



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

Happy Anniversary U of M TROE Center!!! Just ten years ago the MGCSA mantra was, “Build It and They Will Come”. We did build it and indeed after ten years a lot of research has been conducted at the renowned destination. Kudos MGCSA for accomplishing your goal!

You should notice a few retro pages in this issue of Hole Notes.

They are actually articles about the TORE Center meant to take you back in time and walk you through some of the victories, challenges, trials, research and developmental stages of the home for Minnesota Turf Science. These articles, cut and pasted from previous issues, will generate thoughts of where we have been and how far we have come as a destination for turf investigations. From mandated fertilizer studies to NTEP trials the TROE Center has provided the turf community a fine landing zone for grass studies. But what about golf course research?

Boldly, the MGCSA contributed money and resources to build several acres of prime playing ground for golf course turf scientists. In the early years the University was pleased to make use of a piece of property formerly set aside for cow cultivation. Dreams of giant expanses of fine cut turf, both fairway and green, came to reality. Partnering with the University, the MGCSA engaged in positive growth for all parties involved. But with squeezing budgets and changing politics the TROE Center was eventually left alone to survive through industry donations.

Dr. 's Horgan and Watkins have been masterful in claiming national grant money for industrial turf studies and modest golf industry funds to supplement those larger dollars. Unfortunately, not enough has been contributed to sustain any member driven research ideas. In other words, the good stuff, the material you can use today and for years to come.

To that end your Board of Directors and the recently reactivated Research Committee have resolved to inject new energy into Minnesota golf course turf research with the surge of sustainable funds and the creation of a system to refine ideas worth pursuing. Ideas generated by the membership of the MGCSA. Questions you want answers to today and research done in your back yard tomorrow. The plan includes research reports available in sections on line at the MGCSA.org website as well as three times annually generated regional reports from the staff at the University of Minnesota.

Possible? Absolutely, but the choice is yours. It will mean a dues increase, a final bump enough to generate a minimum of \$20,000 to be put toward member driven research annually. \$35 bucks in total per member at the end of three years...the cost of a dozen cheap golf balls, three boxes of premium shotgun shells, a nice polo shirt, a prime time movie with popcorn and milk duds, nine gallons of gas, two bottles of reasonable wine...you get the picture. Here is to wishing the TROE Center another several years of success. ***“Cheers!”***