

# Special Sessions

## *at the MTGF Conference in December*

There will be several "Special Sessions" at this year's MTGF conference that will appeal to superintendents and key staff members. Building on last year's positive feedback, there will again be an Affiliate Workshop addressing "Back To the Basics -- Turf Management 101." This workshop features fundamental turf management issues such as fertilization, watering, mowing, etc. Key staff personnel will find this a great refresher course that will provide information that will enhance their value as staff members within the overall operation of the turf maintenance program. This workshop will be held on Thursday, December 7 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The second "Special Session" will feature Dr. Jon Powell, Turfgrass Pathologist at the University of Minnesota, again conducting his hands-on "Turf Disease Diagnostics Lab." Seating is limited to the first 30 registrants for this session, so early registration is required. There is an additional charge for this session which must be included with the Conference registration. This workshop will be held on Friday, December 8 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

An exciting addition to this year's Conference is the 1st Annual Mechanic's Workshop. Here is an opportunity to involve one of THE key members of the staff for a three-hour session on Friday that is geared especially towards issues that relate to equipment maintenance. Two speakers will inform and entertain throughout the afternoon session. Robert Sokol, who is the Technical Editor for Intertec Publishing Company, will present two 50-minute sessions addressing key issues related to maintenance of equipment being used in today's turf maintenance programs. Mr. Sokol is an ASE triple certified Master Mechanic. He is an active member in the Service Technician Society and the Automotive Service Excellence organization. He has been a mechanic for over 25 years and will provide samples, books and magazines for handouts during his presentations. These presentations will be made on Friday, December 8 from 12:30-1:20 and 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Joining Mr. Sokol for the Mechanics Workshop will be Kevin Ross, CGCS, from the Country Club of the Rockies, presenting "Gadgets, Gizmos and Inventions" which is a presentation that he has made at the GCSAA Conference. Mr. Ross will feature ideas that he has encountered that can be made and/or modified to serve a variety of useful functions when it comes to grounds maintenance. Mr. Ross' presentation will be from 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Friday, December 8.

Another new feature at this year's conference will be

"Diverse Crews Working Together" which is a presentation made by Jennifer Thomas. Jennifer's seminar explains and predicts what happens when individuals who have grown up in contrasting cultures work with one another. She teaches management and laborers simple language and cultural bridges to reduce misunderstandings and increase production efficiency. In other words, "Communication = Productivity." Jennifer works with most segments of the Green Industry and has been featured at the GCSAA Conference. Her topic is extremely timely and important. Jennifer's presentation will be on Friday, December 8th from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The above "Special Sessions" complement the balance of the educational sessions throughout the three days of the MTGF Conference & Trade Show, December 6-8 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Look for your registration form in order to take advantage of a full three days of networking, education and camaraderie, or call the MGCSA office for more information.

## ***Industry News***

### **Par Aide's New Markers Help Track Contest Play**

A leader in golf course accessories has introduced a pair of products for tracking contest players in a tournament. Par Aide's new Proximity Marker and Contest Indicator make it easy to facilitate contests like "Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Longest Putt."

The Contest Indicator stands at the tee announcing the contest for the hole while the Proximity Marker stands on the green or fairway marking the best shot. Both of these polycarbonate signs are sturdily built and virtually indestructible. The grease pen, included, will keep players' names legible even in wet conditions. The Contest Indicator and Proximity Marker can withstand rain, wind and hail. Both signs can also be customized with a course logo.

Par Aide Proximity Markers and Contest Indicators join the family of premium golf course accessories that Par Aide has been manufacturing for 45 years. For more information on these products, call 1-888-893-2433.