

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

Big Business and Individuals CAN Make a Difference at TROE Center

By JACK MACKENZIE, CGCS

North Oaks Golf Club

Donations are coming out of the woodwork. Although not terribly fast or furious, the pace is gaining momentum. And excitement is in the air as the Turfgrass, Research, Outreach and Education (TROE) Center gains solid financial footing.

Now that the first shovel of soil has been turned, contributions are in demand to maintain the development of this first class scientific research center. Both private individuals and companies can jump on the wagon to contribute. One simple method of participation currently being promoted by Syngenta allows for the best of both opportunities.

Recently, Syngenta Turf and Ornamental launched the GreenPartners program for golf professionals. This program was formally known as Pro Rewards. Along with the new name, Syngenta has made other improvements in the program.

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association is now a member of the GreenPartners program as a preferred association member. Members of GreenPartners can donate their points in 1,000-point increments to the preferred association of their choice. The MGCSA of course! The association can then use these points for the same rewards available to golf course superintendents.

The points can be donated to the TROE center in the form of supplies, office equipment or even as prizes for future raffles. To donate points to the MGCSA, simply go on-line at www.greenpartnersonline.com. Once you enter your secure password and pin, go to the online catalogue. Under the category, "Merchandise", you will find a listing named "Donations". Simply look for our association name on the list, and donate the points. It is easy.

Syngenta and the MGCSA believe this is an excellent opportunity for you to give back to your profession and industry. If you are not a member of GreenPartners, simply go to www.greenpartnersonline.com to join on line.

A recent survey showed that only 45 percent of superintendents use the premium points made available to them through the purchase of products. For some clubs it is a "pay-o-la" rule. For other individuals it is just unawareness or apathy. If you fall into any of these categories, belly up to the bar and throw your points to the MGCSA and then onto the TROE Center. In fact, I will start the ball rolling and contribute 10,000 points from my club right now. I challenge you to match me! And talk about easy, once registered there is nothing else to do. No receipts to mail or documents to fax. Thank you Syngenta for making this program available to the MGCSA.

Another big contribution available from Syngenta is a

company "match" plan. Todd Loecke, our local representative from Syngenta, has promised the cash contribution of \$50 for each link pac of Banner sold until September 30th, 2002 up to \$3,000. Wow, that's a nice chunk of change.

Another national company getting into the donation frenzy is Simplot Partners. Chris Hoff recently discussed an early order plan that could generate a sizeable amount of cash for the TROE Center. This fall they will be carrying an Early Order Surfactant program for Brilliance, Rely II or Rewet. Superintendents will have the option to contribute up to \$5.00 per gallon to the TROE Center. And, customers will receive spring 2003 terms. What a deal, lower costs and a kick in for the TROE Center. Thanks Simplot.

And MTI and The Toro Company, not wanting to be left out of this huge opportunity to support the TROE Center, have committed to a "state of the art" irrigation system at the site. Holy Bananas! This is a great contribution, thank you thank you, Big Red!

(Continued on Page 9)

INTERLOCK

CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC.

TURFSTONE

*The Multi-purpose solution for erosion control.
Attractive in any setting, it's ideal for:*

GOLF COURSES PARKING LOTS
SERVICE LANES SPORTS FIELDS
BOAT LANDINGS PARKS

Available at:

HEDBERG

AGGREGATES

"Built on Service"

Plymouth Rosemount Stillwater
763-545-4400 651-423-5048 651-748-3158

Step Up to the Plate—

(Continued from Page 13)

On a more local level, Glen Rehbein Farms supports the advancement of turf management. Peter Felland, of Glen Rehbein Farms, has announced the donation of \$.02 for every square yard of sod purchased by MGCSA member golf courses. The more you purchase, the more funding the TROE Center receives. The sod includes both peat and mineral Kentucky bluegrass, Fescue/Bluegrass Mixes, Putter, L-93 and Penncross Bentgrass and Tuff Turf Erosion Blankets. RIGHT ON Glen Rehbein Farms. And remember, "green side up!"

Locally the MTGF has committed this year's funds to Dr. Horgan's start-up costs and partial funding for technician help at the TROE Center. This contribution was to the tune of \$7,500. *Muchas Gracias* Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation! And a special thanks to Greg Hubbard for his efforts as President.

And, Brian Horgan has announced the establishment of an endowment fund for the new TROE Center through the University of Minnesota. That is, any monies generated and directed toward the TROE Center will stay with the Center and not find its way to another department or sports team. Setting up this program took time and dedication. The MGCSA appreciates your efforts Brian. Keep it up.

As you can see there are opportunities galore for any and all sorts of vehicles to supplement the TROE Center. Whether it is points, matching dollars or in kind money generation, everyone has the chance to do his or her part in supporting our new turf science facility. So let's all step up

to the plate and make the TROE Center the envy of every university across the country.

We do not believe that these are our only options for supporting the TROE Center. We welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have that will make the TROE Center the best research center in the nation. Thank you all for your support.

Jon Powell Resigns From U of M

Dear Members of the MGCSA,

This is an exciting time with the development of the TROE center and addition of new turfgrass faculty at the University. We have made great strides over these last few years and I am sure the relationship between the MGCSA and the University will continue to develop. So it is with my deepest regret that I announce that I will be resigning as Turfgrass Pathologist at the University of Minnesota. My family and I will be returning to Michigan after August 9 to be closer to family and I will be pursuing other career goals. It has been a great pleasure working with you for the last four years and I appreciate the kindness and support you have offered during my tenure.

In my absence I would encourage you to submit turfgrass samples requiring diagnosis to the capable hands of Sandy Gould (612-625-1275) at the diagnostic clinic (Open 8:00 - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday - Friday in room 105 of Stakman Hall; \$25 fee; samples may be sent to 495 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108). -- Jon Powell

When you work in a 100-acre office, you'd better have a good desk chair.



Everything you've heard about Club Car vehicles is true. We give you the best engineering, the most durable construction, the most comfortable ride, and the most stylish design you'll find on any course. And our dependability is legendary. Plus, the kind of service and support that only we can deliver. So which vehicle is best for you? Club Car. By a long shot.



play to win

Minnesota Golf Cars
951 East 79th Street
Bloomington, MN 55420
1-888-310-2582

