

**Turfgrass**  
Information Center

[tic.msu.edu](http://tic.msu.edu)

**Annual Report 2007**

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**



The **Turfgrass Information Center (TIC)**, a specialized unit at the Michigan State University Libraries (MSU), contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. TIC has over 130,000 records in its primary database, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), with over 30% linked to the full-text of the item.

The **Turfgrass Information File** is a cooperative project of MSU Libraries and the United States Golf Association.



**Turfgrass Information Center**  
Michigan State University Libraries  
100 Library  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048 USA

<http://tic.msu.edu>

phone: (517) 353-7209 • US and Canada Voice: 1-800-446-TGIF

fax: (517) 353-1975

email: [tgif@msu.edu](mailto:tgif@msu.edu)

Pete Cookingham .....[cooking1@msu.edu](mailto:cooking1@msu.edu) .....(517) 884-1950  
Sue Depoorter .....[depoort2@msu.edu](mailto:depoort2@msu.edu) .....(517) 884-1951  
Michael Schury.....[schurymi@mail.lib.msu.edu](mailto:schurymi@mail.lib.msu.edu) .....(517) 884-1952  
Leslie Behm.....[behm@msu.edu](mailto:behm@msu.edu) .....(517) 884-1953

©2008

Editor: Leslie M. Behm

Graphic Design: Theresa Moore

Photographs: Louis Villafranca

## CONTENTS

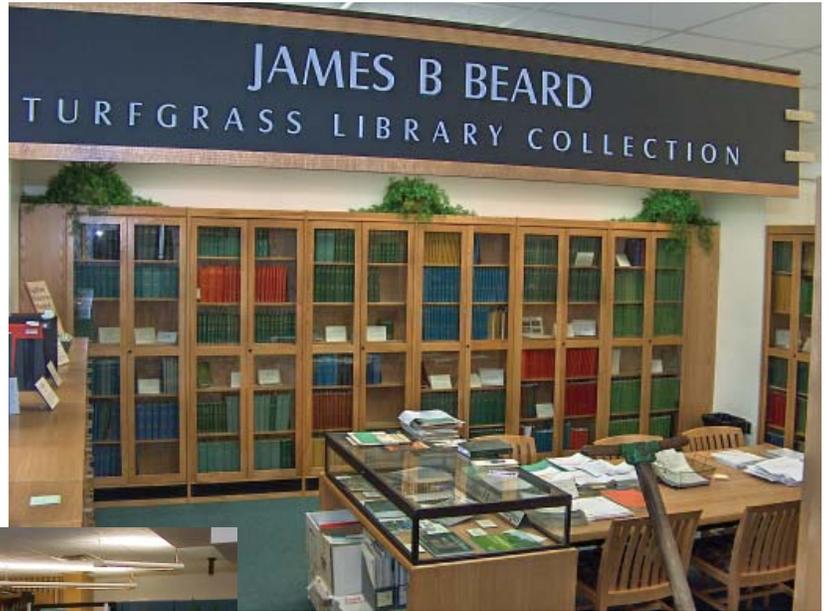
Overview of the Turfgrass Information Center .....	1
TIC Endowment Campaign.....	1
TGIF, the Database.....	2
TGIF Online: Modifications and Changes 2007.....	2
Database Construction .....	2
TGIF Summary Construction Statistics.....	3
Status of TIC from 1984 to 2007 .....	3
Toro Foundation Project.....	3
TIC Use and Users .....	4
Academic Institutions with Campus Wide Access .....	4
Organizational Blanket-Access Agreements.....	5
Corporations with Blanket Access .....	5
Individual Subscribers with their own Logon.....	5
TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics .....	5
Highlights of Efforts for Cooperators.....	6
Digitization .....	6
United States Golf Association (USGA) .....	7
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).....	7
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA).....	7
International Turfgrass Society (ITS) .....	7
Turfgrass Producers International (TPI).....	7
Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) .....	7
Cooperative Digital Archive Websites .....	8
Additional Efforts.....	9
United States Golf Association (USGA) .....	9
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).....	9
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).....	9
American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).....	9
Architectsof Distinction Prior to ASGCA .....	9
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) .....	10
Theses and Dissertations.....	10
Collections .....	10
James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection .....	10
Donations from Other Individuals .....	11
O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection .....	11
Historical Acquisitions .....	11
Donations to the Collection .....	11
Continuing Acquisitions for the Collection .....	12
Outreach and Publicity.....	12
Staffing .....	12
Volunteers and Interns.....	12
Full-time Staff .....	13
Student Employees.....	14
Library Administration .....	14
Facilities.....	14
How You Can Help .....	15
Future Directions.....	15

