

HOLE NOTES

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Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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From Your President's Desk



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
MGCSA President

UM Dep't. of Agriculture Makes Progress on New Turf Facility

The University of Minnesota Department of Agriculture continues to make progress on the new turf research facility. This 16 acre parcel of land located on the St. Paul campus will benefit our members and also members of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, members of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, the MGA and potentially the Minnesota PGA and CMA. From a governmental regulation standpoint the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Board of Water and Soil Resources will have vested interest in the research that will be conducted here also. Brian Horgan, Jon Powell, Carl Rosen and the Turfgrass Working Group have been instrumental in designing this center to be utilized for research by all groups associated with turf and landscape.

The "Go For The Green" program started last fall is ready to start constructing the first research green on the site. The green will be half USGA greens mix and half push up soil to replicate older greens. You will notice from the front cover plans of the research center that there are several areas on the site to conduct various types of research. Many of these areas will be used to support our allied associations and their members.

This is an exciting time to be associated with the planning and work being put into this project. It is also a realization that the University is looking for ways to cut programs and reduce funding. We are fortunate to receive this 16-acre tract of property for research. In order for this project to move forward though, funding will have to come from other places than the U of M. Associations such as ours, the MTGF and others mentioned earlier will have to make monetary contributions. I have been involved with the MGCSA Research Committee the previous three years and we have made a commitment to save funds to be used to help build this Center. The MGCSA will not build this by themselves but with the help of other associations, industry, endowments and matching funds we will get it built.

Dan Swenson is chairing the Historical Committee this year and, in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of our Association, will be working with Rick Traver, Editorial Committee Chair to put together an anniversary issue of *Hole Notes*. Pictures, historical items of interest, a timeline of the association and past advertisements will be included in this November issue. We are looking for old pictures, stories and earlier editions of *Hole Notes*, etc. that can be used in this commemorative issue. Contact Scott at the Association office if you have something to include in this edition.

I would like to congratulate Jeff Johnson on his promotion to Superintendent at The Minikahda Club. Unfortunately, though, he has decided to resign his position on the Board of the MGCSA. I have served with Jeff now for three years on the Board and watched as he led the Scholarship Committee. He has done a great job leading this committee and his presence on the Board will be missed. I have asked Jack MacKenzie to take over Jeff's term and he has accepted. Jack is currently on the Scholarship Committee and will move up to chair this committee. Our Association wishes Jeff the best and welcomes Jack onto the Board.

— Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
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