

Survey Says...

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS, *Keller Golf Course*
and JACK MACKENZIE, CGCS, *North Oaks Golf Club*

Education

As the education chair, the Editor of *Hole Notes* asked me to respond to the results of the survey as they relate to MGCSA-sponsored educational opportunities. Co-chair Tom Proshok and I are responsible for programming the March Mini-Seminar, GCSAA regional seminars, speakers for the spring and fall mixers, and the golf-related content for the Green Expo. The results from this survey are along the lines of what we expected for the most part. The old adage "you can't please all of the people all of the time" rings true once again.

The number of MGCSA members attending the Green Expo on an annual basis is an impressive 83%. The reasons for not attending range from cost and location to trade show and educational topics. It is unlikely the location of the show will change due to its size, complexity, sheer volume of attendees and the somewhat central location in the state. In my opinion the cost of attending all three days is very reasonable at \$73 with the member discount and discounted rooms at the Hyatt Hotel for \$91/night. The trade show at the Green Expo is one of the largest in the United States and offers something for everyone.

The quality of the speakers and their topics rated a total of 94% as either average or excellent. It would have been interesting to include one or two additional choices, as it is a rather quick jump from "average" to "excellent". We will continue to push for excellence in our educational offerings specific to golf, however there are limitations we must work with in our current arrangement. Some of the comments made in this survey reveal there is still some confusion and/or misinformation out there regarding the inner workings of the Green Expo.

There are two organizations that sponsor the Minnesota Green Expo: MNLA and the MTGF. MGCSA is one of nine allied associations within the MTGF. MNLA is a much larger, better-defined, resource-rich organization than the MTGF. Bob Fitch, Executive Director of the

MNLA, is responsible for running the Green Expo, and if I might add, does a fabulous job. As you can see, the MGCSA is but one cog on the Green Expo wheel. There are several factors that limit the quantity and length of the educational sessions specific to golf. I may or may not agree with these established protocols but they are as follows:

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- Dedicated trade show time - the exhibitors on the trade show floor provide the financial blood that drives this show. Therefore it is of utmost importance that they remain satisfied and willing to return year after year. Dedicated trade show time means that nothing else can compete with the trade show during these established blocks of time. There are 11.25 hours of dedicated time over the three days and 25.5 hours that the Green Expo is officially open. This equals 11.25 hours that are unusable for education sessions (lunch is also included in those hours).

- Limited number of education time slots.

- Limited number of rooms.

- Concurrent golf-specific sessions are difficult to balance. A stronger topic or speaker will outdraw a "weaker" session, often resulting in embarrassingly small audiences. Remember, golf course professionals only account for a small percentage of the attendees on any given day. We also hear grumbling when two strong topics or speakers are booked concurrently (I think that is a good problem to have).

- Pesticide re-certification session topics must be approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as relevant to the program.

- Green Expo protocol prefers that out-of-state speakers present for multiple ses-

sions to help defray speaker costs overall.

- Some popular, well-known golf industry speakers have raised their rates substantially in the last several years and are limiting their speaking engagements.

- Speaker availability - we compete for speakers with green industry shows all across our nation.

Hopefully you can see that there are a multitude of factors we must deal with when programming for golf-specific speakers and topics. Eleven individuals recorded comments on why they felt the Expo educational offerings were below average. The main thrust of those comments centered on too much landscaping and not enough golf and the need for more detailed topics and extended sessions. As explained above, we are limited in the educational time slots allot-

ted as an association. We added the popular Thursday morning extended session several years ago and will continue with that format. The education committee is always looking for speaker or topic ideas that would interest our membership. In my three years as the education chair I can remember being contacted TWO times by members with ideas for education sessions. Both of those ideas were implemented into education sessions. If there is something specific you are looking for in an educational experience, please let me know and we will try to make it happen.

So you may be asking, "Why doesn't the MGCSA leave the Green Expo and go back to the way it used to be?" As expected, there are pros and cons to each situation. The MTGF receives one-third of the net revenues from the Expo event. This translates to approximately \$120,000 per year. Of that amount \$60,000 is given to Drs. Horgan and Watkins to support their research and the TROE Center. Additional turf and grounds research is funded yearly through MTGF with the remaining monies. Return to the days of the MGCSA Annual Conference and that event was lucky to break even yet we retained our identity and all education was golf-specific.