*“The Turfgrass Information Center is a unique and valuable resource for turfgrass scholars/researchers, as it offers rapid, complete online information retrieval.”*

– Dr. James B Beard, President, International Sports Turf Institute, Inc. and Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science, Texas A&M University

*“The TIC, by indexing and abstracting virtually everything that exists about turfgrass, insures that researchers, students, and practitioners all have access to the information necessary to move the world of turf management forward. It is imperative that this irreplaceable resource be placed on a secure financial basis. Your one-time gift to this endowment will provide the ongoing funds that will insure its continuation.”*

– Arthur Hills, Golf Course Architect



*“In this information age, access is the first step. The TIC is the most comprehensive collection of turfgrass information for homeowners, students, legislators, professionals, researchers, and*

*specialists. It is easy to use and the service is impeccable. I recommend a visit to the TIC for anyone needing information on the art and science of turfgrass management.”*

– Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science, Cornell University and New York State Extension Turfgrass Specialist

*“While writing regarding the impact humans have on the watershed for ISP 217: Water and the Environment, TGIF provided articles directly relating to my topic of interest, successfully enriching my studies.”*

– Emily Forrest, no preference Sophomore at MSU

## OVERVIEW OF THE TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) is a specialized unit at the Michigan State University Libraries. It contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. The Turfgrass Information File database (TGIF), TIC's primary database, now has over 130,000 records, and is the main access point for information on turfgrass whether it is in print, electronic, or other formats.

TIC was created in 1983 with an association between MSU Libraries and the United States Golf Association (USGA). Its actual roots began in the 1960s when an initiative to collect turfgrass publications was aided by the donation of the personal collection of O.J. Noer, a pioneering turf agronomist, through the O.J. Noer Foundation.

The Center has four primary functions:

-  Collect and preserve published and unpublished materials relating to turfgrass science, culture, and the management of turfgrass based facilities, including golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod farms, roadsides, institutional grounds, and other managed landscapes.
-  Provide precise and structured access to the collections, as well as available electronic and other turfgrass related resources.
-  Assist users of the collection and online system, by helping them to identify and locate materials that meet their needs.
-  Provide user workspace and cooperative electronic infrastructure in support of collaborative turfgrass scholarship.

## TIC ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

The endowment campaign will provide the financial resources to ensure the ongoing operation of TIC. The continuation of the Center and the production of TGIF are critical for the following reasons:

-  TIC activities continue a 40+ year effort to collect, inventory, and provide access to the literature of turf science and turf culture, with TGIF serving as the only bibliographic database that exclusively targets these areas.
-  TIC directly supports turfgrass research. Most turfgrass investigators depend on TGIF as their primary resource for identifying turf-related literature, past and present.
-  TIC and TGIF directly support improved turf education, including certificate, technical, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs for practitioners such as golf course superintendents and sports turf managers.
-  TGIF provides access to more comprehensive information, which translates to improved management of turf facilities whether athletic fields, golf courses, or other managed landscapes.

The current value of the endowment is approaching \$3,000,000 and we were pleased to receive new multi-year commitments during 2007 from the United States Golf Association Green Section, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

## TGIF, THE DATABASE

TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records of all types of works related to turfgrass culture. TGIF was established in 1983 by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries, and is now maintained by the Center. The ultimate goal of TGIF is to provide access to published materials reporting on all aspects of turfgrass and its maintenance.

### TGIF Online: Modifications and Changes 2007

In 2007, the following modifications and changes were made to enhance the usability of the web search interfaces and the TGIF output.

-  Color was added to the display formats of the web output of TGIF to improve readability of the results.
-  A Clear Marked Items button was added to the results page allowing for all marked items to be cleared so a user can start over marking a different set of results.
-  The DOIs (Digital Object Identifier) were made active, linking to the digital version of the article for publishers supporting this form of linking.
-  The display of a fastlink for a single TGIF record was enabled, allowing users to see the fastlink without having an additional browser window open.
-  Fastlink searches that produced no search results now have guidance notes facilitating user trouble-shooting.
-  For TGIF records with multiple-occurring URLs, the web URL image was changed to text reading “Multiple Web URL Options–Click Here for Table of Choices”.
-  The EndNote® filter was modified to work with the changes that have been made to the web output of TGIF.
-  The ASA/CSSA/SSSA (*Crop Science*-like) reference format automatically displays, so users do not need to open a new browser window.
-  Search results for “see also” link for book chapters are now sorted by page number.
-  For organizations with blanket access agreements to TGIF, the Welcome screens have been redesigned and now feature the organizations’ TIC-hosted electronic resources as well as a currently-featured archive.
-  The MSU Libraries’ online catalog’s bibliographic number was added to TGIF records enabling a link from TGIF to the MSU Libraries online catalog for items owned by MSU.

**What is DOI?** A Digital Object Identifier is a persistent identifier given to digital objects on the Internet, e.g. documents, data, and images. Unlike the URL system used on the Internet for web pages, the DOI does not change over time, even if the article is relocated. It is a way also to protect the copyright of material on the Internet.

### Database Construction

TGIF indexes a wide range of materials including periodical articles, monographs, fact sheets and pamphlets, images, and web documents. Most records in TGIF contain informative abstracts; some contain full-text or are linked to web-accessible full-text. Records in TGIF are indexed using controlled vocabulary from the *Turfgrass Thesaurus*, produced by the Turfgrass Information Center, with additional identifiers where needed.

This table shows the number records created each year from 2003–2007.

### TGIF Summary Construction Statistics

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
<b>TGIF Construction Statistics</b>					
New records created	12,259	9,732	9,035	7,448	8,423
Toro Foundation subset	2,668	2,633	2,637	2,623	1,873
Issues closed <sup>1</sup>	1,782	2,351	2,015	n/a	n/a
Zero-hit issues <sup>2</sup>	769	633	836	n/a	n/a
Records modified in current year, but created previously <sup>3</sup>	20,388	18,440	14,623	n/a	n/a
% Full-text	33%	24%	21%	n/a	n/a
Total records in database	130,732	118,473	108,741	99,707	92,266
<sup>1</sup> The issues closed are periodical issues which have had the descriptive record, indexing, and abstracting completed on all articles selected for inclusion in TGIF. <sup>2</sup> The zero-hit issues are periodical issues which were reviewed but no articles were selected for inclusion in TGIF. <sup>3</sup> The records modified in the current year are records that were edited or enhanced.					

### Status of TGIF from 1984 to 2007

Record Completion	Number
Descriptive Records	100%
Abstracted Records	72%
Indexed Records	57%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	32%
Full-text Available Records	33%
Full-text Available, Indexed and Abstracted Records	16%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-text Searchable Records	3%

Records are available in TGIF as soon as the descriptive record is added. As such, the number of descriptive records will also be the total records in TGIF. Once a descriptive record has been created, the material is then moved to the indexing or the abstracting process. Both of those processes take longer than the descriptive record. Records move from indexing to abstracting to complete the process. The full-text available, indexed, abstracted, and full-text searchable records are records that can be searched via TGIF to find words within the text of the material itself.

### Toro Foundation Project

In Year V of a series of Toro Foundation grants, to support the retrospective indexing of materials published prior to 1984, a total of 2,668 new descriptive bibliographic records were added to TGIF. The periodical titles that now have additional content identifiable within TGIF include: an additional 2,119 records from *Golf Superintendent*, *Golf Course Reporter*, and *Golf Course Management* (GCSAA); 18 additional records from *Weeds/Weed Science*; an additional 64 records from *GreenMaster* processed from previously unavailable issues which are now included in the archive site for this title maintained cooperatively with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association; an additional 127 records from the *Proceedings of the National/International Golf Course Conference & Show* (GCSAA), and 341

records from miscellaneous pre-1984 monographic sources including 65 theses, 2 dissertations, 144 extension bulletins/factsheets/other booklets, 19 book chapters, 103 books and technical reports, etc. (published 1870-1983).

To see a live set of sample TGIF records processed during this fifth year of processing: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=Torosamples07>.

As a result of the Toro Foundation's generosity, 34 student employees worked part-time within TIC to add bibliographic records for turfgrass research and management materials that are now identifiable online via the TGIF database. This project continues the process of systematically adding to the database turf-related materials published prior to the state of the construction of TGIF in 1984. During the five years of Toro support for the project, 12,432 records have been added to TGIF.

## TIC USE AND USERS

Most of the use of the Center revolves around the use of TGIF, the database. In addition, the TIC public website is also used to find information about TGIF and how to use it, how to subscribe to TGIF, and other information about TIC.

Subscription information as an Academic, Association, Corporate, or Individual to TGIF can be found at: <http://tic.msu.edu/subscribe.html>.

### Academic Institutions with Campus Wide Access

The Perpetual institutional subscribers now represent 32 states in the USA, 4 Canadian provinces, and 5 other countries.

- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College - Georgia
- California Polytechnic State University
- Central Piedmont Community College - North Carolina
- Clemson University - South Carolina
- Colorado State University
- Cranfield University - United Kingdom
- Elmwood College - Scotland
- Fairview College - Alberta
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Kishwaukee College - Illinois
- Michigan State University
- National Agricultural Library - USDA
- New Mexico State University
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State University
- Nova Scotia Agricultural College
- The Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City
- Olds College - Alberta
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University - Indiana
- Red River College - Manitoba
- Rutgers University - New Jersey
- Sheridan College - Wyoming
- Southern Illinois University
- State University of New York, Cobleskill
- State University of New York, Delhi
- Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet - Sweden
- Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture - Ireland
- Texas A&M University - College Station
- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- University of Connecticut
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Guelph- Ontario
- University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
- The University of Maryland
- University of Minnesota - Crookston
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of Missouri - Columbia
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- University of Pisa - Italy
- University of Queensland - Australia
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Tennessee - Knoxville
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Utah State University
- Writtle College - United Kingdom

## Organizational Blanket-Access Agreements

Members of these organizations can access the TGIF database from within their website:

-  American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) member
-  Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) member
-  Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Class A member
-  Michigan resident (access via MeL)
-  Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) member
-  Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) member

## Corporations with Blanket Access

Several turfgrass industry corporations have arranged ongoing access for their research, technical, regulatory, or product support staff, via their own Intranets.

## Individual Subscribers with their own Logon

Currently Individuals with their own logon can be found on 6 continents.

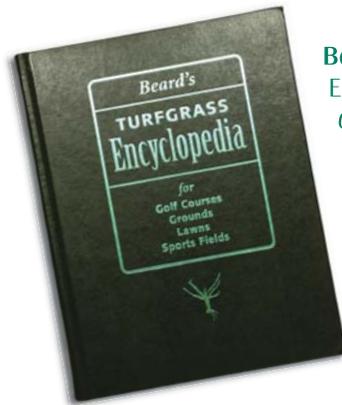
## TIC and TGIF Summary Use Statistics

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
<b>TGIF Search Statistics</b>								
Total TGIF Searching	84,957	68,640	57,860	46,402	39,460	41,495	36,820	34,453
TIC-hosted electronic resources	17,974	16,490	18,126	10,803	743	62	n/a	n/a
Fastlinks	248,689	195,766	76,462	18,905	10,060	4,050	2,039	573
Total Searches and Fastlinks	351,907	271,328	152,775	76,110	50,263	45,607	38,859	35,028
<b>TGIF Database Sessions</b>								
User Sessions	307,899	171,148	157,577	132,209	85,192	41,911	31,740	24,421
Sessions/Day	841	467	431	361	233	115	87	67
<b>TIC Public Website</b>								
Users Sessions	10,523	21,264	15,699	9,329	8,578	n/a	n/a	n/a

The total TGIF searching is the number of searches of TGIF on the Web. Fastlinks are found in a myriad of places, such as TIC Public Website, *The Sward*, TIC Blog, *TERO* reports, in emails sent in response to a question or to authors who have given permission for their material to be digitized, such as dissertations and theses, and many other places. User sessions are the number of actual logons to TGIF that have

occurred for the year and also per day. TIC Public Website Users Sessions are the number of times for the year that people have gone to <http://tic.msu.edu> to either logon on to TGIF or lookup information the Center provides about itself, TGIF, and TIC's activities.

**What is a Fastlink?** "Fastlinks" are a database capability which can be described as a form of "deep linking." Essentially, this is the ability to create a URL (= hot link) which can burrow into a database (such as TGIF) and retrieve a specific set of records (or a specific record) in a specific presentation format, without the user even necessarily being aware of what has actually occurred. To the user, it is "just another hot link."



### Beard Encyclopedia

Entries from *Beard's Turfgrass Encyclopedia for Golf Courses, Grounds, Lawns, Sports Fields* are available online! Entries for all terms from the encyclopedia are accessible, in full, through the TGIF Basic Search. If a turf-related term is typed in the search field, the encyclopedia entries related to that term will appear at the top of the search results. Clicking on the "Title," of the result will link to the full-text version of the entry as it appears in the *Encyclopedia*. To order the printed *Encyclopedia* visit <http://msupress.msu.edu/bookTemplate.php?bookID=2549>.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EFFORTS FOR COOPERATORS

### Digitization

Access to the full-text of research reports or other management content is a serious challenge for turf professionals, as most do not live next to a research library; however, this is changing. The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), originally conceived to index and abstract the literature of turfgrass, has taken dramatic steps to increase usability for users to directly access the full-text of identified articles and other items of interest – over 30% of TGIF records now link in this way!

