



MASMS Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS

APRIL 2006

May 9th State Meeting To Focus on Energy

MASMS

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The next MASMS State Meeting will be held in Owatonna on Tuesday, May 9, 2006. All school and vendor members are encouraged to attend.

The day is being planned by Ron Bratlie (Elk River Schools), MASMS Vice President. "Energy is a topic that is still on everyone's mind," he commented. The format of the day should provide lots of useful information," he added, "and allow attendees to ask questions and get answers from the experts."

Panelists will start out the day with a short presentation, featuring Great River Energy, Gary Cowan; CenterPoint Energy, Todd Berreman; State Department of Commerce, Bruce Nelson; Johnson Controls, Mike David; Climate Makers, Tom Olson.

Following these presentations and a short break, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel. This will be a great chance to gather the information to help you better prepare for the upcoming year.

Be sure to stay for the business meeting following lunch, as there will be nominations for next year's officers, in addition to other important business.

Because this is a State Meeting, with all MASMS Chapters invited to one location, there will not be regular chapter meetings in May. The Northern Chapter will hold its annual water quality seminar on May 18 in Garrison, though.

The educational sessions and meal are free to all current MASMS school and vendor members, but pre-registration is required! Please contact Connie Nordquist at connien@masms.org or at 651-429-3800 to register. Seating and meals for registrations received after May 3, or at the door, cannot be guaranteed. RSVP early to reserve your place.

If you need lodging, reservations should be made directly with the hotel, at (507) 446-8900 or 800-HOLIDAY.

We hope to see you there!

MASMS STATE MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006 HOLIDAY INN, OWATONNA

8:30 REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:00 ENERGY PANEL DISCUSSION:
GREAT RIVER ENERGY, GARY COWAN
CENTERPOINT ENERGY, TODD BERREMAN
STATE DEPT OF COMMERCE, BRUCE NELSON
JOHNSON CONTROLS, MIKE DAVID
CLIMATE MAKERS, TOM OLSON

10:30 ASK THE EXPERTS:
QUESTION & ANSWER

12:00 LUNCH

12:45 BUSINESS MEETING

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

CONTACT CONNIE NORDQUIST AT
CONNIE@MASMS.ORG OR
651-429-3800 BY MAY 3.

DIRECTIONS:

THE HOLIDAY INN IS LOCATED NEAR
CABELA'S. FROM I-35, TAKE EXIT 45,
AND GO WEST ON 46TH STREET NW,
THEN SOUTH ON THE FRONTAGE ROAD.

Grass Care Basics

By Tom Thul, The Tessman Co.

Now that another winter season has past, we will soon have a chance to look at our lawns. If your lawn looks anything like mine, it's a mess. Fixing turf damage left by winter or late fall activities can be a snap for the lawn care professional, but for others, it can be a bit overwhelming.

The following are general guidelines for establishing and maintaining healthy turf.

- 1.) If the cause of your turf damage is not apparent, a soil sample should be taken. The analysis will help determine if soil pH needs to be adjusted. Care should be taken to rule out insect and disease problems too.
- 2.) Any debris larger than 1/2 inch in size should be removed.
- 3.) Smooth and level the area to be seeded. If the area is compacted or needs amendments, aeration or tilling may be necessary to incorporate the additives.
- 4.) Apply fertilizer as indicated in the soil test. In the absence of a soil test, a starter fertilizer should be applied.
- 5.) Purchase a quality seed for your location, apply the seed at the recommended rates. The best time to seed cool-season turf grass is late summer to early fall. The cooling soil aids in root growth. The next best is mid-to-late spring.
- 6.) Raking and or lightly rolling the area will help bond the new seed to the soil.
- 7.) Seed establishment mulch spread over the area will greatly improve water retention, seed germination, survival, and the rate of maturity.
- 8.) New seeding requires frequent shallow watering for up to 6 weeks.

Turf grasses rely on nutrients derived from air, soil, and water for their survival. Nutrients obtained primarily from the soil include Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), and Sulfur (S). Macronutrients and micronutrients all play a vital role in plant health. Most nutrients are available to the grass plant when the soil has a pH of 6.5. Cool-season turf grasses generally require 4-6 pounds of nitrogen per growing season. Applications of a blended fertilizer are generally the best way to provide the turf with nutrients it requires. All Mineral fertilizers are the cheapest, but tests have shown as much as 45% of the nitrogen can be lost within 10 days of the application. Sulfur coated and Uflexx blended fertilizers are far more predictable.

