The Future of USGA TGIF

We need your help, involvement, support, and ideas! The continuing effort which USGA TGIF, the Noer Collection, and the Turfgrass Information Center represent -- making universal access possible to the great wealth and tradition of the turf literature -- will need your special support, interest, and help in the coming months. We need to broaden the base of support and involve a much wider portion of the turf industry in our efforts. The USGA has made it clear that it expects the turf industry and turf professionals to begin assuming a much greater role in future support for the database and TIC operations. Since 1984, the construction of the database has been a cooperative venture between the USGA Turfgrass Research Program and the MSU Libraries. This means that the services and availability of TGIF have been heavily subsidized by USGA and MSU. In the short-term future, a new publications program, continuing improvements to the bibliographic file (USGA TGIF), and expanded data offerings are all on tap! What would you like to see? What can we do to increase the number of subscribers (and thus supporters) of the Center? Please let us know your thoughts!

New Feature Online ...

Need a **quick list of articles** on a topic without doing a search in USGA TGIF? Try the TOPICS bibliographies. These 1-4 page lists cover a wide range of subjects in turf culture, from "Poa annua control" to "Bunker renovation." They can be directly downloaded to your PC off the TGIF system. But what if you want the abstracts along with the short citation information? You have two alternatives:

● **Search by record number** in TGIF, based on the # provided in the TOPIC bibliography. For example, R=1659 OR 2311 OR 18911 OR 11843 will isolate a set of 4 records. Then W)rite the set (eg. "W S1 KEEPERS") and download your XXX.LST file normally.

● **For a complete set of the records** included in a TOPIC, search TOPIC=XXXX, where "XXXX" is the "first half" of the DOS filename for that TOPIC or the complete TOPIC name. For example:

TOPIC=EFFLU

or

TOPIC=EFFLUENT WATER USE

would isolate the 58 records in the "effluent water use" TOPIC. You could then look over the full TGIF records, or "W S1 KEEPERS" to prepare the full set in full record form for downloading. To identify the DOS filename for a TOPIC, look on the last line of the TOPIC bibliography or see the complete list in the "Guide to Download Topics."

VuePort
The Next Generation

VuePort, the telecommunications software used to dial into USGA TGIF, is being improved! Portions of VuePort 2.0 (the next release) are currently being tested by several users of USGA TGIF. Now features include:

● Reduced number of steps to log on (including no more <CTRL><C>!)
● A "gas gauge" meter when you download, telling you what % of the file has been downloaded as you do it.
● Reduced number of steps to log off, including an <ALT><Q> to log off *and* hang up from inside TGIF itself.

Additional features will continue to be added to VuePort 2.0 before it is released as a part of TGIFSHELL (see related article).

In the meantime, if you would like to be a BETA tester of VP 2.0 as it exists so far, please call and we'll send it to you.

Note: You need to be comfortable with basic DOS file management techniques in order to install the BETA version.

Special thanks are due to the early users of VuePort 2.0 for testing and providing feedback.

Coming to Your PC...
TGIFSHELL

In 1992, we will release a new software package for TIC subscribers. This TGIFSHELL will include as one menu option the ability to dial TGIF, which will be VuePort 2.0 in its final form (see related article). There will also be several new features. For example, the TOPICS bibliographies files could be located on your PC, without having to use telecommunications. We also hope to offer several additional local options. Because of the storage requirements, most of these local options will require a hard drive to work. Stay tuned...and if you have ideas for TGIFSHELL, please let us know! And no, we're not trying to compete with the commercial developers of software for the turf industry. We deal strictly with information resources.

On The Drawing Board ...
Network Access

We hope that within the next year we will be able to offer access to USGA TGIF through the INTERNET. This international computer network links national and regional networks, providing a means to "route" between them. INTERNET access may be important for some academic users as well as overseas TGIF subscribers. It also may permit access to TGIF from MacIntosh and other types of computers, using a wider range of telecommunications software.

We Need...

● Testimonials
If you've had an experience (or continuing experience) using TGIF or TIC services that "made a difference" in your job or career, and you wouldn't mind sharing that experience with others, we could use some, "What I do with USGA TGIF," statements for publicity, outreach, and training purposes. "Real-world" uses and your thoughts on using the database or TIC services in your work or continu-

ing professional/research growth are welcome. This kind of support is much appreciated.

● Copies of
1. Ohio Turfgrass Conference Proceedings for:
   1968, 1973-74, 1979-81, 1984-1991
2. The Groundsman (UK) for:
   Volumes 1-14 (1947-1960)
3. Nebraska Turfgrass Conference Proceedings for any years except 1964, 1969, 1976, and 1977.

Future features:

"Fill-in-the-blank" Searching
In early 1992, we intend to offer a new alternative search option for USGA TGIF. We hope to be able to debut it at the International Golf Course Conference & Show in New Orleans. The objective is to get as close as possible to a "fill-in-the- blank" type of search. Intended for beginning or occasional USGA TGIF searchers, no knowledge of Boolean operators, search syntax, or commands will be necessary. This capability will be offered as a new menu alternative, not as a replacement for the current search screen structure, which will remain available for more experienced users if they so desire. It will be your choice!

