

Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation Germinates

Like a newly planted seed, progress on establishing a turf and grounds foundation in Minnesota has been slow. This green industry umbrella organization has been envisioned for many years as evidenced by a proposed constitution drawn up in 1986. Now, after years of dormancy, work on its establishment has once again begun. The driving forces for this endeavor have changed and lie in many areas. Budgetary crunches at the University, the reassignment of extension professor, Brad Pedersen, to the St. Paul campus, along with renewed industry interest have jointly led to the foundation's rebirth. But like any newborn plant, this foundation must learn to sprout before it can grow.

Work on the foundation began over two years ago as the various green industry organizations were surveyed to identify their specific interests and benefits which could be served by the foundation. A steering committee of industry leaders was then assembled to open lines of communication, to develop trust and to investigate the various foundation models throughout the country. By the middle of 1993, a model was chosen, a new constitution was drawn up, and our foundation was on its way. Then approval by the newly allied associations had to be secured as they reviewed the new constitution and selected representatives to the new Board of Directors. The long dormant seed of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation was about to germinate!

Our first Board meeting was January 12, 1994 as we identified possible goals for the upcoming year and elected officers. We began assembling mailing lists of the allied associations, identified the proper organizational and legal structures and established an events calendar for the year. The Board has since met two more times, formulating a mission statement, creating a logo and working on a strategic plan for this year and beyond.

Like any other emerging seed, this foundation is going to require some time to mature, making comparison with other foundations at this time unfair. However, in the future, we expect to supply many of the same services and benefits derived from similar endeavors. Our first scheduled event, sponsored by the Minnesota Park Supervisors Association, will be a summer exposition featuring maintenance equipment for turf and grounds. This will then be followed by a December educational conference and trade show, under the auspices of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. Expanded educational opportunities and a larger trade show will greet the new and past attendees.

Future ideas include regional research seminars, turf and grounds field days throughout the region, golf tournaments and other fun, exciting opportunities. Yet, we are really in existence to meet the goals of our mission statement.

1. To support unity within the turf and grounds industry by encouraging the continued growth of each allied association.

2. To exchange knowledge among the members for the improvement of the industry through education, confer-

ences, workshops, shows, and field days.

3. To encourage and support research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota.

4. To be pro-active in matters that affect the turf and grounds industry.

The Foundation would like to recognize the following people and organizations for their help and participation. Please contact your association's representative for further information.

Steve Balfany Sod Producers

Dean Heng Park Supervisors

(Vice President)

Jim Habstritt Seed Producers

John Hopko Vendor Representatives

Greg Hubbard Golf Course Superintendents

(President)

Doug Madsen Nursery & Landscape

(Secretary)

Jim Ostvig Cemeteries

Brad Pedersen University of Minnesota

(U/MN Advisor)

Tom Redmann School Districts

Tom Rudberg Sports Turf

— Greg Hubbard, President

Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation

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