



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Inside almost every edition of Hole Notes magazine you will find a Benefits of Membership flier. This isn't just filler, rather it hopefully and subtly encourages you to appreciate everything you have gained through investing less than \$11 each month into the MGCSA, your

Association.

Communication is of paramount importance and facilitated through the Hole Notes magazine, weekly The Stimpmeter newsletters, upon the website mgcsa.org and also job postings sent in the Career Connection. Each of these tools allow you access to a wealth of knowledge published regularly and at your finger tips.

But did you know there is also a library of relevant articles generated by members upon our website? Look under Resources then Research then Member Library. It is full of great material to share with your Green Committee or Owner when support information is required.

Ever grow tired of knocking your shin on that unused piece of equipment that is collecting dust in your Turf Management Center? Are those irrigation heads, replacement for the 'old' system you used to have, just taking up space on the shelves? Have you upgraded your rakes, benches and ball washers and need somebody to take the old, yet usable, units off your hands?

The Classifieds upon the MGCSA website is the place to go to solve all of these challenges. This automated system allows you to place, modify and pull your own ads for equipment, irrigation supplies and even miscellaneous dust collectors that somebody else is probably looking for.

The MGCSA provides advocacy at the state level through representation upon several state agency committees associated with the DNR, MPCA and Department of Agriculture. Your Association provides support for issues impacting your livelihood directly.

Representatives of the MGCSA along with other Allied Golf Associations were very instrumental in preventing an increase in water permit fees, saving most clubs from a ten-fold increase in fees for the next two years. Currently, the Environmental Stewardship Committee is working hard to develop a science based and logical water management, conservation and crisis program for potential implementation at all golf destinations in the state.

Another benefit of membership with the MGCSA is networking opportunities. Here are a few case studies I have been involved with in recent months:

MGCSA Member emails and needs help with chain saws and operators after straight-line winds nail his course and take down or damage two-dozen massive oak trees. An APB was sent to area clubs for help, which arrived in short order.

MGCSA Member emails his request to split a truck load of bluegrass sod to reduce costs for everyone involved. An email list of clubs in close proximity was sent and the Member pursued support on his own.

MGCSA Member has a hydraulic blow out upon one of his greens. The operator “drained the tank” and sod is necessary asap. The unfortunate Superintendent was connected with another Superintendent at a club that maintained a giant green sod nursery, information learned at a recent MGCSA meeting.

Former MGCSA Member is looking for an Assistant. He re-joins the Association and places ad upon the website.

Need one more reason to be comfortable investing \$10.84 each month into the MGCSA?

You get me! While not the best thing since sliced bread and certainly not as inventive as Al Gore, the creator of the internet but I promise I will do my best to help you whenever and wherever possible. Having been in your shoes, I am intimately aware of your challenges and can and often do provide solutions to help you do your job better. If I don't have the direct answer I should be able to help direct you to the remedy, or somebody better suited to help.

Something to ponder about associations: *In all societies, it is advisable to associate if possible with the highest; not that the highest are always the best, but because, if disgusted there, we can descend at any time; but if we begin with the lowest, to ascend is impossible.*

Charles Caleb Colton