

Turfgrass
Information Center

Volume 7, No. 1
Summer 2006

the Sward

USGA Turfgrass Information File ■ O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection ■ James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection

MSU Hosts USGA Green Section Agronomists



USGA Green Section Agronomists and Dr. Paul Rieke of MSU gather in W.J. Beal Botanical Garden during their May visit to MSU Libraries.

The [USGA Green Section Agronomists](#) held their semi-annual staff meeting at Michigan State University Main Library May 9–10, 2006. One of the few times the Green Section Agronomists meet collectively is at these semi-annual meetings. Interactive online sessions featuring the [Turfgrass Information File \(TGIF\)](#) and a tour of the [Turfgrass Information Center](#) were a part of the program. We are pleased that the Green Section staffers got a first-hand view of both the Collections and TGIF construction activities.

Special thanks also to Amy Fouty of MSU's Spartan Stadium and to Frank Telewski and Peter Murray of [MSU's Beal Botanical Garden](#) for hosting tours and discussions about their respective facilities.

New Architects Gallery Features

Two features have been added to the ASGCA Architects Gallery website (<http://golfarchitects.lib.msu.edu>):

- 1) [Table of Architect Videos](#) (~150 records)
- 2) [Table of Architect Blueprints](#) (~150 records)

These features offer summary data for content within the Gallery and are drawn from entries in the TGIF database.

The Box Score

Number of TGIF Records: **112,000+**

Number of [Toro Foundation Records](#): **7,100+**
(These are new records added for items published before the establishment of TIC in 1984. Processing is sponsored by the Toro Foundation.)

Number of Turfgrass Sectors Covered: **10**

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Golf courses | • Sod |
| • Landscape | • Sports turf |
| • Lawn care | • Utility turf |
| • Parks and grounds | • Independent or |
| • Roadsides | currently unassigned |
| • Seed | |

theTGIFdatabase

TGIF Hardware Upgrade

TGIF has been upgraded to a new server that has dramatically improved record retrieval time. Due to this upgrade and subsequent efficiency, the “Max Records to Be Retrieved” has been changed to default “All” records. Users will still be able to limit the records retrieved by changing this option in the drop-down menu.

TGIF Backup

The Turfgrass Information File will be backed up every morning starting at 2:00 a.m. EDT (-5 GMT) and will take approximately 30 minutes. The backup schedule has been changed to help safeguard against loss of data. Users will be unable to access TGIF (including [fastlinks](#)) and will receive an error message during the backup process when trying to log on or use a fastlink. Try back later!

“Brief Table” Improvements

We have added improvements to the “Brief Table” default search results screen. Brief Table, added in April 2005, was designed to provide the most efficient screen use. It also provides a URL link to the item without showing notes associated with the item, the access conditions, or the software required to view the document; however, users could still view this information by clicking on the “More” or “More Detail” links. Now, Records with access restrictions have been tagged with ***Access**

Restrictions after the title in the “Brief Table.” This should help reduce the frustration of users who click on the URL and do not have access to the article.

In addition to tagging access-restricted articles, we have added a journal classification system to the Brief Table screen. Formerly, these articles were displayed in the Brief Table screen as “This is a...Journal Article” for any articles from periodicals, peer-reviewed journals, magazines, etc. Now these items will be displayed with their category level (see chart), followed by “article.” This improvement is intended to help users better understand what kind of article is presented.

Getting Specific About Fastlinks: Links in Syllabi and Vitae

“[Fastlinks](#)” are URLs that burrow into a database (such as TGIF) and retrieve a specific set of records (or a single record) in a specific presentation format, without the user necessarily being aware of what has actually occurred. To the user, it is “just another hot link.”

Why link to the TGIF record instead of directly to the item itself?

- Fastlink access is free to linkers and users
- Avoids future dead links – removes you from maintaining them! TGIF becomes a central “link-maintenance” center for the turf literature on into the future
- Revisions & errata notes are incorporated into the TGIF record; including cross-links to future editions
- Consistent format enables faster relevance review and more accurate citation data
- Consistent speed of retrieval to the TGIF records reducing user frustration.

One specific use of fastlinks is in an online syllabus or a vita. Instead of just providing a citation in a “For Further Reading,” “References,” “Literature Cited,” “Bibliography,” etc. list, each item listed can provide access to the expanded TGIF record, providing the ability to better evaluate item relevance (as well as increase accuracy), without taking up any more space or changing the visual presentation.

