39 members of the MGCSA braved the threatening rain to enjoy a day of fraternity, education and sport shooting on October 14th at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. Although on the radar, the inclement weather held off until the drive home following the Fall Shoot Out. You should have been there for a break from the fall routine.

Erin McManus, an acclaimed hunting enthusiast and Superintendent at Medina Golf and Country Club, began the day with inside instruction and tips on how to shoot a variety of shotguns. This knowledge was then taken to the field where Charles Spaulding and Tim Wicklund joined Erin in the shooting stand for more personal and “live” direction. All of the day’s participants listened intently for knowledge to enhance their own abilities.

In advance of the predicted rain, the group hustled back to the Hunt Club for a buffet of cold cuts and chips. Delicious! Dessert was a drive to sell more Raffle Tickets as well as Big Board spaces. The proceeds from these two season long fund raising efforts are contributed to the Research Fund to be used in Member Initiated Research at the University of Minnesota.

Following sponsorship recognition Scottie Hines, CGCS and President of the MGCSA pulled for a number of prizes as well as the Benelli Shotgun winner, Chard Braun. The lucky Equipment Technician from Prestwick Golf Club was thrilled to win yet another shotgun to add to a pair he had won earlier this summer at another fundraiser. “This one is the nicest and my new favorite,” he said after receiving the finely crafted shotgun.

Chad led the way to the leaf littered series of shooting stations for an afternoon of LOUD fun complete with the smell of cordite. Fun was had by one and all. The champion team of the day was Scottie Hines, Mike Kelly, Tom Schmidt, Erin McManus and Jeff Pint.
Anybody who knows me knows I am a football fanatic. Come fall, for good or bad, I become consumed by the game. Whether its high school, college or pro ball, I simply cannot get enough of all that is football, and I know that I am not alone. But why? Why am I so obsessed by football?

It has been said that football mirrors life. The game is a parallel of many aspects of the ebbs and flows of everyday existence if broken down and analyzed in that way. I’m not sure about all that, but as I wrote this column with the game on, I started thinking about the parallels to our lovely profession and here is what I came up with.

First off is the obvious fact that football is the ultimate team sport. It takes 11 guys a side, working together in every detail of play to be successful. If there is even one player acting alone of not following the scheme, offense, defense or special teams, the whole system breaks down and success is unachievable.

Now think about your crew at the golf course. If you have one guy not showing up to work, not doing what he needs to do in the field, not following instructions the entire operation overall will not be able to achieve the ultimate goal of the best golf course it can be. Get a couple bad apples on the crew and it can turn into a real mess!

Football is played during every season, and in every kind of weather. It is played on grass, or a grass-like surface. There is a smell to a football field that if you have played the game you know very, very well. The field, practice or game, is like a second home. The guys you play with on your team become your brothers of sorts. Like family.

Now think about your golf course. I have been outside in every kind of weather there is working on a golf course. Wind, hail, snow, sleet, heat, humidity, it doesn’t matter. You still have a job to do and together with your crew, you get it done. Just like football. The course and its surroundings are your home away from home. Your assistants and your crew become your friends, your brothers (and sisters) of a sort.

The hierarchy of a football team is exactly that of a golf course. It is