



**Turfgrass**  
Information Center

# the Sward

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

## TIC Subscriber News

### TIC Welcomes New Academic Subscribers

Students, faculty, and staff at the following academic institutions now have campus-wide access to TGIF: Auburn University (Alabama); University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii); University of Alaska Fairbanks (Alaska); Georgian College (Ontario, Canada); University of Western Australia (Australia). We are pleased that these users can now take advantage of all that TGIF has to offer.

If **your** school—2-year, 4-year, professional or trade—doesn't yet provide access to TGIF, please get it 'on-board'! Check the list of institutions that do have access at <http://tic.msu.edu/starserv/foundstu.html> and then encourage any others with turf interests to become involved. To help faculty, alumni, supporters, students, etc. rally support for doing this, Please find information on how to get started at <http://tic.msu.edu/academic.html>

We'd like to see all turfgrass researchers, teachers, and students have easy, widespread, and rapid access to TGIF!



Discover the benefits of TGIF

### Assistant Superintendents Now Have Access to TGIF

Class C members (Assistant Superintendents) of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) have now joined Class A and SM members (Superintendents) in being able to access TGIF via GCSAA's website, at: <http://www.gcsaa.org>. Many assistants have used TGIF during their degree programs in school, and this will now provide ongoing access to TGIF's many resources in support of their continuing professional development.

# TGIF Database News

## TGIF Surpasses 150,000 Records!

In July, the Turfgrass Information File surpassed 150,000 records in the database and continues to grow. By the end of July 2009, TIC has created 6,505 serial (periodical) records; 391 monograph (book-like) records; and 2,058 records for articles from Web sites. Additionally, over 55% of the records from 2009 are linked to the full-text of the item.

This major milestone reflects our commitment to our users to keep this unique resource, TGIF, the most current and comprehensive database of turfgrass educational materials in the world.

## TIC Abstractor Reaches Milestone

Former Lead Abstractor, Jessica Hagen, has reached a milestone: As of July, she had written a monumental 6,000+ abstracts for the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) since she began work at the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) in March 2006. Hers is by far the largest abstract contribution of anyone who has ever worked for TIC. In fact, of the records with abstracts written by TIC staff, 3 out of every 10 are by Jessica. Though she left the Center toward the end of August, she took some time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions:

### *What is your favorite part of working at Turfgrass Information Center?*

I really like the people I work with. They make for a good work environment, and we also have fun outside of work. Last semester we had a TIC basketball tournament and year-end barbecue.

### *Do you feel fonder of turfgrass now than when you first started writing about it?*

I wasn't even aware of turfgrass before I started working at TIC, and I've certainly learned some interesting facts about turfgrass from writing about it.

### *Has so much abstracting affected your writing style outside of TGIF?*

It's made my writing a lot more concise, so overall, I think that's good.

### *What are your post-TIC plans?*

I start student teaching at Clarkston High School (Michigan) in September, and I'll be there for a full school year. After that, I want to go back to Germany. [Jessica did a 6 week study abroad in Summer 2008.]

We at TIC are extremely grateful to Jessica for the years of consistently diligent work she has put toward expanding the database. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.



# Electronic Resources News

## On Course Articles Feature TGIF Links

The August issue of *On Course*, monthly publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, features an innovative use of TGIF to help readers find additional information relating to feature articles. Two articles in the issue, linked off the public archive site for *On Course*, have a box called “TGIF Searchable Topic” at the end of the articles. In it is included “Want to know more about this subject?”, with suggested

keywords to search TGIF, and the number of results. In addition, three selected articles are highlighted by title. In the online version of the magazine, clicking on the top half of the box executes the actual TGIF search and displays the results, while the highlighted articles link to the selected TGIF records, from which a user can link to the full-text of the articles themselves.

This is a great way to make use of TGIF and provide a connection to additional resources for further reading. It is nice to see this kind of integration between print and electronic resources and we’d be delighted to see more innovation like this.

