



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MGCSA Plays Important Role in the Green Industry

By James Bade

Everyone has heard of "TGIF", Thank Goodness It's Friday. But of course in our profession when we work weekends every day can be a Monday. And that is fine with me because I like what I do. How about the letters, "MTGF," do you know what they mean? M is for Minnesota where you may live or work. T is for turf, which if you are reading this, more than likely you are related to turf in some way. G is for grounds, which is what we have once we are off our fine turf. And F is for foundation, which is a non-profit organization that supports worthy causes.

MTGF sounds like that is something you should be a part of, and it is by virtue of your being a member in the MGCSA! In other words, YOU are a member of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation. The MTGF is a collection of allied associations dealing with the green industry, like cemeteries, parks, sports turf, sod growers, seed producers, golf courses, schools and arborists. This is quite an impressive list when one needs leverage to get things done.

There is the adage, strength in numbers. Sometimes you can do more with greater numbers than by yourself. The Minnesota Green Expo is one example. The speakers that can be brought in by the MTGF are the nation's best. Plus, a lot of support goes to research and education due to the Green Expo's success and its large numbers. With ever increasing legislation and regulation we are going to need great numbers to get things done.

Obviously this is an oversimplified version of what the MTGF is. The point being, you are a member of an association that plays an important role within the green industry. One thing I have learned sitting on the BOD comes from a JFK quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." The more I have put into the association, the more I have received from it! Just by being involved you meet people and stay on the top of your game just through interaction.

Are you ready for another set of letters... how about "RCGC"? Some day they may or could stand for Research Center Golf Course. The concept started about this time last year. The MGCSA is exploring again whether it should help manage a golf course. Another opportunity has arisen that we want to be open to. We very much want to solicit your input and thoughts in regards to this concept. A committee is being formed to define goals and objectives. Is it something we should be involved in or not? The possibilities sound great, like raising funds for research and having a place to expand on the research being done at the TROE center. If this is something that interests you, just contact Scott Turtinen or myself.

First there was the drought, then hail in the Brainerd area, straight-line winds around the cities, and now floods down south. Working with Mother Nature has its rewards and challenges. I am proud to be a part of an association that perseveres during trying times and helps one another out.

Hope to see you at the fall events. - James

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