

# HOLE NOTES

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## From Your President's Desk



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS  
MGCSA President

## Research Committee Comes Up With Unique Fund Raising Idea

The MGCSA Research Committee at its April meeting at Rolling Green Country Club came up with a unique financing concept to help the TROE Center. The goal is to create an annual income stream that would supplement the costs of operating the Center. The Research Committee would like to get at least 100 golf course superintendents to sponsor a 'hole-in-one' event at their respective course one day each summer. Costs to enter the event would be ten dollars per player. Just a quick estimate of funds generated with 100 players per 100 courses would be a gross gain of \$100,000. The grand prize (for a hole-in-one) will be determined by the number of participants. Ten percent of the total monies contributed would be eligible to be given as the "hole-in-one" prize. This amount would be divided equally amongst those who get a hole in one during the event, after paying the entry fee, of course. Other draw prizes would be dependent upon contributions from the U of Minnesota fund raising group, donations from golf-related vendors and perhaps contributions from resort courses.

**The event would be held on the third week of June on what would be your golf course's busiest day.** Each volunteer course would choose a par 3 hole with a minimum length of 160 yards to be used as the event hole. For the whole day, the superintendent, assistant or both would station themselves at the hole to solicit participants. Informational brochures would be provided by the University of Minnesota to describe the attributes of the TROE Center and its relationship to golf courses. After contributing a tax deductible amount of \$10 to the MGCSA and filling out a prize form, the participant would have one shot to get a 'hole-in-one'. If they land upon the green, they would be supplied with a ball mark repair tool courtesy of the MGCSA to fix their ball mark. If they miss the green, they walk away with a better understanding of the relationship between research being conducted at the U of M and the MGCSA.

**The idea for this event came from Todd Locke from Syngenta** who proposed the idea after participating in a similar event in Las Vegas. Imagine the opportunity to visit one-on-one with your players, at least once in the season. What a great chance to promote your management practices and the new advancements in turfgrass science to be achieved at the TROE Center. These advancements would be totally applicable to Minnesota golf and golf courses.

**The annually generated funds would supplement the operational costs** associated with the day-to-day management of the TROE Center. Expenses such as the employment of a full-time turf manager capable of maintaining the 16-acre center as well as help conduct experiments would be funded by the 'Hole-In-One' event.

**Further information will be sent out soon to all of our members.** I would like to congratulate our Research Committee for its support of the TROE Center and thank you, our membership, for your consideration and enthusiasm as we continue to support Dr. Brian Horgan and the University of Minnesota.

--Rick Fredericksen, CGCS  
MGCSA President

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