## Dig Deeper Functionality Added to Additional Electronic Resources

What is “Dig Deeper”? It is a search feature within several of the TIC-hosted digital archive sites that allows for searching articles’ **complete text**, as opposed to only the TGIF record’s citation, abstract and assigned keywords. Utilizing the “Dig Deeper” function can greatly help to increase retrievability for more obscure terms or to identify partial TGIF records without abstracting/indexing.

With the recent addition of *Golf Course Management* (and predecessor titles), *GreenMaster*, *International Turfgrass Bulletin/Sports Turf Bulletin*, and *On Course/The Bull Sheet* to the list of electronic resources with “Dig Deeper” functionality, the list of electronic resources capable of performing this now includes:

- *The Golf Course*
- *Golf Course Management* (and predecessor titles) [restricted-access]
- *GreenMaster* [restricted-access]
- *International Turfgrass Bulletin/Sports Turf Bulletin* [restricted-access]
- *The National Greenkeeper*
- *On Course/The Bull Sheet* [some content restricted-access]
- *Proceedings of the International Turfgrass Conference and Show* [restricted-access]
- *Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference and Show*
- *TurfNews* [restricted-access]
- *USGA Green Section Record* (and predecessor titles)
- *USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summaries*
- *USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online*



## Electronic Resources

### Recently Launched:

*Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference*—Cooperatively with the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

### Now Under Construction:

*Sports Turf Manager*—Cooperatively with The Sports Turf Association  
*SportsTurf (Includes Golf and SportsTurf)*—Cooperatively with Sports Turf Managers Association and Adams Publishing Co.  
*The Grass Roots*—Cooperatively with Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association  
*GreenKeepers (Includes Césped Deportivo)*—Cooperatively with Asociación Española de Greenkeepers)

### Forthcoming:

CUTT—Cooperatively with Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Noer/Milorganite® Division MMSD Image Collection—Cooperatively with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the O. J. Noer Research Foundation



## Redesigned and Expanded Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference Now Available

The publicly-available archive site for the *Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference* has been redesigned and greatly expanded. Previously representing 2001 and newer material, the new site contains all print/CD versions of the conference from 1972–2005. Also, this site is able to be searched using the “Dig Deeper” function, enabling full–text searching of almost 1,700 records. The site is available at <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/mitgc/>

## Sympathies

### Richard Chapin, 1925–2009

–written by Pete Cookingham



Dick Chapin, Director emeritus of the Michigan State University Libraries, first Project Director of the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), and primary facilitator of the MSU Libraries’ turfgrass-related efforts beginning in the early 1960’s, passed away July 30.

Dr. Chapin was MSU Library Director from 1959 to 1989. The initial beginnings of serious turf collection development began early in his leadership, at the behest of then-faculty member Dr. James B Beard. The arrival of the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection in the late 60’s spurred external support and gift acquisitions, both of which continue actively to this day.

In the early 1980’s, the United States Golf Association (USGA) approached Chapin about



using the Noer Collection as the basis for developing an electronic index to the turfgrass science literature, in support of the USGA’s ongoing interest in turfgrass research. Thus was born, in 1984, the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), dedicated to not only continue to build what had already become the world’s strongest public turfgrass library—but then also to index, abstract, and provide access online to identify that material, via the USGA Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). It was intended to tackle an example of “the full circle” of what he considered “documentary librarianship’s” work as it then existed, but which was not widely practiced within academic libraries in North America, and Chapin always considered it a bit of an experiment.

Here is an early USGA Green Section Record article, about those initial efforts: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=3154>. What is most striking there, in retrospect, is the very solid theoretical foundation for the work of the Center, and its positioning to harness the still-evolving technology in support of the mission. So much has not changed, even as some of the tools and workflows have.

Dr. Chapin received the Distinguished Service Award of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation in 1990, for his cooperative leadership in both creating and nurturing the Noer Collection, and

his contributions in service to turfgrass science and management.

By the time of his retirement, besides being the Director of Libraries and the TIC, he had also served as director of the MSU Press, a faculty member in the School of Journalism, president of the Michigan Library Association, a founding member of the Michigan Library Consortium, and a member of the boards of directors of the Association of Research Libraries and the Center for Research Libraries, as well as his significant local volunteer engagement on a range of educational and social justice issues. He received MSU's Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988.

