

# 2001 Conference & Trade Show

By LARRY VETTER  
MTGF Executive Director

The 8th Annual MTGF Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 4, 5 and 6, 2001. For the first time, this event is being held on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The reason this change has been implemented is to make it more convenient to attend all three days of the educational sessions. In the past it was always on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It was felt that attendance suffered on the third day due to attendees wanting to "get out of downtown" so that the Conference would not cut into their weekend.

This year's Conference has an excellent slate of local speakers as well as many others from around the country. Attendance qualifies for GCSAA PDU's as well as offering a workshop that qualifies for GCSAA external CEU's. Following the "Welcome" starting at 8:45 on Tuesday morning featuring various dignitaries and awards, the keynote address will be presented by J Robinson, Head Coach of the University of Minnesota's 2000 NCAA Champion wrestling team. J's topic "How to Get to the Top - Individually and Collectively" is sure to kick off our Conference with a variety of inspirational messages that we can all take with us as we pursue our respective goals and aspirations, both professionally and in our personal lives. While being no stranger to controversy, J is an excellent speaker and motivator. Be sure to arrive for the opening session to hear this timely message.

Following the keynote address be sure to spend time with our exhibitors. The Trade Show opens immediately following the keynote address with dedicated time from 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be available in the Trade Show area so spend time visiting with our vendor members. Remember that this event would not be possible without the support of our vendor members! Trade Show hours are from 11:00 a.m. through 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4th with the All Industry Reception on the show floor from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Trade Show is also open from 11:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5th.

Beginning at 2:30 on Tuesday afternoon, a wide variety of speakers and topics will be available for all attendees as

well as five different workshops and one demonstration. Tuesday afternoon will feature Bob Vavrek's "Year In Review" as well as Dr. Brian Horgan chairing a panel of superintendents discussing isolated dry spot - problems and solutions. Other topics presented on Tuesday afternoon are: "Planting Trees for Positive Characteristics", "The Good, The Bad & The Ugly of Landscape Plantings", "The Use of Merit for Boring Insect Control", "Strategies for Setting Up a Fertilizer & Chemical Program", "Preventing Repetitive Stress Injuries in Office Environments" and "Ergonomics for In-The-Field Turf, Tree & Grounds Maintenance".

Wednesday, December 5th features the Pesticide Recertification sessions. The keynote address will feature Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University, addressing "Can We Manage With Fewer Pesticides". Dr. Rossi states that "the US public continues to grow weary over pesticide use for turf management. In the northeastern U.S. and Canada, communities have begun banning the use of pesticides on public land and now on private land. What does this mean for the golf turf industry, for superintendents, for golfers and for revenues generated by golf courses?" This talk will review his latest USGA-funded project on reduced and non-chemical management of putting greens underway at Bethpage State Park, site of the 2002 US Open.

Following the keynote address, Dr. Jon Powell, Plant Pathologist at the U. of M. will present the latest data from his on-going research projects which include a wide variety of fungicides, rates, timing and efficacy in effective turf disease protection. Dr. Powell will give special emphasis to his extensive dollar spot research on putting greens.

Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University, returns to the program with the presentation "The Art and Science of Putting Green Nutrition". Dr. Rossi will discuss the latest research in the area of plant nutrition and suggest reasonable nutrient management programs for putting greens. Dr. Rossi will go beyond the standard "sand vs. soil root zones" and will address soil and tissue nutrient testing, analysis, interpretation and recommendations. Many of the organic and

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microbial products being used today are loaded with nutrients. Be sure to hear how all of these must be factored into an overall putting green nutritional program.

Next on the agenda features Dr. Thomas Watschke, Penn State University, presenting "Poa / Bentgrass Management". Dr. Watschke will detail the different seasonal growth patterns of these two species and the opportunities therein to make management inputs that favor individual plant competition.

Having these four presentations back-to-back will present a tremendous learning opportunity for everyone involved in turfgrass management and, in particular, golf course turf management. We are very fortunate to be able to assemble these noted individuals for the morning session and feel confident that all attendees will benefit from the expertise that they bring to our Conference. Additional topics that are available in the Wednesday morning sessions include: "Children's Pesticide Issues - What Does the Science Tell Us?"; "Turf & Landscape IPM as a Response to School Children's Health Concerns"; "Organic Pesticides - Myths & Facts"; "Choosing Plants to Avoid Pest Problems"; "Cankers, Blights, Mildew & More"; "The First Four Feet Can Kill You: Tree Structure & Biology Around the Root Crown"; "Respiratory Protection & Safety", parts I & II; "Strategies & Protective Clothing for Skin Cancer Prevention of Outdoor Workers"; The Mechanics Workshop from 9:40 to 12:30 and the Affiliate Session, Back to the Basics - "Turf 101" from 9:30 to 11:30.

