



In Bounds

A friend of mine, Adam Ikamis, Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of

the GCSAA summed it up in one sentence, “Don’t kid yourself Jack, you are going to be very, very busy.” He was and continues to be correct!!!

It isn’t a good busy, but rather a GREAT busy. In fact this new life opportunity has offered me many more rewards than I had expected when contemplating the position last fall. While the politics, negotiations, publications, networking, speaking engagements, event planning, financial management and everyday minutia of association business were overwhelming at first, all of the new issues have provided a sound degree of personal satisfaction once I acclimated to the challenges.

Somewhat politically active, (oh all right I do march on the State Capitol occasionally) the new role of Executive Director has required me to think about the bigger picture; from a Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents’ Association perspective, such as how to maintain our allies and win over golf’s antagonists. As an active representative with the Minnesota Environmental Initiative I have held my personal verbiage and extended the olive branch share to our issues with all at the table including big business, state

agencies, public organizations and political representatives. Although most engagements have focused upon speakers and issues, the MGCSA has always been a welcomed partner.

As an invited participant on the MPCA’s Storm Water Management Turfgrass Work Team I have learned how valuable the MGCSA presence is in discussions. Our industry is considered by those ‘in the know’ a responsible player from construction through management. Our insight was solicited to ensure scientific and realistic objectives were being met beyond the golf course industry and throughout out state.

Holding a seat on the MDA’s Pesticide Management Plan Committee I have learned that our group is a very small target when alongside our friends in the agriculture industry. However their actions and use of chemistries will have a direct impact upon golf course management if we are not present to protect our interests.

Recently the MDA also extended an invitation to our Association to participate on the committee responsible for reviewing and re-writing the Pesticide Certification Workbook for A and E categories. Too be rubbing elbows with the “wheelers and dealers” in the MDA is pretty cool and a big feather in our cap.

And I mean **“our cap”**. There is no j-a-c-k spelled in the MGCSA. Just a whole lot of members too busy getting their jobs done to attend all of the meetings necessary to show our presence on a voluntary basis. At

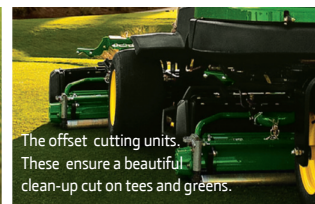
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each and every event I have attended this year the MGCSA, **YOU**, have been graciously and very respectfully welcomed. We are the ones dressed professionally representing a very distinguished profession! Our impression goes beyond meet and greets.

You have noticed a new Hole Notes Magazine. Once a skeptic of the digital format I am now convinced of its readability and very positive promotional format for our Affiliate members. Kudos to Dave Kazmierczak for his editorial magnetism. Since inception, each of our three magazines has averaged 492 reads with 9,524 unique page views. This is an amazing statistic.

Soon to be unveiled, Bob Porter has been busy working on the new MGCSA.org web site with builder LCM Inc. This company, managed by a current superintendent, has the intuitive feel of what professional golf course turf managers are looking for. Everybody hates going to a new

web site only to find “under construction” notes on important pages. Thus the new site will not be ready for business until it is fully operational. In a few weeks you can expect a hard copy mailing with a “how to” guide on managing the new destination. Thanks to Bob for his craftsmanship on this project, completed at a much reduced price due to his competency.

Busy...yup, real busy. Tournament planning, educational formats, financial resolutions, member assimilation and communications (over 80 thus far this year) have kept me hopping. Good thing for all of us the BOD has been exceptional in their position of guiding the MGCSA.

Next on the docket...additional work on the BMP Stewardship Manual, more social and golf events and continued communication. Thanks for this awesome chance to expand my/our horizons!