



# In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie

“You know Dad, adjusted to its max that bench lays at a steep angle to the floor. If you reset it I guarantee the change will make

your crunch work out more productive.” My daughter was right. The relatively easy 150 daily sit-ups from a flat position had become rather routine. The steeper angle not only forced me to work harder, but the change was a pleasant alternative...once my 52-year old muscles became adjusted to the new regime!

The new chapter in my life as your Executive Director is also a welcome change. Although I relished my tenure walking in your shoes upon my golf course, the long hours and hard mental and physical work in the peak season had begun to wear upon me. Some might say it was ‘burn-out’. After a series of long discussions with my wife last summer, I landed upon a decision to keep an open mind should an appealing opportunity present itself and be mentally ready to make a move.

When the position of ED was offered for proposals last September it occurred to me that this could be a whole lot of fun, personally challenging and also beneficial to my family life. With those rewards in mind I pursued the position with great interest. My game plan was simple... improve member services, representation and bring our group’s association back to a personal level.

For too long the out state constituents of the MGCSA have been...well, just plain too out state. With this distance tagged along a subtle disconnect, a perception of a “good old boy” hierarchy and perhaps some inherent resentment. In my outline for the Association I emphasized the presence of the MGCSA throughout our region.

Divided into six sections, I proposed the Executive Director pursue out state mini meetings

with local members. In the summer it would be a nine-and-dine concept with nine holes of golf followed by lunch. Perhaps Dr. Horgan joins in and presents a lively round table discussion or the latest research from the TROE Center. Or maybe it is just an open turf forum. In the winter it would be lunch-n-lanes with bowling at a local ally being the social draw.

Have you ever wanted to go to the Masters? Then lets go!!! As a group and with our gold GCSAA membership cards we could make an annual pilgrimage to Augusta. Fly out Wednesday afternoon; take in the tournament on Thursday and Friday followed by a return trip Saturday. We could relish our newly developed friendships while watching the final round in our living rooms Sunday.

“Friends” that is what it is all about. When we get together it is very simple to talk turf and fine to talk golf, but both are fairly superficial. With all we have in common as an industry of intelligent and driven individuals one would like to believe that our ‘friend’ base goes beyond just talking grass.

To that end the Hole Notes publication will be taking a new turn as well. Under Dave Kazmierczak’s guidance we will be getting close and personal with a new series of columns intended to draw out the ‘individual’ in each of us and break down the inhibitions created by one topic discourse. Another column idea is called Snapshot. Not unlike *Peer to Peer* but with a regional focus.

Across our state we have some daunting challenges coming our way in water use and management, pesticide application and nutrient fate. With your support I will be a presence at the State Capital and amongst state agencies to promote the industry as a lobbyist or even simply an educator. This challenge pumps me up as I look at the positive changes our industry can implement.

Change. In pursuit of this new vocation I also realized that change would be needed with our web site. Recently, under the guidance of our resident (continued on page 24))

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(from page 7) technology guru Bob Porter, the Board of Directors approved the implosion of our existing web site and creation of a new and dynamic information on-line destination for membership of the MGCSA. User friendly, broad based, point and click capable, the site will offer everything you have always wanted and more to come as technology continues to change.

Change, change, change. You know it won't happen over night. And there will most assuredly be bumps along the road. Delays, glitches, redundancies, mistakes, blunders and inadvertent situations; however, change will happen and with it will come growth of our Association. We, insert Jack here, has to be patient for it will not all happen over night.

Indeed I too need patience for just ten weeks ago I was like you are at this moment, focused upon something I knew how to do very well...being a turf manager. Today I am a publisher, a web master, administrator, accountant, function manger, association liaison and above all else your humble executive director willing to help you to be a better member and thus develop a better Association. Should you have any issues please do not hesitate to call me at 651 324 8873 or a simple e-mail at [jack@mgcsa.org](mailto:jack@mgcsa.org) will get you a prompt response.

Glancing over my shoulder I see the bench is beckoning me for another session in abdominal distress. Followed by a twenty minute elliptical, my workout will hopefully eliminate the muffin top associated with administrative and executive management staff. Damn. I hate working out, but I love working out...especially now that my daughter has encouraged me to modify my habits and take advantage of a change in course.