

Gordon LaFontaine Endowment

The Gordon LaFontaine Endowment for Turfgrass Research was created to establish a solid source of funding for basic research in the field of turfgrass science. Basic research tends to be longer term, more involved and more expensive than applied research. The very nature of this research requires a stable source of funding.

Michigan State University and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation have funded the initial research into the mechanism of disease infection, plant response on a molecular level and the genetic mechanism for plant resistance to disease. Dr. Joe Vargas, world renowned turf pathologist at MSU has identified creeping bentgrass selections that show excellent resistance to dollar spot. Dr. Ray Hammerschmidt, Department Chair of Plant Pathology, has joined the turf team to look at the mechanism of dollar spot infection using a research approach that is novel to turf. Currently, no other research institution is exploring this system using the model that has been developed at MSU.

The release of dollar spot resistant bentgrass cultivars is within sight. Greater resources available through a fully funded endowment will ensure a realization of these goals within the next 5 years. Reaching our goal of raising \$2.1 million during the Turfgrass 2010 campaign for the LaFontaine Endowment will make the dream of disease resistant turfgrasses a reality.

Founders Society

The Founder's Society is an endowment used to purchase specialized research and support equipment for the turf program at MSU.

New donations to this fund will provide funding to install additional lysimeters at the Hancock Center to expand research on nutrient fate and water movement – key research validation to better position the turfgrass industry for the continuing statewide debate on water policy and nutrient management. Funding is also needed to update the Hancock Center, including new office equipment and a heating system for the Fuller Building.

These are just some of the important research and support items that will be purchased with increased donations to the Founder's Society. To achieve our goal, Turfgrass 2010 will need to add \$150,000 to the Founders Society principal.

Rieke Endowment

Dr. Paul Rieke is a dedicated MSU faculty member who made major contributions to turfgrass science through research, education, and outreach and shared his knowledge and expertise through the guidance of many graduate students. The Paul Rieke Turfgrass Endowed Graduate Assistantship was established by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation with generous contributions from Dr. Rieke, friends, family, and colleagues at Paul's retirement.

As part of Turfgrass 2010, the Rieke Endowment will help fund the communication and outreach efforts within the turfgrass industry, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and the MSU Turf Team. This "Building Relationships Initiative" is being spearheaded by MTF past board member Tom Mason to fill a void within the turf industry for the coordinated and seamless dissemination of information.

Currently this endowment of \$105,000 only funds 25% of the total amount needed for a graduate student. The Turfgrass 2010 fundraising goal will double the amount of this endowment to provide additional resources for communication and outreach efforts.



MSU Turf Team (Dr. Paul Rieke, bottom row 1st from left)

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation accepts gifts and pledges via cash, check or credit card for the Annual Fund or any of the three endowed funds. The MTF can also accept planned or immediate gifts from estates, insurance, real estate, stocks, bonds and other negotiable securities for any fund. The MTF can also work with donors through the MSU Foundation to set up a variety of trusts. The MTF is a 501c.3 non-profit foundation. Donations to the MTF are tax deductible (check with your accountant or financial planner) and donors receive full gift credit from Michigan State University for any donation to the MTF.



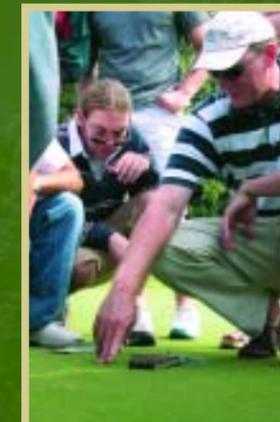
Impact the lives of Michigan citizens and protect our natural resources by making your tax deductible donation to Turfgrass 2010

For Cash Donations and Pledges Contact:
Kay Patrick-Hile at (517) 321-1660
Non-cash gifts, planned giving, wills and trusts Contact: Tom Smith at (517) 202-3019.



TURFGRASS 2010

*Research and education
protecting resources
impacting lives*



A COMPREHENSIVE FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN BY THE
MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION