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It is an honor to serve as the President of our Association again. Although the challenges are different, the members' commitment to excellence is still the same. As J Robinson, the University of Minnesota wrestling coach noted at the December conference, the level a person attains is directly attributable to their commitment. I see this in our membership also.

It is an exciting time to be part of the MGCSA as we celebrate the 75th year since the Association was founded. Organized in 1927, the first President to lead our Association was Charles Erickson, Superintendent at The Minikahda Club. He was active in the formation of the Minnesota Greenkeepers Association, now known as the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. Try to take a few minutes to read the article on Page 22 written by Jack Kolb about Charles Erickson.

In January of 2003, the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation will join the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association to host the Minnesota Green Expo. The conference and show will allow more opportunity for education and a variety of speakers. It will also combine the trade shows, allowing vendors to focus on one trade show rather than choosing between the two. With the changing economy many vendors will appreciate the cost benefit of participating in the one trade show.

The electronic age sure provides a great way for many companies and individuals to do business together. Instant information, ordering, and transacting can all be accomplished from either a computer screen or a cell phone on the far end of the golf course. However, I still enjoy reading a letter or a short note. I try to take time daily to read and answer e-mails. It combines the age of technology and the art of letter writing. Please contact me by e-mail if you have something of interest you would like to pass on to me.

- Rick Fredericksen
President
r_fredericksen@msn.com
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U of M Turfgrass Group Announces New Vision for Programs and Goals

By BRIAN HORGAN and JON POWELL
University of Minnesota

The turfgrass working group at the University of Minnesota is happy to announce that we have a new vision for our program and associated goals:

The University of Minnesota will be recognized for its leadership in environmentally sound and responsible turfgrass cultural systems.

1. Develop a world class research facility.
2. Provide the opportunity and an atmosphere for high quality turfgrass education.
3. Support and promote the dissemination of research based turf information throughout the state and region.
4. Create a rural and urban interface.
5. Develop the capacity to provide mediation and response services for environmental landscape and turfgrass issues.

The turfgrass working group felt it was time to evaluate our turfgrass program and develop criteria under which we would operate for the coming years. Since its inception, feedback from industry has been overwhelmingly supportive and we are generating new excitement for turfgrass research and extension.

The future holds many possibilities for our turfgrass program at the University of Minnesota. Currently, we are working with upper administration to acquire additional land that will be used for research and demonstration. We have also been diligently working on grant applications to garner support for research that will directly benefit industry.

Listed below are summaries of grant proposals for submission this fall/winter.

Quantifying Phosphorus Runoff From Lawns
Grant submitted to: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
Objectives: Determine the extent of phosphorus runoff following fertilization of lawns, evaluate the effects of clipping removal on phosphorus runoff, quantify the effects of increasing soil/fertilizer phosphorus levels on phosphorus concentrations in clippings, and identify best management practices to minimize the potential movement of phosphorus from lawns.

Turfgrass Runoff Facility on the St. Paul Campus
Grant submitted to: Rapid Agriculture Response Fund, Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station.
Objectives: Design and construct turfgrass runoff plots, install an irrigation system to simulate rainfall, and install automated runoff collection containers and tipping bucket gauges.

Investigation of the Quality of Guttation Fluids And Their Effect on the Disease Susceptibility Of Creeping Bentgrass
Grant submitted to: O.J. Noer Foundation
Objectives: The goal of this project is to examine the differences in guttation fluid composition among creeping bentgrass varieties expressing different levels of dollar spot susceptibility. Additional objectives will be to assess the effect of nitrogen levels on guttation fluid composition. The results of this project will provide insight into the role of guttation fluids in disease development and may provide for an additional screening tool for breeding disease resistance.

Practical Application of Molecular Tools To Diagnose Turfgrass Diseases
Grant Submitted to: University of Minnesota Graduate School.
Objectives: To apply previously developed molecular tools with latest technological equipment to provide rapid and accurate disease diagnosis.
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Thanks to All Courses, Companies and Individuals Who Chose to Donate to the Research Fund in 2001

Solicitations for donations to the Research Fund went out to all golf courses in the late summer and to companies in November. Many clubs/golf courses and companies are choosing to again donate to our research cause. The MGCSA thanks the following clubs and companies that have donated to the Research Fund as of December 19.

