



Promoting the green industries in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere

## Minnesota Green Expo

January 8–10, 2003 • Minneapolis Convention Center

The Minnesota Green Expo will debut on January 8-10, 2003, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The inaugural Expo trade show and educational program is the result of an agreement between the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation and the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association to combine their respective conferences and trade shows into one event. Both groups have realized for some time that by combining their resources an offering could be presented to the green industry that would have unparalleled educational, networking and commerce opportunities for all green industry professionals throughout the north central region.

The Minnesota Green Expo will not only be the largest event ever of its type in this area but will feature the broadest array of educational offerings ever made in this region. The trade show has been expanded to two domes in the Minneapolis Convention Center. More than 350 companies will fill over 750 booths in the sold out trade show. The vendors in our industry certainly have given a strong nod of approval for the new structure that has been implemented.

Attendees will quickly become aware of a number of benefits of combining these two events. One of the first things that MTGF members will notice is that the cost of attending has been reduced significantly. The complete three-day advance registration last year was \$125. That

same registration this year, even with the expanded trade show and educational offerings is \$65 per person. In addition, there are discount opportunities offered that can reduce that cost even more! What a great opportunity this is to include additional staff personnel and thereby reinforce their importance to your operation. This also will provide them with educational programs to improve their skills and expertise in the industry. The value that this can have in your day-to-day operations as well as the quality of the end product produced cannot be measured.

There are sessions specifically designed for staff personnel that will prove extremely valuable. First, the ever popular "Turf 101" will again be presented by John Hopko. This session is designed to give staff personnel a better awareness and understanding of the basics of turf management. Each year that this has been offered there has been an increased attendance indicating the need and value of this basic instruction.

In addition, Harry Smith, equipment technician instructor at Lake City Community College, Lake City, Florida, will again teach the "Mechanic Session." The technicians who attended Harry's session last year expressed only one complaint – "The time went too fast! I wish it could have gone all day." What good is the best-equipped operation in the world if the equipment isn't running, cutting or leaks hydraulic fluid? Registering these people who are some of the most important individuals

on any staff not only reaffirms their value to your operation, but also let's them hear from an unbiased expert in the equipment field. In addition to the classroom instruction, there will be plenty of time for them to "kick some tires" and visit with the various equipment suppliers on the trade show floor. Again, it may well be impossible to place a value on this exposure for these key staff members within your operation.

A new offering this year will be a session specifically for "Gardeners." More and more of our grounds areas are utilizing annuals and perennials as components in the over-all landscape. While some of this may well be out-sourced, many realizing the importance of the design and maintenance of these plantings, are including staff members who have this assignment. A professional gardener will conduct a session specifically geared toward those who are responsible for the wide-array of plantings that are becoming such an integral part of

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# Field Day 2002



The third Annual University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Day was held on July 25, 2002. This year for the first time three separate educational and demonstration tracks were offered in order to broaden the value of the event. Those tracks consisted of High Maintenance Turf, Low Maintenance Turf and Grounds. A number of faculty, staff and students contributed their time and efforts to make this year's event rewarding for all that attended.

There were approximately 150 attendees this year. This is roughly double the number that attended in 2001. A brief downpour greeted everyone about the time of the start of the event. However, the skies cleared soon after without too much interruption in the program. The group was welcomed by Dr. Jon Powell, organizer of the program, Dr Phil Larsen, Associate Dean of Research and Larry Vetter, Executive Director of the MTGF.

Following the opening remarks the attendees split into three groups to depart for their respective tours. Included in the High Maintenance Turf tour, Peter Bierman demonstrated "Measuring Water Infiltration and Percolation Rates". Don White discussed "Creeping Bluegrass Development" on his plots. Brian Horgan presented "Tree Putt (*Poa annua* var. *reptans*) Seedhead Suppression". Van Cline explained "Remote Sensing Technology and Applications" and Vera Krischik demonstrated "Grub and Beetle Identification and Management".

Included in the Low Maintenance Turf tour, Bob Mugaas evaluated "Demonstration Plots of Turfgrass Mixtures and Blends". Carl Rosen explained the "Phosphorus Fertilizer Recommendations and Regulations for Turf". Jon Powell discussed "Management of Necrotic Ring Spot Disease". Nancy Ehlke and Don Wyse gave an update of "Kentucky Bluegrass and Perennial Ryegrass" breeding, selection and production. Troy Carson explained the "Use of Nonselective Herbicides Prior to Renovation".

Following a tour of the Horticultural Trial Gardens, the Grounds Tour had their walking shoes tested by Mike Zins as they toured the St. Paul Campus viewing the many tree, shrub and floral plantings located throughout the area.

Thank you to all of the presenters who took time out of their busy schedules to share their expertise with those attending. Also thanks to Jacklin Seed Co., Sun Turf, Simplot Partners and Turf Supply Company were extremely generous in sponsoring the lunch and beverages for the day.

Others who made contributions to the Turfgrass Working Group for research throughout the year are: Aventis, BASF, E-Z-Go Golf Carts, Miltona Turf Products, Milorganite, Sun Turf, Scotts, Inc., Syngenta, Textron/Jacobson, The Scotts Company, The Toro Company, Turf Supply Company and Turfco Manufacturing. In addition, thanks to the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, the MTGF, National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association and the Northern Minnesota Forage-Turf Seed Advisory Board for their support during the year.

