

U of M Update

By
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University of Minnesota



An increasing number of phone calls I receive are directed at the "landscape" side of golf course grounds management. It is obvious to me that a maturing golf course in the 90s requires a great deal of time and money in the development of the aesthetic value of the golf course in addition to the functions normally associated with playing the game. Many Minnesota courses have a part-or full-time position that deals specifically with the design, implementation and maintenance of ornamental trees and shrubs, perennial and annual flowers, vines, groundcovers and hardscaping features.

The University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science, and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum will be offering specific classes to aid those industry professionals who wish to beef-up their landscaping skills. The classes are directed at those who *do not* have formal training in the landscape area but have responsibilities in that area, or those who wish to be updated or learn more. In 1995, two classes will be offered:

Title: Commercial Landscape Design:
The Planning Process

Instructor: Brad Peterson,
Turfgrass and Landscape Specialist

Description: Creating long-term landscapes with minimal problems isn't as simple as "have bobcat - will landscape!". It requires intelligent design that takes into account not only the site, but also the needs and growth of chosen plants. Horticulture and design come together in this intensive class for golf course, park, cemetery and other grounds professionals; Master Gardeners and students of landscape design and construction. Participants will analyze current landscape situations in class and in the field while developing and evaluating plans for further installations.

Specifics: 4 sessions, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.,
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum,
June 15, 22, 29 and July 6.
Class limit of 25 students.

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Title: Woody Plants of the North

Instructor: Michael Zins,
Environmental Horticulture Specialist

Description: Which lilac is loveliest and least disease-prone? Which maple has the most marvelous color? Which honeysuckle is most likely to look horrible after five years? For an up close, in-depth look at woody plant cultivars appropriate for northern landscapes, join this intensive class for professionals, Master Gardeners and horticulture students. Lectures and field work combine in a hands-on approach.

Specifics: 4 sessions, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.,
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum,
June 15, 22, 29 and July 6.
Class limit of 25 students.

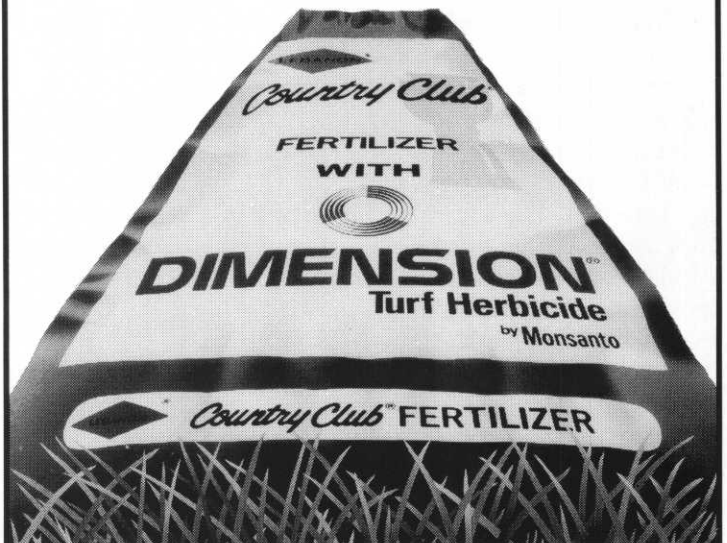
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Doug Fender, executive director of TPT (Turfgrass Producer International) was the Keynote Speaker at the Environmental Care Association's annual convention this past December in Twin Falls, Idaho. I thought you would enjoy a few excerpts from his talk to the lawn care operators and pest-control specialists that make up the association.

According to Fender, "Both lawns and rain forests are made up of the thousands or millions of plants. . . the average 10,000 square foot lawn has over 8.5 million individu-

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The Toughest Thing To Emerge
Since Crabgrass
Just Got A Whole Lot Tougher.



Frank Baden
Territory Manager
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al grass plants with more than 8 million miles of roots. The micro and macro, flora and fauna populations living in that forest of grass are immense, serving very useful purposes.”

He noted that lawns, like the rain forests, moderate temperatures, hold soil in place and enrich it through decomposition of plant tissue and biodegrade many pollutants that would otherwise stay in the air or go into the water supplies.

During this hour-long presentation, Fender encouraged his audience to increase their personal awareness and education about environmental issues. He also invited them to become more pro-active by sharing scientifically based facts about the benefits of turfgrass with the public to counter the pseudo-scientific attacks by people he termed “ecoterrorists.”

In one example, he reported that because grass clippings going into landfills are calculated on a wet-clipping basis, they are said to represent 20 to 50 percent of the total flow

of the waste stream. However, knowing that clippings are 90 percent water and they degrade quickly, the actual dry bulk amount clippings contribute to landfills is more like 2 percent. He added that while clippings are not actually large contributors to the waste stream, homeowners should be educated about the benefits of leaving the clippings on the lawn as it is mowed to return the nutrients they naturally contain.

Other environment-related points brought out during the talk by Fender included tree-turf water use comparison fallacies, the comparative low risk actually resulting from proper pesticide use and the massive size of the Environmental Protection Agency’s annual budget.

In closing his presentation, Fender urged attendees to begin examining their entire public relations and education efforts, as well as how they can more effectively market the benefits of their products and services to a population that is continuing to undergo major changes. A copy of the 16-page manuscript used for this presentation is available from the Turf Resource Center by calling 800/405-TURF (8873) The Turf Resource Center is sponsored by the American Sod Producers Association, Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

It’s Time for Golfers To Pay Their Fair Share

Over the years, the entire golf industry has borne the cost of turfgrass research.

The United States Golf Association, private industry, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and state and regional chapters have all gone to great lengths to raise money, then given it away to scientists investigating everything from pesticide fate to low-input turfgrasses.

Now it’s time for the end-user—the golfer—to pitch in. Golfers are, after all, the beneficiaries of the lifetime of hard work that superintendents and their crews devote to creating perfect playing conditions.

The Arizona green industry took a severe blow last spring when two legislators killed legislation that would have assessed 10 cents per round of golf, with the funds bankrolling research. The entire golf industry reeled, stunned by that debacle. Similar legislation is in effect in various states supporting research in citrus, agriculture and other industries. Superintendents and scientists around the country expected to push for this type of law. That may still happen.

But in the meantime, others are undeterred in their own innovative efforts to raise funds.

Dick Stunz of Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., may have pioneered another way to skin this cat—using mailings to GHIN Handicap users to ask for donations for research. Stunz and his green industry colleagues in Kansas should be lauded. They and others must have unique ideas to pass on. We welcome the chance to be the clearing house for these ideas, tried or untried. Multiply a \$2 donation by the number of golfers applying for handicaps in America and the potential is truly enormous for the Kansas-type fund-raising alone.

The industry could take the lead from organizers of the Herman Sani Fund in Iowa, which provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors. For 30 years they have raised funds at the state tournaments. Sometimes it’s voluntary. Other times, a donation is simply added to tournament charges.

There must be myriad solutions to the money problem. One thing is certain: “A worker is worthy of his wages.” And scientists from the University of Massachusetts to the University of Arizona continue to solve problems affecting golf courses.

They should get the support they need. And golfers should be among the supporters.

—Source: *Golf Course News*

Member-Generated Articles

Articles written by members are the key to the success of a publication such as *Hole Notes*. We listen to each other’s ideas and trust each other’s common sense and advice, so why not share it?

An experience of a superintendent at one golf course may be of use to a fellow superintendent at another course. *Hole Notes* needs you to put down those thoughts on paper and welcomes your suggestions for articles.

Please contact Tom Johnson, Editor, *Hole Notes*. Phone 715-246-4850 or FAX 715-246-7059.