



Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

Recently, I was privileged to join our Executive

Director, Jack MacKenzie, for a tour of the T.R.O.E. Center with Dr. Brian Horgan and Dr. Eric Watkins. In addition, we were treated to a discussion about the proposed project at Les Bolstad Golf Course on the U of M campus. I am convinced, now more than ever, that these two facilities hold the future for turf research here in Minnesota.

The proposed project for Les Bolstad Golf Course will be a model for restoration and renovation projects for golf courses in the future. The concept of the re-design is to provide an example of how to renovate courses using three components of sustainability to insure the long term success of the facility. Those components are agronomic, economic and environmental principles and procedures that will culminate in a comprehensive business model for success. In addition, there

will be a demonstration area for ongoing research projects that will provide valuable information for superintendents complimenting the work going on at the T.R.O.E. Center. MGCSA supports this project because it will provide beneficial case studies for courses interested in renovation projects now, and in the future. It will also provide crucial information for golf course architects and golf course construction companies for renovation projects they will be involved with in the future. Owners, club officials, general managers and golf professionals who are at courses considering a renovation project will also benefit from information related to how to manage the economic sustainability of their facilities during and after the project. To learn more about the Science of the Green project, visit the website at www.scienceofthegreen.org.

We also had the pleasure of touring the T.R.O.E. Center to see all the work and research that is

currently in process with the U of M. I can tell you this is not the same T.R.O.E. Center I was on at the last field day-far from it. As we were treated to a discussion of the various research projects and breeding efforts, it very quickly became apparent to me that MGCSA members needed to see what we were seeing. From the run off/nitrogen fate study, to the rain shelter and



drought resistance research, to the fine fescue breeding, to the bentgrass research plots, to the MGCSA Member Driven Research initiatives, my reaction was nothing short of “I had no idea!”. Many of you know that the Field Day was replaced last year with a number of virtual field days produced by Dr. Horgan, Sam Bauer, Eric Watkins and others that were very

informative and convenient because you could watch them anytime or anywhere you had internet access. We will certainly see more of those presentations in the future. This year the Field Day returns with a vigor that you can only experience

if you go. We were promised that the Field Day this year “is not your father’s Field Day,” with the change being in the traditional tours that will provide more opportunity for

discussion and interaction. There is so much to see that you really can’t afford to miss it this year and you also will be able to hear more about the Science of the Green project. So mark your calendars and clear your schedules for Thursday, August 7 and watch for more information to come from the MGCSA on the details. It is going to be a special day and I hope to see you there!!!