



MTGF Update

By **LARRY VETTER**
MTGF Executive Director

The University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Day started with showers but ended up on a high note. Approximately 145 people attended the event, which is about double the turnout for last year. The official groundbreaking for the new TROE (Turf Research, Outreach and Education) Center took place during lunch and those in attendance witnessed the beginning of a new era in the turf program at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Phil Larsen, Associate Dean of COAFES, officiated with a number of dignitaries in attendance. Among others, our president Greg Hubbard addressed the group as well as Paul Eckholm (coordinator of the Drive For The U Program) and Rick Fredericksen, President of MGCSA. Rick and Rob Panuska presented Dr. Larsen with a \$25,000 check from MGCSA to help kick off the fund raising effort for this facility.

Speaking of the TROE Center, work is progressing at a rapid pace on the site. Old fencing has been removed, the dozer work has been completed for the putting greens, drainage is installed and the irrigation materials have been delivered. Since starting this paragraph I paid another visit to the site in order to address some members of MSTMA. Not only was the irrigation material delivered but most of it is now already in the ground. Absolutely amazing how fast things are progressing over there. If you get a chance, it's worth the time to see the progress.

Speaking of the latest developments, most of you were aware that Dr. Jon Powell is leaving us to "go back home" to Michigan. What very few were aware of is that it was far from certain that funding to continue that position would be allocated. Given the severe budget cuts at the University no commitment was being made. I had been communicating with various people within the University indicating the importance of continued funding for the position. Preparations were being made for an all-out assault of letters, e-mails and phone calls to the administration if it became necessary. Then it was announced that the college had approved continued funding and the search for Jon's replacement could go forward.

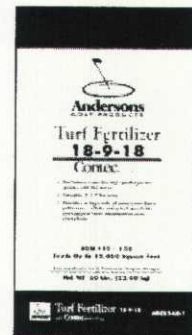
Plans are in place for the pesticide recertification program on October 15, 2002 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. The mailing will be going out at the end of this month and will be sent first-class to avoid the problems we have experienced with bulk, non-profit mailings recently. At the time of this writing, we are investigating the possibility of hosting another recertification program at Madden's in early November. Every attempt will be made to have both events publicized with the same mailing if in fact the November program is to occur.

Any doubts about The Minnesota Green Expo being a great idea can be put to rest from the vendors' point of view. The exhibits are now officially "Sold Out" and this was accomplished without having to make a general mailing to those who were not previous exhibitors. This exceeds our financial model on the revenue side while saving on the expense side for printing and mailing costs that we thought would be necessary to accomplish this goal.

The next regularly scheduled MTGF Board Meeting is set for September 18, 2002, 7:00 a.m. in 310 Alderman Hall on the St. Paul Campus. We are still looking for committee volunteers and would welcome any and all to our lists.

— Larry Vetter

*New from
The Andersons...*



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