

# *On The Move:*

## *Matt Cavanaugh New UMN Turf Scientist*



As many of you are aware, the MGCSA Member Driven Research was initiated in the spring of 2013. This initiative led to the development and implementation of cutting edge research projects that are determined by the MGCSA membership. The research projects conducted in 2013 at the TROE Center and in practical golf course settings around the state were possible due largely to the efforts of Mario Gagliardi, who was the technician responsible for the day to day management of these projects.

This spring Mario departed from our program and accepted an assistant superintendent position in New Jersey, where he is originally from. We wish Mario all the best in his future endeavors.

We are very pleased to announce that Matt Cavanaugh will be taking over this role. Matt's knowledge and experience in turfgrass science and management will be a tremendous addition to our program. Matt holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Minnesota. He has also spent over a decade working in the turf industry in Minnesota. In addition to MGCSA projects, Matt will be working on Turfgrass Extension programs and with the MN Department of Transportation to refine recommendations for salt tolerant roadside turfgrass establishment and maintenance.

Please join us in welcoming Matt back to the University of Minnesota.

In Matt's own words, a brief autobiography:

I started working in the turf industry during high school at Bridges Golf Course in Mounds View, MN. Bridges is now the site of a Medtronic parking ramp and office complex (my youth is gone). Maybe this speaks volumes about where my turf career was headed. My time at the Bridges ignited a passion for turf

so I went to Kansas State University to get my turf degree. I was lucky to get my first job out of Kansas State at Medina Golf & Country Club. After one year there, I obtained a position at Rush Creek Golf Club and stayed for nine years.

During this time I had the opportunity to host a USGA event and participate in a greens renovation, a bunker renovation and the building of a 9 hole-par 3 course, as well as experience the summer that was 2011 (only quick flashbacks remain). Also, during my time at Rush Creek, I completed my Masters in Applied Plant Science at the University of Minnesota (thanks Rush Creek). After the completion of my Masters, I joined

PBI-Gordon as the Professional Products Rep in MN, WI, ND & SD. It was a new challenge that opened my eyes to a side of the turf industry I had never seen before. It was a great experience and I probably learned more about turf and myself during this time than ever before. My time at PBI has certainly made me a better student of the turf industry.

I'm very excited to be joining the great turf group at the University of Minnesota. I look forward to working with all of you more in my new role. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions and especially ideas. The passion this group has for turf is infectious and we want you all along for the ride.

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