The cultural practices you employ during the growing season will have a major impact on the density and health of your turf. Starting new seed or over-seeding will help ensure a good starting point. Watering and fertilizing will help to ensure the plants get the proper nutrients.

The optimal height for your cool-season grasses is 2-3 inches. Never remove more than 1/3 of the height of your grass with one mowing. Mow in different directions if possible. Use a sharp blade when mowing; a clean cut will allow the plant to heal quickly reducing the likeliness of disease. Aeration is important in maintaining healthy turf grass. Many types of aerators are available to modify the soil profile from 1/4 inch to 16 inches. Aerate on a regular schedule and if possible at varying depths. With planning, good cultural practices, and some spring rains, the lawns will grow green and lush.

The Tessman Co. provides seed, chemicals, and fertilizers, and items associated with these products to the green industry. We are also the largest supplier of sidewalk deicers in the Midwest. If you have a question related to growing plants, herbicides, or deicers, please contact Tom Thul at tthul@tessmansee.com, or 800-882-5704.



We are always looking for informational articles for our newsletter! If you are interested in submitting an article, please contact Connie Nordquist at the MASMS office.

New Book on Theater Safety

Recommendation from John Nisja, State Fire Marshal Division: A book every educator needs for a safe theater program!



PRACTICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL THEATER OPERATIONS Assessing the Risks in Middle, Junior and Senior High School Theater Buildings and Programs, by Dr. Randall W. A. Davidson.

In this book, the author—with his experience in education and entertainment—points out common risks and hazards in school theaters plus recommended practices for reducing these risks.

This book gives practical ideas for educators on how to operate a safe, healthy, and secure school theater program. With photos and text, this book shows the reader how to


- ◊ Identify common risks and hazards in a school theater facility,
- ◊ Manage risk and liability,
- ◊ Maintain a safe and healthy facility for students and teachers,
- ◊ Reduce risk of injury and harm,
- ◊ Create a safe, enjoyable and healthy theater program.

Thousands of school theaters across the United States have outdated facilities and unsafe equipment. Educators may not be aware of the risks and liabilities they face in operating these facilities.

Price: \$75.00 plus \$10.00 shipping & handling and state tax. To order, call or write: Risk International Publishing, PO Box 622029, Littleton, CO 80218 -- Phone (720) 922-0707. Or visit their website: www.theaterhealthandsafetybook.com.

Employee Right-to-Know Manual Available

Several years ago, the MASMS Health & Safety Committee developed an Employee Right to Know Training Guide (or Manual) which clearly answers the top 25 questions on how to apply written statutes into a school environment. This product was created to reduce MN OSHA fines in school districts and create safer schools. This document incorporates a training curriculum to meet needs within Districts, not within construction sites which is how many people apply OSHA standards. A copy can be found on the MASMS web site at www.masms.org and click on “services.”



Time is of the essence! You'll soon be working on capital budgets for 06/07. With the cost of heating energy up nearly 80%, now is a great time to analyze the economics of replacing that old boiler system. We can help get you started in the right direction.

Your boilers are how old?

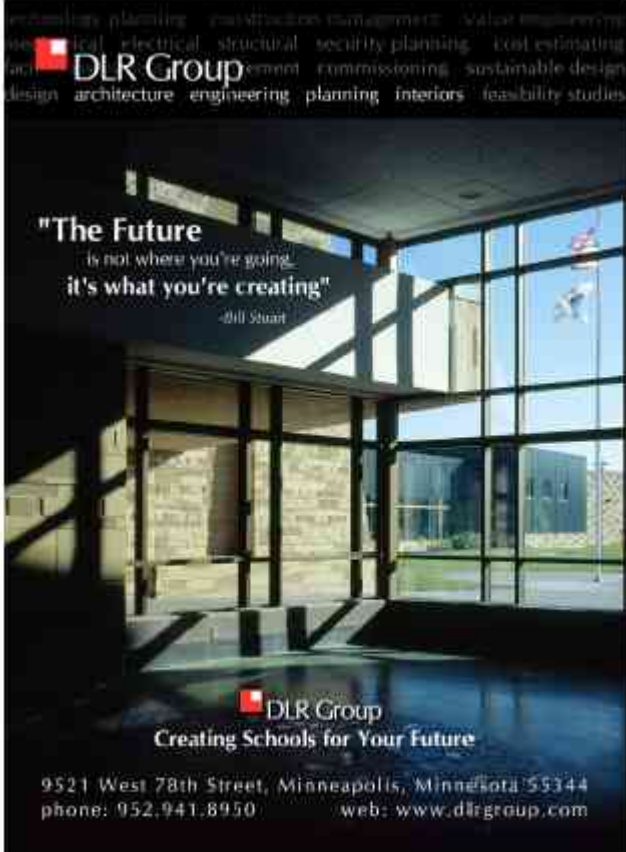
Today's high –efficiency boilers can provide seasonal efficiencies of more than 90%! Let us show you how much that will save, compared to what you have now.

