

2010 MTGF/University of Minnesota Field Day Proves Great Stuff is Happening at TROE Center

The annual MTGF/University of Minnesota Field Day on September 16, provided turf and grounds professionals opportunities to learn about new research being conducted at the Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education (TROE) Center and the TRE Nursery.

Leading researchers were on hand to demonstrate their projects and how they directly benefit green industries.

Commercial vendors demonstrated the latest products, services and equipment available. Lunch was catered by *Famous Dave's*.

Attendees chose between a Turf Track and a Grounds Track. After splitting into equal-sized groups, participants moved from one station to another and saw most of what TROE Center has to offer.

2010 has been a very busy year at TROE Center. TROE Center allows University of Minnesota researchers to study current issues facing the Minnesota turfgrass practitioner. The rain-out shelter was moved to a new location to allow for quicker turn-around of trials. The plan is to have it fully automated with rain sensors and electric motors to be able to move the shelter in the event of rain. It is still a work in progress but things are moving forward.

"This summer's rain has not been much of a hindrance for us but it certainly has kept the mowers busy. All of TROE has never been this green all summer long.



UM GRADUATE STUDENTS CRISTAL CISNEROS AND ERIC KOERTITZ, center and left, were excited to talk about their projects and the research being done at TROE Center during the 2010 MTGF / University of Minnesota Field Day on September 16. They are pictured with MGCSA President Paul Diegnau CGCS, Keller Golf Course. Cristal and Eric along with other graduate students, research scientists and UM professors educated attendees at the popular event.

"We have been lucky to escape the majority of the disease pressure that has been around this year but we certainly have seen our fair share of cutworms.

"TROE Center continues to develop new plots for new trials. We are in the process of redoing the bentgrass runoff plots. We are planning on replacing the bentgrass with other species of turfgrass for future runoff trials." said Craig Krueger of TROE Center.



COMMERCIAL VENDORS were instrumental in the success of Field Day.

THE AUTOMATED RAIN SHELTER AT TROE CENTER has been great for drought tolerant cool-season turfgrass screening research. At the left, Josh Friell, a graduate student in the UM Department of Horticultural Science, was passionate about the research being done at TROE Center and enjoyed educating the crowd. The automated cover slides back and forth to easily control sunlight and rain.