



Expo is Looking Excellent!



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Winter educational opportunities are just around the corner and the 2008 Green Expo is shaping up to be a solid collection of seminars and presentations. The upcoming Expo will be held January 9-11 running Wednesday through Friday as in previous years.

Super Tuesday

The offerings for Super Tuesday on January 8 are very strong. Daylong topics include a "how-to" on shoreline restoration, a class on using your digital camera to its fullest potential and an entire day dedicated to landscape design basics. I, for one, hope to send my gardener to the landscaping class and I may attend the photography class to pick up a few pointers.

Wednesday

Wednesday starts off with a bang! Bob Fitch, Executive Director of MNLA and the man in charge of the Green Expo has inked a deal with the Minneapolis Convention Center that will allow us the use of three 400-seat auditoriums and one auditorium that can seat 2,000 people. All the auditoriums are theater-style seating with state-of-the-art electronics and all are accessed from the main registration area opposite the trade show floor. This year the University of Minnesota research updates, presented by Drs. Hogan and Watkins, will run PRIOR TO the keynote speaker, so make sure and arrive earlier than you may have in past years.

Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker will be Dave Horsager, a local resident and renowned motivational speaker. You may have seen an article on him recently that appeared in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Mr. Horsager will offer a unique blend of amazing illusions, humor and powerful messages. You won't want to miss him.

The rest of the day will include the

always popular "Turf 101"; Larry Alwaryd, editor of *Golfdom Magazine*, speaking on golf and the environment, and John McCauley, federal pesticide lobbyist for BASF, will discuss the political climate in Washington D.C. as it pertains to the future of pesticide legislation. In addition, Mark Seeley from the University of Minnesota will discuss the data trends and visible evidence of climate change. My sources tell me that Dr. Seeley is a very engaging speaker and one you probably don't want to miss.

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Thursday Morning

Thursday morning will again feature a half-day seminar on a golf-related topic. This year, Dr. Thomas Nikolai from Michigan State will present his talk on all things related to green speed. This session will start at 7:00 a.m. and end at noon so don't stay out too late the night before. Other golf topics of interest include Dr. Van Cline from the Toro Company speaking on maintenance equipment fuel source technology, and Dr. Randy Cush from Syngenta will touch on crop oils and the role of inert ingredients in plant protectant formulations. Mark Esoda, CGCS, from the Atlanta CC will talk about proven techniques for enhancing your influence and effectiveness. Raphael Barajas returns to offer additional education opportunities on safety and turf maintenance for the Hispanic component in our industry. For the equipment technician in your organization, several interesting topics will be covered. Schaeffer Oil Company will have one of its senior scientists discussing the ins and outs of motor oils and lubricants as well as possible issues associated with the use of biofuels. An educator from

Kohler will present in-depth information on engine failure analysis.

Thursday Afternoon

The highlight of Thursday afternoon could prove to be a panel discussion on "Managing Golfer Expectations." Members of the panel will include a Superintendent, a General Manager, a Golf Professional, a University Researcher/Educator, a MGA representative, and a USGA representative. The success of this session will

depend on our memberships' willingness to participate and share ideas. I hope we take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Several additional afternoon talks include Melissa Gugliatta from Syngenta speaking on chemical, biological and mechanical management options for small, shallow bodies of water, and Mark Esoda, CGCS,

speaking on working with state regulators to develop a water management plan for golf courses.

Friday: Pesticide Recertification Day

Of course, Friday is pesticide re-certification day. Dr. Chris Williamson from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will discuss the latest and greatest regarding Gypsy moth, Emerald Ash Borer, ants, Japanese beetle and earthworms. Dr. Larry Stowell of the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute will address moss and algae control measures on putting surfaces and provide an update on Waitea patch.

I have only briefly touched on the topics relevant to golf course management. There is a multitude of sessions that cross over various segments of the Green Industry, so choices will be extensive. I should also mention that the entire membership of the Wisconsin GCSA has been added to the Green Expo mailing list so look for many more of our colleagues from the east to attend in 2008. The upcoming Green Expo is shaping up to be the best yet. Mark your calendars now!