



## Beautiful Day In Benson For Golf and May Meeting



MGCSA members traveled to western Minnesota and found blue skies and temperatures in the mid-60s in Benson. Host superintendent Dave Sime had Benson Golf Club in nice shape for the association's first golf event of the year.

Dr. Syed Dara, Toro Company, gave a well-received, informative talk and slide presentation on Tissue Testing.

The golf mixer was won by the Rum River Hills CC tandem of Tom Notch and Dave Lundeen along with Dennis Salwei, UHS/The Howe Co., and Jon Almquist, MTI Distributing Co. The winners shot 121 for an impressive 23-under-par.

Marcus Van Ripper, Pomme de Terre Golf Club, won the Long Drive event while Dean Sime, an MGCSA life member now living in Waconia, was closest-to-the-pin.

The association extends thanks to Dave Sime and Benson Golf Club for hosting this event and also to Benson Golf Club's Rick Lucken for helping out at registration.

The next MGCSA meeting is scheduled for Headwaters Country Club in Park Rapids on June 10.

## Alternative Lawn Tour Set For July 24

Attractive and environmentally functional alternatives to traditional lawn areas *are* gaining popularity in the Twin Cities. Businesses now realize they can improve their bottom line by decreasing the amount of high-input turf and landscape areas on their property while *not* compromising landscape aesthetics. For example, switching to turfgrass species adapted to lower inputs, other types of ground cover or re-establishing natural prairie or woodland areas can reduce maintenance costs and can contribute to improved water quality. In the long run this can help conserve water, fertilizer, pesticide,

labor, and energy costs. If you have a desire to learn more about the design, plant selection and installation of alternative lawn areas at your facility, then the **Alternative Lawn Tour IS for you**. The ALT will take you to businesses and other non-residential sites that have implemented these exciting "new" landscape designs and practices.

This bus tour will be on **Wednesday, July 24, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** The tour will leave from the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 33815 E. 80th St., Bloom-

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## Alternative Lawn Tour—

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ton. Grounds managers, landscape designers, and other professionals will be on site to describe installation design, maintenance techniques, costs and benefits and other site specific factors. At each site discussion and written material will further outline: 1) a cost-benefit analysis of installing and maintaining "lower input" lawn areas, 2) maintenance and labor issues, and 3) safety and liability issues. Sample plans for installation and maintenance of alternative lawns from local organizations that have installed them will also be available. Additional information on local producers of native plants, ecological landscapers, low-input lawn and bibliography of further



material will be provided. This day-long seminar will cost \$30. **REGISTRATION IS LIMITED.** For more information about the tour or to register, call Apple Szostak, Friends of the Mississippi River at (612) 222-2193.

**PLAN TO ATTEND**

**MTGF EXPO**  
AUGUST 7-8, 1996

**MTGF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
DECEMBER 11, 12 & 13, 1996