One of the high points of the day was the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new TROE Center that took place at the new site immediately following lunch. Additional information and photographs of this event are located throughout this newsletter. This was the "official" beginning of a new era in the Turf Program at the University of Minnesota. If you haven't yet visited the new site it would be worth your time to do so. In order to avoid too much repetition, please refer to other stories in this issue for more information on the TROE Center and how you and your association might become involved.

Keep an eye out for announcements on an even larger and better U. of M. Field Day in 2003. Thanks again to all who attended, and to all of the presenters, sponsors and volunteers who all contributed to making the 2002 Field Day a great success. ■

## Welcome New MTGF Board Member

The MTGF Board of Directors welcomes their newest member, Al Friedges, Park Supervisor for the City of Prior Lake for the past 23 years. Printed elsewhere in this edition is an article about Al and his brothers who are also members of MPSA. Welcome aboard, Al. Thanks for volunteering your time, effort and talents to serve on our Board.

### MTGF Allied Associations

*Minnesota Association of Cemeteries*

*Minnesota Park Supervisors Association*

*Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association*

*Minnesota Turf Association*

*Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association*

*Minnesota Society of Aboriculture*

*Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors*

*Northern Minnesota Forage and Turf Seed Advisory Committee*

## UPDATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TURFGRASS SCIENCE PROGRAM

*Brian Horgan*

It has been a great year for the Turfgrass Science Program at the University of Minnesota. This has been a year of growth, transition and identifying goals for the future. Our primary goal this year was to gain support from the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences for the development of a new turfgrass research center. I am happy to report that this has happened in record time. The Turfgrass Research, Outreach, and Education (TROE) Center development is underway and we are moving full speed ahead.

Following our most successful Turf and Grounds Field Day, where more than 150 people attended, we broke ground on the TROE Center. To date we have established the following research plots:

1. Native and no-mow grasses
2. Perennial ryegrass breeding space plantings
3. Built and seeded a modified and native soil putting green. The modified putting green also contains 8 lysimeters to measure the movement of water, nutrients, and pesticides through a sand-based soil profile.
4. Prepared for and applied to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program to research fine fescue turf from selections across the United States.

All of these projects can not happen without support from industry. Special thanks must be extended to the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association for coordinating and supplying resources to construct the two greens. In addition, vendors ranging from golf course designers, construction companies, and irrigation designers and installers donated materials, time, and resources to the TROE Center.

This has also been a year of transition. Dr. Jon Powell has recently left the University of Minnesota as our turfgrass pathologist to pursue other academic opportunities. The Plant Pathology Department is pleased to announce that a plant pathologist dealing with turfgrass will be rehired. Moreover, Dr. Don White, after spending more than 40 years with the University, has started a phase retirement. The Department of Horticultural Sciences has posted a job description for a replacement of Dr. White. We will be interviewing candidates this winter with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2003.

This has also been a year of projecting goals for the future. We have identified short and long term goals to judge the success of the turf program. One goal is to increase our undergraduate student numbers in the Horticulture Department. To achieve this goal, we have started an aggressive Turfgrass Science Program promotion. The college recog-

nizes this as a growth area and has invested resources to achieve this goal. Another goal was to develop a common meeting place where members of the MTGF can go to find information on turfgrass. We have developed a website, [www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu), as a starting point to achieve this goal.

I hope this gives you an idea of where the turf program is heading in the future. There are many exciting events that you, as members of the MTGF, can participate in and help us to develop and build our Turfgrass Science Program. Events and programs like pesticide recertification, the Green Expo in January, new outreach programs like IPM for Turfgrass Management, and the annual Turf and Grounds Field Day. We appreciate your support and look forward to providing valuable information to you in the future. ■

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**EXPO** *continued from cover*

many landscapes in this area. While your gardener is there, he/she can also take advantage of a huge array of exhibits featuring plant materials along with other soft and hard goods on display throughout the exhibit halls. Other educational sessions will undoubtedly be of interest to them also as experts from around the country share their expertise on a variety of topics impacting their jobs.

There will be over 75 seminars in 12 educational tracks during the course of the Expo that will feature presentations from leading experts in their fields. Professional growth and development, landscape design, irrigation systems, woody plants, annuals and perennials, turf management for golf courses, parks, schools, sports turf, cemeteries and sod production as well as tree care will all be featured. The educational programs begin at 7:30 or 8:00 each day and run well into the afternoon. In addition there will be plenty of time to visit the exhibitors as hours have been dedicated exclusively for "trade show time" each day. The **Trade Show Hours** are 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Friday January 10. Make sure to take advantage of the huge array of vendors that support our industry. Remember that they make this all possible, so take advantage of this opportunity to let them know that you appreciate their support!

Pesticide recertification will be held on Friday of the Expo for those needing to recertify in 2003. Why not get this accomplished early while the weather forces you to be inside anyway? That way there will be no last-minute panic as the year slips away.

Also being offered on Friday is a "first" for MTGF attendees. A green Industry Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. where students from colleges and technical institutes in five states will be invited to attend. Instructors will provide students with free trade show passes. Take advantage of this chance to recruit the students who are your employees of tomorrow. To take advantage of this offering, see the registration form included in this newsletter.