Clearly more needs to be done to provide full-text access to a greater percentage of the 130,000+ entries now searchable within TGIF, but the challenge in most cases is that publishers who hold the copyright to these materials, may not allow TGIF to digitize and make available the back file of their publications, even when sales of older materials virtually cease.

The Turfgrass Information Center, with your help and support, stands ready to make the desire for additional access a reality. Please contact us to discuss your organization or firm's publication(s) which you would be willing to make available in this way, and look over our digitization prospectus/operational questionnaire (Word file) (<http://tic.msu.edu/digitization-prospectus.doc>). Everyone gains from such an effort: your members or clientele, your advertisers, and the broader world of turf science in general.

During 2007, TIC continued digitization of materials from its various contributors.

## United States Golf Association (USGA)

Title	Issues Linked	TGIF Records Added	Total TGIF Records	Location
<i>USGA Green Section Record</i>	6	76	4,941	<a href="http://turf.lib.msu.edu/gsr">http://turf.lib.msu.edu/gsr</a>
<i>USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (TERO)</i>	24	24	140	<a href="http://usgatero.msu.edu">http://usgatero.msu.edu</a>
<i>USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summary</i>	1	61	935	<a href="http://tic.msu.edu/usgarsindex.html">http://tic.msu.edu/usgarsindex.html</a>

## Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

 Completed *Golf Course Management* digital archive site

Title	Issues Linked	TGIF Records Added	Total TGIF Records	Location
<i>Golf Course Management</i> and predecessor titles back to 1933	700 issues which included >70,000 pages of material and nearly 30,000 PDFs	3,436 which included reprocessing of issues	10,586	Restricted

## Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA)

 Completed *GreenMaster* digital archive site which includes almost 7,000 PDFs

Title	Issues Linked	TGIF Records Added	Total TGIF Records	Location
<i>GreenMaster</i>	6	105	1,976	Restricted

## International Turfgrass Society (ITS)

 Copyright permissions clearance has been sought from authors

 For materials within “moving wall”

- 651 authors granted copyright permission
- 1,085 are remaining for copyright permission

 Linked digitized PDF articles with all authors having consented to TGIF records

- Currently 330 linked
- 939 remaining

“Moving wall” in publishing refers to the time period between the last issue of an periodical available in a given online archive and the most recently published print issue of a periodical. It is specified by publishers in their license agreements with databases (like TGIF), and TIC’s currently range from one month to three years.

## Turfgrass Producers International (TPI)

Title	Issues Linked	TGIF Records Added	Total TGIF Records	Location
<i>TurfNews</i>	6	113	1,950	Restricted

## Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI)

Title	Issues Linked	TGIF Records Added	Total TGIF Records	Location
<i>International Turfgrass Bulletin</i>	4	50	1,440	Restricted



### Additional Efforts

Customized “forbidden” pages for the restricted-access electronic resources have been created and implemented. These pages detail how various organizations may access the restricted electronic resources, provides common reasons why access was denied, and provide general information about the electronic resource. Currently, these pages are in place for *Golf Course Management*, *GreenMaster*, *International Turfgrass Bulletin*, *International Turfgrass Society Research Journal/Proceedings*, *Journal of Turfgrass and Sports Surface Science*, and *Turf News*.

### United States Golf Association (USGA)

Over 850 records were added to TGIF from the earlier USGA periodicals, pre-*Turftwisters*, many of which have full-text of the question, source of question, and answer in TGIF.

### Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

Construction has begun on a digital archive site for *Proceedings of the GCSAA Conference* (all years as published 1927-1998).

### Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

The on-slide information from 4,388 Noer/Milorganite® MMSD Image Collection slides was harvested.

Right: Snow removal from greens (March 1940), Braeburn Country Club, Boston, Mass.



Above: Aerial view of plots at the Arlington Turf Gardens (September 1939), Arlington, Va.

### American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA)

For the *Architect's Gallery* the following publicly available gallery entries were completed:

- Arthur Jack Snyder (<http://golfarchitects.lib.msu.edu/snydera/index.html>)
- Thomas A. Marzolf (<http://golfarchitects.lib.msu.edu/marzolf/index.html>)

All *Architect's Gallery* pages were redesigned to fit new ASGCA website design

### Architects of Distinction Prior to ASGCA

TIC is pleased to announce that Thomas Bendelow is the first entry in the Architects of Distinction Prior to ASGCA, a new online resource which parallels the ASGCA Architect's Gallery. The Architects of Distinction Prior to ASGCA profiles notable golf course architects whose body of work pre-dates the founding of the ASGCA in 1946. View the Tom Bendelow entry at <http://golfarchitects.lib.msu.edu/pre-ASGCA/bendelownt/>.

