Regrettfuly I was unable to attend the Board Meeting hosted by Dutch Cragun at the famous Craguns Resort. Considering my game this year I could have used a sneak peek at the course before the Championship event. And I would have enjoyed first hand the proceedings of the meeting. Alas I will have to either make something up or configure a column from the minutes delivered by fax.

From the fiction aspect I could announce that the annual stipend per Board member has jumped to $1,200. This, of course, is untrue – compensation comes in the form of a thank you or two and the personal satisfaction of knowing that you participated to further the cause of the Association.

I could say that there are some very exciting concepts brewing on the front burner – and this is true. An endowment fund has been established for the TROE Center as well as the arrangement of a working agreement to develop a state-of-the-art irrigation system upon the site, to be sponsored by Toro Manufacturing. Way to go Toro! And Greg Hubbard, CGCS, has done an outstanding job guiding the MTGF back on track, as its new president.

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Working along side the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, the MTGF has been able to fill all but 28 of the 750 vendor spaces available at the Minneapolis Convention Center during the Green Expo. Plan to attend this HUGE event January 8th through the 10th, 2003. This grand scale convention is very large compared to the association's December turf conference. Bring your walking shoes; the trade show will be extensive. And don't leave your notebook at home. The educational slate is filling fast with some very excellent presenters in the horticultural industry.

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The 75th Anniversary and Awards Banquet was discussed. This gala event, which celebrates the history of our association, memorable accomplishments and the presentation of awards will cap off of a long season sometime early in December. Plan to attend with your staff and spouses as the association acknowledges three quarters of a century.

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Scholarship participation and contributions were a brief topic of interest. The BOD feels that in the future, the MGCSA Turf and Legacy Scholarships should be based upon the success of the fundraisers for the given year. Also, fewer, yet larger distributions would be made. The Scholarship Committee will be reviewing these ideas.

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And finally, unpaid dues were tabulated. I was surprised to learn that of the 886 members of our association, dues have been collected from only 704 individuals. That means there is a lot of money budgeted yet unaccounted for ... money used for printing, postage, supplies, research donations, insurance and administrative costs. Remember, the association would be nothing without you.

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS