Lake Superior covers 31,700 square miles, holds three quadrillion gallons and contains 10% of the Earth's fresh water.

National Plant Board

76th Annual Meeting Duluth, Minnesota

June 18, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: National Plant Board Members and Other Meeting Participants

FROM: Geir Friisoe

Chairperson, NPB Local Arrangements Committee

SUBJECT: 76th NPB Annual Meeting Registration

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the National Plant Board invite you and your family to attend and participate in the 76th Annual Meeting of the National Plant Board along the shores of Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota. The meeting dates are August 11-15, 2002. The NPB Local Arrangements committee has been busy preparing to make this "A Superior Experience."

Meeting Registration

Meeting participants will need to complete the advanced registration form. A copy of this form is included in this package. Advance meeting registration forms and money (U.S. funds only), must be received by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by July 10, 2002 (U.S. funds only). Advance registration for the 2002 meeting is \$235 for NPB members and meeting participants. Advance registration for spouses/companions is \$150 and must accompany participant registration. Registration after July 10 and at the meeting will be \$270 for participants and \$185 for spouses. If you have questions regarding the registration process, please send an e-mail to Geir.Friisoe@state.mn.us.

Accommodations

The 2002 meeting will be held at THE INN on Lake Superior at www.zmchotels.com and is situated on the Duluth Lakewalk along the shores of Lake Superior. Stretching 4.2 miles along the shore, this magnificent boardwalk ambles through some of the greatest lakefront property anywhere, from the Great Lakes Aquarium to the shops and ships of Canal Park to the extensive rose garden at Leif Erickson Park and its mighty Viking Ship. The Lakewalk is one of the best ways to experience Lake Superior. NPB members will need to make their own reservations by phoning the hotel at 1-888-668-4352 and identifying themselves as a member of the NPB. The room rates are \$119.00 plus 13% tax and includes a bountiful breakfast bar. The final cut-off date for room reservations is July 15. After this date, the unused portion of the room block will be released for general sale. Please plan to make your reservations early.

Attendees wishing to arrive early will face some challenges due to a Blues Festival scheduled for the weekend of August 10 & 11. As a consequence of this festival, room availability is limited. We have reserved a limited number of rooms at our hotel for Saturday night, August 10; however the room rate for this night will be between \$190 and \$260. We have also made alternative arrangements at The Edgewater Inn (800-777-7925) for a rate of \$169. Should these rates exceed your allowable lodging allowances, we can assist you with Saturday reservations for less expensive accommodations within a short distance.

Transportation

Air transportation is available through Northwest Airlines (800-225-2525) and American Airlines/American Eagle (800-433-7300). Ground transportation is available through THE INN. When you make your room reservation, ask THE INN to fax you their Shuttle Service Fax form; we have also enclosed a copy for your convenience. They will then arrange to pick you up at the airport in Duluth. It is a 20 minute drive to the hotel. There is no charge for this service.

Draft Meeting Agenda

A Draft meeting agenda is attached for your review and information. Please check meeting and session times as some activities (such as the Harbor Lunch Tour) have altered the usual format times.

Speaker Presentation Requirements

Speakers should let Erich Borchardt <u>Erich.borchardt@state.mn.us</u> know by July 26, 2002 what media they will use for their presentations. If making presentations using PowerPoint, the speaker should email the .ppt file by July 26 to Erich. A time and place for AV prep sessions will be indicated on the program. Speakers will be responsible for having their slides loaded into Kodak Ektographic Projector compatible slide trays. Transparencies should be in a format compatible for use with standard overhead projectors.

Display/Exhibit Space

There will be an area designated for state and industry exhibits in THE INN conference center foyer. If you are interested in bringing a display to the meeting, please contact Mark Schreiber at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at 651-296-8388 regarding your space and electrical requirements.

NPB Door Prize Certificates

Individual state representatives and other meeting attendees may participate in the NPB Door Prize Certificate Event. Donors are encouraged to showcase their state's agricultural industry, individual business or group. Participants must complete the donor portion of the certificate and return it with their registration form. The donor will be responsible for delivering the gift to the winner upon receipt of the certificate. Everyone attending the meeting is invited to participate in this event. Winners will be selected at various times during the meeting, but you must contribute a gift in order to be eligible to win.

NPB Group Activities

There are several activities planned for all meeting participants. Activities may be canceled for insufficient registrations. A summary of these activities follows:

- > Charter Lake Fishing Trip Experience the grandeur of the world's largest freshwater lake with a Sunday afternoon Charter Lake Fishing trip for steelhead, Chinook, Coho, Atlantic salmon and Lake trout. www.fishduluth.com/happyhooker. Our catch will be brought back to grill for an evening party at the nearby Timber Lodge restaurant. NOTE: You will need a Minnesota 24 hour angling license prior to leaving on this trip. These licenses may be purchased from the tour operator the day of the trip for \$9.50. Bring warm clothes for this trip as Lake Superior can be very chilly.
- ➤ NPB Golf Outing the Annual NPB Golf Outing is scheduled for 6:30 a.m. Monday morning, August 12. We will go to Enger Park public golf course which provides breathtaking views of Lake Superior. Duluth has been ranked by *Golf Digest* magazine as the best city in America for public golf. If you are interested in this event, please contact Anne Selness at 651-296-8448 or email at Annemarie.selness@state.mn.us.
- > The North Shore Scenic Railroad Elegant Dinner Train trip scheduled for Monday night pulls out of the historic Union Depot in downtown Duluth and rumbles through the city, along the rugged shores of Lake Superior and deep into the majestic Northwoods. Riding in vintage coaches, you'll cross tall trestles over Northshore Rivers that race towards Lake Superior as you enjoy the local cuisine of the Northwoods. If the minimum required attendance is not met for this event we may need to cancel this trip. Your money will be refunded. www.cpinternet.com/~lsrm.
- ➤ Harbor Lunch Cruise Aboard the Vista Fleet our Tuesday narrated Harbor Lunch Cruise will proceed under the famous Duluth aerial lift bridge and tour the harbor for a close up view of busy grain elevators, lake freighters and saltwater ships from around the world. www.visitduluth.com/vista.
- North Shore Tours Our Wednesday afternoon field tour will include trips to either Gooseberry Falls State Park or Split Rock Lighthouse Historic Site; one of Minnesota's most famous historic places. As the buses will need to split up for these tours please indicate your choice on the registration form.

Gooseberry Falls State Park is the gateway to the North Shore. It is known for its spectacular waterfalls, river gorge, Lake Superior shoreline, Civilian Conservation Corps log and stone structures and Northwoods wildlife. This active field tour gives participants the opportunity to hike around the park and to the Fifth Falls through a forest of evergreen, aspen, and birch. Good walking shoes or boots are recommended. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/gooseberry_falls

On this more sedentary historic field tour to the lighthouse, participants will learn about shipwrecks (including the Edmund Fitzgerald) from a mighty November 1905 gale which prompted the construction of Split Rock Lighthouse. Completed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1910, Split Rock Light Station was soon one of Minnesota's best known landmarks. Restored to its 1920s appearance, the lighthouse offers a glimpse of lighthouse life in this remote and spectacular setting. Tour the lighthouse, fog-signal building and the restored keeper's dwelling. A visitor center features an award-winning film, exhibits and a museum store. www.mnhs.org/places/sites/srl

➤ Banquet - The Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center overlooking the aerial lift bridge and harbor will be the site of our 6-course Minnesota style banquet scheduled for Wednesday night. A magical event is being planned for your entertainment.

