

President's Annual Report

By James Bade
MGCSA President

There is an African proverb that says, "it takes a village to raise a child." The same can be said of our association, it takes a lot of dedicated individuals to keep our organization going strong.

Here are the examples:

In January the MGCSA plays an important role in regard to educational opportunities at the Minnesota Green Expo.

Educational opportunities continue later in the month with GCSAA seminars. The beginning of the New Year means the state legislature is in session. Paul Eckholm is our watchdog on issues that affect our industry and he does an amazing job.

In February we meet at the National conference and show due to the efforts of the Industrial Relations committee. Our affiliates have generously supported this outing. Kevin Clunis has graciously given his time to be our voting delegate with the GCSAA. Also in February is the Minnesota Golf Show where we have a booth to promote our professionalism.

In March we hold our mini-seminar. Here we often have the opportunity to discuss issues related to the Department of Agriculture, Labor Department or the Department of Health. Paul Diegnau has done a great job of keeping us informed with regulatory issues. The Board tries to be proactive with these groups.

The past few years there has been a MGA Turfgrass forum. This has been a great opportunity to help educate those we work for and with by bringing general managers, green chairmen and golf pro's along. We are fortunate to have a strong relationship with the MGA.

Spring marks the beginning of our golf events. The spring and fall mixers have been free of charge to encourage participation. Another golf outing we are fortunate to have is the BASF tournament raising extra funds for the greater good of the association. There has been a vendor appreciation day to keep our lines of com-

munication open with those who support us. The other three big tournaments are the Scholarship scramble, Research scramble and MGCSA Championship. The flier that lists the tee sponsors for these tournaments is taped to my office door. Plus a thank you goes to Tiziani Golf Car for sponsoring the carts at the Championship.

In July the U of M holds its Field Day.



President James Bade, speaking, along with the Board of Directors at the MGCSA Annual Business Meeting in January in Minneapolis.

The TROE Center is a facility to be proud of. The research done by Dr. Horgan, Dr. Watkins and the grad students is well worth the trip. We are fortunate to have quite a selection of NTEP studies, experiments with low-input grasses, a nutrient fate study in process, water use efficiency experiment and much more! Look for the Field Day to be in September this coming year.

The late summer also brought the U. S. Amateur to town. Congratulations to Jim Nicol, Mark Moers, their staff and all the members of the MGCSA who volunteered to make the tournament a rousing success. The members at Hazeltine and the Chaska Town course should be commended for their commitment to the game of golf.

You, the member, belong to an association that has had an award-winning periodical, *Hole Notes*. Jack MacKenzie, Scott and Jeff Turtinen have done a fabulous job...Congratulations. This year we even

had articles from Iraq and Hong Kong. The Web site for the MGCSA is a very good one. There is a lot of information available at mgcsa.org.

December brings with it the awards banquet. The banquet is something we want to hold annually. This year's Distinguished Service Award went to Rob Panuska. The other service awards went to many familiar faces showing their involvement within the MGCSA. And thank you to Larry Thornton who gave a donation to support the special evening.

This year the association is finishing the fiscal year in the black. This is due to cutting back on expenses wherever we can. The GCSAA sent a chapter assessment tool to gauge how we are doing as an association. Our chapter is a very strong one, and the assessment gave us some ideas for improvements.

After the regular business was taken care of a new opportunity arose. The Board of Directors looked into managing a golf course with the end goal of raising funds for our own turf pathologist. Furthermore, a golf course would be a place for larger scale research.

Even though the Castlewood adventure didn't come to fruition, the concept is still being put together, so if the right opportunity comes along things will be in place for a membership vote.

As you can see it takes a village to run this association. I want to thank the membership at Somerset Country Club and my staff for holding things together when I am gone. Thanks to the Board of Directors and their committees for their time and commitment.

I conclude with a quote from this year's Nobel peace prize winner: "We can achieve what we really want to; if we don't achieve great things it's because we haven't put our mind to it." Past boards of directors have done a great job of taking business to the next level; let's strive for that in 2007 as well.