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E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

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From Your President's Desk

Dr. Brian Horgan Hired As Turfgrass Extension and Research Specialist at the U of Minnesota

I am one of the luckiest guys in the turf business. I am the one who gets to announce to all of you that the University of Minnesota has successfully hired a Turfgrass Extension and Research Specialist. This has been in the works for over a year and a half and has finally come to a successful conclusion. Dr. Brian Horgan comes to us with a long list of credentials and was by far the best candidate. We were able to keep him from accepting job offers from at least five other Universities. This proves the commitment the "U" has to the turfgrass industry in Minnesota. We welcome Dr. Horgan and look forward to his arrival on July 1st. I would like to thank all of those who participated in the process and especially Rob Panuska, who was involved from the beginning.

* * *

The February meeting in Dallas was well attended by those members who went to the big D. To me the show was a little bit convoluted. It didn't seem that the GCSAA really had their act together for this one. Hopefully things will be back to normal for the Orlando show next year.

* * *

This month I am announcing a personal initiative I am calling "Drive for the 'U'". It will involve a commitment to help support the U of M turfgrass working group. I have and will be contacting all of the vendor members asking for their support in equipment, materials or time, for the research plots at the St. Paul campus, which so far has been well received. I will be asking the Board to approve an individual research fund drive in addition to the vendor and club donations we already solicit. And finally I will be asking all of you to consider a commitment in time to help install any materials obtained through solicitations or help in maintaining machinery at the research plots.

* * *

I am sure you are wondering why I am asking for your help in this drive. The answer is simple, the 'U' has committed to us and it is time we give something back. Research dollars only go so far when you have to pay for everything, volunteer support will allow the research dollars to stretch. We are poised to have the ability to build a great turfgrass department at the 'U' and I fell we need to jump at the chance. In the end, we are the ones who will gain from the growth. The Turfgrass working group will be providing us with a "wish list" which we will publish in Hole Notes, if you have any of the items sitting around your shop not being used, consider donating them to the 'U'. It is tax deductible and would really help them out. Please consider joining me in this drive.

--Paul Eckholm, CGCS
MGCSA President

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