



**FINDING AID TO
THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRONOMY EXTENSION, TURFGRASS
PROGRAM AND MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF
FOUNDATION RECORDS, 1931-2000**

**Purdue University Libraries
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Processed by: Mary A. Segó, November 19, 2010
Revised by: Amanda Burdick, February 20, 2017

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Purdue University, College of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy Extension, Turfgrass Program and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation records
Title	Purdue University, College of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy Extension, Turfgrass Program and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation records
Collection Identifier	UA 67
Date Span	1931-2000, predominant 1970-1995
Abstract	Scrapbooks relating to Dr. William H. Daniel's work, financial records, newsletters and research summaries, membership information, meeting minutes, Turf Conference Proceedings and numerous photographs relating to the Purdue Turf Program and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation.
Extent	6 cubic feet (5.5 c.f. boxes, 1 large flat box)
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Segó, 2010
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	HR
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.
Acquisition Information:	Received from Jennifer K. Biehl, Department of Agronomy, Purdue Turf Program and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, on September 21, 2010.
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Subjects and Genres

Persons

Daniel, William H.

Organizations

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Incorporated
Purdue Agronomy Department

Topics

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Incorporated
Turf
Turf--Prescription Athletic

Form and Genre Types

Clippings
Conference Proceedings
Correspondence--letters
Financial records
Minutes
Miscellaneous papers (Midwest Regional Turf Foundation)
Miscellaneous papers (Purdue Turf Program)
Newsletters
Papers
Patents
Photographs--Black and White
Photographs--Color
Research summaries
Scrapbooks

Occupations

Agronomist

History of Purdue Turf Program and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation

As early as 1937, M. L. Clevett, of the Purdue Athletic Department held seminars for approximately 40 people who were interested in turf. During the next few years George Scarseth of Purdue continued the turf conferences, and when G. O. Mott came he assumed the responsibility. In the very early days of World War II, Mott was asked by the Army Air Force to do research on stabilized grass runways. Interest in golf had been growing steadily and many people with golf interests realized that after the war and the return of veterans this interest would increase rapidly. As the war closed, greenskeepers from five states, while attending the Purdue Turf Conference, proposed a regional research and education program.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of Midwest Regional Turf Foundation was held at the Memorial Union, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana on Tuesday, September 18, 1945. The first directors present were A. L. Brandon, G. O. Mott, Carl Bretzlaff, Fred V. Grau, C. R. Runyan, George T. Donoghue and the following officers were elected: President, A. L. Brandon, Executive Secretary G. O. Mott, Treasurer, Joe Graffis. The Foundation was organized to gather and disseminate information which would help promote the advancement of the turf industry.

Interest in the MRTF grew rapidly and large numbers attended "greenskeepers schools" held in 1946 and yearly thereafter. In 1950 W. H. Daniel began work specifically in turf, and G. O. Mott increased his research on pasture and forage grasses. In 1952 W. H. Daniel became the Executive Director. Ken Payne, and later Charles Rhykerd, served as Treasurer.

Very early in the history of MRTF and the Purdue Turf Program student involvement was initiated and encouraged by part-time employment in the research efforts as well as outright scholarships. This strong student relationship has continued throughout the years. In the early years of the Foundation emphasis was on golf courses and golf course superintendents. Purdue Turf Science graduates were highly regarded for these positions. The turf industry has become very diverse in the years since the Foundation was begun and today's graduates are sought not only by golf courses, but also in research and teaching, lawn care operations, and sales. Through 1985, the Purdue turf science program produced 10 PhD's, 20 M.S. degrees, and 300 B. S. degrees. In 1985, Bill Daniel retired from Purdue and Clark Throssell was hired to direct the turf program. Since 1985 one Ph.D., two Masters degrees and 71 B.S. degrees have been completed.

Early research efforts of the MRTF and Purdue were focused on grass breeding. As the industry grew and evolved, the demand for knowledge and technical information broadened and so did the research areas. From 1971-86, Dr. R. P. Freeborg participated in all phases of the turf program, and especially in research on new pesticides. Kaye House was the office secretary who served with enthusiasm and devotion for more than twenty years.

In 1993 Purdue University turfgrass research projects included species and cultivar studies, management trials involving fungicide applications, nitrogen mobilization, ryegrass management, and bluegrass drought survival, as well as weed biology and control, insect

biology and control and disease biology and control. The latter two areas are an interdepartmental effort with Botany and Plant Pathology and Entomology.

The early greenskeepers schools have evolved over the years to large conferences which now include a trade show. The emphasis however has remained on the educational aspects. Attendance at the 1993 Midwest Greenscape Expo which was held Indianapolis in conjunction with the Indiana Association of Nurserymen was approximately 2,500. The success and integrity of the Purdue turf program and the MRTF has led directly to the development of many state organizations throughout the Midwest, which in turn, have greatly enhanced and strengthened the turf industry and to the present great success and expansion noted in the golfing segment.

