

# University of Minnesota Turf Club Update

By JOE LeVOIR

President, University of Minnesota Turf Club

## Turf Club

Throughout the year, Turf Club members volunteer at local golf courses and solicit donations for the Club's annual trip to Turf Bowl. In past years, members have volunteered at U of M-sponsored tournaments, or grown centerpieces of turf for various events.

In 2008, Turf Club helped out the grounds crew at the U. S. Women's Open at Interlachen Country Club in Edina and tended the course at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine for the 3M Championship, annual Champions Tour event. This past month, the Turf Club hosted a booth at the Minnesota Green Expo to promote its activities within the community. All of the experiences and connections made are invaluable and will be valuable to Turf Club members upon graduation and job searching.

My personal experience at the Women's

Open was to be lucky enough to walk the grounds and the greens with the professional lady golfers. Words cannot describe how great of an experience that was. Also, after I didn't think anything could get better than working on the grounds crew at TPC. I was grateful enough to meet the king of golf, Arnold Palmer.

## Turf Bowl

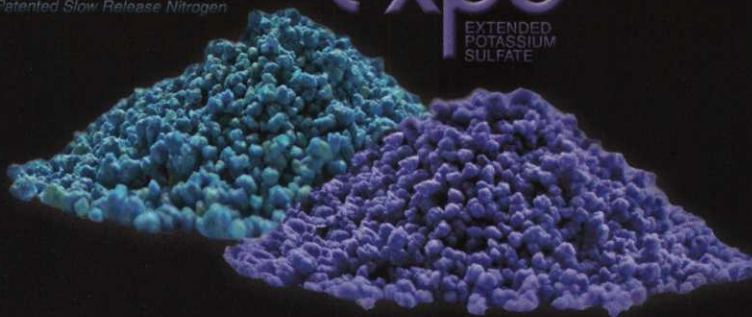
Every year, Turf Club goes to conventions of the United States Golf Course Superintendent Association and competes in the annual Turf Bowl, an event attended by schools from around the nation. Professors who administer Turf Bowl have suggested it is "the hardest test a turf student will ever have to take." The test includes identification of grasses (warm and cool season), soil, bugs and diseases. There are multiple-choice questions, math problems, and a written essay. Groups are composed of four people or fewer. This year the University of Minnesota has a

team built of four turf students going down to New Orleans to compete in the annual Turf Bowl.

All the volunteer work and fundraising that Turf Club has done throughout the year is used towards our trip. Additionally, the Turf Club members have developed a fundraiser entitled "Don't make a bogey, bring back the birdies" in which members build bluebird houses. These houses are intended to attract bluebirds, increase wildlife in the area and create environmental awareness and preservation. There are two bluebird house options available for purchase: rough cedar or green painted rough cedar. Each house costs \$30 and all proceeds go to support the Turf Club on their annual Turf Bowl trip. Please contact Joe LeVoi at [levoi007@umn.edu](mailto:levoi007@umn.edu) by February 16 to obtain an order form or if you have any questions.

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