NPB Spouse/Companion/Family Tours

- ➤ The **Lake Superior Railroad Museum** has one of the Midwest's largest and most diverse collections of railroad artifacts. Sit in an engineer's seat aboard one of the world's largest locomotives, take in the view from a cupola of a caboose and learn what it means to "catch mail on the fly." www.lsrm.com/
- Our trip to the **Soudan Underground Mine State Park** includes the Visitor's Center to view a film on the history of mining in Minnesota and, after donning hard hats embarking on an elevator ride that takes us ½mile underground into the mine (bring a jacket!). Once in the mine we'll ride a train where you'll get a feel of the mines deep, rich history. Next, we'll travel to Ely, MN; famous for the ultimate wilderness experiences and home of the unspoiled Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Here we'll walk on the wild side as we learn about the natural history of wolves by visiting the International Wolf Center. The wolf center's flagship is the interpretive facility, a multi million dollar complex that examines one of the most elusive and most misunderstood animals in the world. www.dnr.state.mn.us
- S.S. William A. Irvin, flagship of U.S. Steel's Great Lakes Fleet, for more than 40 years this large vessel carried iron ore and coal to Great Lakes ports, often crashing through ferocious storms to reach her destinations. We can now experience life on the lakes by touring the William Irvin and its companion tug, Lake Superior. www.williamairvin.com/
- At the **Great Lakes Aquarium** dive into America's only all freshwater aquarium and discover what's in and under Lake Superior. Some 70 species of fish are exhibited from the Great Lakes and other freshwater lakes and rivers of the world. We won't want to miss the giant lake sturgeon in the 120,000-gallon Isle Royale tank! www.glaquarium.org
- Enjoy Duluth's premier estate, **Glensheen Mansion**, which prides itself with over 7 acres of lakeshore property. Completed in 1908 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Glensheen features a 39-room Jacobean style mansion complete with custom designed original furnishings, impeccable manicured grounds, a carriage house and quaint gift shop. www.d.umn.edu/glen
- > Self-guided Walking Tours Visit the Leif Erickson Rose Garden, Maritime Visitor Center, Waterfront Lift-bridge, Bananaz Family Entertainment Center, Northland Vietnam Memorial and hike the paved lake walks.
- The **Duluth OMNIMAX Theater** is a premier multimedia experience where the audience gets totally involved in the action on the 72-foot dome screen. Playing in August is "Shackleton" a film about Sir Ernest Shackleton's odyssey of survival across the Weddell Sea and his continued journey to the south side of Georgia. www.duluthomnimax.com

On behalf of the NPB Local Arrangements Committee, we look forward to having you visit Minnesota where you can "Expect a Superior Experience." If you need any information regarding registration, meeting events, or spouse/companion events, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-297-7174 or email Geir.Friisoe@state.mn.us or Mark Schreiber at 651-296-8388 or Anne Selness at 651-296-8448. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Websites of interest:

<u>www.zmchotels.com</u> <u>www.lsmma.com</u>

www.wildnorth.org www.fondduluthcasino.com

www.ely.org

www.dnr.state.mn.us

www.exploreminnesota.com

www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior

www.visitduluth.com

76th Annual National Plant Board Meeting Registration Form August 11-15, 2002 "Expect a Superior Experience"

ddress:		City:				
ate:	Zip:Phone:					
ax:	Email:					
pouse/Companion Na	me:		Children Yes	No		
umber of Children:	Names and Ages:					
	EVENT INFORMATION ** PLEA	ASE REGISTER BY	JULY 10, 2002**			
ATE	EVENT	# of PEOPLE ATTENDING	COST	TOTAL		
ugust 11, 2002	Charter Lake Fishing (12:30-6) & Fish Fry		\$70/person			
	Fish Fry Only		\$10/person			
august 12, 2002	Golf Outing (6:30 a.m 12)		\$28/person			
	Spouse/Companion Tour to Soudan Underground Mine and Wolf Center (8-5)		\$55/person			
	Dinner Train Ride (6:30-9)		\$54/person			
ugust 13, 2002	Harbor Lunch Cruise (12:15-2)		Included in Registration			
	SS William Irvine Ore Boat (2:30-3:30)		Adult \$6.00 Student \$4.50			
ugust 14, 2002	Great Lakes Aquarium (9-10:30)		\$8.00			
	Lake Superior RR Museum (10:30-12:00)		Adult \$7.00 Student \$5.50			
	Northshore Field Trips (CHOOSE ONE) Gooseberry Falls – Natural beauty (1-5)		Included in Registration			
	OR Split Rock Lighthouse- Historic tour (1-5)					
	Banquet and Awards Ceremony (6:00- 9:30)		Included in Registration			
august 15, 2002	Spouse/Companion Tour to Glensheen Mansion (9:30-12:30)		Adults \$19 Student \$17			
	Omnimax Theater (2-3:30)		Adults \$6.00 Student \$4.50			
	PB meeting attendees is \$235					

Please return registration form and check to: National Plant Board

Geir Friisoe

Agronomy and Plant Protection Division

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture

90 West Plato Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55107

NPB DISPLAY: Are you planning to bring a display? No Please contact Mark Schreiber at 651-296-8338 with space and electrical requirements.