Following all of these educational sessions it will be time to "take a break" and visit our vendors on the Trade Show Floor. Lunch will again be available with plenty of time to spend networking and gathering information to factor into next year's buying decisions. Again, please remember that our vendors make all of this possible. Make sure to let them know that you appreciate their support and that their support will be remembered when your 2002 budgets are being spent.

Following lunch on Wednesday, the golf session kicks off with the University of Minnesota Research Update. Dr.

Don White, Dr. John Powell, Dr. Brian Horgan, Troy Carson and Shawn Bernick will present a recap of their current research activities and outline data, objectives and on-going projects that they are conducting. This year this session has been expanded to two hours due to the extent of the activities that will be covered. Much of this research is a direct result of MGCSA's financial support and directives. Plan to attend this expanded session and see the progress that is being made. Many will be pleasantly surprised at the scope of the research activities being conducted by these individuals as programs continue to expand on the St. Paul campus and elsewhere.

Other topics that will be presented Wednesday afternoon will include: "Have You Nuc'ed Your Trees Lately? Understanding Nitrogen in Trees"; "Japanese Beetle & Other Insect Problems"; "Diagnosing Plant Diseases"; "Diseases of Bedding Plants"; "Specifications, Estimations & Bids to Nail the Job & Avoid Ambiguity!"; "Ten Keys to Sports Turf Management"; "Environmental Concerns for Grounds Design & Maintenance"; "Creek Renovation" at Town & Country Club and the start of a seven hour workshop that qualifies for 0.75 GCSAA CEU's titled "Soil Physics & Chemistry Simplified for Everyday Use. In order to receive these credits, all sessions must be attended. Those sessions are from 2:30 to 4:20 Wednesday afternoon, from 10:10 to noon on Thursday morning and from 1:30 to 4:30 on Thursday afternoon. This workshop, titled "Physical, Chemical & Biological Concerns & solutions for Sand-based Root Zones" is split into two parts, "Soil Physics & Chemistry Simplified for Everyday Use" and "Physical Properties & What They Mean to You". Dave Doherty and Steve Trotter will conduct this seminar that has been approved for external CEU's by GCSAA.

The keynote speaker on Thursday morning will be Dr. Thomas Watschke of Penn State University discussing Biostimulants. Dr. Watschke will provide background and history of biostimulant research and report on the Penn State research program with biostimulants. Following Dr. Watschke will be Bradley Klein who is the editor of Golfweek's Superintendent News. His topic, "In Search of Donald Ross" will detail some of the 400 golf courses designed by Ross, many of which have been altered, some beyond recognition. A few remain in tact. What are the

strengths and weaknesses of Ross' design philosophy? Does his work hold up in an era of modern equipment? Can they be restored or should they be modernized?

Then Dave Wilber presents "Links Golf - Where Tradition and Turfgrass Meet". Dave explains why the traditional playing surface and design characteristics of Links Golf are once again becoming popular. He shares his experience of

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working and traveling in Scotland. His search to find and understand the golf of yesterday brings a new perspective to a return to tradition here in the United States today.

Additional topics on Thursday morning include: Continuation of the "Soils" workshop; "Shrubs & Small Trees for the Landscape"; "General Grounds Fertility Issues"; "Planting B & B Trees for Maximum Root Health"; "Condition Rating System for Trees"; "Phosphorus and the Environment: Impact of Landscape Management" and "Climate Trends & Uncertainties".

Thursday afternoon will feature two educational tracks, one demonstration and five workshops from which to choose. Bradley Klein presents "How to Screw Up Your Golf Course Without Really Trying". "There is no limit to the ways in which green chairmen, superintendents and Mother Nature herself can undermine a golf course." In this light-hearted slide presentation of goofy trees, bad holes, outlandish clubhouses and inadequate staging areas, you will see some outrageous examples and some enlightened solutions.

Dave Wilber then presents "Zen & the Art of Course Renovation & Restoration". Dave explains why restoration and renovation have always been and always will be a part

of golf course management. Be it a large scale total renovation or a small project, there are some key do's and don'ts when one finds themselves involved in these demanding challenges. Dave talks about the good, the bad and the ugly of "bringing things to the next level".

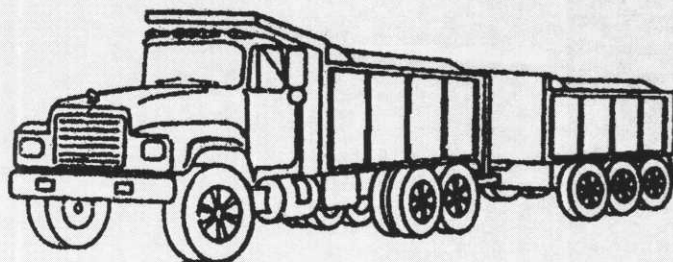
The Dr. Eric Nelson will discuss "Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass" which is designed to provide improved weed control options in putting greens, tees and fairways while simplifying maintenance, reducing maintenance inputs and enhancing golf course playing conditions. He indicates that thorough testing in numerous environments and management regimes compared to conventional bentgrass will ensure agronomic safety and performance.

Additional topics being presented on Thursday afternoon include: "New Genetic Opportunities for Turfgrass Maintenance"; "Herbaceous Perennials" and "Diversify With Woody Ornamentals".

### WORKSHOPS

Thursday afternoon also will provide a broad selection of workshops to choose from. The "Soils" workshop continues from 1:30 to 4:20. Remember that to qualify for GCSAA CEU's, you must attend this entire workshop. Those sessions are Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:20, Thursday

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morning from 10:10 to 12:00 and this session on Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30. In addition, Dr. Don White will present "How Plants Grow" from 1:30 to 4:30. This workshop is limited to the first 30 participants who sign up. If you think you've known the answer to "how plants grow", you might be very surprised if you attend this workshop. Also from 1:30 to 4:30 Dr. Cindy Ash will conduct a workshop entitled "Hands-on Woody Ornamental Disease Diagnosis". This workshop is limited to the first 24 registrants. Dr. Ash will bring in samples of various items that will be used by those attending this workshop.

Another workshop opportunity is "Principles of Landscape Design" presented by Brad Pedersen and Karyn Vidmar. Again, this workshop is limited to the first 24 registrants and will be presented from 1:30 to 4:30 Thursday afternoon. This also will be a hands-on workshop with materials provided. Dr. Jon Powell will again conduct his "Disease Diagnostics" workshop from 1:30 to 3:30. There is a limit of 30 participants for this workshop. Please note that each workshop has an additional fee associated with it. All except the "Soils" workshop have an attendance limit.

Please reserve your spot for the workshop you select as soon as possible as these will undoubtedly fill up quickly.

At this same time, Tom Dunlap will be providing a demonstration of "Proper Pruning" in the Trade Show area. There is a charge for this demonstration but there is no attendance limit. Tom will demonstrate proper maintenance practices for training trees. In addition to pruning, progressive modern climbing and rigging skills will be demonstrated. The crown of a large tree will actually be assembled on the Trade Show floor to allow attendees to see how to prune and maintain trees in the comfort of the Convention Center.

New legislation passed by the State this year significantly expands the requirement for licensing for pesticide applications in virtually every phase of operation for golf courses in Minnesota. At the time of this writing we are attempting to add a Pesticide Applicators testing session during this year's Conference. However, due to the public employee strike that is in process, we have not been able to make arrangements that are necessary in order to provide this session. This should not be confused with the recertification opportunity that is normally provided. Recertification sessions were in place and arranged for prior to the

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prior to the strike being called. We will continue to pursue this and will provide updates if we are able to hold a session for initial licensing during the Conference.

All in all, the 8th Annual MTGF Conference & Trade Show offers an amazing variety of opportunities for networking, seeing the latest products and services offered by our vendor members and provides one of the finest educational programs ever presented in this area. The Hilton Minneapolis is again the host hotel with special rates reserved for Conference attendees. To make reservations, call (612) 376-1000 or 1-888-933-5363 to reserve your rooms now. Make sure to mention MTGF when making your reservations so that you get the special rate of \$95.00 per night. This rate is guaranteed through November 13, 2001. After that date, rates may vary. If you call to make reservations and are quoted a higher rate, call the MTGF office immediately at (612) 625-9234 and we will try to secure the conference rate for you.

Plan now to attend this special event and don't forget to include your staff members and your mechanics for the Affiliate Workshop and the Mechanic's Workshop on Wednesday. Including these valued team members will pay dividends for you, your golf course and staff morale for the

coming year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Scott Turtinen at the MGCSA office or Larry Vetter at the MTGF office.

# MGCSA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 5, 2001

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

4:45 P.M.

*All MGCSA Members Welcome*

*You're invited to attend:*

## *The Annual Convention and Trade Show of the North Central Turf Grass Association*

*January 22-25, 2002  
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**Pesticide Recertification Seminar** - January 22<sup>nd</sup>

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Also: Tree Pruning & Diseases, Flowers/Bed Design, Drainage, Stress Management, Prairie Restorations, and more.

**GCSAA Education Seminar** "Bentgrass Management and Rootzone Maintenance" – January 25<sup>th</sup>

**TRADE SHOW** featuring a large variety of industry related products, services, & equipment – January 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

*Don't miss this event!*

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