



HOLE NOTES

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THE BIG GREEN

By LARRY VETTER

Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation

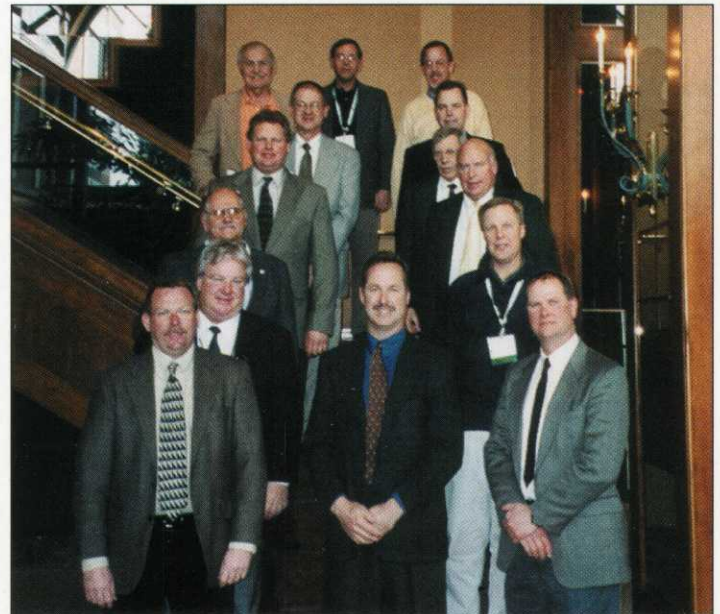
The second annual Minnesota Green Expo is now history. One of the biggest challenges leading up to this year's Expo was to build on the success of the inaugural event held in January 2003. All reports indicate that this challenge was more than met!

While accurate financial figures are not yet available it appears nearly certain that the MTGF revenue for the 2004 Expo will exceed that generated from the 2003 event. This will allow more money to be available for research, outreach and teaching support for the coming year. Given the budget situations at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere, this will be very meaningful.

The attendance at the Minnesota Green Expo this year was up 4.6% to 7,466. More booths were made available and there was still a waiting list after all spaces were sold. Overall there were 862 booth spaces purchased by 402 companies that filled over two acres of the Convention Center. We all need to thank the vendors who made such a huge contribution to the success of the Expo. Please remember them when it is time to make your 2004 purchases as the Expo could not be a success without their participation. In addition to the purchased exhibit spaces, all MTGF associations that wanted to have a display were given space in the lobby area and 20 non-profits were given space on the second level of the Convention Center.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the keynote address featuring Dick Beardsley on Wednesday morning. His presentation of "Nothing's Too Big To Beat" certainly got the Expo off to a great start. Over the course of the three days there was a full slate of speakers from around the country plus Great Britain that were dedicated to golf course issues. The majority of these presentations had audiences that were in the 400 to 500 range. There were also two presentations designed specifically for equipment techni-

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PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE MGCSA

Front row from left to right: Paul Eckholm, CGCS; James Gardner, CGCS, and Rick Fredericksen, CGCS. Second row: Jim Nicol, CGCS, and Kevin Clunis, CGCS. Third row: Jerry Murphy, CGCS, and Greg Hubbard, CGCS. Fourth Row: Fred Taylor, CGCS, and Larry Vetter. Fifth row: Dennis Hendrickson and Scott Hoffmann, CGCS. Back row: Bill Johnson, Thomas Fischer, CGCS, and Doug Mahal, CGCS. These gentlemen attended the traditional Past Presidents Luncheon on January 8th.

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