

University of Minnesota Turf Club Achieves a New Level

By Aaron Johnsen
University of Minnesota Turf Club

The University of Minnesota Turf Club is winding down its activities as we head towards the summer. This past year has been a very eventful for the Turf Club. A year ago, nine members (Sam Bauer, Justin Ellison, Aaron Karn, Adam Murphy, Nick Peinovich, Jonathan Spitzer, Kyle Stirn, Seth Swanson and Justin Zimmerman) graduated and this fall two more (Josh Olson and Mitch Savage) graduated. We also had the addition of nine new members to our club (Will Haselbauer, Mark Lambert, Jason Lamers, Justin Loegis, Justin Mangold, Ryan Moy, Chad Nowak, Charlie Fischer and Jake Ryan).



Members of the sixth place team, from left to right:
Mark Schloo, Chad Nowak, Gerad Nelson, and Aaron Johnsen.

Throughout the year we participated in numerous events and fundraising. Last summer we helped with the 3M Championship preparations at the TPC of the Twin Cities. In the fall, members assisted Minnesota Valley Country Club in setting up greens covers and we had James Bade speak at a meeting. Each of these events were extremely enriching experiences for those that were able to attend.

During Christmas break members assisted in setting up the Minnesota Green Expo. We also began our preparations for the turf bowl, which is held at the Golf Industry Show. The turf bowl is a three-hour test on a range of topics concerning warm season and cool season golf courses. These preparations continued well into the night the day before the test.

This year we had nine members attend the GIS in Atlanta, Ga. At the conference, we attended the trade show and some members participated in classes. For the turf bowl we had two teams compete and place sixth and 42nd. The sixth place finish is the highest the turf club has placed in this event and topped our 11th place finish of last year. The members of the sixth place team were Aaron Johnsen, Gerad Nelson, Chad Nowak, and Mark Schloo.

After returning from the trip, we began our spring fundraising events. Due to the poor sales of Easter baskets over the last few years, we elected to donate them. We donated 48 baskets to the Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter in Minneapolis.

This spring we also held our third annual golf giveaway. We would like to thank all golf courses that generously donated passes: TPC of the Twin Cities, Rush Creek Golf Club, The Jewel Golf Club, Mendakota Country Club, Izaty's Golf and Yacht Club, Keller Golf Course, North Links Golf Course, Chomonix Golf Course, Brightwood Hills Golf Course, Tartan Park Golf Club, Baker National Golf Course, Thumper Pond Golf Course, Emily Greens Golf Course, Fox Hollow Golf Club, Grand View Lodge, Deacon's Lodge Golf Course and Edinburgh USA. This event is one of our largest fundraisers for the annual GIS trip.

As we prepare for next year, we are always looking for events to attend. The members of the turf club are interested in learning all they can about the turf industry. If anyone needs help with fall clean-up or would like to speak to the club, please contact us. Thank you for your time and support. Any donations or inquiries can be directed to President Aaron Johnsen.

(Editor's Note: For more information about the Turf Club e-mail: john6333@umn.edu or mail to 1970 Folwell Ave., Alderman Hall 305, St. Paul, MN 55108.)

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