



# HOLE NOTES

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*Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!*

## Minnesota Green Expo Scheduled January 7 - 8 - 9 in Minneapolis

By LARRY VETTER  
MTGF Executive Director

The second annual Minnesota Green Expo will take place from January 7-9, 2004 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's Expo has been expanded in several areas. First there will be pre-Expo Workshops that offer educational opportunities for those who wish to attend. Dr. Brian Horgan will be offering his Phosphorus Training School Tuesday afternoon, January 6, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. While this is geared primarily for golf course personnel, all turfgrass managers are welcome to attend and will receive some very valuable information. Separate registration is required to participate. Watch you mail or go to Dr. Horgan's web site, [www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu), or the Expo site listed above for further information.

Once again the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers, located on the Skyway System connecting to the Convention Center, will be the host hotel. There is no question that this great facility will sell out, so make your reservation early by calling 1-800-HILTONS. Be sure to mention the Minnesota Green Expo in order to get the special room rate negotiated for attendees.

The Trade Show has been reconfigured in order to allow



more exhibitors to participate. The new layout allows over 800 booth spaces to be arranged in the two domes used by the Expo in the Convention Center. Virtually everything that impacts the installation, renovation and maintenance of turf and grounds areas will be on display throughout the course of three days.

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**PERIODICAL**  
**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**



# Minnesota Green Expo –

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The Trade Show will be open from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Friday. This is your chance to see an amazing display of equipment, tools, hard goods, soft goods, landscape materials, technology and services offered by our vendors. These are the people and companies that make this event possible, so be sure to thank them by visiting their displays and considering them for your 2004 purchases.

Speakers from around the country will be on hand to share their expertise on many issues relating to the Green Industry. The MTGF Welcome is set for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7th. President Greg Hubbard will discuss the current state of the Foundation and address some very important issues that are currently pending. This is your opportunity to hear what is taking place in a number of areas impacting the Foundation and the Green Industry throughout this area.

Immediately following the MTGF Welcome, this year's Keynote Speaker is world-renowned marathon runner Dick Beardsley who will present "Nothing's Too Big To Beat". Dick Beardsley is a two-time champion and course record holder of Grandma's Marathon. He is also the champion and course record holder of the Napa Valley Marathon as well as the London Marathon champion. His accomplishments in marathon running include a host of other awards and honors.

His running accomplishments almost certainly would have even more notable had he not developed Achilles tendon problems. Following multiple surgeries, he retired from competitive running and slid into a nightmare. In 1989, while using an auger to lift corn into a crib, he became entangled in the auger and it began to tear him apart. Before he lost consciousness, he managed somehow to stop the machine. All of his ribs on his right side were broken as well as his right arm. His left leg was mangled and he had severe head injuries. He was laid up for five months.

Then in 1992 he and his wife Mary were blind-sided by another driver. He spent fifteen days in the hospital with an injured back and neck. Then about six months later while on a run during a snowstorm, Dick was hit by a truck which put him back in the hospital for two weeks. A month later, again in a fierce snowstorm, he rolled the vehicle he was driving "a bunch of times." Again, back and neck injuries resulted. Several surgeries followed and with each hospital stay, pain medication was prescribed. As his tolerance to the medications increased, he was prescribed more and more pain pills. He knew he had become addicted to this medication, but was in denial.

Then he received a call from his father, whom he learned was dying of cancer. He wanted to visit his father, but was low on his medication and his doctor was out of town. He had a prescription in his wallet so he doctored it, photocopied it and forged a signature. He repeated this until, by the end of the day he had 240 pills. He suffered through his father's death while his addiction spun out of control.

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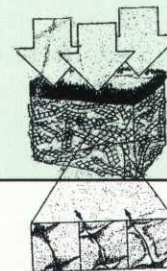
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# Minnesota Green Expo –

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Then in 1996 he was caught. "It saved my life", he said. After nine days in a Fargo psychiatric unit, he emerged free of drugs. In spite of all that had happened, he managed to restart his running program. Today Dick is enjoying running more than ever. He completed five marathons in 2002 and kicked off 2003 with his best time since his farm accident in the Hops Marathon in Tampa Bay. Come hear this amazing story as Dick Beardsley presents "Nothing's Too Big To Beat."

Following this inspirational session, nine different educational tracks begin, addressing a wide variety of topics. The complete schedule can be seen at the Minnesota Green Expo web site listed above. There will be something to learn for virtually everyone attending. During the course of the first day alone, presentations will be made addressing the importance of communications, preparation of landscape beds and putting green speed. Transportation regulations, climate changes and the effect those have on living plants, artificial turf vs. natural turf, the basics of turf management, handling of B and B materials and landscape design will also be addressed.

Once again, the University of Minnesota Extension Information Lab will occupy the lobby area in front of Hall E. Last year the University did an outstanding job of designing, constructing and manning a large area which featured many of the activities and areas of expertise impacting the Green Industry. This year they plan to make their displays more interactive, including samples and visual pieces for inspection. They also plan to have faculty on hand to speak about the various items on display as well as answer questions that might arise. This exhibit will be in place during all three days of the Expo.