For further information, see: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/index.html>

Source(s):

Retrieved November 17, 2010 from: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/index.html>

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue Turfgrass Program and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation records (1931-2000; 6 cubic feet) document the work of Purdue agronomist, Dr. William H. Daniel. The records include, financial records, newsletters and research summaries, membership information, and meeting minutes and miscellaneous papers of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Incorporated. It also includes Turf Conference Proceedings, numerous photographs and miscellaneous material from the Purdue Turf Program and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. The records are organized into six series:

Arrangement

- 1. Dr. William H. Daniel's Material, 1970-1995 (1 cubic foot).** This series contains material related to the work of Dr. William H. Daniel, a Purdue agronomist, and pioneer of the Purdue Turf Program. Among the items are scrapbooks presented to him by former students upon his 30th anniversary at Purdue and his retirement from the University. The scrapbooks contain correspondence and clippings from his former students and colleagues. Also among the material are patents issued to Dr. Daniel and miscellaneous publication and items.
- 2. Financial Records, 1947-1989 (1 cubic foot).** This series provides detailed financial records of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation/Conference, including bank statements and receipts and miscellaneous material
- 3. Newsletters and Research Summaries, 1931-1989 (1 cubic foot).** Included are copies of Turfgrass Research Summaries, *Midwest Turf News and Research*, *Newsletter Midwest Regional Turf Foundation*, and Turf Foundation papers and miscellaneous items.
- 4. Membership Information, Meeting Minutes and Board of Director Material, 1945-2000 (0.5 cubic foot).** The information includes detailed Midwest Regional Turf Foundation membership information, meeting minutes, Board of Director material and miscellaneous papers
- 5. Conference Proceedings, Miscellaneous Publication and Papers, 1948-2000 (1 cubic foot).** Turf Conference Proceedings from 1948-1986, a tree publication, and Crop and Soil Judging Endowment file.
- 6. Photographs and Negatives, circa 1943-1980's (1.5 cubic foot).** Numerous photographs pertaining to the staff and research of the Purdue Turf Program, along with photographs relating to the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and its conferences.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. Oversized materials have been separated and/or boxed for preservation purposes.

Revision History

Collection identifier updated from UA 14.04.01-1 to UA 67 as of February 20, 2017.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Dr. William H. Daniel's Material, 1970-1995

(1 cubic foot)

Box 1 Scrapbooks, Correspondence, Clippings, Patents, Photographs and Miscellaneous Material

Item

1. Letters to Dr. William H. Daniel from former students congratulating him on his 30th anniversary at Purdue University, March 4, 1980. [Items have been removed from an engraved binder and placed in polyester sleeves and an acid-free folder, for preservation purposes.]
2. Scrapbook in a 3-ring binder, engraved "To Dr. W.H. Daniel "A Friend" From the Former Turf Students," contains correspondence sent upon Dr. Daniel's retirement from Purdue, 1985.
[Binder also contains two black and white photographs of Dr. Daniel at his retirement party, an invitation and program from Purdue University's Annual Retirement Banquet, 1984-1985, an issue of "*the Bull Sheet*," v. 48, no. 11, April 1995, (Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents of the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area,) dedicated to Dr. William H. Daniel, and a letter from the editor to Mrs. Daniel, upon Dr. Daniel's passing.]
3. Scrapbook in a 3-ring binder, contains materials relating to Dr. Daniel's Green Section Award from United States Golf Association, 1984; his retirement, 1985; "ITS" – France, circa 1980; induction into Indiana Golf Hall of Fame, 1981.
[includes numerous clippings, photographs, certificates, programs and miscellaneous material]
4. "P.A.T." (Prescription Athletic Turf) Binder #1, journal articles and clippings, circa 1970-1980.
5. "P.A.T." (Prescription Athletic Turf) Binder #2, journal articles and clippings, circa 1970-1980.
[includes article, "Ross-Ade Stadium turns 50 Saturday," Journal and Courier, Metro Report, Friday, November 22, 1974]
6. Brochure, P.A.T. (Prescription Athletic Turf), presented by Turfgrass Services Company, Incorporated, Pueblo, CO, W.H. Daniel, consultant.
7. Juska, F.V.; Hanson, A.A. (1964). Evaluation of bermudagrass varieties for general-purpose turf. Washington, D.C.: Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
8. Purdue University Turfgrass Research Summary "NCR 10," submitted by W.H. Daniel, R.P. Freeborg, D.H. Scott, D.K. Mosdell, 1983

Folder

1. Patents issued to Dr. William H. Daniel, 1972-1994
 1. Plant Patent 3,135 – Kentucky Bluegrass (POA Pratensis), April 25, 1972
 2. Plant Patent 3,175 – Kentucky Bluegrass (POA Pratensis), May 16, 1972
 3. Plant Patent 3,176 – Kentucky Bluegrass (POA Pratensis), May 16, 1972
 4. Plant Patent 3,177 – Kentucky Bluegrass (POA Pratensis), May 16, 1972

5. U.S. Patent No. 5,350,251; “Planted Surface Moisture Control System,” P9156, September 27, 1994
2. “P.A.T. – 2,” (Prescription Athletic Turf) brochures, circa 1978-1988.

