

## president's message

# TGIF is a Big Deal

If two sports field managers are together you can bet the topic of conversation is turf. Get a group of turf professionals together and it is amazing the amount of information shared.

One of the amazing things about the people in the turf profession is their thirst for knowledge. Learning new and better ways to do their jobs better, providing the best playing surfaces possible. It is apparent by the attendance at the annual conference and regional workshops across the country.

We are always looking for research so we have a scientific basis on which to make our decisions. There has already been an amazing amount of research accomplished that can help support us in our decision-making process. Sometimes it is so overwhelming that we are uncertain where to find the answers.

By now, I am sure you have heard me extolling the virtues of becoming a member of STMA. The main reason is that you believe in the profession and realize the need for the existence of a national professional association. There are those, however, who want more concrete reasons to become members.

With that in mind, the STMA Board approved a major member benefit that is as close as your computer.

Through an agreement with Michigan State University and the Turfgrass Information Center, we're happy to announce that all professional members of STMA now have free on-line access to the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF).

What exactly is the TGIF and what is the big deal?

You now have access to almost anything you want to know about turfgrass while sitting in front of your computer. The TGIF is the most comprehensive collection of turfgrass educational materials publicly available in the world.

With more than 92,000 records in TGIF, the information ranges from research reports, conference proceedings, trade publications, scientific journals, field day programs, and newsletters not generally available to many of us.

The TGIF is something special you can identify as part of your membership. If you paid as an individual to have access to the file, the cost would be \$100 per year. With your \$95 STMA membership dues, you now have free access. Any way you look at it, it looks like a bargain to me, what with all the other benefits you receive as a STMA member.

We constantly hear about the need for turfgrass research. It is amazing what has already been done. They tell us that not everything written about turf is in TGIF yet, but they're getting there. I am sure it will help you do your job better.

You can go to the STMA home page and follow the instructions to log into the TGIF and get an idea about how this valuable this new tool can be.

Please note it is the responsibility of the sports turf manager to make his own decisions after obtaining all the information he can. The TGIF cannot make the decisions for you. That is a matter for you, based on your experience and the unique problems you face.

But, if information is power, you have a great deal of it right at your fingertips.

That's good news for us all.



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