

February 27, 2001

MGCSA Board Meeting Highlights

Dr. Phil Larson, Associate Dean at the U of M sent a letter thanking the MGCSA for their support of the Turfgrass Extension position at the University. Paul Eckholm explained to the Board that the decision to assist with funding of this position came at the last MTGF meeting and it was necessary to move ahead with it at that time to avoid losing the candidate. A motion to split where the funds come from within the budget, 50% from research and 50% from general funds passed.

Eckholm handed out literature on the "Drive for the U" campaign that he has initiated and designed to increase exposure of the turfgrass working group at the University of Minnesota and the work that is done at the St. Paul Campus, as well as furthering the physical condition of the research area on campus. The campaign includes among other initiatives, a request from MGCSA members any donation from their clubs of equipment or supplies.

125 members were in attendance at the Hospitality Night in Dallas. Some members have said the cost for the Hospitality Night is becoming expensive. Affiliate dues and registration costs currently help pay for Hospitality Night. Schirck expresses that the Hospitality Night should be viewed as an opportunity to meet and talk to people in our profession.

The Conference & Education committee has discussed

changing the dates of the GCSAA regional seminars and possibly the Mini-Seminar to January instead of March.

Bade reports that his committee is considering finding a keynote speaker with a leadership/motivational presentation. He reports that arranging speakers has been going very well, several have been confirmed including, Dr. Rossi (Cornell), Brad Klein (Supt. News), Bob Vavrek (USGA), Jon Powell (U of M), Brian Horgan (U of M), Bill Larson (T &CC) to speak on his creek project, Karen Olson (Giants Ridge), and someone from the Raptor Center. Invitations have been sent to Dr. Watschke (PSU) and Reed McKenzie (USGA-Hazeltine).

Rick Traver reminds Board of the importance of writing articles for Hole Notes and encourages members to submit articles for publication.

Mike Brual shared samples of salary surveys and discussed the details, particularly with the course budget portion. Eckholm stated that a detailed survey would be the only effective way to gain budget numbers. Brual with work on detailed budget survey to present at next meeting. Rick Fredericksen handed out results of the seasonal staff wages survey and discussed the details.

Eckholm asks Board if we should give members the choice of not printing personal phone numbers and addresses in the Membership Roster. Discussion followed with a motion being made to exclude home information from the roster.

Mike Brower reports that negotiations are underway with current MTGF Executive Director Larry Vetter, on a new employment agreement. Brower reported that Bade and his committee are doing an excellent job on lining-up speakers for the annual conference. He also reported that the annual conference has been changed to a Tuesday-Thursday format for several reasons, including to avoid a sharp decline in attendance on Friday afternoon. Discussions continue at MTGF meetings with regard to implementing strategies to increase attendance at the annual conference, most notably by affiliations other than the MGCSA. Brower reported that the Minneapolis Hilton will again serve as the official hotel for the annual meeting.

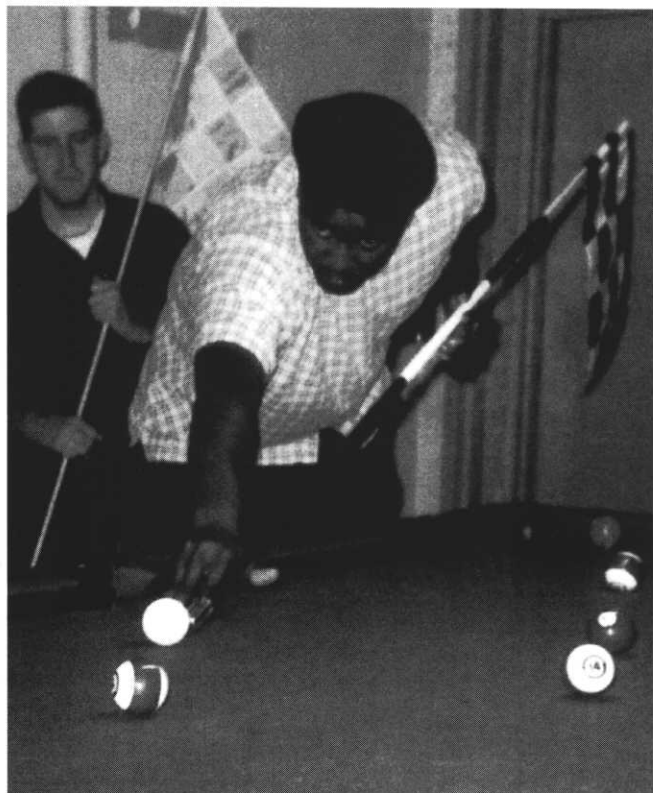
Dr. Jon Powell (U of M) reported that the 2001 Field Day will be held on Thursday, July 26. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run through 12:30 p.m. Powell reported that there are efforts underway to make the experience broader with the addition of a tour for arborists.

Research funds have been distributed to the USGA-\$2,000, GCSAA Friends of the Foundation-\$5,000, O.J. Noer Center-\$1,000, GCSAA- \$1,000.

The Minnesota Turfgrass Research Benefit Week takes place June 4-8, 2001.

Dr. Jon Powell noted that he is looking for clubs to participate in a dollar spot study. He would also like construct a USGA green for research at the U of M, and will be seeking assistance from vendors and members on this project.

Jeff Johnson reported that the future strategy for awarding scholarships will emphasize less scholarships, and awarding only the most deserving people. Mike Nelson of Dakotah Ridge will be working on the Scholarship Scramble with him.



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