Series 2. Financial Records, 1947-1989

(1 cubic foot)

Box 2 *Midwest Regional Turf Foundation/Conference Financial Records, Bank Statements and Receipts, and Miscellaneous Material*

Items

1. Midwest Regional Turf Conference, “ledger 1,” financial record, March 18, 1947-December 31, 1960.
2. Midwest Regional Turf Conference, “ledger 2,” financial record, January 1, 1961-December 31, 1977.
3. Ledger containing records of funds from Turf Conference Proceedings, March 7, 1957- 1973.

Folders

1. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1975-1977
2. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1978-1979
3. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1979
4. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1982
5. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1983
6. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1984
7. Bank Statements and Receipts, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, 1985
8. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation checking account information, account closed in 1989.
9. Bursar Statements, 1988-1989

Series 3. Newsletters and Research Summaries, 1931-1989

(0.5 cubic foot)

Box 3 *Turfgrass Research Summaries, Midwest Turf News and Research, Newsletter Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, and Miscellaneous Papers*

Items

1. Midwest Regional Turf Field Day(s) Information, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 [some years may be among the miscellaneous papers]
2. Purdue University Turfgrass Research Summary, Department of Agronomy, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Department of Entomology, Department of Horticulture, 1988
3. Purdue University Turfgrass Research Summary, Department of Agronomy, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Department of Entomology, Department of Horticulture, 1989

Folders

1. Turf Conference material, 1947-1959 [group photographs, programs, news releases and miscellaneous material]
2. *Midwest Turf News and Research*, Introductory Issue, 1947 – 1959 [skips some years]
3. *Items*
 1. *Midwest Turf News and Research*, 1960-1971 [skips some years]
 2. *Newsletter Midwest Regional Turf Foundation*, July 1966 [2 copies], November 1966 [3 copies], June 1966, March 1967, June 1967, March 1969 [3 copies] and July 1971
 3. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Better Golf thru Better Turf, circa 1950-1960 [2 membership brochure2]
 4. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Better Parks and Cemeteries thru Better Turf, circa 1960 [membership brochure]
4. Miscellaneous Midwest Regional Turf Foundation papers, 1931-1946
5. Miscellaneous Midwest Regional Turf Foundation papers, 1950-1958
6. Miscellaneous Midwest Regional Turf Foundation papers, 1960-1974

Series 4. Membership Information, Meeting Minutes and Board of Director Material, 1945-2000

(1 cubic foot)

Box 4 *Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Membership Information, Meeting Minutes, Board of Director Material and Miscellaneous Papers*

Folder

1. Two steno notebooks labeled, “Memberships,” 1974-1979 and 1980-1986.
2. Membership applications and miscellaneous material, 1989
3. Binder - Membership meetings, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation bylaws, charter and “Memorandum of Understanding,” 1949-1980
4. Binder - Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Incorporated Advisory Committee, minutes of meetings, correspondence, 1949-1964 [no Advisory Council meeting held in 1965]
5. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, United States Internal Revenue Service Report, 1945-1988.
6. Binder – Board of Directors material and minutes, 1945-1980.
7. Board of Directors material and minutes, 1979-1989.
8. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation meeting minutes, 1985-1994.
9. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation meeting minutes, 1995-2000.
10. “Copy of All M.R.T.F. Material, File 2,” 1947-1970 [as per the department’s file label]
11. Indiana Annual Non-Profit Corporation Report, 1965-1994.

Series 5. Conference Proceedings and Miscellaneous Publication and Papers, 1948-2000

(1 cubic foot)

Box 5 *Turf Conference Proceedings, Tree Publication, and Crop and Soil Judging Endowment Information and Miscellaneous Material*

Items

1. Turf Conference Proceedings, Sponsored by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Purdue University, 1948, 1950, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960-1969, 1970-1973, 1975-1977, 1979, [2 copies for 1971 and 3 copies for 1975, 1976 and 1979] 1980-1986 [2 copies for 1986, 3 copies for 1980 and 1985, 4 copies for 1981, 1983 and 1984]
2. Carter, J. Cedric (1977). Illinois Trees: Selection, Planting, and Care, Illinois Natural History Survey Division, Circular; 51.
3. Folder – Crop and Soil Judging Endowment, Circa 2002
4. National Soybean Processors Association Crop Improvement Council, H.R. Koller, 1981-1982
5. Miscellaneous material, circa 1970-1980 [includes clippings from journals, advertisements, charts, presentation overheads]

Series 6. Photographs and Negatives, circa 1943-1980's

(1.5 cubic feet)

Box 6 *Miscellaneous Purdue Turf Program and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Photographs and Negatives*

Item

1. Numerous photographs, black and white and color, relating to turfgrass staff, research and events, along with Turf Conference photographs and Midwest Regional Turf Foundation photographs, circa 1947-1980's. [photographs are in acid free boxes, sleeves or folders]

Box 7 *Oversized Photographs and Chart*

Item

1. Board with pictures of 1943, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1951, and 1957 conference attendees
2. Chart with research plots, circa 1970's
3. Group photograph of Purdue Turfgrass students, circa 1980's
4. Cover of *Purdue Alumnus*, "They Built a Golf Course to Dye For," group photograph on golf course, July/August, 1998