

# Explore New Ideas at 4th Annual Turf & Grounds Conference, Show December 10-12 in Minneapolis

By RALPH TURPINEN

Every year the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Convention and Trade Show gets bigger and better, and that's the same path being followed for the fourth annual session December 10-12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Brimming with an excellent cast of expert speakers in this year's general meetings and 24 concurrent sessions plus providing considerable time to review a superb array of equipment and vendor services, this year's gathering promises to be a worthwhile experience for all involved in the industry.

The quality and variety of programs dispersed throughout the three-day show is testimony to the dedicated effort made by the Convention Planning Committee to produce topics of interest to all concerned.

"Here is an opportunity for all of us to share our problems while seeking solutions and to share how we achieved success in various endeavors," said Dave Kemp, chair of the 1997 Convention. "Part of our purpose as a foundation is to encourage and support research, education and outreach, and that's what this conference helps us do."

Full conference registration of \$95 accomplished by November 15 provides a significant savings of \$30, compared to on-site registration of \$125.00. Attendees also may register for only one or two days of the three-day show.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday (December 10). Attendees then will be welcomed by MTGF President John Hopko, who also will provide an association update, from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

## Living Proof That A Positive Attitude Helps

Principal speaker at the opening session Wednesday is Dr. Zacharie Clements, president of Inner Management, Inc. of Shelburne, Vt., known as "living proof that positive attitudes, hard work, personal responsibility and a sense of humor" are vital ingredients of successful, worthwhile living."

"In today's climate of change, ever-dwindling resources and continuing challenges in society, even positive individuals can fall prey to negativity and non-commitment which, in turn, can adversely affect their outlook on family, work and country," Clements declares.

His presentations around the country have been widely hailed as a prescription for "positive people in negative times." He accomplishes this by employing humor, role-playing and vivid portraits of life enhanced by a sound, time-tested philosophy. As a result, he enables his audience to focus on essential, positive attitude changes that

benefit both their professional and personal lives.

Next on deck Wednesday afternoon are six concurrent sessions, built around soils, irrigation, arborists, harassment, golf/sports turf and parks/schools.

On Thursday, all morning sessions qualify for Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commercial and Non-Commercial turf and ornamental recertification for 1998. Attendees must complete all five hours of training. (For more information on whether you need to attend this pesticide recertification workshop, please contact Wayne Dalby at 612-297-2746 or fax 612-297-2271.)

**Principal speaker Thursday morning will be Dr. Carl Whitcomb**, who has received 12 patents, written more than 400 technical and semi-technical publications on a wide assortment of topics, authored four books and lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Whitcomb was a professor of horticulture at the University of Florida from 1967 to 1972 and at Oklahoma State University from 1972 to 1986. Currently he is a private research horticulturist, consultant, author and lecturer with Lacebark Publications and Research, Stillwater, Okla.

Six more concurrent sessions will be presented Thursday morning on turf pathology, pest control of turf, protection of people and equipment, erosion control, plants and plant stress and environmental issues relative to athletic fields.

Then come another six concurrent sessions on aquatics, equipment, sustainable practices, sports facilities, an OSHA update and golf in the afternoon.

## Dr. Joe Vargas Heads Friday Program

Well-known to Minnesotans in the turf and grounds industry is Dr. Joe Vargas, the Michigan State University professor who will be the opening speaker. In his 9 a.m. presentation, Dr. Vargas will focus on "Fungicide Resistance: Fact and Folklore."

He also will present one of six concurrent sessions set Friday morning. At 10:05 he will provide an "Update on Patch Diseases" followed by an 11:05 discussion on "Important Winter and Summer Diseases."

Other Friday morning presentations are on trees and shrubs, a potpourri on a living snow fence as well as new and improved annuals for the Minnesota landscape, managing football and soccer fields as well as selecting and managing skin areas for baseball and softball, nutrients and fertilizers and a session on Board roles and responsibilities.