World Class Conference

From Rhode Island to Oregon, from Wisconsin to Japan, expert speakers are coming to Minneapolis for the second annual Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Conference and Show. Over thirty different authorities on turf and grounds care will present information on fifty varied topics ranging from business management to fungicide strategies for winter.

Key speakers include Francie Dalton of Dalton Alliance in Washington D.C.; Dr. Michael Coffman, author of "Saviors of the Earth," and former U.S. Congressman Tim Penny. Other notable speakers are Dr. Noel Jackson from the University of Rhode Island, a leading plant pathologist; Dr. Nick Christians from Iowa State University, noted for his work with natural weed control products; and the ever popular and dynamic Dr. Frank Rossi of the University of Wisconsin.

Minnesota is also well-represented on the speaker roster, with many outstanding faculty from the University, along with various entrepreneurs and golf course superintendents. U of M faculty featured this year are Dr. Bert Swanson of the Horticulture Department, Mike Zins of the Landscape Arboretum, extension coordinator Deb Brown and plant pathologist Dr. Ward Stienstra. The amazing Paul Mayes, formerly of Minnesota and now working in Japan, will be back to speak on construction in Asia and beyond.

With all of the different topics available, it may be difficult to decide which sessions to attend. For this reason, it is recommended that each superintendent bring as many of their staff as possible just to capture all the information. Remember that attendance at Wednesday's sessions will qualify you for pesticide license recertification.

The highlight of the conference for many people is the Trade Show. This year's edition will be the largest and most comprehensive display ever, with nearly twice the number of booths as last year. The show will move into one of the huge domes this year, giving it the feel of a "Mini National." Hours of the trade show will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. both Wednesday and Thursday. Lunch will be available in the trade show both days, giving attendees the option of staying in the convention center.

For those who plan on staying in Minneapolis, the conference committee has chosen the Minneapolis Hilton as the headquarters hotel. The Hilton has agreed to a $62 per night rate, which is a great bargain for a hotel of the Hilton's caliber. Guests will have privileges to the large health spa, including a swimming pool, a sauna, and a whirlpool.

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