The University of Minnesota will be exhibiting a wide variety of items as they fill the entire lobby in front of the west entrance to the trade show. The College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences will have an "Information Lab" set up in this area. Learn about managing disease problems, insects and other pests. A number of departments within the College will be on hand to answer questions that you might have on almost anything involving plants, soil, nutrition, water and other issues involved in turf and grounds maintenance. Get reports on the latest research being conducted by scientists within the College. Check to see if there are students who might be recruited to fill your needs for the coming year. This will also be a good opportunity to get information for prospective students in a variety of programs. Thursday has been designated as the U. of M. Day. Goldy Gopher will be there so there will be great photo ops available.

Yes, there will something for everyone at the first annual Minnesota Green Expo. On-line registration is available at [www.minnesotagreenexpo.com](http://www.minnesotagreenexpo.com). or you can link to this site from the MTGF web site, which is [www.mtgf.org](http://www.mtgf.org). A complete listing of exhibitors, educational sessions, meetings and other activities can be accessed from either of these web sites.

Another new service for our members is the acceptance of credit cards for registration if that is the most convenient method of payment for you. Again the Minneapolis Hilton & Towers will be the host hotel. Room rates for MGE attendees are actually lower this year than they were last year. This is yet another advantage being realized as a result of the buying power of a bigger and better event. You can call the hotel directly to make your reservations at (612) 376-1000. The rate is \$90.00 per standard room per night when mentioning the Minnesota Green Expo. This facility is connected directly to the Convention Center via the skyway system and offers great accommodations and a friendly, helpful staff. For those who are not aware, the enclosed skyway system from the hotel or Convention Center allows you to go throughout much of the downtown area without ever stepping outside.

**EXPO** *continued on page 6*

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# ED'S NOTES

*Larry G. Vetter*  
Executive Director

2002 is coming to an end and many in our industry can't wait for the season to end! This has been a year that presented many problems for growing plants, whether they be trees, shrubs, flowers or turf.

This area is approaching an all-time record for the amount of precipitation in a calendar year. Extremely high humidity with high temperatures during the summer months created nightmares for many. In all of the years that I've lived in Minnesota I don't think that I've ever witnessed dew points in the 80's. And now when we are trying to repair summer damage we get even more rain with colder than normal temperatures. All of this is just another reminder that Mother Nature is unpredictable and that "normal" is made up of averaged extremes over time!

There has been a great deal of activity on Campus this year. Dr. Don White has announced the beginning of a phased-in retirement after over 40 years of teaching and research at the U. of M. While Don will still be active this is a good time to express our thanks for all of his contributions to our industry over the years and wish him many years of good health and happiness for him and his family as he begins this new stage of life.

Dr. Jon Powell, Extension Plant Pathologist departed this year to pursue other academic activities in his home state of Michigan. Jon's expertise and friendship will be missed and we all wish him well. Fortunately the search for his replacement is well underway as Plant Pathology is an extremely important area of concern for all of the associations that make up the MTGF.

Dr. Brian Horgan is no longer a newcomer to our state as he completed his first full year on board as the U's Turf Extension Specialist. Brian has already proven to us all that we made an excellent choice in pursuing him for this position at the U. of M.

The new TROE Center is up and running on the St. Paul Campus. There are too many who deserve recognition for making this happen at a record pace to name here. However, several need to be recognized because without them this would have never happened. First is the administration within COAFES. We all recognize the high value of land on campus and the competition that exists for that limited space. The Turf Program now has an additional 16 acres on campus at its disposal on which to conduct teaching, research and outreach. Brian Horgan spearheaded the effort within the University to acquire this additional land and to help move the decision-making process through in record time. Brian

and Troy Carson spent many hours on the site once the use of the land was authorized both preparing for, and assisting construction of the first phases of the project. MGCSA stepped up to the plate with major financial assistance. Paul Eckholm, CGCS spearheaded and coordinated the "Drive For The U" program that resulted in major in-kind donations from a number of suppliers and others contributing to the project. And your MTGF has committed financially to help support technician labor that is necessary to more fully realize the potential of this project. All who have been involved deserve gratitude and praise for helping to make this dream begin to become a reality!

This year since the Conference was moved from December to January, Pesticide Recertification Workshops became a major issue. The MTGF and others lobbied for a one month grace period so that those needing to recertify in 2002 could do so at the Minnesota Green Expo in January 2003. Those efforts were not successful so the MTGF sponsored two recertification programs to accommodate our members. At the time of this writing there are approximately 270 registered for those sessions. This not only provides a valuable service for our members but is also a source of additional revenue that can be used to further fulfill our mission.

The Minnesota Green Expo certainly is on track to be the major success that we all hoped it would be in its inaugural year. A major article addressing the Expo begins on the first page of this edition. Please plan on attending, as this is our major source of revenue for the year as well as being a tremendous opportunity for networking and education.

Thanks to all who supported the MTGF this year with donations of time, effort, materials and dollars and a special thanks to our President Greg Hubbard for stepping in at mid-year to take over the reins and provide expert guidance and leadership throughout the balance of the year. We are always looking for additional volunteers for committees, Board assignments and other activities. If you would be willing to volunteer your time and talents for the advancement of the MTGF, please let us know by returning the form included in this newsletter under the title "Please Respond". By doing so, you will not only make a contribution to your industry and the MTGF, but we can maybe thank you for doing so in a future edition of this newsletter. Have a good winter and I hope to see you all at the Minnesota Green Expo January 8-10, 2003.

