

# Educational Opportunities Galore For MGCSA Members

By **MIKE BROWER**  
*Hillcrest Country Club*

As winter draws near, it's time for turfgrass managers in the northern climates to dust off those textbooks and return to the classroom. Each of the four seasons has unique offerings, and as turfgrass managers in the north, we should all appreciate that the winter season allows us to become students again. The MGCSA and GCSAA have once again teamed-up to provide excellent educational opportunities for us over the winter months. A look at the calendar of events shows that these opportunities are nearly here. Put those thinking caps on and be sure to attend these upcoming events.

## **The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Conference and Trade Show Minneapolis Convention Center December 9-11**

Headlining the list of turfgrass speakers at this year's conference are Dr. David Huff, who heads the Penn State turfgrass breeding program, speaking about "Grasses, Blue and Bent" on Wednesday; the well-respected Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State University, who will discuss pesticides and fertilizers on Thursday, and the innovative Dr. John Trey Rogers of Michigan State University will speak both Thursday and Friday about "Turf in Shade," "Growth Regulators on Greens" and "Improved Wear Tolerance." These are "can't miss" speakers, so be sure to be there to help roll out the red carpet for these gentlemen. Don't forget a pen and note pad.

In addition, notable speakers for the golf/turfgrass portion of this event will include Dr. Ward Stienstra (U of M), Dr. Don White (U of M), Dr. Don Taylor (UW-River Falls), and Dr. Julian Mercier (U of M). MGCSA members Butch Greeninger (MTI Distributing Co.), Rob Panuska (Waseca Lakeside), Mike Kelly (Glenn Rehbein Companies), and Troy Carson (U of M) will also give presentations at this year's conference.

**This year's keynote speaker is Mr. Robert Veninga**, Professor of Health Maintenance and Policy, with the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. His topic will be "Keeping it Together — How to Love Your Job and Have a Life." He will be speak on Wednesday morning. In a profession (golf course management) that is at times referred to as "a grind," this is a most fitting topic that you won't want to miss.

And that's not all of it, there are plenty of other speakers and topics offered over the three days, as well as the Trade Show which opens at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday. I also encourage all MGCSA membes to attend this year's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday at 4:30 p.m. I can't think of a better way to become more involved and contribute to the association than attend the Annual Meeting. There will be a social hour immediately following this session.

## **70th Annual International GCSAA Conference and Show Orlando, Florida February 8-14**

Nearly 100 seminars will be offered at this year's conference on Monday-Thursday — half-day, one-day, or two-day, take your pick and fit it to your schedule. The list is so long and there are so many great topics that it's difficult to narrow your choices down. Not only do you learn from well-qualified instructors, you also meet other professionals in the field that you can talk to and learn from. A list of CEU seminars through the GCSAA sure looks good on a resume to any future employers, so don't wait another minute — sign up for a GCSAA seminar now.

The ever-popular Innovative Superintendent Sessions will be held again on Friday and Saturday this year, and it's your chance to hear first-hand from other superintendents about projects they've completed or methods they have utilized to be successful.

A couple of my favorite events that you should make a point to attend are the American Society of Golf Course Architects program on Saturday morning, and the United States Golf Association program on Sunday morning. How often do you get the chance to here and meet such people as Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones or Geoffrey Cornish? The slide presentations and talks at these events are always very worthwhile.

A special educational session called "The Cutting Edge of Golf Course Management" will take place on Saturday afternoon. For those of you with your eyes on the future, this session will involve industry experts discussing anticipated changes in the turfgrass management field by the year 2020. Topics will include evaluating new products,

*(Continued on Page 20)*

## Educational Opportunities—

(Continued from Page 19)

satellite location systems, meteorology, digital imaging and computerized irrigation. You needn't own a laptop to attend, just bring your imagination.

This year's Opening Session and Reception will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening. The Distinguished Speaker is Barbara Bush, wife of Vice President and President George Bush. When this many superintendents come together in the same room at the same time, you can't help being a bit overwhelmed by what a fine career choice you have made, and what the GCSAA is all about. Assistants, and other rising stars should be sure to attend this event. Dress standards for this event include coat and tie.

### **MGCSA March Mini-Seminar Doubletree Park Place Hotel St Louis Park, Minnesota Monday, March 8**

Attendance at last year's event was great, but it wouldn't surprise me if we surpass that this year. The reason? It's another one of those can't miss programs that you will want to invite your staff and club officials to. This year's seminar topic is "The Magic of Greenkeeping," conducted by two of North America's most highly regarded Golf Course Superintendents. *The Magic of Greenkeeping* is presented by Michael Bavier and Gordon Witteveen. Michael is superintendent at Inverness Golf Club of Chicago, and Gordon is course superintendent at the 45-hole Board of Trade Country Club in Toronto and past president of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association. Michael and Gordon each have over 25 years of experience at their present clubs, and have trained many of the leading superintendents in North America.

The two have also collaborated on a book that is now available through the GCSAA. It's an easy-to-read, practical guide for all superintendents titled *Practical Golf Course Maintenance: The Magic of Greenkeeping*. The 300 page book covers everything from cutting greens to human resource management and can be purchased through the GCSAA Bookstore either online at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) or by calling (800) 974-2722.

The *Magic of Greenkeeping* Seminar will give each participant the inside track on the secrets of modern day turfgrass maintenance, looking at the science at the heart of the business, the technology used to apply it and the tricks of the trade developed through decades of experience. Superintendents, assistants and staff, will all benefit from this seminar, as it focuses on techniques and methods that create a healthy, high quality golf course. The seminar leaders have traveled to golf courses around the world and have discovered new ideas and superior methods. They will share these experiences in the magic of greenkeeping. Their slide presentation is constantly updated with the latest shots of their most recent visits and discoveries. Be sure to mark your calendar now for a most rewarding experience, Monday, March 8.

### **GCSAA Regional Seminars Doubletree Park Place Hotel St. Louis Park, Minnesota March 9-10**

The two days following the March Mini-Seminar, the GCSAA in conjunction with the MGCSA, will be hosting regional seminars at the same location in the Twin Cities.

On Tuesday, March 9, the one-day seminar *Turfgrass Ecology* will be offered. This seminar studies the major concepts of Integrated Pest Management and how they relate to management practices such as mowing, fertilization, spraying, irrigation and management of turfgrass under environmental stress. The instructor is Dr. Karl Danneburger, associate professor of agronomy and turfgrass physiology at Ohio State University.

On Wednesday, March 10, the one-day seminar *Financial Management* will be offered. Dr. Raymond S. Schmidgall of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management at Michigan State University will be the instructor. The focus will be on your role in the financial management of the golf course. Accounting records and financial statements are both analyzed and explained, and managing the balance sheet and income statement accounts is discussed. This course also covers budgeting, analyzing financial data and evaluating capital investment projects.

Attendance in these seminars is limited, so act now if you want to attend these seminars. Contact GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878.



**JON POWELL**

*New Turf Pathologist at the University of Minnesota*