Stuart Bendelow, Tom Bendelow's grandson and Clifford Haka, MSU Libraries Director, with the Tom Bendelow website (Summer, 2007).

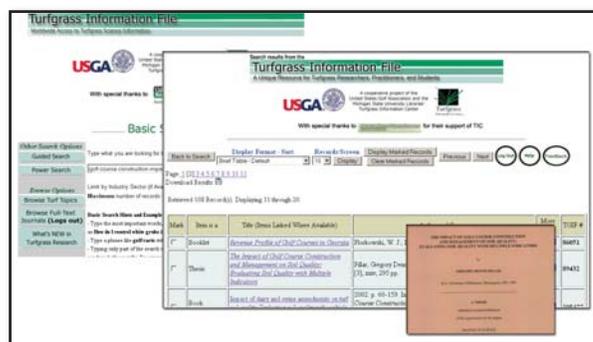


## Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS)

- Preliminary design of the digital archive site for *Bull Sheet/On Course*, including re/processed 283 issues of *Bull Sheet/On Course*
- Added 900 TGIF records

## Theses and Dissertations

- TIC staff worked on providing full-text access to turf-related theses and dissertations.
- TGIF currently includes records for over 1,860 theses and dissertations.
- From the TGIF record, 189 theses/dissertations are linked as available in full-text form. Of these, 101 have been digitized by MSU Libraries. The remaining titles are linked to other Internet locations.



## COLLECTIONS

### James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection

Professor James B Beard donated his turfgrass library collection to the Michigan State University Libraries in 2003. It forms a distinctive entity within the Turfgrass Information Center's Collection that had its origins in Beard's research while he served on the faculty at Michigan State University from 1961 until 1975. Since no significant body of turf materials existed in any university library, he recognized both the need for and the opportunity to build a literature collection in support of turf science, research, and teaching. His involvement was critical to both the Noer Collection and his own.



During 2007, Dr. Beard continued to transfer both monographic and periodical content to MSU, totaling some 1,227 items. In addition, there were notable donations made by others to the Beard Collection.

### Donations from Other Individuals

Dr. Ki Sun Kim, head of the Department of Plant Science at Seoul National University in Korea stopped in to TIC to donate bound copies of the *Korean Journal of Turfgrass Science* on behalf of the Turfgrass Society of Korea. This donation includes all issues from its start in 1987 to present.



Mr. Stig Persson, Ljunghusen Golf Club, Hollviken, Sweden, donated a partial run of *Greenbladet*, 1986–1997, the periodical of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association.

Dr. Ki Sun Kim, head of the Department of Plant Science at Seoul National University, Korea, with Peter Cookingham in Fall, 2007.

Mr. Douglas Lee, Asia Pacific World Golf Services, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, donated a partial run of *Grassroots*, 2000–2005, the periodical of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Malaysia.

### **O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection**

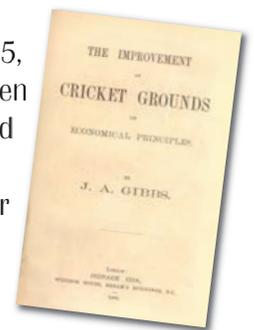
With the arrival of portions of the personal collection of O.J. Noer in 1968 (transferred to MSU via the O.J. Noer Research Foundation), the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection has continued as the strongest publicly accessible library of materials relating to turf science and culture in the world. The Noer Foundation continues to support Collection development, and the TIC Endowment Campaign. Our thanks for their continued vision!

Throughout 2007, donations and new acquisitions continued to build the Noer Collection. Newly-published turfgrass-related materials, as well as all identified, available, and affordable historic turf materials are purchased by the MSU Libraries on an ongoing basis, if publishers, authors, or interested third parties do not otherwise donate them to the Collection. Of course, TIC would prefer these to always be donated, in order to acquire additional materials for the Collection.

### **Historical Acquisitions**

Several items of historic significance were purchased for the Noer Collection during 2007. See the list as reflected in their TGIF records here: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=OLDBUYS07>

The final item (and thus oldest) on that list, J.A. Gibbs' *The Improvement of Cricket Grounds on Economic Principles*, from 1895, is very rare, and apparently was the first published work ever written on cricket pitch construction and maintenance. We are very pleased to have acquired it. It will be the next Noer Collection Featured Purchase, with its own special descriptive webpage that will appear with other particularly notable Noer Collection purchases of the past. See: <http://tic.msu.edu/featureacq.html>



### **Donations to the Collection**

Several significant large-scale transfers of material to TIC continue to build and further enhance the uniqueness of the Noer Collection. During 2007, these included, of particular note:

- Residual materials from the family of Dr. Kent Kurtz, supplementing a large scale donation made in 2006.
- Continuing receipts and transfers from the USGA Green Section offices, especially Golf House and the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Dr. Paul Rieke, MSU Professor Emeritus
- Dr. A. Douglas Brede, Jacklin Seed Co.
- Mr. Gary Mannies and Ms. Nancy Spraggins, Best Approach Publications
- Continuing receipts from GCSAA, particularly those supporting digitization efforts
- Ms. Jennifer Biehl & Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University

In addition, ongoing individual donations of items from a wide range of persons are

important, necessary and appreciated to continue to build a comprehensive collection. We thank all these, and those, donors! Do you have materials which could help researchers, students, and scholars better understand the rich history and tradition of turf culture? Consider giving them a permanent home; accessible, retrievable, and preserved, in a known, public, secure location as a part of the Noer Collection.

### Continuing Acquisitions for the Collection

Acquisitions for the Collection continue in an aggressive basis by the MSU Libraries as a part of the ongoing efforts to build the Collection. Here is a link to some sample titles acquired this past year for the Noer Collection, among the hundreds of items so purchased: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=NEWBUYS07>

Note also that because of a new feature within TGIF that cross-links data in another very large bibliographic database (OCLC WorldCat), it is possible for you to see what local library might own a copy of each of these books. For example, in the first item listed in the table linked above, click on the “More Detail” link, then scroll to the bottom of the full record showing, and then click on “Find in a Library with WorldCat”. That will produce a list of the 220 libraries which own the item, and which can then be sorted by distance from your zip code location to find the closest one(s)!

## OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY

There are at present two main methods of communication: *The Sward* and the TIC blog.

*The Sward* is the quarterly publication of TIC. It highlights changes to the database, TGIF, various happenings within the unit, visits by various people such as visiting scholars from around the world. It also includes useful tips for using TGIF, as well as factoids about turfgrass, about TGIF, and about TIC.

The TIC blog (<http://tic.msu.edu/blog.html>) is updated on a regular though not predictable schedule. It includes important information such as telephone number changes, additions and enhancements to the database, interesting facts and/or factoids about TIC, TGIF, or turfgrass, and visits by scholars and other people of interest.

**What is an RSS feed?** RSS stand for Really Simple Syndication which is a popular technology for notifying users of updates to content in a website or blog. TIC added an RSS feed to its blog in summer 2007.



At left is the symbol used for an RSS feed.

## STAFFING

### Volunteers and Interns

Interns from library and/or information science programs provide staffing for projects that might not otherwise be completed for years.

TIC was fortunate in 2007 to have Ms. Cynthia Straus, an MS degree candidate in the Library and Information Sciences Program at Wayne State University serve a practicum with the Center. Ms. Straus, who has extensive knowledge of Michigan extension publications from her work in the Extension Bulletin office, investigated

and designed a prototype material handling and database description process, with procedural documentation, for archival content related to golf course design plans and associated materials. The outcomes of her efforts included the identification of realistic future steps and needs associated with receiving architectural materials like this.



Dr. Douglas Hawes in the TIC.

Volunteers such as retired faculty contribute time and expertise to work on projects that the staff and student employees would not have time to complete or the knowledge to complete.

Dr. Douglas Hawes has provided an invaluable contribution to TIC in his work of indexing the extensive collection of slides made from the photographs of O.J. Noer and others. He has also served as the guest editor for several *Turf Topics*.

### Full-time Staff

#### **Sue Depoorter**, Serials, Student Supervisor

Sue has been with the MSU Libraries since 1985 and with TIC since 1999. She has an associate's degree from Ferris State University in cosmetology and marketing. Her primary responsibilities at TIC are overseeing the student budget, student employee hiring and supervision, handling serials, and processing orders for materials for the collection.

#### **Michael Schury**, Digitization; TGIF, TIC Website, Related Websites, and Database Maintenance

Mike was a student employee at TIC while finishing bachelor's degrees in accounting and psychology. After working full time in the accounting field for a few years, Mike rejoined TIC in 2005. His current duties include the project management of digitization efforts, overseeing website changes, assisting in student supervision, and providing maintenance of TGIF.

#### **Leslie Behm**, Publicity, Outreach, Web Harvesting

Leslie has been with TIC for 15 months and with the MSU Libraries for 29 years. She has a background in biology with minors in chemistry and Latin. Her library science masters is from Case Western Reserve University and she also has a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan. Leslie's primary responsibilities in TIC



TIC staff members from left: Peter Cookingham, Leslie Behm, Sue Depoorter, Michael Schury.

include maintaining the TIC Blog (<http://tic.msu.edu/blog.html>), production of the TIC newsletter – *The Sward*, production of training materials related to the TGIF, and web harvesting. Web harvesting includes selecting appropriate content from websites of the TIC cooperators,

university turfgrass programs, and turf-related associations. In addition, identification of single web pages related to turfgrass issues is done.