**EXPO** continued from page 4

Even though nearly everything mentioned above may seem work-related, don't forget to have some fun while attending this great event. There will be two great networking events on Wednesday and Thursday. The Trade Show Welcome Reception will be held on Wednesday on the trade show floor. Visit with exhibitors and thank them for supporting the Minnesota Green Expo. Enjoy some food and beverages while networking with friends and colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere. The Casino Party will be held Thursday evening. Try your luck and win some prizes without damaging your bank account. Again, this affords a great networking opportunity while having some fun at the same time.

Plan now to attend, include your staff members and be a part of the first of what will be the largest and finest event ever held in this area featuring all aspects of the green industry. The Minnesota Green Expo, January 8-10, 2003 at the Minneapolis Convention Center will be the place to be for everyone who is involved with designing, building, selling, renovating and/or maintaining any area where plant materials, Mother Nature and mankind come together. Be with your peers to discuss the problems and successes of the past season. Attend the educational sessions to prepare yourself for the future. Visit with the exhibitors to see and discuss the latest that they have to offer. Yes there will be something for everyone at the Minnesota Green Expo.



**January 8-10, 2003**  
Minneapolis Convention Center

STEP 1		STEP 3		STEP 4 - CHOOSE REGISTRATION CATEGORY FOR EACH PERSON				STEP 5			
<b>Primary Contact:</b> _____ <b>Company or Organization:</b> _____ <b>Address:</b> _____ <b>City:</b> _____ <b>State/Ctr:</b> _____ <b>Phone:</b> _____ <b>Fax:</b> _____ <b>Email:</b> _____		<b>NAME</b> Please print clearly as you would like names to appear on badges.		<b>ONE-DAY</b> Education & Trade Show <b>\$45</b> \$60 on-site	<b>THREE-DAY</b> Education & Trade Show <b>\$65</b> \$80 on-site	<b>PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECOGNITION</b> Friday, Jan. 10 <b>ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> No additional charge. Choose 1 or 3-day option at left & check box below.	<b>TRADE SHOW ONLY</b> Good for all 3 days <b>\$20</b> \$25 on-site	<b>STUDENTS</b> enrolled in horticulture, landscape or grounds study <b>\$10</b> No discounts allowed.	<b>*CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> MNLA Member <input type="checkbox"/> MGCSA Member <input type="checkbox"/> MSTMA Member <input type="checkbox"/> MPSA Member <input type="checkbox"/> MAC Member <input type="checkbox"/> MASMS Member <input type="checkbox"/> MSA Member <input type="checkbox"/> MTA Member If you are a member of any of the associations listed above, you can apply a \$10 per person discount for every person registered. Membership status will be verified.		
<b>STEP 2</b> <b>CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</b> Arborist <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Care Co. <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Grower <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Grower <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Center <input type="checkbox"/> Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Services <input type="checkbox"/> School Grounds <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Course <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Grower <input type="checkbox"/> Hardscape Supplier <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Turf <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Care Services <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Designer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>COLUMN TOTALS</b>		<b>STEP 6</b> <b>TOTAL OF ALL COLUMNS</b> \$ _____				<b>STEP 7</b> <b>MEMBER DISCOUNT</b> - \$ _____ <b>EXHIBITOR COUPON DISC.</b> - \$ _____ <b>FINAL TOTAL</b> \$ _____			
<b>LIST JOB CODE FOR EACH PERSON</b> A Owner/Corporate Official B Manager/Foreman C Grounds Superintendent D Landscape Designer E Sales Representative F Employee G Government or Academic H Student		Please check this box if you require special accommodations. Kindly attach a written description of your needs. Notify show management at least 2 weeks prior to Expo.		<b>PAYMENT METHOD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed (payable to Minnesota Green Expo) — OR — Credit Card No. <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard Signature: _____ The Minnesota Green Expo will refund 100% of registration fees for cancellation requests received by December 26, 2002. There are no refunds for Expo no-shows or for cancellations after December 26, 2002. There are no refunds for discount coupons presented after registration has been submitted.				<b>FIVE DOLLAR FRIDAY</b> On-site, Trade Show Only Discount coupon does not apply		Mail or fax to: <b>MINNESOTA GREEN EXPO</b> P. O. Box 130307 St. Paul, MN 55113 651/633-4987 Fax: 651/633-4986 TOLL FREE 888-806-6652 TOLL FREE Fax 888-266-4986 www.minnesotagreenexpo.com	



# The Friedges Brothers



*(Reprinted with permission of MPSA)*

I don't know if everyone knows it or not, but we have three members that all happen to be brothers! They all work in the park maintenance field, but for different cities or park districts in Minnesota. Their names are Al, Dan, and Pat Friedges. They come from a close family that grew up on a dairy farm. They started their lives as hard workers on the farm.... one thing led to another, and they are now all in the park maintenance field.

First is Al. Al has been working for the city of Prior Lake for the last 23 years. He is currently responsible for the development and maintenance of parks, athletic fields, trails, buildings, and natural resource areas. He also oversees the city's fleet maintenance program. A couple of special projects that he has been very involved in with Prior Lake are wetland & prairie restoration and currently helping to develop 70 acres of athletic fields.

Outside of work, Al enjoys many different activities. I would have to say that one of his most impressive hobbies is bull riding. Anyone that can do that gets an 'A' in my book. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, auto racing, and farming. He also mentioned crash testing airplanes.


