

# LM GRAPEVINE

Michigan State University professor **Dr. Joe Vargas** has released the new, second edition of "Management of Turfgrass Diseases" through Lewis Publishers. A caller to **LM** said it was full of excellent photos and charts, a valuable reference as a field guide or textbook. "It reads the way Joe talks," the caller—who didn't want his name published—said. The book is available by calling Lewis Publishers at (800) 272-7737. Cost is \$59.95.

The move to grass is back in the great Midwest. Word comes that the Kansas City Royals will install natural grass, as will the University of Missouri. The Royals' field—under the direction of **Chip Toma**—will be in place by the start of the 1995 season. Meanwhile, the Missouri effort will be led by **Dr. Dave Minner**, who is on the university's turfgrass staff and is an active member of the Sports Turf Managers Association. The MU change was precipitated by the school's alumni, who voted for natural grass by a margin of 26-1. We received a copy of the *Missouri Alumnus*, which conducted the fax poll, from former **LM** managing editor **Heide Aungst**. Athletic director **Dan Devine** says the university will install grass—either over, or in place of, the existing Omniture—in time for the 1995 season. The move will give Mizzou the only natural grass playing surface in the Big Eight Conference.

While Dr. Vargas has already come out with a new version of his turf text, another well-known turf personality is still working on his. **Dr. Al Turgeon** of Penn State University is working on the Fourth Edition of "Turfgrass Management," due to be released in middle to late 1995. "The second and third editions involved relatively light revisions; however, the fourth edition will be extensively modified and reorganized," he tells **LM**. The current edition is available through Advanstar Marketing Services, phone number (216) 826-2839.

TruGreen/ChemLawn could begin offering lawn care franchises within a year or two, says President **Don Karnes**. "There are an awful lot of lawns out there in smaller communities," he told **LM** this past August. "We'd love to have franchises in them."

**Larry Holkenborg** Nursery, Sandusky, Ohio, sent six employees to "A Gift to the American People" at Arlington National Cemetery Oct. 16, says **LM** senior editor **Ron Hall**, who visited the nursery while working on an article. In all, about 250 volunteer tree care professionals—under the auspices of the National Arborists Association—pruned, fertilized and cabled trees in the cemetery. Holkenborg is an NAA past president.

**Dr. Jim Watson** has been honored by his former employer, The Toro Company, which will underwrite the Dr. James R. Watson Fellowships. The Minneapolis-based equipment manufacturer has agreed to a minimum of \$100,000 in support for the GCSAA scholarships over the next four years. Dr. Watson, now in semi-retirement, has been in the turf industry for 40 years. He is the mentor of a vast number of professional turfgrass managers, a longtime friend of the **LM** editorial staff, and perhaps the most respected person in the turf industry. Way to go, Dr. Jim!

Heated ballfields? Now we've heard everything. According to a press release received in the **LM** offices, the next trend in sand-based athletic fields is heating the fields. So says **Chuck Dixon**, president of technical operations for Turf Diagnostics & Design, Olathe, Kans. "Heating fields will make them safer during the periods that the field would normally be frozen," Dixon says. "It will also increase the performance of the surface by providing better footing for athletes."

READERS! Got an item for "LM Grapevine?" Call us at (216) 826-2830 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Time.

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