Representing: Northern Michigan District

Jeff Holmes, Egypt Valley Country Club
Representing: At-Large

Scott Rettmann, Walnut Creek Country Club
Representing: Mid-Michigan District

Terms Expire 2022

Curt Boak, Lawn Tech
Representing: Lawn Applicator

Eric Davey, Prestwick Village Golf Club
Representing: Greater Detroit District

Mark Wildeman, Clio Country Club
Representing: At-Large

Kelly Rensel, CSFM Great Lakes Loons
Representing: Sports or Institutional Turf

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carey Mitchelson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Britany Vanderkodde

MSU TURF TEAM / SUPPORT STAFF

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Michael Piombino, Graduate Assistant

HANCOCK RESEARCH CENTER

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MSU TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER

Peter Cookingham, Head
Phone: 517-353-7209
www.tic.msu.edu



▶ The Importance to Your Organization

The development, testing, and evaluation of better turfgrasses and of better methods of turfgrass maintenance has a common interest for all facets of the turfgrass industry; it enhances the landscapes and provides better facilities for enjoyment of the recreational sports; it lessens the dust hazards and upkeep of airports and roadsides as well as play areas and cemeteries.

Through the cooperative participation: golf clubs, lawn care industry, parks, cemeteries, athletic associations, airports, ski clubs, seed, sod, and stolon growers, and organizations concerned with turf management, sufficient funds have been made available to do research in these important areas.

RESEARCH: The MTF's primary purpose is to raise money to support turfgrass research and education at MSU. The research generated by these contributions have led to practices that have improved turf maintenance throughout the world.

EDUCATION:


Turfgrass Conferences: The MTF, in cooperation with MSU, holds an annual 3-day turfgrass conference in January to present the latest findings on turfgrass management, fertility, soils, diseases, weeds, varieties, pesticides and other timely topics.

Field Days: The MTF supports the Michigan State University field days at East Lansing and also other locations in Michigan.

EXTENSION: The MTF has provided important monies for transportation, equipment and expenses which has allowed MSU personnel to visit the turfgrass industries of the state and help individuals solve their problems, often on an emergency basis.

Partners in the Turf Industry: The MTF partners gather the various segments of the industry to discuss and support in decisions that affect turfgrass management in Michigan.

Fundraising:

- Lafontaine Golf Benefit
- Tee Times 4 Turf 
- Individual Donations

Awards: "Meritorious Service Award" - Presented to an individual representing significant promotion of the Turfgrass Industry in Michigan

Student Scholarships: 4 scholarships are awarded annually

The Administration

The business affairs and the activities of the Michigan Turf grass Foundation are governed by a Board of Directors composed of twelve (12) members plus the Foundation Administrator. The Board of Directors is composed of representatives from each of the following organizations or groups:

- 1) Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (4 Members)
- 2) Michigan Sports Turfgrass Managers Association (1 Member)
- 3) Lawn Care Representative (1 Member)
- 4) Commercial Turfgrass Supplier Representatives (1 Member)
- 5) A Cemetery Park or Sod Grower Representative (1 Member)
- 6) Custom Lawn Care Representative (1 Member)
- 7) At Large (3 Members)

Financing

Research requires continuous support of all facets of the turfgrass industry. The MTF relies on membership fees, industry partners, individual donations and events to fund research.

We invite all organizations and individuals interested in the development of better turfgrasses and methods of turfgrass maintenance to become active members of the Foundation.

What is the Founders Society?

On behalf of the entire MTF community welcome to preparations and schedule for the 2020 90th annual MSU/MTF Turfgrass conference.

Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new friends while talking turf this January. There are many moving parts to the Foundation and this conference. One of those parts is the Founders Reception held in the Red Cedars room at Kellogg Tuesday evening during the conference. This may generate the question of “just what is the Founders Society?” and who gets invited to that reception? So, invites to the Founders reception are to Founders members, University personnel and administrators as well as other leaders involved in turfgrass management. Again, who is Founders?

To appreciate what, and why, Founders came to be let me to explain a bit about MTF funding for Turfgrass research. Basically, MTF is a foundation that raises money to support an ongoing program of support, research, and teaching in the science of Turfgrass Management through Michigan State University. The Foundation awards annual grants to the Turfgrass program to support this mission. These monies are raised through several events and programs held yearly such as Tee Times 4 Turf, the annual Turfgrass Conference and Field Day. In addition, the Foundation manages some investment accounts that were started to supplement these annual fundraising efforts. One of these investment accounts, Founders, was started in 1982 when the BOD of the foundation identified that Turfgrass Research was complex, and some research needed multiple year studies to provide answers and best management practices to those whose job was to maintain Turfgrasses for the people of Michigan to enjoy. A source of funding for multiple year projects and equipment to conduct these projects was identified.

The Founders Society was created to serve this purpose. The original concept was to solicit \$1000 apiece from 100 people that shared this vision for long term support of Turfgrass research. The design of the Founders fund was that the principle amount contributed by its members would

never be spent. It would only be the interest generated from those invested funds that would be allocated to research. Many folks worked to make this concept a reality. It was 5 Years from launch before the 100 original charter members of Founders pledged that \$1000 each. Donors could choose to pledge over time up to five years. The Emerald stone MTF Pin was the symbol of those that had joined this cause.

The original 100-member concept was expanded to include more members as well as additional levels of membership from \$250 Bronze membership all the way to \$5000 Double Diamond membership. Currently there are two Double Diamond fully paid members in Founders. Dr. Joe Vargas and Kathy Antaya.

Founders Funds are managed by the MTF through a standing committee of MTF board members and members of the Founders Society. Request for funding are presented to the Founders standing committee and this committee makes a recommendation to the full board for vote. As mentioned earlier the original concept was to find 100 people willing to commit \$1000 each. Today Founders has over \$500,000 in principle that can not be spent generating roughly \$63,000 each year to support Research and teaching at MSU. There is a complete list of projects and equipment purchased with these funds but to lengthy to list here.

Founders Society continues to except new members who want to contribute to this cause knowing their investment in Founders will generate research dollars forever in Turfgrass Science. Just last year Founders welcomed new members Jay Eccleton, Mark McCoy and Kevin Welp to this group.

Several of Founders Society founding members are now deceased including my dad Gene Johanningsmeier but their investment continues to pay it forward today. Should you desire more information contact current Founders Chairman Brad Lazrof, or MTF President Doug Johanningsmeier and we would be happy to discuss.

Cordially,

Doug Johanningsmeier,
MTF President