

**Thanks for attending the 2016 Nebraska Turfgrass Conference**

January 21, 2016

On behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Nebraska Turfgrass Association (NTA), we'd like to thank everyone that attended and/or helped make the 2016 conference a resounding success. 2016 brought a new conference format, new recertification program, and new sessions to the LaVista Conference Center from January 12-14<sup>th</sup>. Highlights included:

- Over 500 turfgrass professional were in attendance with another 100+ exhibitors, students, and UNL staff.
- The trade show included nearly 40 booths and was heavily trafficked.
- Tuesday morning started off with small workshops in the areas of hands on equipment maintenance, turfgrass math, nitrogen fertilization, and soil/water test interpretations. Then, the conference officially started with afternoon sessions on Tuesday, the general session Wednesday morning and lawn, sports, or golf focused sessions on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday Morning.
- Pesticide recertification was changed this year with general standards training in the morning and the Turf category training included in the normal conference sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Many of the attendees that needed recertification said the new format was much more enjoyable and educational than in previous years. We plan to continue this format into the future.
- The Wednesday morning general session was full. The morning started off with UNL research updates, followed by Dr. Bill Withers from Wartburg College. Dr. Withers led a great presentation titled, *Extreme PR in the Relationship Era*. We received great feedback from attendees and will work to provide more professional development workshops at future conferences. Michael Boettcher, Director of Grounds at Miller Park, closed the session with stories of the many challenges and solutions to growing turf in a covered stadium with heavy shade.
- The Extra Mile Award was presented to Gregg Bostelman of the City of Grand Island Parks Division, for his dedication and service to the NTA and Nebraska turfgrass industry. He's a guy that's always willing to help and we thank him for his service on the NTA Board of Directors.
- The Presidential Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the turf industry of Nebraska. This year's winner was Jerry Shorney of Lincoln Parks and Rec. Jerry has been a strong proponent for the turfgrass industry and Lincoln city parks. It was more special because Jerry was surprised with this award at the NTA Board meeting. Congratulations to both Gregg and Jerry for their awards and thanks for their positive impact on the Nebraska turf industry and beyond.
- The NTA Board of Directors welcomed new directors: Scott Schurman of Kearney Country Club, Josiah Cherry, and renewing board member Jim Nedrow of Indian Creek Golf Course.

Thanks again to all the presenters, exhibitors, and attendees of the 2016 Nebraska Turfgrass Conference. I had a great time planning it for the first time and look forward to planning the 2017 Conference starting this summer. If you attended please help us to improve the conference by filing out a quick survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98HJ2J2>.

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