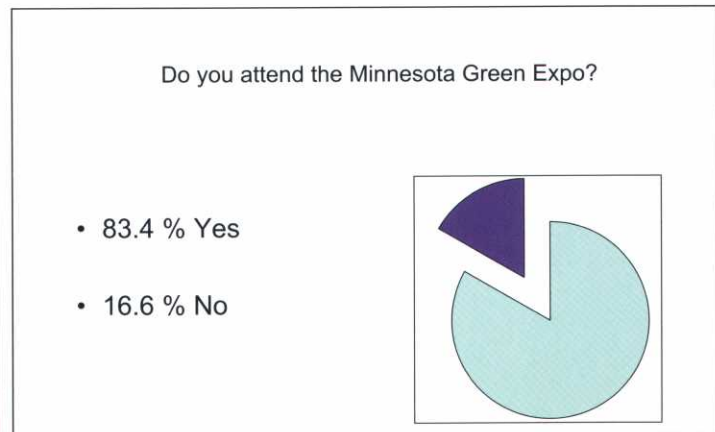
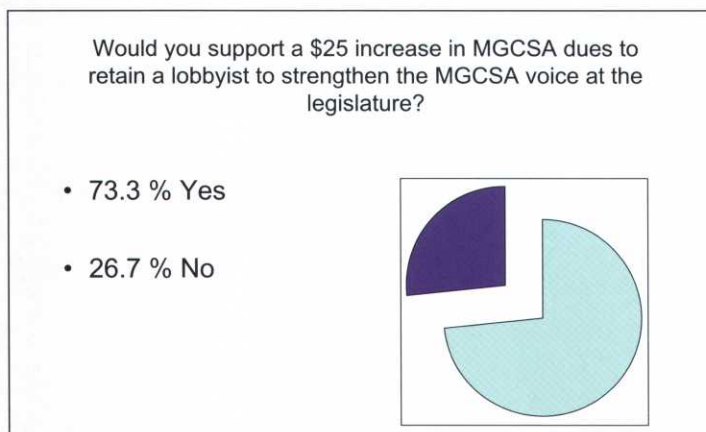
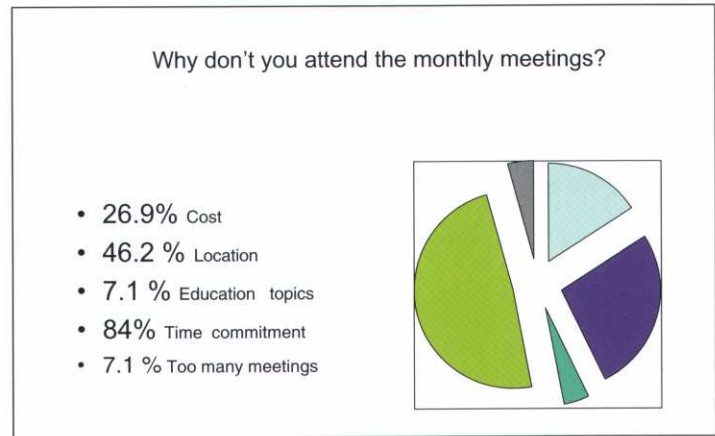
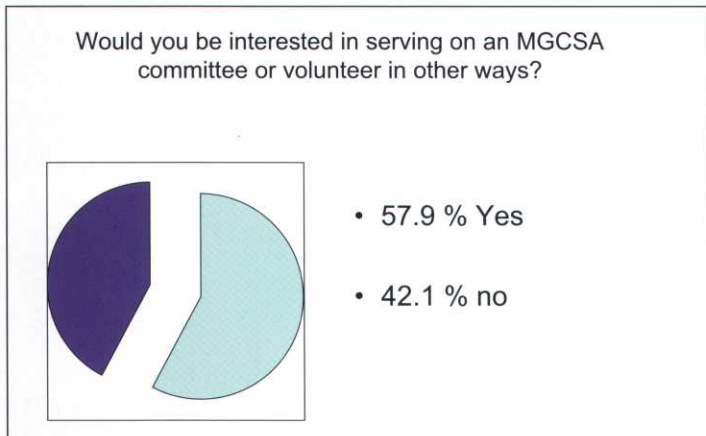
