



In Bounds: By The Numbers

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Numbers and I are not very good pals. In fact you could say that mathematics are my stumbling blocks. Through high school I dodged any course above geometry. And college algebra devastated my first semester freshman year gpa with a D, solid. This, after blowing the final question, "Make up your own algebraic question." I left it blank. Recently however, I have been reacquainted with digits and their relationship with our association.

Proceed cautiously; the following facts may amaze you, as they did me.

On April 5, 1928, the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association was organized. The Preamble from the 1928 Constitution and Bylaws stated it quite clearly: "Realizing the necessity of a permanent organization in this northwest district, following a meeting of Greenkeepers at Minikahda Club last summer, it was decided to organize such an organization and a date set for such a meeting, whereupon Mr. James A. Hunter, lessee of The Country Club, offered the use of his club for the meeting and also arranged a dinner for the occasion. There were 17 Greenkeepers present out of a total of 26 clubs in the Twin Cities district."

The charter members and their clubs were: Chas Erickson, Minikahda Club, Leo Feser, Woodhill CC, Erich Pahl, Interlachen CC, F.G. Anderson, Town & Country, Victor Larson, Minneapolis GC, M.P.Schiefner, Somerset CC, Mike Sanko, Golden Valley GC, M.F. Byrne, Meadowbrook Municipal Course, John Pearson, Armour Municipal Course, Carl Erickson, Glenwood Municipal Course, Emil Anderson, Columbia Municipal Course, E.H. Picha, Midland Hills GC, John Streed, Hilltop GC, Gustaf Olson, Minikahda Club, Leonard Bloomquist, The Country Club, Arthur Anderson, University Golf Club, J.E. Benson, Northwood Country Club.

Annual dues in 1928 were \$3.00 per year for regular and junior members.

Over the last 80 years the MGCSA has blossomed into an organization of almost 900 members. Just short of amazing. The 2007 dues structure of \$105 dollars reflects the ever expanding charge placed upon the membership. According to today's MGCSA bylaws, "The objective of the

Association shall be to advance the art and science of Golf Course Management, to collect and disseminate among member Superintendents practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession."

In a nutshell, the MGCSA has met and continues to meet its objectives annually. Since January of 1996 the MGCSA has contributed over a quarter of a million dollars to research in our state and across the country. And since 1987 the MGCSA has contributed over \$84,000 in scholarships. That's a lot of coin from an organization with an annual operating budget of just over \$250,000.

Research Funding

TROE Center - \$162,376.06
U of MN Donations - \$21,289.69
U of MN Study - \$3,200.00
USGA Donations - \$14,000
Winter Cover Study Powell - \$10,000
Fairway Foundation - \$4,000
GCSAA Donations - \$35,000
Musser Foundation - \$3,000
O.J. Noer Foundation - \$5,000

Scholarships

Turf Scholarships - \$69,000 (1987-2006)
Garske Scholarship - \$30,500 (paid by Par Aide 1996-2006)
MGCSA Legacy - \$15,000 (1998-2006)

But ours is not just a golf-related industry. The MGCSA also participates in a larger organization called the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation. The Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation (MTGF) was formed as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation in 1993. It is a partnership of eight turf and grounds related associations and the University of Minnesota. These associations, referred to as "Allied Associations," are: Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC), Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association (MGCSA), The Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors (MASMS), The Minnesota

Turf Association (MTA), Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA), Minnesota Society of Arboriculture (MSA), The Minnesota Turf Seed Council, Inc. (MTSC), and the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA).

The MTGF's mission "is to promote the green industries in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere." In pursuit of that mission, the MTGF partners with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) to annually sponsor the Minnesota Green Expo in January. The MTGF also sponsors educational workshops each year as well as the annual Turf & Grounds Field Day held on the St. Paul campus. These events are sponsored as a service to our members as well as being vehicles to raise funds for the pursuit of their mission. The MTGF has contributed approximately \$351,272 through 2006 and has authorized an additional \$92,290 for 2007, the vast majority of which has been allocated to various requests received from within the University of Minnesota.

Much of this funding goes to direct support of the TROE Center as well as general turfgrass research applicable to sports field, park and playground and golf course management. Broad studies into nutrient fate, water use and sustainable turf varieties are important to each of the allied associations and everyone benefits from the contributions from the MTGF.

And finally, not only do you belong to the MGCSA and the MTGF, but you also are one of 54,000 individuals who work in the turf and grounds industries of Minnesota and impact the state's economy to the tune of 10.4 BILLION dollars. That's right, a recent Economic Impact Study conducted by the MTGF indicates that our combined efforts with our allied associations stimulate the Minnesota economy hugely. And this study doesn't even take into account the entertainment value of golf.

Take a break, grab some coffee and reflect upon the importance of turf in our state's commerce. Just look at the numbers and appreciate how fantastic our industry really is. Even a simple add and subtract guy such as I can realize the significance of the MGCSA and the MTGF. United, we are a big, big, big.

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(Editor's note. Thanks to Scott Turtinen, ED of the MGCSA and Larry Vetter, ED of the MTGF, for helping with the data provided.)