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Official Publication  
of the  
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## From Your President's Desk



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS  
MGCSA President

## Here's How We Serve Our Membership

I have been a member of our local Superintendents' Association now for 23 years. For approximately half of that time I have been involved either as a committee member or serving on the Board. I am often asked, "What does our Association do for the membership?" This can be best answered by our mission statement: *"The objective of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association is to advance the art and science of Golf Course Management, to collect and disseminate among member Superintendents practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession."*

**We as a Board are committed to providing our membership with the education and training that is necessary to advance our members in this profession.** We support the educational facilities throughout our region to provide research, training and outreach programs for our member clubs. We serve the broader membership both locally and beyond the metropolitan area to enhance the quality of both the superintendent and the staff and also the club they work for. This mission can best be accomplished when individuals commit to the time necessary to be involved in the leadership of an association. We have a great group of individuals with a vision and confidence that will lead our Association for many years.

Approximately 12 years ago the Association asked the Affiliate membership to elect two of their members to serve on our Board as liaisons. The input they provide the Board helps us understand issues that the vendors of our Association have. Joe Churchill and Ted Schirck are our Affiliate Representatives to the Board. Please contact either of them if you have comments.

\* \* \* \*

**With the Governor's signature, the Phosphorus Bill will become a law effective January 1, 2004.** Paul Eckholm, Brian Horgan, Bob Fitz, Larry Vetter, and Doug Carnevale (MGA's Lobbyist) all helped facilitate this bill. The bill addresses the application of phosphorus in the seven-county metro area. Golf courses that apply fertilizer containing phosphorous throughout the state of Minnesota. The MGCSA has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee of five members that will help draft the certification course for licensing. Paul will chair this committee along with Brian Horgan.

\* \* \* \*

**Scott Wersal did a great job of hosting our May meeting.** His staff had the golf course in superb condition for the opening event. Thank you Scott for hosting us. We look forward to our Scholarship Scramble to be held on June 17 at the St. Cloud Country Club. Dan Hanson will be the host superintendent.

-- Rick Fredericksen, CGCS  
r\_fredericksen@msn.com

**HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly December/January, February/March for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617.**

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## 2002 MGCSA CALENDAR

Monday, June 17  
**SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE**  
 Host: Dan Hanson  
 St. Cloud Country Club  
 St. Cloud, Minnesota

Thursday, July 25  
**U of M FIELD DAY**  
 Host: Jon Powell  
 University of Minnesota Campus  
 St. Paul, Minnesota

Monday, August 26  
**MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 Host: Tom Kientzle, CGCS  
 The Legacy Course at Cragun's  
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Monday, September 23  
**STODOLA SCRAMBLE**  
 Host: Rick Fredericksen, CGCS  
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# The Future Starts Today

*TROE Center, Headquarters for Minnesota Turfgrass Professionals*

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club and  
Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota Turfgrass Extension Specialist

So what the heck does TROE really mean? No, it isn't a fancy Scottish term for a chili dip wedge. Nor is it Minnesota speak for advancing a ball. But rather, TROE stands for Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education. And TROE Center stands for the basis of an up and coming University of Minnesota program focused on the future of turf management.

Research will concentrate upon the environmental impacts of general turf management. This will include the evaluation of alternative materials for use as low input turf. These materials will be monitored to develop management strategies that will include mowing frequency, nutrient and water use efficiency and the cultural practices necessary to promote healthy turf.

A second objective of research is to completely understand the impacts of fertilizer and pesticide applications on general turf. This may include fertilizer and pesticide runoff and leaching potentials as effected by common cultural practices used by homeowners and turf managers. And the research may evaluate the impacts of natural and organic products and how they affect the management of a low input turf.

There are also numerous other environmental quality issues that need to be addressed for the professional turf manager. Research at the TROE Center may include the effect of sand-based root zones and the movement of nutrients and pesticides, pesticide resistance issues and genetically modified grasses. The effects of modern technology and its application to the use of nutrients and pesticides may be evaluated. And the advances in GIS and GPS mapping may be presented in a comprehensible format to better understand its application to golf course pest management.

The TROE Center will be the industries "new" research facility, one that is flexible, comprehensible and progressive. In addition to the evaluation of breeding materials developed at the University of Minnesota, National Turf Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials will be conducted at the research facility.

The NTEP trials are collaborative efforts that incorporate cultural aspects and pest (disease, insect etc...) management. The information generated from these studies serve

as groundwork for the generation of information to be distributed by extension programs.