"When I proposed that the Noer Collection be cataloged and preserved at the Michigan State University Library, it was Dr. Richard Chapin who held the yes or no decision. He said yes! Neither of us could then envision what has evolved from this first momentous step," says Dr. Beard.

Dr. Beard also reports Dr. Chapin had begun to require his librarians to all have a 'special collection project' to work on as a part of their scholarly activity, and since Dr. Chapin needed one himself he would do turfgrass. Even today one can find Chapin annotations on lists and within items; residual evidence of his "project".

In short, it is almost inconceivable that the "turfgrass library" work that is done today would exist without Dick Chapin. That would include the historic components, the Noer Collection and the Turfgrass Information File database, which directly led into the more recent initiatives, including the Beard Collection, digitization efforts to fully deliver to users the actual content that TGIF can identify, the physical facility that the Center has become, and the TIC Endowment Campaign. All of it is so very, very, unlikely to have happened without him. And the moniker of the database itself, TGIF, is a Chapin pun - for 'turfgrass' is, of course, and despite what your spell-checker says, a single word. We'll always have to explain why TIC is "TIC" and TGIF is "TGIF"; and that will give us a chance to think about Dick once again, and thank him for all that he did to make this happen.

For myself, I know that I wouldn't be here, either. I came to MSU because Dick's vision of unified

service to a discipline, based on providing *both* intellectual and physical access, within a land-grant context, without geographic bias, and intended to become as self-service as possible, meshed perfectly with my own interests, frustrations, expectations, and intentions. After all these years it is still as Chapin termed it, a bit of an experiment.

Let us then remember Dr. Richard Chapin well, and salute a leader who did make a difference, and without whom none of what you see here, in this form, would exist.

## **Fred Garbin, 1928–2009**



Golf Course Architect Ferdinand (Fred) Garbin, passed away September 6, at 81. Garbin, a past-President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), trained early as a turf agronomist under H. Burton Musser at Penn State. Garbin designed and remodeled more than 100 golf courses, primarily in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and Ohio. He is particularly well known for his careful remodeling of Donald Ross courses. Learn more about the work of this architect from his entry in the ASGCA Architect's Gallery, at: <http://golfarchitects.lib.msu.edu/garbinf/index.html>.

Within TIC itself, Garbin is most closely associated with the Pennsylvania Super Roller Mower by our front entrance, which he donated to us.

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## Miscellaneous

### Watson & Rieke—Turfgrass Giants Recognized

TIC was delighted to note that Dr. James R. Watson and Dr. Paul E. Rieke, both stalwart turfgrass leaders, teachers, experts, innovators, TIC supporters, and just outright good people, have received the USGA's Ike Grainger Award, which recognizes USGA committee volunteers for over 25 years of service. These gentleman—and they both really are exactly that—have worked long and hard as charter members of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, providing guidance for that program's efforts in support of turfgrass research.

In case there's curiosity about what else they've done 'along the way', here are TGIF searches which detail their prodigious written contributions and interests:

- TGIF material by or about Jim Watson  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkss.pl?srch=watson0809>
- TGIF material by or about Paul Rieke  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flinkbora.pl?name=rieke>

Both are previous recipients of both the USGA Green Section Award as well as the USGA's Piper and Oakley Award. No one else has ever received all three of these awards before.

We salute both these wonderful individuals, for their contributions, along with this award; and with great thanks for their ongoing engagement with and support of our work, as well. It is so very much appreciated!

### The Box Score

Number of TGIF Records: **154,000+**

Number of *publicly-available* electronic resources hosted by TIC: **8 with two under construction and 2 upcoming.**

See <http://tic.msu.edu/pubjrnlbrowse.htm> for a full list of public- and restricted-access resources.



Turfgrass Information Center Blog  
**Mow-sey on over to [tic.msu.edu/blog.html](http://tic.msu.edu/blog.html)  
for up to date information.**