

Larry Vetter Becomes MTGF Executive Director

The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation has announced that Larry G. Vetter has been selected as its Executive Director. Vetter replaces Bob Mugaas who has returned to his Hennepin County Extension position following a two-year leave of absence.

Larry is a long-time member of MGCSA, having joined the Association in 1966. He held most MGCSA offices including two terms as President in 1973 and 1974. He also served as the local committee chairman for the 1976 GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show held in Minneapolis at the Convention Center. He received the Watson Award for Journalism in 1992 and has written numerous articles that were published in trade journals and appeared on dozens of educational programs throughout the country. One of his proudest achievements is not missing a monthly MGCSA meeting or Board of Directors meeting while serving on the Board or a GCSAA Conference for over ten years in the 1960s and 1970s.

Vetter helped spearhead the upgrading of *Hole Notes* into its present form and was involved in MGCSA's hiring of its first Executive Director, Al Wareham, who at the time had retired from the post of Executive Director of the MGA.

A graduate of the University of Iowa in Marketing and General Business and Iowa State University in Horticulture with a Turfgrass Specialty, he received a GCSAA scholarship in 1965. He was the Superintendent of Grounds of The Minikahda Club from 1966 through 1977. Following a brief stint as the turf instructor at Anoka AVTI, he then took on the challenge of starting a nation-wide professional seed division at Northrup King Co. in Minneapolis. In 1988, he became the Director of Commercial sales for Ringer Corp. in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Then in 1989 he formed his own company, **Turf Management Products, Inc., located in Minnetonka, Minn.** For the past four years he has taught Turfgrass Management and Culture at North Hennepin Technical College. In addition to his new duties, Larry will continue to operate Turf Management which currently represents various manufacturers in the turfgrass industry such as Lange-Stegmann fertilizers.

Larry was one of the first in this area to actively support the formation of a turf foundation and has been involved in the development of what is now the MTGF from its initial inception. He has indicated a strong desire to help make the MTGF a focal point of the turfgrass industry

in the state of Minnesota and the surrounding area by furthering the mutual cooperation of the Foundation, its allied associations, including MGCSA, and the University of Minnesota. It is felt that Larry's extensive involvement in the turf industry in this area for over 34 years will help facilitate that growth in stature so that the value of our industry, the contributions that it makes to the overall good of our citizens and the expertise of our members will be recognized and appreciated as an important part of the overall economy as well as a major contributor to the mental and physical health of the people in Minnesota.

One of his first challenges will be the coordination of MTGF's annual golf tournament to be held at Les Bolstad University of Minnesota Golf Course on Tuesday, July 18th. The event will be a 4-person scramble with an 8:00 a.m. shotgun. Lunch and awards will take place immediately following the completion of play. For more information or to receive a registration form, contact the MTGF office at (612) 625-9234.

In addition to the golf tournament, the MTGF, in cooperation with Dr. Jon Powell, plant pathologist, and other researchers at the University of Minnesota, will hold a turfgrass field day on August 8th starting at 8:00 a.m. The field day will cover 15 stops and include research of 10 faculty and staff members of the University of Minnesota. For more information or to register, contact the MTGF office.

The office of the MTGF will continue to be located at Room 422 Alderman hall on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The MTGF complete address is: MTGF, Department of Horticultural Science, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, 422 Alderman Hall, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. The office telephone number is (612) 625-9234 and the fax number is (612) 624-4941. Vetter's E-mail address is vette008@tc.umn.edu.



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