

# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson  
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Last month, Greg Hubbard talked about the current position of the MTGF during an informational session. As with any new organization there have been growing pains the last two years. Money has been tight, so they have not been able to necessarily 'produce' anything to report. The money available has been used for producing 'Clippings' and other associated costs. What the MTGF has is the support of the U of M and its commitment to the possibility of developing a research center. This project has been identified as a goal by an advisory committee at the U of M. It looks like Dr. Phil Larson will be the U's lead man with the possibility of additional professors and graduate students having roles at this facility. Dr. Larson, who was familiar with Ohio State's research facility, will be in on the ground floor of developing this center.

The MTGF needs 100% commitment from all the allied associations and their members in the state. This commitment needs to come in the form of money, volunteer help and a common identity within the turf industry, and before results can be realized these must fall into place.

The question was asked what the MTGF will do for the MGCSA or any other affiliated organization for that matter. When you think in terms of politics, the total numbers or body count speak louder on a Legislative level.

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**Another reason to wear a hard hat department.** OSHA didn't have this in mind when requiring hard hats for safety. At the Mee-Kown G.C. near Mequon, Wisconsin, an employee was hit by shotgun pellets from a goose hunter while aerating a fairway. One pellet bounced off his hard hat and, thinking it was a rock flying up from the aerator, he kept on working. Later it was discovered a pellet was imbedded in his neck. From now on at golf courses that have a goose problem, blaze orange hard hats will be required when the hunting season begins.

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**Things worth doing.** That statement doesn't embrace some deep philosophy, but just an everyday thought while at work or play. Is it worth doing? The question at least can help us separate what's really important and what's not. (You can fill in the blanks at any time). In general it's worth developing the habit of observation. I read a story about a woman who was legally blind but didn't feel her ability to observe depended on keen sight. She observed things that escaped most people with good sight. As a way of compensation, she listened to the leaves on trees and sometimes could identify the tree by how the leaves

sounded when blown by a breeze. Birches have a small, quick high-pitched sound like falling rain. Oak leaves have a slightly lower pitch than birch. You get the idea. We can observe what's happening on our golf courses by all our senses, and it's worth cultivating our ability to observe to be better turf managers. Continuing your education is worth doing. It certainly is necessary in the changing role of the superintendent. But keeping an open mind and increasing your observation skills in itself make you more proficient in everything you do.

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**Did you know your share of the national debt (\$18,500)** is about the cost of some of the new greens-mowers?

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**This will be my last column as Editor of *Hole Notes*.** Thank you to those that have contributed articles the past year. These articles from members of the association add a necessary dimension when it comes to informing others in the MGCSA. Scott Turtinen and his staff deserve a lot of credit when it comes to putting each issue of *Hole Notes* together, so many thanks to our Executive Director for all he does to bring you a fine publication. Brad Peterson has given us very useful information in the 'U of M Update' which ran in most issues. Congratulations to Jack Kolb for being chosen for this year's Watson Award! Jack has worked hard and supplied *Hole Notes* with a number of articles over the years. Please continue! It is everyone's responsibility to give something back to an organization to which she or he belongs. I've given it a whirl and I appreciated the chance.

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**CORRECTION:** It was pointed out to me by an irate Yankee fan that in an earlier issue of *Hole Notes*, I referred to him as a Mets' fan. That's like calling anyone in the metro area a Packer fan. My apologies to Dr. Frank Rossi!



Monty Montague, (left) National/Turfco, Jeff Churchill and Joe Churchill of North Star Turf relaxing at the Trade Show.