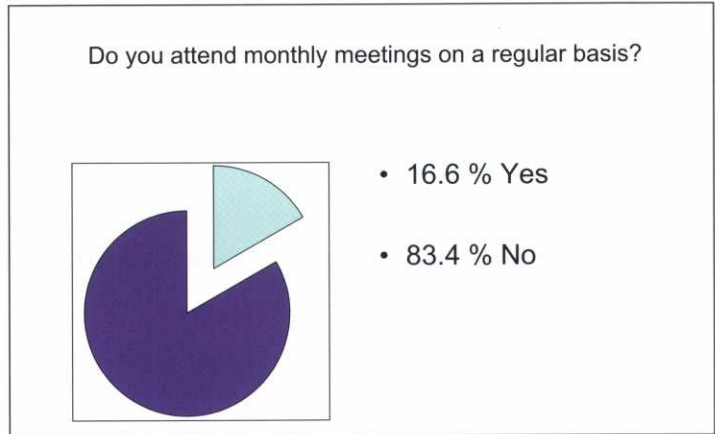
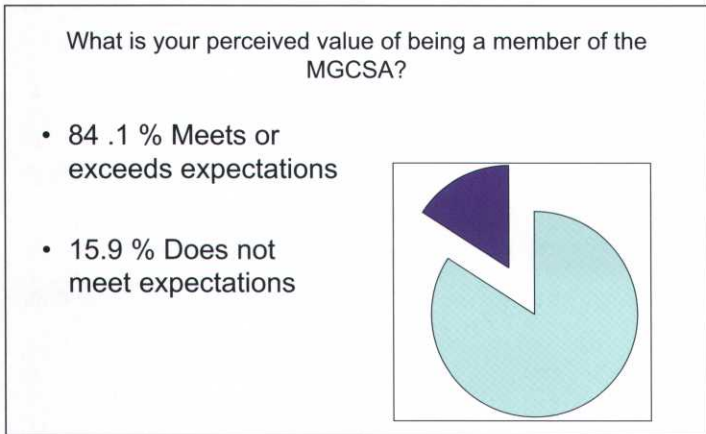
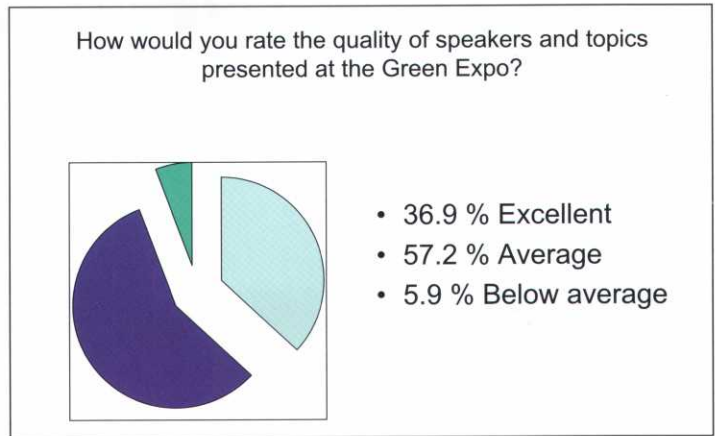
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MGCSA Survey-