### **Peter Cookingham, Project Director**

Pete joined the MSU Libraries in 1985 as the only full time librarian devoted to the subject area of turfgrass. His background is in recreation and park administration with a BS and work on a masters from University of Wyoming. He also spent ten years in the public, not-for-profit, and private park industry, including 3 years as General Manager of a 1,700 member, 1,800 acre Property Owners Association. His information and library science masters is from the University of Illinois. Pete provides the oversight for TIC and the development of TGIF working closely with supporters of TIC as well as guiding the work of the staff and the student employees of TIC.

### **Student Employees**

There are many students working in TIC. They come from very diverse majors such as: nursing, computer science, museum studies, jazz studies, accounting, and crop and soil sciences to mention a few. In many ways, the students are the backbone of the unit. They provide the inputting of the basic descriptive records, indexing and abstracting. In addition, they proof the records to ensure that errors are caught and corrected. Additionally, as TIC continues to partner with publishers and associations to digitize and make available publications, roles played by TIC student employees continue to expand. Student employees are relied upon to determine online article availability, maintain URLs, design websites, create web pages, file and organize materials, serve walk-in traffic, and an assortment of other tasks!



### **Library Administration**

- **Clifford H. Haka**, Director of MSU Libraries.
- **Faye Backie**, Associate Director for Public Services Division, of which TIC is a unit.
- **Diane Nye Mattick**, Director of Development for Libraries, Computing & Technology.



Clockwise from top: Student employees at work in TIC, Clifford Haka and Faye Backie, Diane Nye Mattick.

## **FACILITIES**

The Turfgrass Information Center facility provides both public and staff workspace in supporting access to the various collections and the TGIF database. The facility is normally open to the public 44 hours per week for walk-in use of the physical as well as the digital materials, which are accessible 24/7, by all. Please call ahead if you have special needs or interests!

**TIC staff has new phones and new numbers.**

The 800 number (800-466-TGIF) and the public number (517-353-7209) remain the same.

- Pete Cookingham**, Project Director .....(517) 884-1950
- Sue Depoorter**, Student Supervisor.....(517) 884-1951
- Michael Schury**, Digitization .....(517) 884-1952
- Leslie Behm**, Publicity, Outreach, Web Harvesting .....(517) 884-1953



The 104 year old Persian rug located in TIC has an inscription that was finally translated. Dr. Ali Harivandi, University of California Cooperative Extension, provided the following translation: "By the order of his highness Sultan Morahd Khan, the most honorable" The date inscribed is 1321 Hejri-e-Ghamari (the lunar Islamic calendar), which is 1903 A.D.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

-  Donate needed materials to the Collections, and encourage others to do so also.
-  Support the TIC Endowment Campaign yourself and/or encourage other individuals, organizations and groups to do so as well.
-  Encourage your local, state/provincial, national, or international organizations to become a digital cooperator.
-  Volunteer time at the Center.
-  Subscribe to TGIF for yourself or for your institution.



**Turfgrass**  
Information Center

To support the Turfgrass Information Center with a financial donation please visit <http://tic.msu.edu/pledge.html>

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

-  The current facility will be undergoing changes in 2008. TIC will be acquiring additional space, floor-to-ceiling walls which will provide better security and improved workspace for students and staff. TIC's revised facility will be created and functional in the first half of 2008.
-  A continued push to get materials cataloged and processed for greater public availability.
-  Training materials will be created for several TGIF audiences.
-  Google had announced a cooperative digitization project with the CIC institutions (Big 10 and the University of Chicago). One of MSU Libraries nominees is the turfgrass collection. Further details will be learned in 2008.
-  Construction will be completed on the digital archive site for *Proceedings of the GCSAA Conference* (all years as published 1927-1998).
-  Construction will begin on the digital archive site for *Bull Sheet/On Course* (194x-Present less 6 months).
-  Construction will begin on the digital archive site for *The National Greenkeeper* (1927-1933).



**Turfgrass**  
Information Center

[tic.msu.edu](http://tic.msu.edu)

*The Turfgrass Information Center  
would like to thank supporters for their ongoing contributions,  
be it financial or donations of needed materials.  
We appreciate your continued dedication that benefits  
turfgrass research and management.*



**TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER**  
Michigan State University  
100 Library  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1048

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.*