His own family includes his wife of 24 years, Patty, and their five children, Joe- 22, Joan- 21, Kathy- 19, Allen- 11, and Melissa- 10.

Some skills he has learned over the years include heavy equipment operation, agriculture and farm life, carpentry, and park design. He has been very active with MPSA for many years. He is now going to take on the role of MPSA representative on the MTGF Board. That will take him in many new directions.

Next is Dan. Dan has been working for the Three Rivers Park District for 25 years. He has been in his supervisory role since 1996. In the time that Dan has been with them, they have gone through three name changes: Hennepin County Park Reserve District, Hennepin Parks, and now Three Rivers Park District. Responsibilities for Dan on the job include supervising the maintenance crews and coordinating the development of comprehensive maintenance management programs. He also plans, organizes, and directs the implementation of maintenance functions. He schedules work assignments and coordinates personnel, equipment, outdoor recreation programs, natural resources programs and special events.

**FRIEDGES** continued on page 11

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# We can build it, Yes we can! (but how?)



*E. Paul Eckholm, GCGS*

Things are happening at the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The University is building some very pricy high tech genetics buildings, hiring professors, assistant professors and lab technicians. Among all of this money spending is the lowly, and often forgotten, turfgrass program. In the past few years the University has hired a full time Turfgrass Pathologist, a first in my lifetime, a full time Turfgrass researcher and extension specialist, also a first, and will soon be replacing a full time Turfgrass professor. With all of this spending you would think things are coming up roses for the turfgrass program at the University. Not so. Although the University is hiring there is no money in the capital budget for facilities. Not that the University hasn't asked for the money, they have, but the Legislature has not approved it. So, that leaves us with three full time turfgrass positions and inadequate facilities for them to perform their work.

Over two years ago the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association (MGCSA) recognized this problem and began to try to do something about it. We started the *Drive for the U* program. This program was instituted as an opportunity for companies and individuals to make in-kind donations to the turfgrass program. Conversations were held with the principles of the major turf related companies in the state and donations were committed. The MGCSA publishes a list of those contributors every month, which amounts to free advertising for the companies.

When the University hired Dr. Brian Horgan, he became aware of the *Drive for the U* program and one of its goals, constructing a research green, and ran with it. Brian began to look for a place to put the research green and soon realized that there was little or no space for it. Brian had an idea to build a true turfgrass research facility and began a dialog with the college administration. The administration saw the support that industry had committed and saw the thought and planning that went into the proposal Brian had put together and allocated 16 acres to turfgrass research, an area now known as the TROE Center. (I am giving Brian and others in the Hort Department way less credit than they deserve to save space in this article).

The TROE Center is now a reality and a USGA spec. green and a push-up type green have been built. This green complex is a full 1 acre in size with a complex irrigation system and a full monitoring system for leachate and runoff studies.



*Breaking ground at the new TROE Center are, from left to right, Dr. Don White, Larry Vetter, Dr. Carl Rosen, Dr. Brian Horgan, Bev Durgan, Dr. Phil Larsen, Greg Hubbard, CGCS, and Paul Eckholm, CGCS. The MGCSA donated \$25,000 towards the TROE Center Endowment Fund. (Reprinted with permission of MGCSA)*

All this for little or no money. The *Drive for the U* contributors provided all materials and much of the labor for the construction, and the MGCSA provided the necessary cash. This is truly a first in cooperation between industry and the University. However, it doesn't need to be the last. The *Drive for the U* continues



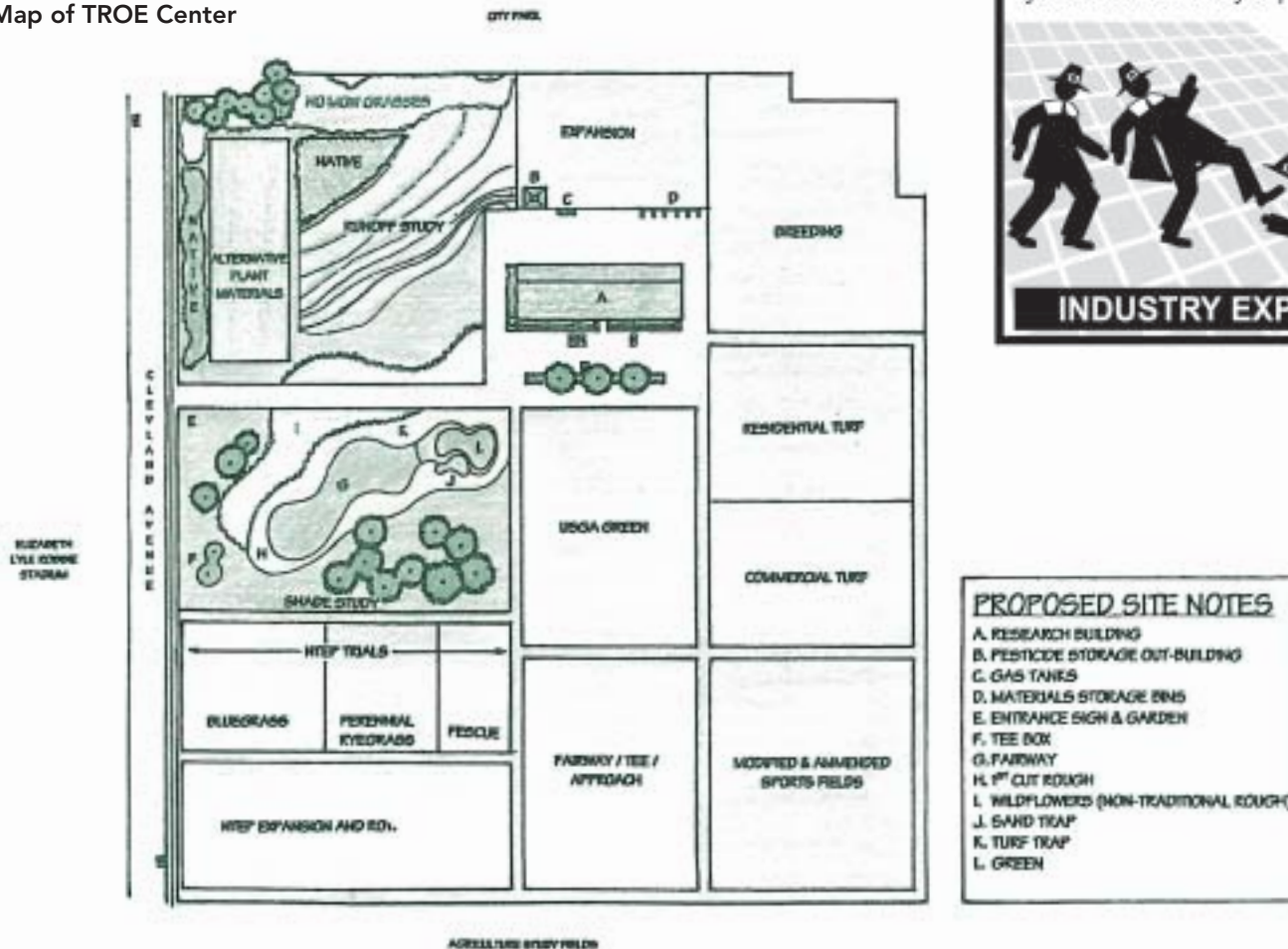
*Accepting a check for \$25,000 at the TROE Center groundbreaking ceremonies from the MGCSA, earmarked for the TROE Center Endowment Fund are Bev Durgan, left, and Dr. Phil Larsen. Presenting the check is Research Chairman Rob Panuska and MGCSA President Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, far right. (Reprinted with permission of MGCSA)*



to attract new contributors every month. With all of this support the MGCSA hopes to construct all of the remaining golf related areas at the TROE Center as soon as possible. But there is much more to the TROE Center than golf. Areas have been set aside for low maintenance turf, sod production, sports fields and much, much more. Every organization under the MTGF umbrella should begin a *Drive for the U* type of program. With these contributions the University administration sees that industry is committed to research and is more willing to push for those coveted capital dollars from the legislature. Please, get involved in the development of a premier turfgrass research facility. Think about how you can contribute or who you can ask to contribute. Together, we can build it, yes we can.

*(Editor's Note: MGCSA is to be thanked immensely for their financial support and Paul for all of the time and effort he spent soliciting and coordinating everything to help make the TROE Center become a reality. As Paul mentioned above, Brian and others have played a huge role in garnering University support and commitment, assisting with construction and coordinating all of the day-to-day efforts that go into a project of this magnitude. All who will benefit from the research, teaching and outreach opportunities that can be realized now that this facility is becoming a reality will hopefully explore ways of supporting &/or contributing so that it will become a world-class facility serving all of the Green Industry throughout this region.)*

Map of TROE Center



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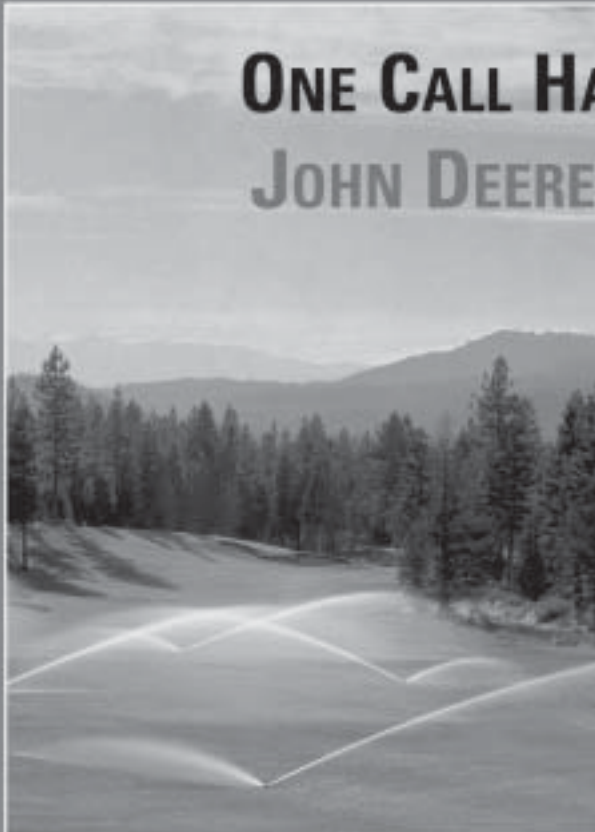
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**JOHN DEERE  
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**FRIEDGES** *continued from page 7*

Some work related special interests for Dan include being part of the LMC, working on product development, being involved with MPSA, acting as a hazardous waste site contact, and being certified as a national playground inspector.