Outreach efforts focused through the TROE Center will target specific audiences as well as be multifaceted in their educational design. That is, information and educational activities such as field days, research tours, workshops and field-based classes will be targeted to professional turf managers such as those associated with the MGCSA and the MTGF.

The TROE Center will serve as a convenient gathering place for educational programs conducted for legislature and other public decision-makers. This will allow them to become acquainted with the diversity of turf, turf management and the importance of research and continuing education.

Education of current and future industry leaders is of great importance at the TROE Center. The Center will provide an outdoor laboratory for undergraduate students studying turf and turf-related issues. This laboratory will enable faculty, graduate students and staff from across the University and within industry the opportunity to apply experiences related to design, construction and maintenance.

Students who attend the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Program will gain the skills needed to be exceptional professionals. Some will go on to the graduate program to further their education and opportunities. Graduate students will have the opportunity to conduct research to increase knowledge of production practices, cultural systems and the environmental impact of turf grasses and landscape management.

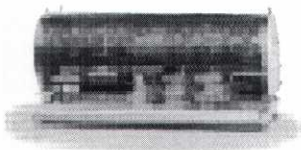
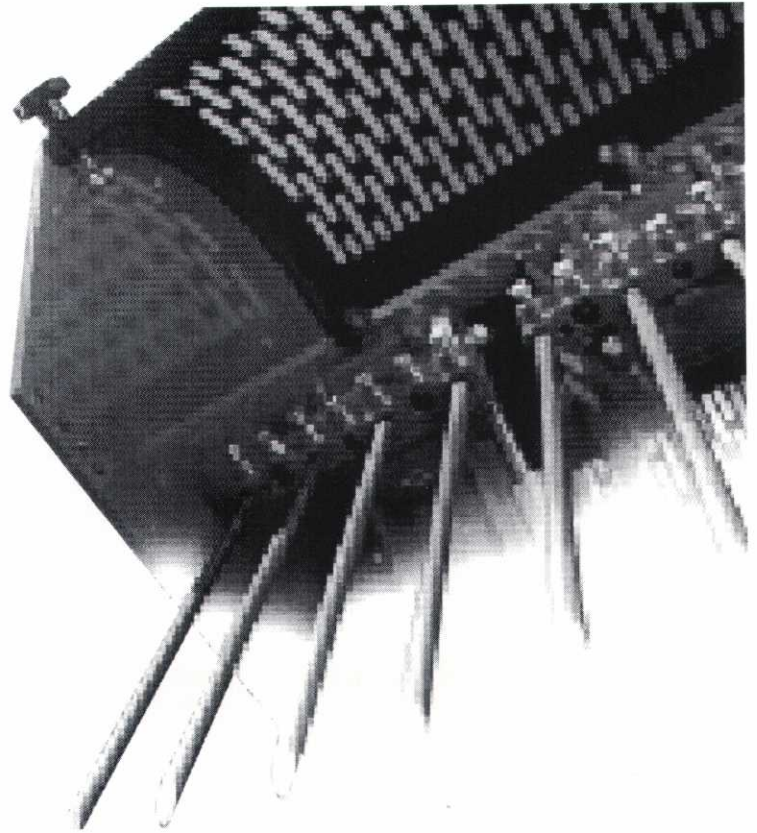
The breadth and depth of research and education needs related to professional turfgrass management, as well as those

related to general turf, continues to grow and expand. TROE Center will meet and surpass these demands by creating an environment for research, outreach and education that will benefit the industry for many generations of turf professionals.

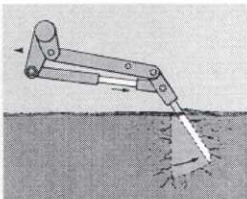
No, TROE Center isn't a catchy turf term, but odds are that it will become a name that defines the advancement of turf management at the University of Minnesota.

*"TROE Center isn't a catchy turf term, but odds are that it will become a name that defines the advancement of turf management at the University of Minnesota."*

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# The Lunar Golf Shot

By ALAN SHEPARD

*Previously published in The 19th Hole.  
A compilation of stories by Carol Mann*

Have you ever thought about hitting a driver 1500 yards or a six-iron 900 yards? Or watching a white ball against a black sky with a time flight of 25 to 30 seconds? What golfer ever dares dream of these things?

I thought about these things during Apollo 14 in 1971. You see, the moon has one-sixth gravity of the Earth. That means with the same club head speed, the ball will go six times as far and stay in the air (or this case the vacuum) six times as long!

