

Dr. A. J. Turgeon -N-



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The 50th Annual MAGCS Turf Clinic

Over the years, Dr. A. J. “Al” Turgeon, now professor of turfgrass management in Penn State University’s Department of Agronomy, has been a speaker at many of our educational seminars, including the 25th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. We look forward to celebrating our 50th installment of the annual Midwest Turf Clinic with Dr. Al Turgeon once again providing us with his wisdom and unique experience.

Dr. Turgeon has to his credit nearly 300 publications, including a popular textbook, Turfgrass Management, that we all carried with us in our backpacks during our college years. This “bible” is now in its sixth edition.

Dr. Turgeon grew up on a golf course and worked at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY through his high school and college years. He majored in turfgrass management at Rutgers University, where he earned his B.S. degree in 1965. Graduating with an ROTC commission, he then served a three-year tour in the U.S. Army (including one year in Vietnam) as an infantry officer, helicopter pilot and meteorology instructor. He resumed his graduate study at Michigan State University, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1971. His first professional position was at the University of Illinois as assistant, then associate, professor of turfgrass management. He then moved to Texas, where he was professor and resident director of research at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Dallas from 1980 to 1983.

When life as an Aggie became dull, Dr. Turgeon moved to the private sector and joined the Tru Green Corporation as vice president for research and technical services from 1983 to 1986. His next move was to Penn State, where he served as professor and head of the Department of Agronomy (he turned down an offer to become head coach of the Nittany Lions football team, explaining that Joe-Pa, in his opinion, still had a few good years left). In 1994, he resigned from his administrative position to devote full-time efforts to turfgrass education and associated pedagogical (say that three times fast) research and development, with emphasis on innovative computer-based and inquiry-based learning resources and techniques.

Dr. Turgeon has to his credit nearly 300 publications, including a popular textbook, *Turfgrass Management*, that we all carried with us in our backpacks during our college years. This “bible” is now in its sixth edition. He currently serves as senior faculty coordinator of the Penn State World Campus’ Turfgrass Certificate Program, a Web-based series of undergraduate courses with students enrolled from all over the world.

The MAGCS looks forward to a compelling presentation by Dr. Turgeon and thanks him for sharing another milestone moment with the members of the Midwest.

