

Editors Note: On the facing page you will find the first stab at a Regional Golf Course Turf Report, Metropolitan Area, generated by Dr. Horgan and Same Bauer, Extension Specialists at the University of Minnesota. The Research plan as perscribed by the Board of Directors and Research Committee encompasses this regional report format to provide you with current information associated with your section of the state three times annually; spring opening, mid summer and in the fall just pior to closure.

Bob Fitch, Executive Director of the MNLA, Moves On The MGCSA Wishes Bob the Best of Luck!!!

Bob Fitch has resigned as executive director of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association. He has purchased a business that specializes in working with non-profit organizations on issues such as board orientation and training, strategic planning and organizational policies. Fitch will depart MNLA in mid-December.

Fitch joined MNLA in 1996. During his tenure, MNLA continued a remarkable run of growth and enhanced its position as one of the leading green industry organizations in the country. Since 2000, MNLA's total number of members has typically ranked in the top five among state nursery and landscape organizations, its budget has grown significantly, and its grassroots member involvement has thrived at the same time it has added professional association staff.

On behalf of MNLA, Fitch served as president of the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group from 2000-2004; and as president of the Nursery & Landscape Association Executives of North America from 2005-2007. The work of the MNLA team received numerous awards from the Midwest Society of Association Executives for publications, marketing, membership and communications.

One of his signature accomplishments was successfully collaborating with Bob Mugaas and Larry Vetter, former executive directors of the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation, to create and develop the Northern Green Expo from the merger of the MNLA Convention and the MTGF Conference.



His new company, Cain Consulting Group (www.cain-consulting.com), serves associations, foundations and other non-profits across the United States and Canada. It is based in the small northwestern Iowa town of Hawarden, which is just 10 miles from Fitch's birthplace in Hudson, S.D. Moving closer to family was an important consideration in the career change.

"I've been really pleased in the growing relationship between MNLA and MGCSA," Fitch said. "Not only is MGCSA a critically important audience to the Northern Green Expo, but the ability of MNLA and MGCSA to collaborate on legislative and regulatory matters is mutually beneficial to the members of both organizations. I know your great new executive director, Jack MacKenzie, will be able to forge a strong partnership with whomever is the next staff leader at MNLA."