**Clubs**
- Alexandria GC
- Bent Creek GC
- Braemar GC
- Golden Valley CC
- Hazeltine National GC
- Island View GC
- Long Prairie CC
- Marshall GC
- Manitou Ridge GC
- Midland Hills CC
- Minneapolis GC
- Minnesota PGA
- Olympic Hills CC
- Southview CC
- Stillwater CC
- The Minikahda Club
- Tipsinah Mounds GC
- Wayzata CC
- Woodhill CC.

**Companies** (as of December 20)
- Bergerson-Caswell Inc.
- Country Club Turf
- Hartman Excavating, Inc.
- Lebanon Seaboard Corp.
- Leitner Company
- MTI Distributing, Inc.
- Par Aide Products Co.
- Superior Tech Products
- Sustane National Fertilizer
- Syngenta Professional Products

**Individuals**
- Paul Eckholm, CGCS
- Riley Kieffer
- Michael Ligday
- Bob McKinney, CGCS
- Kyle Nygaard
- Robert Panuska
- Lynn Richert
- Charles Schultz
- Tom Wodash
- Dave Zimmer

**The Minnesota Turf Tourney** is one of our best sources for research dollars. Clubs that choose to participate donate tee times and carts during the research benefit week. The charge for this event is $80 per player and this year we had 153 players participate in the event. Thanks go out to the following clubs for participating this past year:

- Brackett’s Crossing CC
- Dellwood Hills GC
- Izaty’s Golf & YC
- Minnesota Valley CC
- North Oaks GC
- Olympic Hills CC
- Oak Ridge CC
- Rolling Green CC
- Stillwater CC
- The Minikahda Club
- Town & Country Club
- Wayzata CC
- Woodhill CC

**MARK SULLIVAN** donated $700 from his father’s estate to the Scholarship Fund in honor of his dad.

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Getting Involved

By SCOTT LARSON
Golf Course Superintendent / Lakeview National
Two Harbors, Minn.

Throughout my 12 years as a Golf Course Superintendent I have read with great interest, the Hole Notes and Golf Course Management publications on a regular basis. A while back there was a drive encouraging superintendents to become more involved in volunteer organizations or other activities that might enable us to become leaders in serving our communities.

Finding a balance between our jobs, our families, and volunteer activities can be very difficult for us in this industry because:

- Our jobs require long hours during the season, which is often the season when our family members may be more demanding of our time as well.
- The free time we do have is usually spent trying to rest up for the next day we devote to our job.
- It is difficult to spend time away from our job without thinking or worrying about things such as Irrigation, Weather, Personnel, Work Scheduling, etc.

Many of us in the MGCSA have taken it upon ourselves to become coaches for our children’s athletic teams without regard to our schedules; not only because there are a shortage of volunteers to fill these roles, but because the nature of our job inspires us to become involved individuals.

I have been a member of our local Fire department for 19 years and have been able to balance work, family, and free time. When our associations encouraged involvement in these types of organizations, it really hit home with me because I truly believe there is not an organization with more camaraderie than the Fire department or EMS service. While providing a valuable service to the community, I have gained personal benefits as well.

Volunteers with the fire department are forced to use instincts that are used daily on our jobs. These include things such as running the fire pumps on the trucks (which are similar to our irrigation pumps), working together at a fire scene, or using first aid or CPR at an accident. The relationships and trust that are built within the department are second only to family bonds.

It can be very easy to incorporate family time into the fire department. My entire family, including my wife, five children, and my dogs have been a part of my membership in the fire department. Their involvement includes tasks such as cooking, cleaning or washing fire trucks, attending picnics, participating in parades, or just plain getting to know people and build friendships that last a lifetime. Other activities that fire departments and their families might participate in include fundraising efforts, 4th of July festivals, and benefits for special causes, just to mention a few. Public education on fire safety has the potential to bring us into the schools where we could take the opportunity to educate others about environmental issues and turf benefits on our golf courses as well.

Although participating in the fire department has been very inspirational for me and I am extremely proud to be a member of this organization; I have also been exposed to many of the not so good parts of life as well. These stumbling blocks are similar to the hurdles and challenges we face daily in our tasks at our golf course as we deal with members and others in our industry and are well worth the effort. I encourage the members of the MGCSA to get out and join some of these great organizations in our communities that make it a better place for everyone to live.