ProComm Access
We know about all you dedicated ProComm users out there, some of whom resent having to use a dedicated telecommunications package to access USGA TGIF! Based on expressed interest, we're tackling the opportunity head-on, and are pleased to report encouraging progress. We're not sure that making the system "look right" and "act right" inside ProComm will be any easier than the new release of VuePort, but it will be your choice! We'll let y'all know as soon as we have it "working"!

Turfgrass Thesaurus back online!

The Turfgrass Thesaurus, USGA TGIF's guide to indexing terminology, is back online again!. You can use TURFTERMS, as the electronic version is known, to identify search terms, verify spellings, or brainstorm concepts and their relationship to each other.

To search in TURFTERMS, just type in the term you want. If you're not sure of spelling, use the wildcards (either ? or *). If you get "1" hit, the exact match is in the Thesaurus and you can D)isplay the record just as you do in TGIF. If you get "0" hits, alter the term slightly or use the wildcards.

We hope to have the Turfgrass Thesaurus in a published book form within this coming year. Developing the Thesaurus is a major effort reaching back to the earliest days of the TIC project. It will continue to be an important TIC activity as long as researchers continue to change the name of pathogens, new tools and cultural practices are developed, new cultivars are introduced, etc.! We're sure you'll find it useful in ways besides just guiding TGIF searching!

Questions & Answers from users...

Q My downloaded search has several copies of the exact same record in it. Why is this?

A If you W)rite several different search sets before you download your "XXX.LST" file, each search is attached to the back end of what is already in "XXX.LST." Each time you W)rite, you will be prompted, "R)eplace, A)ppend, or E)nd." If you continue to A)ppend, each discrete search set will be added to the previous one(s), regardless of what is in each. Unless you want sequential, discrete search sets (which some searchers sometimes do), it is better to use the OR operator to combine several search lines, which will eliminate the duplicates in the combined set. Next time, try combining your lines before your next download, using OR; for example, S4 OR S7 or S8 on line S9, then W S9 KEEPERS at the command line.

Q What about putting USGA TGIF on CD-ROM?

A Yes, all of USGA TGIF, along with the entire Turfgrass Thesaurus, would fit on a single CD-ROM disk. It would be nice: no more telecommunications grief or charges, usable *anywhere* you could run a PC, etc. Unfortunately, it won't happen quickly - because 95% of you don't own a CD-ROM drive yet, or are unlikely to buy one just for TGIF. It's the old chicken-and-the-egg: no users without applications and no applications without users. Here in the MSU Libraries, we installed our first CD-ROM drive in 1986 - a technological eternity ago. But CD-ROM is still a rare end-user item. There is a possible change in the wind, however; the recently announced "MPC" standards ("Multimedia PC") include a CD-ROM drive. Hopefully it will succeed (and for more uses than just *spectacular* games). Because the costs of producing TGIF in this format would equal our entire budget for a year, it is not a step to be taken lightly. Please keep us informed when and if you are willing to support this (inevitable and desirable) step.

"New" Journals

Several journals/magazines have been added to the list of ones being regularly reviewed for turf related citations (records). These include, among others:

- California Agriculture
- Journal of Economic Entomology
- Journal of Seed Technology
- Golf Digest

Why Golf Digest? Do articles appearing in golf or other popular magazines (say, Family Circle or Ranger Rick) which contain an article on turf or course management impact your job? You bet they do! If your clients/members/neighbors read this material, can you track down what they read? These kinds of "literature" are important for the future of turf management, because they represent public knowledge. Please let us know when you run across turf-related articles outside the turf literature; better yet, send us a copy! We'll be sure to get it in TGIF.

New Orleans --
The International Golf Course Conference & Show

With support from both GCSAA & USGA, we will have USGA TGIF up & running in the USGA Green Section booth at the Trade Show. Please stop by to ask questions, see some new features, or give me some grief about ProComm (or network access, or COM5 support, etc. -- better yet, some ideas we're *not* working on). It will be good to again have the opportunity to talk with many of you firsthand -- please be sure to stop by! And special thanks again to GCSAA & USGA for their assistance and support!

The Box Score

USGA TGIF: 21,700 records!
Subscribers: 152 in 40 states and 5 countries!

New Staff....

Please help welcome Ms. Carol J. Case to the TIC staff the next time you call. Carol joined the center in July of 1990, and is available to help you with your search or document delivery needs when you call. Carol also coordinates the creation of database records for addition to USGA TGIF by student data entry personnel.

New MSU Library Leadership...

Dr. Hiram L. Davis assumed the Director of MSU Libraries challenge in late 1989. Dr. Davis brings a strong outreach and library visibility background to MSU (from New Mexico State), both of which are great needs of the Turfgrass Information Center. We welcome his interest, support, and involvement in the TIC project!

Mr. Carl Lee became Associate Director for Systems/ Access Services in 1990, and assumed administrative responsibility for TIC in 1991. Carl's strong private sector experience is sure to be a plus as TIC moves into its upcoming structural evolution.

User Manual Revision

The revision of the Dial Up User's Manual will be sent to all subscribers when completed. This revision will reflect all modifications and enhancements made as a part of the ''ease-of-use'' efforts.
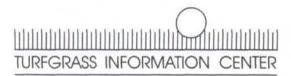
the **SWARD**

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the SWARD is produced by the Michigan State University Libraries. Address inquiries to Pete Cookingham, Turfgrass Information Center, Library W-212, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048.

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