

Openings Now Available On MTGF Committees

By Greg Hubbard
MTGF President

Determining the direction and leadership of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation has become a priority.

Openings are now available on the MTGF Expo Committee, the Editorial Committee, the Conference Committee and the Community Relations Committee for the upcoming year. These positions offer wonderful opportunities for forward-looking dedicated individuals who would like to influence the Foundation's future. Experience is not necessary. Contact your Association's Board Member if you would like to help.

Display advertising to help cover production costs is now available for each *Clippings*. For many of our members, this newsletter represents their only source of turf and grounds information. Keep us in mind for any written articles, interviews, photos or special events you may want publicized. Contact our Executive Director, Scott Turtinen, at (612) 473-0557 for display ad rates or editorial contributions.

The Foundation recently funded its first research request as \$1,000 was donated to the University of Minnesota's Science Display and Trial Garden. This special area demonstrates the relationships of turf, plant materials and landscape structures within an urban landscape. Stop by and see Brad Pedersen's fine efforts just north of Folwell Ave. on the St. Paul campus.

Our biggest and most time-consuming efforts, however, remain with the proposed research facility and park complex at the University of Minnesota's Rosemount Research Facility. Though still in the conceptual stage, our earliest visions have exploded as the MTGF, the University of Minnesota and others explore the many, varied opportunities available at this site.

Golf courses, sports field complexes, and interpretive/exercise trails may all share the proposed developments. New turf management and recreational management programs are also being investigated at both the University and technical college levels. Should this vision be realized, the MTGF and the University of Minnesota will be recognized as one of the finest research and educational leaders in the turf and grounds industry.

In support of these efforts, members of the MTGF Board and University faculty have recently visited four research sites across the country.

Preliminary investigations of research facilities, educational programs and their support staffs have taken place at Iowa State, Ohio State, Mississippi State and the University of Wisconsin. As we move past the early information gathering process, we expect more and more people will become involved as we develop consensus on the expectations and magnitude of this proposed project. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting, ever-expanding concept.

The MTGF has accomplished much in its short history. In two years, a constitution has been written, tax-free corporate status has been achieved and an extensive 6,000 member industry-wide mailing list has been developed. We have co-sponsored two summer expos, a successful winter conference and trade show, and spread the word about events and news throughout the industry via our newsletter. Through the help of many, our nine allied associations are successfully co-operating as one combined Minnesota Green Industry entity for the first time. As we move past our infant stages of development, we must muster more resources in time and money to meet our true mission: to support our industry in education, information and research. Our true work is only just beginning.

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