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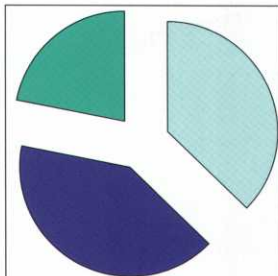
Not Richard Dawson, but rather Mike Knodel CGCS, Superintendent at the Oak Grove Golf Club, conducted on behalf of the MGCSA Board of Directors, a very enlightening industry survey recently. Thank you to everyone who participated, 41 percent of the 512 surveys sent via email responded to some or all of the questions asked.

The survey questions were compiled by the Board of Directors and completed through Survey Monkey, an online survey site. The survey was setup as an anonymous response system with both multiple choice questions as well as essay response questions to give members a chance to voice their honest opinions. The following graphics represent the results of the survey.



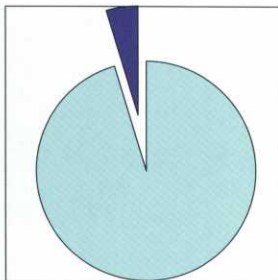
Do you think the MGCSA should operate a golf course?

- 37.1 % Agree
- 40.9 % Neutral
- 22.0 % Disagree



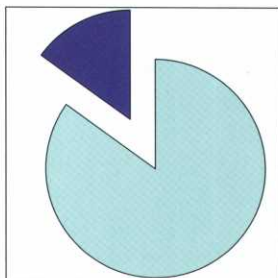
Do you like the current format of the Hole Notes?

- 95.2 % Yes
- 4.8 % No



Does the content of the Hole Notes help you to do your job?

- 84.9 % Yes
- 15.1 % No



CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

Cocoa Fiber Mat
Contact: Chris Klatter
Grand View Golf Links
218-522-0812

FOR SALE

Mod 83 Olathe Thacher & Mod 93
Slit Seeder \$2,000
TORO flex 21 greens - \$2,500 (200 hrs)
Contact: Butch Brown
Birch Bay Golf Course
218-820-2158

FOR SALE

Wittek 7 gang Ball Picker in V formation. \$500 obo.
Protective canopy to fit Club Car.
Make offer.
Contact: Mark Lindberg
Edgewood GC/ Fargo Parks
701/293-7121

FOR SALE

\$2995 obo (1995 Clubcar Carryall II utility/beverage cart including 2004 Beverage Caddy Express tow behind/stand alone beverage unit...for pictures see ebay item # 140245415637) -- \$995 obo (1993 Toro Hydroject 3000 water injection spiker airifier machine, 794 hours, 2 PISTONS (part # 86-8830) IN THE WATER PUMP CRANKCASE ASSEMBLY

NEED TO BE REPAIRED OR REPLACED...for pictures see ebay item # 140246289836)
Contact: Guy Leach
Spring Valley Golf Course
715-928-0405

WANTED

Greens Groomer that would fit John Deere 220A walking greens mower.
Also wanted:
Used 1/2 hrs 115 volt Otterbine fountain.
Contact: Mike Burke
Heart of the Valley Golf Club
218.784.8330

WANTED

Jacobsen SV 2322 (gas) part # 1000297 governor board #DYN1 10870.
Part is not available from Jacobsen anymore.
Contact: Jim Temple
Crystal Lake Golf Club
952.953.3656

FOR SALE

Thatch-Away Supra System slicer cassettes.
Set of three. Barely used.
\$2200 O.B.O

1000 gal heavy duty liquids container. 2 available. Make offer.
John Deere 4710 Tractor rims and tires 17-5L-24 (back) and 10-16.5NHS (front). Ag tread. Great condition. Make offer.
Contact: Eric Counselman
Somerville Golf Club
507-775-3743

FOR SALE

GA 30 Ryan Aerifier (1990) - \$2000
Ryan walker Aerifier (1984) - \$800
Jacobsen GK IV Triplex (Diesel) (1989) - \$1,000
Toro Fairway Mower Reelmaster 5300-D (1999) - \$4,000
Jacobsen Rotary Turfcut (1999) - \$4,000
Contact: Tim O'Driscoll
Rochester Golf & Country Club
507.536.4487

WANTED

Used Toro Irrigation Heads. Electric Valve in Head preferred. Both 1" and 1 1/2" bodies needed.
Contact: Jeff Normandt
Maple Grove CC.
608.786.1508
507.459.7730

FOR SALE

1995 Clubcar Carryall II \$2,500 obo (ebay item # 140231117509)
Contact: Guy W. Leach
Spring Valley Golf Course
715.928.0405

FOR SALE

Vermeer 44 in. tree spade - \$10,000
7 ft. vetidrain - \$9,000
Toro Fwy topdressor - \$3,200
Toro Spikers (new) - \$1,000
Toro Light wgt. fwy reel - \$650
Contact: Scott Wersal
Ridges at Sand Creek
952.492.2644 Ext. 24

WANTED

Ransomes 350D for parts
Contact: Cecil Audorff
Lake Wissota Golf
715-382-4959

VISIT www.MGCSA.org FOR MORE INFORMATION