

Message From the NYSTA President

On behalf of the New York State Turfgrass Association Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer the Annual Research Issue highlighting the projects made possible through funding by our Association. NYSTA has been actively supporting research at Cornell University for more than 50 years and has appropriated more than one million dollars to turfgrass research. As a matter of fact, the research reported in this issue represents more than \$50,000 of member-generated support for 2006-2007.

In 1991, the New York State Turfgrass Association formed the New York Turfgrass Foundation, established in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, to ensure the future of the turfgrass industry. The goal of the fund is one million dollars. Since its inception, individual members, businesses and friends, as well as a generous dollar for dollar matching program by Cornell University, have allowed us to raise nearly \$890,000. As a result, the New York Turfgrass Foundation is now generating \$50,000 in interest income per year to be used annually in support of turfgrass research. The matching program was discontinued when the Foundation generated annual revenue of \$50,000 without imposing on the principle, thereby ensuring permanent support for turfgrass research in New York State.

Each year, key members join with NYSTA Board members to review research proposals that address a variety of issues facing the turfgrass industry in New York. This vetting process ensures high quality, well-directed research is conducted that will have direct benefits for NYSTA members. Once a project is funded, a Board member is assigned to oversee progress and serve as a liaison between the Board and the researcher.

This Annual Research Issue highlights key projects in the area of culture, fertility, pest management and environmental issues. We are confident that we are funding a broad array of projects that serve the various sectors of our industry. We hope you agree and, as always, welcome your input.

In addition to the New York Turfgrass Foundation, NYSTA has expanded activities to include research funding in the New York State Budget for our economically important industry. The New York Turfgrass Survey documented that our industry employed 43,000 people and contributed five billion dollars in turf maintenance expenses to the economy in 2003 by creating jobs, paying taxes and generating opportunities for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. This survey has helped us leverage two new important research funding programs. First, \$175,000 has been appropriated for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, which targets research that improves best management practices. A second effort has brought support

through the New York Farm Viability Institute, an independent, non-profit organization that is dedicated to strengthening agricultural and horticultural industries. In fact, more than \$300,000 has been awarded to turfgrass research



focusing on sod production.

All totaled, NYSTA is involved in providing more than \$250,000 in 2008-2009 for turfgrass research at Cornell University, SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Delhi. We are very proud of this accomplishment but do not intend to rest on our laurels. Rather, we are actively involved in filling the Cornell University Turfgrass Weed Management position and advocating for a new Turfgrass Pathology position. These positions are vital for sustaining a full complement of researchers, at Cornell University, who are able to serve the turfgrass industry.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to receiving your input and opinion on challenges and opportunities for additional research or how we might serve you better.

Sincerely,

Owen Regan
NYSTA President

New York State Turfgrass Association elects 2008 Board of Directors at the Empire State Green Industry Show in Rochester, New York

(left to right) James Baird, Ph.D., Michael McNamara, Timothy Hahn, Thomas Wright, Peter Muller, Owen Regan, Craig Yunker, Greg Chorvas, Michael Maffei, CGCS, Roger Lind

(Missing) Rick Holfoth, CGCS, Robert Sanderson, Craig Currier

NYSTA would like to thank the members of the Adirondack Golf Course Superintendents Association for their generous donation to the production and printing of Cornell University Turfgrass Times.