With offices in Brainerd and the Twin Cities, Climate Makers can help optimize your heating energy costs, improve comfort, and assure proper indoor air quality, anywhere in the state of Minnesota. Give us a call!

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In Memory of Al Fultz: *Mentor, Leader, Friend*

Al Fultz, former Coordinator of District Support Services at Wadena-Deer Creek Schools, and dedicated leader and member of the MASMS Northern Chapter, died on February 13 at the age of 69.

Throughout his life, Al served at over 22 churches, and was part of a Sunday morning radio program. After retiring from Wadena-Deer Creek, he became administrator of SonRise Christian School, where he also was head of the Board. He was also a singer, musician and songwriter.

Al's experience, leadership, and warm personality helped launch the MASMS Northern Chapter, where he was known as a mentor and friend of exceptional character. "Al was a great man who always had the best interests of his employer, MASMS, or any other organization he was connected to in mind," recalled Kurt Ketterl of Hawley Schools. "He was always on top of his game and did his best at whatever he attempted. He was a man you could look up to, literally and figuratively, and be proud to have known and called a friend."

"Al was also a Baptist minister, and some times during our meetings and he was at the podium if felt like he was speaking from the pulpit!" added Jim Fredricks, of College of St. Benedict. "He spoke with such passion and believed in what he was doing, and that was providing a better learning environment. He was always very organized for the meetings, had valuable information to share and usually a joke or two."

Before Al became the Buildings and Grounds director for the Wadena school district, he served as a board member for a few years. He had the experience of seeing things through the eyes of a board member which helped him at times, and of course, frustrated him at times.

"As Northern Chapter President, Vice President, and Treasurer, he set the bar high and many of the standards and traditions the chapter still upholds were established by Al," Jim added. "His unique Leadership, Humor, Passion, and Support of the Facilities Management field will surely be missed."

To honor his memory the MASMS Executive Board has decided to award a one-time \$500.00 scholarship in Al's name this fall.

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Fall Conference & Trade Show Approaching!

Planning is nearly complete for the 27th annual MASMS Fall Conference and Trade Show, to be held September 20-22. "In our planning for this event," commented Brian Johnson, MASMS Vice President and Conference Committee Chair, "the committee has taken what has worked well in the past, and made it better, plus is planning education sessions that our members won't want to miss."

"Our theme reflects our goal in planning this conference," he continued. "We will provide the educational and networking opportunities to help prepare us to meet future challenges. Plus, it emphasizes the relationships between our MASMS members—both from schools and businesses."

Here's a peek into some of the educational sessions that we are working on for this year: Emergency Response Planning, Pandemic Preparedness for Schools, Effective Performance Appraisals, Turf Management, and more! Plus you'll get updates from our MASMS committees,



find out what is going on at the state level, and participate in our popular panel discussion—this year featuring topics such as construction planning and management and budget cut management.

Registration materials will be sent in May, and attendees and exhibitors are encouraged to return their registrations early.

The number of golfers has increased dramatically over the years, and this may be the first year that we reach our limit. This means that there may not be availability for late golf registrations, or for walk-ins! Golf hole sponsorships will sell out early. Once again, be sure to register early to reserve your spot!

Thanks to the Fall Conference Committee for their hard work and dedication: Brian Johnson (Chair), Ron Bratlie, Kevin Hildebrandt, Jim Fredricks, Jim Dellwo, Mike Boland, Kevin Johnson, El Haus, Mike Warzecha, Dick Phillips, Maxine Holm, Dana Krakowski, Jeff Moody, Dave Holm, Bob Cully, Grace Child, Margaret Bishop and Sheri Rosenthal.

