

Plan To Attend and Participate In MTGF Events This Summer

By **BOB MUGAAS**
MTGF Executive Director

It hardly seems possible that it has already been several months since our Turf and Grounds Foundation Conference and Trade Show. Attendance was up, vendor participation was at least as well attended as the previous year and net revenues were also up. That is a positive trend that everyone in the Foundation is committed to continuing for 1999 and into the next millennium. Planning for the 1999 conference educational program is in full swing with many of the topics and presenters confirmed.

I would especially like to thank Mike Klatte, CGCS, for his role as MGCSA chair of its Educational Program Planning Committee. Other members of that committee include Mike Olson, CGCS, Mike Brower, Dale Caldwell, CGCS, Larry Vetter and Scott Turtinen. All members of this committee have been excellent to work with and committed to following through on their assignments.

As just one of the features at this year's conference, internationally renowned golf course architect, Michael Hurzdan will be giving two sessions with perhaps one of them being more along the lines of a general green industry keynote address. Other members of our Foundation have been working diligently on topics and presenters as well. It should be a great conference. **Plan now to attend this year's conference, December 8-10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.**

Another important event coming up is the **MTGF Benefit Golf Tournament and Summer Expo**. The golf tournament will be played at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course near the St. Paul Campus on Tuesday, July 20th. It will be an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start providing we can recruit 120 players, 50% of which must be students, staff, faculty or alumni of the University of Minnesota. While this number may be a challenge, I believe it can be achieved with help from all of our allied Association's participation.

This year the golf tournament is being jointly sponsored by the MTGF and the University of Minnesota GCSAA student chapter. The student chapter, which has about 15 members, is looking forward to spending a morning playing a round of golf with superintendents, vendors and other turf and grounds professionals. Net revenues from the event will go toward supporting educational activities and opportunities for the student chapter as well as the research and scholarship programs and efforts of the MTGF. **Please take some time to participate in this event.** It will be very important for the students from a revenue standpoint and to meet and visit with superintendents and other professionals actively involved in their turf management careers.

The Summer Expo event will begin the afternoon of the 20th and continue the following day, Wednesday, July 21st. It will be held on or near the St. Paul Campus. Please pay attention to your upcoming issue of *Clippings* that should arrive about mid-April. It will contain the details, costs and other specifics for these two events. However, you need not wait for *Clippings*. If you would like to be an "early bird" registrant for the golf tournament, please contact Scott Turtinen at (612) 473-0557 to get your name and/or your foursome's name on the list of people playing golf that day. We will try to team students with groups having at least one superintendent as part of that group.

Finally, I would like to mention briefly that I was asked to submit written testimony related to the potential environmental impacts and benefits of golf courses in response to a request from Hennepin Parks. As they have been considering the development of a golf course near the Eagle/Pike lake area, there had been some negative publicity in local new media regarding golf courses and their "significant" adverse impact on the environment. I took this opportunity to not necessarily advocate for any particular course siting, but rather to rebut some of the false or at best misleading information about the "negative impacts" of golf courses on the environment. I also tried to convey the importance of the role a modern day superintendent plays in being informed about and implementing environmentally responsible turf management practices. I have not heard any further discussions or results from that planning process. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the letter, please let me know and I will be happy to send you one.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our summer events.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
MGCSA SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE
JULY 12, 1999
AT
IZATY'S GOLF & YACHT CLUB
MORNING & AFTERNOON SHOTGUNS