



MINNESOTA IN THE CROSSHAIRS

2007 Green Expo

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It won't be long before we greenkeepers descend upon the Minneapolis Convention Center to attend the 2007 Green Expo. As the MGCSA education chair, I feel we have put together a very solid program that offers a good cross-section of topics that should appeal to most. As with any MGCSA offering or event, we need to hear from you, the membership. The only way we can improve and better serve the needs of our members is through feedback, both positive and negative. We need your help! So, on January 3, 4 and 5, check out the educational offerings, the trade show and the camaraderie. Then, sound off!

One of the issues that concerns me regarding the Green Expo format is the amount of education time available relative to dedicated trade show time. Currently, the Green Expo runs for 25.5 hours over the course of three days from Wednesday to Friday. The trade show is open for 19.5 of those 25.5 hours. Of those 19.5 trade show hours, 11.25 are dedicated hours. This means that educational seminars cannot be scheduled during those hours. I am of the opinion that 19.5 hours will afford anyone, if interested, the opportunity to traverse the trade show floor and visit with the vendors of their choosing. I would favor freeing up 2-4 hours from the dedicated block of time for educational purposes. Adding additional seminars to the golf program would allow for more variety; more extended, in-depth seminars and could possibly bolster attendance from our segment of the industry. After all, isn't the point of this winter gathering centered around education? In order to lobby for these changes more effectively at the MNLA/MTGF Joint Programming Board, I will need vocal support from MGCSA members and vendors. The current JPB feels that the current time allotments for education and trade show are appropriate and all parties are satisfied. I have talked to both MGCSA members and vendors that feel differently. If there is enough support for this proposition, I will pursue it further. If, on the other hand, the status quo is acceptable to

our membership and vendors, I will drop the issue. It is up to YOU!

Now for a primer on the upcoming Green Expo that takes place on January 3-5, 2007:

Wednesday

In addition to the always impressive keynote speaker that morning, Bob Vavrek, USGA agronomist, will (hopefully?) share with us some of the problems and solutions our colleagues have dealt with at various golf courses he has visited over the years.

Lukas Dant, M.S., Iowa State, will discuss sprayer performance issues and how to improve plant-protectant performance as revealed by his field research at golf courses across the Midwest.

Gary Grigg, CGCS, Grigg Brothers, will talk about program-based budgeting, a technique that associates costs with specific golf course conditioning, making random budget cuts much more difficult for golf course management.

Paul Magro, former GC Superintendent and Instructor, Turfgrass Technical Coordinator and Field Research Facility Coordinator, Penn State, will present talks on the art of syringing and the role of fertigation in golf course maintenance.

Dr. Roch Gausson, University of Nebraska will present the results of his research on the role of organic matter in golf greens as they mature.

Thursday

Dr. Gaussoin/Gary Grigg will present their GCSAA half-day program on foliar nutrition. This seminar has received high ratings from attendees in the past.

Caitlin Rood, Environmental Engineer at Tetra Tech EM Inc., will discuss pollution prevention strategies specific to golf courses, alternatives to solvent-based parts washers that work, and how to choose cleaning supplies and shop chemicals that minimize environmental impact.

Paul Magro will talk about chemical and pesticide safety.

Carl Osterhaus, The Toro Company,

will discuss diesel engine performance and troubleshooting procedures and will present a seminar on effective shop layout

Dr. Lane Tredway, North Carolina State University, is an up and coming star in the field of plant pathology. He studied under Dr. Bruce Clark at Rutgers University. Dr. Tredway will be speaking on phosphate products for disease control and stress management.

Dr. David Shetlar, a.k.a. The Bug Doc, Ohio State University, will speak on multiple target principles to maximize golf course insect control.

Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota, will present an update on the 2006 NTEP trials conducted at the TROE Center.

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota, will present the results of his phosphorous runoff study at the TROE Center as it pertains to clipping management and fertilizer inputs.

John Mascaro will present the live version of his photo quiz that has appeared in Golf Course Management Magazine since 2002. Stop by and put your turfgrass knowledge and investigative abilities to the test.

Friday - Pesticide Recertification

Dr. Lane Tredway will discuss an integrated management program for the prevention and control of foliar and basal rot anthracnose. He will also present his most recent research on the biology and management of root-infecting fungi.

Dr. David Shetlar will conduct two seminars, one on the modes of action and use strategies for the new insecticides on the market and the second on dealing with nuisance insect pests on the golf course.

As you can see, there should be something of interest for everyone. Please plan on attending. You won't be disappointed. Hope to see you there!