1994 Turf Conference and Show Is ‘Tremendous Success’

Total Attendance Was 921; Booths Reach Limit of 150

For openers, the 1994 Turf Conference and Show held at the Minneapolis Convention Center December 7-9 indeed had a successful beginning.

As newly-elected MGCSA President Kevin Clunis said, “It was an overwhelming success.”

Sponsored by the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, it was billed as The Greater Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and show and held in conjunction with the MGCSA’s 67th annual meeting.

Excellent attendance, a superb program, enjoyable camaraderie and the pleasant atmosphere at the Convention Center added up to a particularly successful conference.

Total attendance was 921, including all attendees and vendors.

A record number of 150 exhibitor booths was well-received. In fact this year’s conference committee had to turn away 15 additional companies who wanted booth space since the limit of 150 had been reached.

However, next year’s conference won’t have that problem since the show will be moved into one of the dome areas.

Breakdown of the members attending for the eight associations involved was:

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents’ Association (MGCSA), 421;
Minnesota Park Superintendents’ Association (MPSA), 63;
Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA), 14;
Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC) 4;
Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors, (MASMS), 4;
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA), 4;
Minnesota Turf Association (MTA), 1;
Northern Minnesota Forage and Turf Seed Advisory Committee (NMFTSAC), 1.

In addition, there were 135 persons with no association affiliation at the show.

New MGCSA officers elected at the association’s annual meeting were:

Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Stillwater Country Club, president;
James Gardner, CGCS, Rochester Golf & Country Club, vice-president;
John Granholt, Eau Claire Golf & Country Club, secretary;
Tom Kientzle, CGCS, The Pines at Grand View Lodge, treasurer.
Joe Moris, Tartan Park, GC, outgoing president, remains on the board an ex-officio member.

New directors elected were:
Butch Greeninger, MTI Distributing Co.
Charlie Pooch, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course;

KEVIN CLUNIS gives past president Joe Moris a plaque for appreciation of his presidential services for the MGCSA.

MIKE HILLIARD of the Par Aide Co.

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Dave Sime, Benson Golf Club;
Fred Taylor, Mankato Country Club;
Pat Walton, Rolling Green Country Club.

Directors completing their terms were Cary Femrite, Pebble Creek Golf Club, and Norma O'Leary, CGCS, Silver Bay Country Club. Both were complimented for their service.

Remaining on the board are William S. Cox, Tianna Country Club; Richard Grundstrom, Indian Hills Golf Club; Tom Johnson, New Richmond Golf Club, and Monty Montague, National Mower/Turfco Mfg. Inc.

Johnson was selected as the new editor of Hole Notes and will work with Larry Vetter, also appointed to the publication association's Editorial Committee.

TWO NEW DIRECTORS OF THE MGCSA are Charlie Pooch, left, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course and Fred Taylor of Mankato Golf Club.

Service plaques were awarded to:
John Beyer, Pine Meadows (40 years); Cal Polsean, Westward Ho Country Club (35 years); James Wodash, Willmar Golf Club; Larry Mueller, Minnesota Valley Country Club; Tom Stelter, Highland 9-Hole (all 30 years); Keith Scott, Oak Ridge Country Club; John Queensland, Cedar River Country Club; Lorin Maenke, Edina Country Club, and Robert Borovansky, Rich Acres Golf Club (all 25 years).

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Jim Latham of the United States Golf Association's Green Section.

The Watson Award went to Cary Femrite, Pebble Creek Golf Club, for his journalistic efforts for Hole Notes.

The President's Plaque was presented to Joe Moris, Tartan Park Golf Club.

Two new honorary members of the MGCSA also were elected. They were Bob Vavrek, USGA Green Section, and Dr. Frank Rossi, a professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Scholarship honorees were Mike Brower, Minneapolis, a student at Penn State; Jeffrey Kolodjski, Wyoming, Iowa State; James Schmitz, Rochester, Riverland Tech; Eric Sundet, Eden Prairie, Michigan State, and Theresa Vyvskocil, Shokopee, also at Penn State.

JUDGES AT THE MGCSA BUSINESS MEETING from left are Larry Mueller, Minnesota Valley, Dale Caldwell, Minneapolis Golf Club and Doug Mahal of The Minikahda Club.

The goal of this combined turf conference was to establish continuity among related fields, educate, share problems and support with increased members a professional attitude in all of the turf industry.

The cross-section of speakers had useful take-home information for all of the allied associations. The pesticide issue is one that affects us all and one of the concurrent sessions, "Pesticides and the Public" dealt with that.