Thank You New & Renewing MASMS Members

The following members have joined or renewed their MASMS memberships between February 1 and April 1:

School Members

- Bloomington**, Mike Kopietz
- Long Prairie**, Russ Bruder & Steve Becker
- Milaca**, Wayne Warzecha
- Rochester**, Tod Rogers

Business Members

- Advanced Coating Systems**, Kevin Dunning, Forrest Thompson
- GAF Materials Corp.**, Jim Rosenow
- MasterGraphics**, Dan Coleman
- Nardini Fire Equipment Co. Inc.**, Tony Coda, Karl Shoberg
- Ramy Turf Products**, Michael Ramy, Jr.,
- Trovehl Industries**, Jeff Voeller
- Scholastic Equipment**, Rick Jackson & Phil Smith
- W.P. Hickman Systems Inc.**, Bob Ford

Upcoming Events

April

- 11 Metro Chapter Meeting, Brooklyn Center
- 19 Southern Minnesota Chapter Meeting, Rochester
- 20 Northern Minnesota Chapter Meeting, Brainerd

May

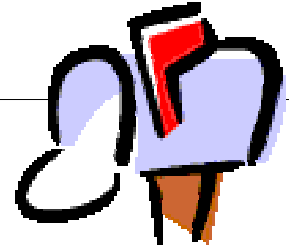
- 9 MASMS State Meeting, Owatonna
- 18 Northern Chapter Water Quality Seminar, Garrison

Coming Your Way in May!

Be sure to watch for our annual Membership Renewal and Conference mailing—arriving in your mailbox in May!

The MASMS membership year is from July through June, so be sure to register early to keep your membership current. Registration materials for the Fall Conference and Trade Show will also be included in this mailing, in addition to a menu of marketing opportunities for our vendors.

To be included in our 2006-2007 printed Membership Directory, your membership renewal must be received by August 15, 2006.



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Custodial/Maintenance/ Grounds Days

The dates for the 2006 MASMS Custodial/
Maintenance/Grounds Days are:

Metro Chapter - June 19 & 20

Southern Chapter - June 22

Please watch your mail and e-mail for registration materials for both vendors and school attendees.

Please note: The Northern Chapter has voted to hold this event every-other year, so it will be held again in the north in 2007.

MASMS Executive Board Members

President—Kevin Hildebrandt, Faribault Schools

President Elect—Brian Johnson, Sartell-St. Stephen Schools

Past President—Steve Udell, Normandale Community College

Vice-President—Ron Bratlie, Elk River Schools

Secretary—Jim Dellwo, Eden Prairie Schools

Treasurer—Jim Fredricks, College of St. Benedict

Vendor Director: Fred King, INSPEC

Chapter Directors:

Northern—Brian Johnson, Sartell-St. Stephen Schools

Southern—Scott Hogen, New Ulm Schools

Metro—Dan Brinkman, North St. Paul/Oakdale Schools

EPA Mold Web Course Available

For school healthy and safety and buildings and grounds professionals: <http://www.epa.gov/mold>

“Introduction to Mold and Mold Remediation for Environmental and Public Health Professionals,” a web course with information on mold prevention and remediation.

If you would like to take a short quiz on your current mold knowledge, you can begin with the Pre-Test. The Mold Course has nine chapters; these chapters are further divided into smaller lessons. At the end of each chapter there is a voluntary quiz to test your understanding of the material covered. Each chapter may be accessed at any point in the course using the menu on the left side of the page.

The MASMS Memo Board

RE Carlson has moved offices. Their new address is 8455 Jefferson Highway, Maple Grove, MN 55369. The phone number is 763-424-4960.

The commercial door division of Mulcahy, Inc. has recently become a separate entity and, effective March 1, 2006, has begun operation as **Door Service Company of the Twin Cities, Inc.** Their offices are located at 6845 - 20th Avenue South, Suite 130, Centerville, Minnesota 55038; phone number: 651-747-4248; and fax: 651-762-9458. Dave Baker, MASMS member, continues to lead the operation, and he brought the entire team with him.

The 18th Annual **AFE Lucky 13 Golf Tournament** will be held on Monday, July 17 at Hudson Golf Club. For more information, go to www.afetwincities.org.

A six-part **Boiler Training** is being offered by CenterPoint Energy, where attendees will learn to better maintain and operate their boilers. Each session is from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursdays from April 13 through May 18. Topics include

Heat Exchange, Heat Generation, Combustion, Water Treatment, and Care & Maintenance. The event will be held at Dunwoody. For more information, go to http://mn.centerpointenergy.com/for_your_business/training_consultation/index.asp or 1-800-234-5800.

Checklists for **Pandemic Influenza Planning** for Pre-school / Childcare Facilities, School Districts and Colleges/ Universities are available from the US Department of Health and Human Services:

Child Care/Preschool Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist, <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/preschool.html>

School District (K-12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist, <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/schoolchecklist.html>

Colleges and Univ. Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist , <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/collegeschecklist.html>