Similar to Al, Dan loves to work on landscaping, golf, fishing, and family activities in his spare time. I can just imagine that they do a little fishing together. He also enjoys his wife Ann and his three children, Dillon - 11, Jack - 3, and Ryan -1.

Some of the skills that Dan has learned over the years include coordinating, equipment operation, developing reasoning abilities, trouble shooting, turf management, and building maintenance.

Finally, there is Pat - the youngster of the bunch! Pat is currently in his seventh year with the city of Savage. The history that led him to Savage goes something like this. He started out building houses right out of high school, but he was soon talked into working at Hennepin Parks as a seasonal worker. From there, he went to Prior Lake as a seasonal in park maintenance.

He then worked for Prior Lake schools as a ground maintenance worker for about 3 years until the position for park maintenance worker opened in Savage. After a year with Savage, he got promoted to lead worker and then eventually to his current position as maintenance supervisor. Up the ladder he went...very quickly. With this job comes the responsibility of supervising 6 full time and 20 seasonal staff. He takes care of, in all respects, 18 park sites, all municipal building grounds, utility sites, sidewalks, and trails. He is also directly involved in design and construction of all new parks and facilities. He also takes care of all equipment replacement and purchasing for the park department.

Pat is very involved with the MPSA and the New Market Sportsman Club. When it comes to MPSA, Pat says that he has enjoyed his experiences with the organization. It has been a lot of fun and he has met a lot of great people.

He has been the secretary for the group for the last three years and has been active on many planning committees. With the New Market Sportsman Club, he gets involved with many natural resource projects, which he feels relate very closely to the job he is currently doing.

You can certainly tell they are all brothers. Some of Pat's hobbies include golf, turkey and pheasant hunting, landscaping, carpentry, and fishing. Sound familiar? I bet they have some good stories about that big fish they caught...Pat also likes to get involved in just about anything. Wherever there is work to be done or a new challenge to be had, he jumps right in. He loves getting involved, but says that sometimes he loses a bit of time with the family because of it.

Pat enjoys a young family. His wife, Amy, who he says is a saint, makes a nice compliment to his son Nicholas and his new baby girl, Danielle.

As you can see, they are all very similar. It is nice to see that a family can stay so close. They are their own best source of knowledge and experience. If you ever need some help or advice for something, give one of them a call! Thanks for participating guys!

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## MSTMA News

Mike McDonald

Each year certainly presents challenges. Some must be dealt with nearly every year while others occur now and then, depending on weather and the extent of use of our facilities. This year we experienced a high demand for field use coupled with weather extremes that had many wondering if the end of the season would ever arrive. Those who deal with native soil fields found that the wet, hot summer this year resulted in significant damage that had to be dealt with on an on-going basis. Those with modified soils were happy that they had them this year.

The fall workshop this year will be held in Woodbury on October 17<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all of our members to attend the Minnesota Green Expo that will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center from January 8-10, 2003. There are a number of excellent speakers who will address various issues involving sports fields. Pam Sharratt who is the Sports Field Extension Specialist at Ohio State University will be making two presentations. Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State University will also make two presentations directly addressing sports turf issues. There will also be a MSTMA roundtable discussion moderated by Connie Rudolph. This will give all of our members the opportunity to have local issues addressed by your peers.

Dr. Nancy Ehlike, University of Minnesota plant breeder will make a presentation focusing on new perennial ryegrass varieties that she is working on. Since that species is an integral part of much of our highly used turf, this is a great opportunity to see what may be coming in the future to help our fields withstand high traffic levels.

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota turf extension specialist will be discussing general weed control and Dr. Don White, University of Minnesota will present "40 Years of Turf History". These two individuals are the backbone of the turf program at the University and will share their expertise with us at the Minnesota Green Expo.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to serve on the MSTMA Board. We currently have three open positions, president elect, secretary and commercial representative, along with the many committees that need people to contribute. If you are willing to serve to fill any of this, please e-mail j-hintz@bethel.edu.

I hope every member had a great summer and all fall work is going smoothly. I'm looking forward to touching base with you in the coming months. If not before, I'll see you at the MGE in January.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Greg Hubbard  
MTGF President*

## THE CHALLENGE OF PARTICIPATION

The autumn season represents a season of change and promised rest. After an active and busy summer season we change gears, like the leaves on the trees, and prepare for the winter before us. Before you go into hibernation, think about the challenges you faced this past year and how hindsight seems to focus your vision. I know that there are a few things I would do differently if I have another chance and I'm sure you would like to change some things too.

As President of the MTGF, I would like to issue you two challenges. I challenge you to spread the word about the upcoming Minnesota Green Expo to members of your industry. We need to get the word out about its value and importance so that we achieve record attendance from each allied association. I can assure you that this conference will be everything you have dreamed of in an educational conference and trade show. Registration fees are low. Bring your associates, friends and colleagues.

With record conference participation, the MTGF can expand its mission of research, education and outreach. We can increase our funding of the TROE Center at the University of Minnesota, adding research to our educational and outreach responsibilities. A project of this magnitude will require funds like never before. Your conference participation will allow us to start funding this worthwhile project, guaranteed to bring immense returns to our industry.