Web pages, text files (like in Microsoft Word), spreadsheets (like in Microsoft Excel), and other documents usually can all have hyperlinks. Adding

Typology of Turfgrass Literature for TGIF Search Purposes			
Category	Primary Audience	Example Titles	% of TGIF Content
Refereed	Researchers	Crop Science, Plant Disease, HortScience, Agronomy Journal, Journal of ITS	8%
Report	Researchers	ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meeting Abstracts, Iowa Turfgrass Research Report, Fungicide & Nematicide Tests, Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium Proceedings	20%
Proceedings	Practitioners	Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Proceedings of the Florida Turfgrass Conference	8.9%
Professional	Practitioners	USGA Green Section Record, Golf Course Management, Greenkeeper International	21%
Trade	Practitioners	Grounds Maintenance, SportsTurf, Golf Course News, Lawn & Landscape	23%
Newsletter	Practitioners	Tee to Green, New Hampshire Turf Talk, A Patch of Green, Divots	4.8%
Popular	The Public	Golf Journal, newspapers, Golf Digest	1.2%
Miscellaneous Unclassified	Varies widely	No pattern; includes books and other monographs	13%

a fastlink to a document is as easy as creating a hyperlink! First, identify the TGIF record number for the item. The fastlink for that item would be <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=recordnumber>. For example, the fastlink to Dr. James Beard's book *Turfgrass: Science and Culture* (which is TGIF record #294), would be <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=294>. Next, create a hyperlink of, for example, the title using this fastlink and it's done! Users of your document will be able to click on the title (or whatever the hyperlink was created on) and view the TGIF record for that item.

Future issues of *The Sward* will feature other specific uses of fastlinks. Please visit <http://tic.msu.edu/fastlinks.html> for more information.

New Turf Topics

We have added five new [Turf Topics](#) in TGIF relating to books and book-like items. These Topics focus on recently published materials and items still (generally) in print.

- 1) **Golf Course Design Books** (Recent)
- 2) **Turf Science and Management Books** (Recent)
- 3) **Golf Course Turf and Maintenance Books** (Recent)
- 4) **Sports Turf Construction and Maintenance Books** (Recent)
- 5) **Lawn Care Books** (Recent)

Please let us know if there are any books that we've missed that could be listed within these Topics.

There are also two other related Topics that are already available in TGIF:

- 1) **Dissertations and Theses – Full-Text:** lists known scanned (off-copyright or permission-granted) digitized turf-related Master's and Ph.D. theses and dissertations (over 100!)
- 2) **Turf Books Online:** lists scanned (off-copyright, older), full-text books and book-like items available on the Internet.

These lists can be viewed by logging onto TGIF (through "Search Now!"), selecting "Browse Turf Topics," and selecting from the complete list of Topics. If you have any suggestions for other Topics, please let us know.

The USGA Library Goes Digital

The USGA Museum and Archives has started to make available digitized golf-related material from the USGA Library. These materials are very valuable to the golf industry and include off-copyright PDF scans of books and periodicals published up to the Great Depression. The materials also include many rare items that were previously inaccessible unless one visited Golf House in person. These records can be searched using the USGA SEGL (Search Digitized Library Materials Online) engine.

At TIC, we will begin to index the turf science and management and golf course architecture material from this content within TGIF. Some of these materials may have never been cited in the turf science literature before. Watch for them to start appearing in TGIF!

Access the USGA SEGL at <http://www.usga.org/aboutus/museum/library/segl.html>

USGA TERO Reaches 100 Issues

The first issue of *USGA TERO* (USGA *Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online*) was published in March 2002. As of 2006, over 100 issues of *USGA TERO* have been published. TIC would like to congratulate USGA Green Section Research Program Director Dr. Mike Kenna and Manager and Editor Dr. Jeff Nus for this achievement. The *USGA TERO* presents results of turf-related studies funded by the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program.

Visit <http://usgatero.msu.edu> for all the *TERO* issues. In addition, the USGA Turfgrass Environmental Research Program website (<http://tic.msu.edu/usgarsindex.html>) includes research summaries and almost 500 complete reports of USGA turf research projects.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

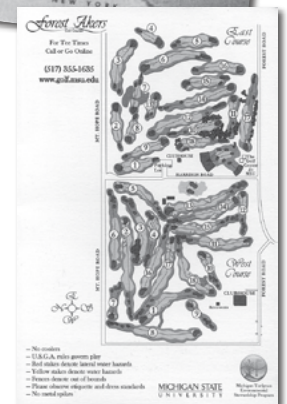
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TIC Blog

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) Blog is part of the redesigned TIC public website (<http://tic.msu.edu>). The TIC Blog contains information on events and projects at TIC and improvements/changes to the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). The blog presents the most recent TIC and TGIF information and is updated when new and exciting things occur here. Previous blog articles are also archived for reference at a later date. In addition, [The Sward](#) archive, dating back to 1989, is available through the TIC blog. The blog can be accessed at <http://tic.msu.edu/blog.html>

TIC Acquisitions Expands

We are continuously adding to our collections here at TIC and have recently started new collection initiatives. One initiative is the addition of golf course yardage guides and scorecards, golf course club histories, and golf tournament programs. When MSU received the O.J. Noer Collection in the late 1960s, it included several golf course club histories and golf tournament programs; we would like to expand this area of the Collection. We also wish to include more material relating to specific golf courses, such as golf course yardage guides and scorecards. Hopefully the inclusion of these materials will help strengthen the Collection and reach a broader audience. Send us one from your course or your entire collection of them! Remember that tax deductions may apply to your donation!



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The Sward is a publication of the
Turfgrass Information Center at
Michigan State University.
ISSN: 1063-8911

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