**The opening of the Trade Show takes place Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.** and will remain open throughout the day until 6:00 p.m. The traditional free Trade Show Welcome Reception will be held in the Exhibit Halls from 4:30 - 6:00. This is a great networking opportunity and offers a chance to thank our exhibitors for their support of the Expo in an informal setting.

**Thursday gets off to a quick start with the first educational sessions beginning at 8:30** and continuing throughout the day until 4:30 p.m. Presentations addressing cool season turf research, aquatics, heat tolerance of woody plants and ninety minutes of landscape gadgets are scheduled. In addition, landscape design, irrigation design and installation and a Dale Carnegie course will be offered. Soil and water relationships for turf, new and unusual conifers, tree biology issues and water management will be featured. Equipment technicians will have three presentations offered to them including a discussion of no-contact reel mowing that will interest all turf managers looking for the latest theories in mowing. New and emerging diseases of cool season turf, an alternative method of putting green construction, new and exotic pests, new perennials and components of the mid-western landscape will round out the day's presentations. Immediately following the conclusion of the educational sessions on Thursday, the MGCSA Annual Meeting will take place from 4:45 - 6:00 p.m., Room 208 in the Convention Center. Please note that this is a different room than in previous years. This is the same room in which the last golf session of the day will be held.

**The ever-popular Casino Party**, which is free to all registered attendees and is the green industry's biggest networking event of the year, will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Try your luck at the tables. Maybe win a door prize. Listen to the cheers of winning

and the groans of defeat. Enjoy a snack and libation. Visit with friends and make new ones. All of this and more at this very popular event.

**Friday has been designated as Pesticide Recertification Day** although there are educational offerings for everyone throughout the day. Recertification sessions are held for turf, nursery and arborists and greenhouse attendees. Topics include the influence of thatch on pest management, designing disease control programs for greens, new and novel insecticides, choosing herbicides wisely, pesticide fate and IPM for grassy weeds. Other presentations include ornamental grasses, designing for trees, computer file management, hardscape issues and reducing pest problems with plant selection, planting and management practices.

While there is a huge array of topics addressed by world-renowned speakers, of particular interest to golf course superintendents and their staffs are: the pre-Expo "Phosphorus Training School" on Tuesday conducted by Brian Horgan; "Turf 101", Parts I & II for staff members by John Hopko; "Communicating With Golfers" by Pat Jones of Golfdom magazine; "Club Communications" by George Carroll of CMAA; "Cool Season Turf Research Update" by Mark Mahady of California, formerly a Somerset Country Club staff member; "Soil and Water Relationships" and "Influence of Thatch on Pest Management" by Al Turgeon of Penn State University; "Origins and Impact of Lapping and Relief" as well as two other presentations geared for equipment technicians by Stephen Bernhard from the UK; "A Quality and Affordable Golf Irrigation Design" by Erik Christiansen of EC Design Group; "Water Movement in Sloped Putting Greens: An Alternative Construction Method" and "Keeping Green Speed Under Control: A Case Study" by Kevin Frank of Michigan State University; "Minnesota's New Phosphorus Law" by Jerry Spetzman of the MDA; "New and Emerging Diseases of Cool Season Grasses" and "Designing Disease Control Programs for Bent/Poa Greens" by Bruce Martin of Clemson; "New and Novel Pesticides" by Vera Krischik of the U. of M.; "Pesticide Fate" by Brian Horgan of the U. of M.; and "IPM For Grassy Weeds" by Bob Mugaas of the U. of M.

The partial listing in the previous paragraph alone may well represent one of the best programs ever put together for a regional conference. In addition to those mentioned above, there will be nearly seventy other educational sessions over the course of the Expo that will focus on sports turf, general turf, general grounds, garden centers and greenhouses. Researchers, teachers and extension personnel from a number of universities, as well as experts from industry all come together in one location for the benefit of the turf and grounds professionals throughout this area.

And if you are looking for a break from topics relating directly to golf, you can always sit in on "All Star and Super Bowl Field Prep", "Landscape Design", Parts I & II or "Coordinating An Internship Program". Other titles include "Irrigation System Design", "Tree Biology", "Surpassing Outrageous Expectations", "Survival Guide For Turf Managers" as well as other presentations that address flower bed design and maintenance, trees, annuals, perennials and paving design and maintenance. Yes there is something being offered for everyone who is part of the Green Industry. And yes, the largest tradeshow in this area!

Renew friendships, make new ones, support your suppliers and network with others who share many of the same problems and concerns as you. What better chance to find solutions to those problems than by attending the Minnesota Green Expo, January 7-9, 2004. For more information, visit the Expo web site listed at the beginning of this article, the MTGF web site [www.mtgf.com](http://www.mtgf.com) or call me at 612-625-9234.