A New Series: Meet the Architects

Michigan State University Libraries is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two of Michigan's renowned golf course designers, Jerry Matthews and Ray Hearn. They will give presentations followed by question and answer sessions on two different afternoons early next year. Matthews, President of Jerry Matthews—Natural Course Design, will be speaking on Saturday, January 14th regarding various design elements—in particular wetlands management, which is one of his specialties. Hearn, President of Ray Hearn Golf Designs, Inc., will be speaking on Saturday, March 25th about the design process for his award-winning Mistwood Golf Course in Romeoville, Illinois. Both architects are graduates of Michigan State University and members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Each has designed courses which have been recognized by Golf Digest as some of the top new public courses in their respective years.

The schedule for each day will run as follows:

1:00 – 3:00 PM Presentation and Q & A, fourth floor, Main Library West
3:00 – 4:00 PM Reception in the Turfgrass Information Center, third floor, Main Library West

Advance registration is required to attend both events. Tickets cost $35 per day or $50 for both days. This fee will be a tax-deductible contribution to the Campaign to Endow the Turfgrass Information Center. To register, please contact Birdie Beckwith at (517) 355-2341 or via e-mail at birdie@msu.edu. The deadline to RSVP for both sessions is January 6th. We look forward to seeing you there!

New TIC Website

A new and improved Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) website will soon be launched, after undergoing the largest renovation since 1999. These new pages are more clearly laid out, better organized, and more consistent, making for better flow and a smoother transition from page to page. One difference in the site is that the Search Now! icon is now more distinguishable and easily located. Also, the new page fits easily into one screen shot, eliminating the need to scroll up and down the page. There is now a menu located near the top of the page that breaks the site into five sections: “About,” “The Database,” “Subscriptions,” “Collections,” and “Endowment.” A drop down menu of Turf Resources located in the center of the homepage connects directly to turfgrass resources featured by the Turfgrass Information Center. Additionally, there is a breadcrumb trail located at the top of each page, leading you back to the previous page, which enables the user to move easily through the website. Also, the trail at the top of the homepage leads you to the MSU Libraries site.

Continued on page 4
Featured Donor

Over the years, countless individuals and organizations have donated to the Turfgrass Information Center, making it what it is today. Without the generosity of these donors, the Center might not be in existence today. We would like to begin acknowledging some of the people whose significant contributions have deeply impacted and shaped both TIC and TGIF.

One man who has greatly supported the Center through his numerous donations is Dr. Paul Rieke. Dr. Rieke is a Professor Emeritus of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University. In late 2002, he made a very substantial donation of various serials and other turfgrass materials. Included were multiple issues of journals such as California Turfgrass Culture, Golf Course Management, Grounds Maintenance, Parks and Grounds Management, and SportsTurf among many, many more. He also sent a myriad of research reports and conference proceedings.

Many records were produced out of the materials provided in this donation. In fact, many of you have probably found some of the indexed materials in TGIF from his donation to be of use in your research. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Rieke for his generosity and thoughtfulness.

There are many other individuals and corporations who have been major factors in the expansion of the Center and the database. We will continue to honor different donors in upcoming issues.

Digitization of Theses and Dissertations

TGIF currently includes records for nearly 1,500 theses and dissertations. To make these accessible with full-text would be an incredible addition to our resources. In order to do this we need the permission of the author of each work to allow a digital copy to be made available within TGIF. The database record for each item will include an acknowledgement of the author's permission. Also, a stable, public URL to the items will be provided to the author. The form for authors to grant their permission for this can be found at: http://www.tic.msu.edu/copyrightpermissions.htm

Sample TGIF Record for a Full-Text Dissertation

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from the staff at TIC!
Cooperative Initiatives for TGIF Subscribers

Already in Place

1.) **International Turfgrass Bulletin** We are currently cooperating with various organizations to add content to the database that we feel will be very useful to our subscribers. One such collaboration has produced an agreement between the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and the Michigan State University Libraries, making the archive of the STRI’s publication, the *International Turfgrass Bulletin*, available to all TGIF subscribers. The archive includes all issues of the *Bulletin* (formerly the *Sports Turf Bulletin*) from 1951 to the present.

2.) **New Database Recordset** The STRI, along with funding support by The R&A, have made available current content from their “Database of Current Research on Golf Courses.” The goals of this project are to identify current research related to golf course management, to provide contact details for researchers, and to list publication details for results from the various research projects. These new database records include information on topics ranging from construction, soils, and grass selection to maintenance, pests and diseases, and golf course ecology. The records cover all countries except those in North and South America. Within TGIF, these records will show as “Research in Progress.”

In the Works

1.) **Turf News** We are currently working with Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) to make full-text articles from their publication, *Turf News*, available to their subscribers as well as subscribers of TGIF. We are in the process of scanning all published editions of *Turf News*, which will be available in both a browsing archive format similar to the USGA Green Section Record as well as through TGIF searches.

2.) **ITS Research Journal** Another project that is underway is a joint venture with the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) to make available full-text versions of the entire back run of the *International Turfgrass Society Research Journal* in TGIF. We will also provide full-text versions of the Proceedings of the *International Turfgrass Research Conference* from 1969 to the present.

Both of these initiatives will result in more full-text articles being available in TGIF.

Comparing TGIF to Turfgrass Coverage within Other Databases

A recent survey demonstrated the superiority of TGIF over three other agricultural databases. The searches compared TGIF to AGRICOLA, AGRIS and CAB based on indexing of 23 selected print and online professional, research, and trade publications relating to turf science published between 1990 and 2005. The results revealed an enormous difference in turfgrass coverage between the databases. Of the 23 serials searched, 16 were exclusive to TGIF—including *Golf Course Management*, *SportsTurf*, and *Landscape Management*. Nine of the serials searched were international publications, and seven of these—including *Greenkeeper International* (BIGGA) and *TurfCraft International* (Australia)—were exclusive to TGIF.

To see detailed results of the coverage comparison, please visit [http://tic.msu.edu/tgifcomp.htm](http://tic.msu.edu/tgifcomp.htm)
New TGIF Features

Featured Quote

Some of the indexed articles in TGIF now have featured quotes. In addition to the abstract, these can help a user get a better sense of what an article is about. This is particularly helpful for users who are interested in an article for which there is not a full-text version available on the Web. Articles that have quotes included will have a green icon that looks like this within the TGIF record:

An article may have only one quote or it may have many. We hope that this new feature will personalize some of the records for our users, particularly for older, 'classic' works.

Google Search

The TIC public website may now be searched using a Google site search, accessible from the site map page. Although this does not include the contents of the TGIF database, there is a great deal of useful information to be found on our public website. You can learn about the Center, our collections, or find helpful hints on how to search TGIF, among many other features.

USGA Research Summaries

The USGA has made it possible for anyone to view summaries of the USGA Research Project Reports. Summaries may be browsed by date, and available reports date back as far as 1977. The reports can be accessed at:

www.lib.msu.edu/tgif/usgarsindex.html

In addition, 492 of these summaries are linked to the full versions of reports as submitted to the USGA. Remember that all of these items can also be found by searching TGIF itself.

New TIC Website (continued from page 1)

Another new feature is the TIC Blog; a space to explore new items, common questions, and issues involving TGIF and the Center. The Blog will be updated on a periodic basis. We hope our users find these changes to be an improvement. As always, we look forward to hearing your questions, comments, and suggestions.