At the same time, I also challenge you to become more active in your foundation. We are in constant need of new members for our committees and board of directors. New faces bring new ideas and new energy. Neither the time commitment nor the workload is unreasonable. Our committees are primary policy makers who direct our accomplished and committed Executive Director in his legwork. Consider participating. You will find it well worth the time and effort.

I would like to welcome Al Friedges of the Minnesota Park Supervisors Association to the MTGF Board of Directors, replacing Jim Vaughan. His reputation of freshness and enthusiasm should be a welcome addition to our board.

Remember, don't hibernate this winter. Spread the word about the Minnesota Green Expo and attend. Accept and enjoy the challenge of participation. You will gain valuable education and many useful new ideas. You will also be contributing to the health of the MTGF, the TROE Center, your industry and yourself.



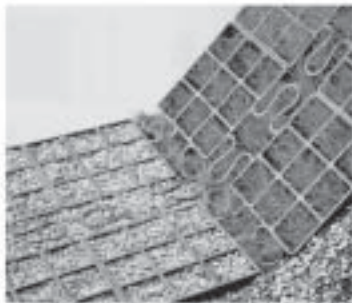
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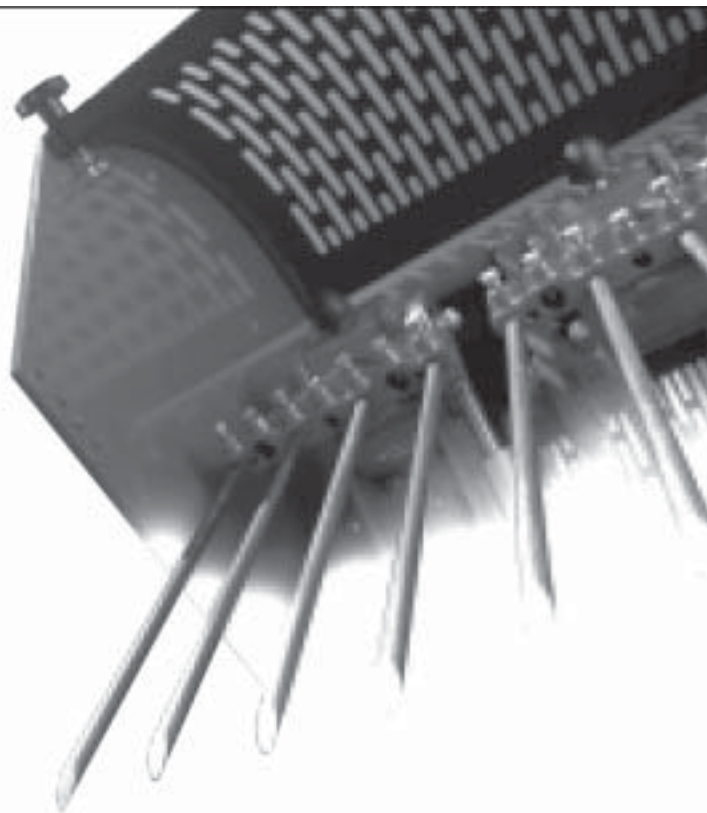


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### MPSA NEWS

*Phil Galliger*  
City of Woodbury

As the year draws to a close I find myself thankful for a lot of things. Working for a rapidly expanding city offers a constant variety of challenges. It seems there is an endless amount of tasks that require completion yesterday. I have yet to figure out how to come up with an endless supply of time to get it all done in a timely manner. I just wonder if Woodbury will stop expanding when it borders the river...

My year as president of the MPSA has been a great deal of fun. I am fortunate to have worked with a great group of board members and a supportive membership. We have had a few laughs, some interesting discussions and I have actually learned something along the way! Finally I am especially thankful of continued good health for family and friends.

A few odds and ends: The MPSA will hold their 4th Quarterly meeting in Plymouth November 21, 2002. Al Friedges City of Prior Lake is the new MPSA representative for the MTGF. Gary Wachter City of Apple Valley will be the MPSA president for 2003.

Remember to mark your calendars now for the Minnesota Green Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center, January 8-10, 2003. Speakers from across the country will be on hand to share their expertise with us. The Trade Show is already "Sold Out", filling two complete domes. This promises to be the biggest and best that we've ever had in this area. Attending this event will keep us all up to date on the latest information being presented in over 75 seminars. It will also provide a great networking opportunity and give us the chance to visit with over peers to discuss the past year and help plan for the next. This also provides us with a great way to support the MTGF and all of its allied associations, including the MPSA. Hope to see all of you there.

### PLEASE RESPOND

The MTGF is like all other endeavors whether they be your own personal, business or association operations. We are constantly looking for ways to reduce costs. Two increasingly large expenses that the MTGF has are printing and postage. This newsletter represents the largest portion of both of those costs although other mailings throughout the year also contribute substantially to the overall total.

This raises the question of whether or not you wish to continue to receive all of the above via "snail mail" or if either e-mail or on-line is a desired option for you. If you have access to electronic communications and you do not require a hard copy via mail, you are hereby requested to fill out this form and return it to the MTGF office either by fax, e-mail or mail. We will then maintain two separate lists and use "mail" only to those who either prefer it or do not have access to electronic options. We would still maintain the ability to use "mail" for everyone for those few items that do not lend themselves to the electronic option. If returning this with anything handwritten, please remember that e-mail does not go through if anything is not 100% accurate. Consequently, penmanship is critical! We will also be posting this newsletter on our web site for those of you who wish to utilize that option.

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