Actually Bob Hope gave me the idea of playing golf on the moon, although he didn't know about it until months after the flight. He was visiting NASA one day- Deke Slayton and I were showing him around and he had an old driver that he was swinging as we walked around the campus. We hooked him up in a moon walker and as he was bouncing up and down on his toes, he used the driver for balance! That's when I said, only to myself, I had to find a way to hit a ball on the moon.

Perhaps people on earth watching me on television thought it was spontaneous or unauthorized, but it was well rehearsed and all approved before we launched.

I had planned to use a collapsible aluminum handle, which we normally used to scoop up dust samples, since we really couldn't bend over in a pressurized space suit. And then I had a golf pro design a club head to snap on the handle, replacing the small scoop. It was a number six iron since the handle was about as long as a normal six-iron shaft. I planned to take the club head and two ordinary golf balls in my suit pocket - at no expense to the taxpayers!

I practiced before the flight several times in the suit-training room to be sure I could swing safely. The pressurized suit is cumbersome and I wouldn't get both hands on the club; still I could make a golf swing with one hand. And, finally, I checked with the "boss" and told him my plan to hit two golf balls at the very end of the lunar stay, only if everything went perfectly well up to that point. He agreed.

Fortunately, although we had some problems earlier, everything went just right while we were on the surface. Consequently, just before climbing up the ladder to come home, I prepared to tee off! When I dropped the first ball, it took a bout three seconds to land, and bounced a couple of times on the dust. Then, I improved my lie of course (winter rules in February) and made my best slow motion one-handed half-swing. Making a full swing in a space suit

is impossible. I made good contact with the ball, which would have gone 30-40 yards on earth, went over 200 yards. The ball stayed up in the black sky for almost 30 seconds. I was so excited I swung harder on the second one, which I shanked about 40 yards into a nearby crater. I decided to call that a hole in one, even if the hole was several miles in diameter.

So I folded up the golf club and climbed up the ladder to take off. The two balls are still there and ready to be reclaimed and reused- after all, they were new. But the club resides in a place of honor at the U. S. Golf Association in Far Hills, New Jersey, where all who see it can imagine, as did I, what a 1,500 yard tee shot would be like!

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# MGCSA Turfgrass Research Benefit Week Raises \$15,395

*17 Metro Area Golf and Country Clubs Donated 50 Tee Times*

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association would like to thank the following clubs for participating in the 16th Annual MGCSA Turfgrass Research Benefit Week by donating tee times the week of June 3-7.

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- + Hillcrest Country Club of St. Paul
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- + North Oaks Golf Club
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- + Rolling Green Country Club
- + Stillwater Country Club
- + The Minikahda Club
- + Town & Country Club
- + Wayzata Country Club
- + White Bear Yacht Club
- + Woodhill Country Club

This event, held in June each year, is one of our major income sources for research. Your willingness to participate is greatly appreciated. This year's event has raised \$15,395 so far. The dollars generated by this and other research events are being dedicated to support an exciting new project at the University of Minnesota.

The Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education Center or TROE center will provide 16 acres of land at the St. Paul campus dedicated to research, undergraduate and graduate education related to turf and landscapes.

This center will increase the area dedicated to turf research by close to 300%. The MGCSA research committee and board of directors is very excited about this opportunity and has been and will continue to be directly involved with the development of this project.

The participating clubs can take great pride in participating in the development of this world class research and outreach center at the University of Minnesota.

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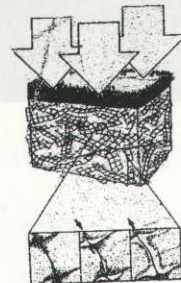
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# REDUCING OUR FEARS

## *Pesticides Are Medicines, Too*

If your child's school informed you that there was an incidence of head lice in the classroom and suggested that you treat your child's hair, you would probably go to the drug store, buy a shampoo containing insecticide and wash your child's hair. There would be no hesitation or second thoughts. You wouldn't consider whether you or your child should wear protective clothing. It's a medicine.

If you suffer from athlete's foot, a common treatment is to rub the affected area with a cream that contains micotin or miconizol, medicine known to relieve the symptoms. Again, few people would hesitate to use the ointment because it's known as a medicine.

To protect your family dog from fleas, you might put a special collar on the dog that will ward off fleas. While we may not think of the collar as a form of medicine, neither do we hesitate to play with the dog, nor do we have a serious concern about the effects of the collar on the dog's health.

Miticides, fungicides and insecticides are used to treat people or pets and are generally thought of as useful, beneficial and helpful. We call them medicines.

Why then, when a product with the same active ingredient is used to treat mites, diseases and insects on grass or trees do many people think of it as dangerous, health-threatening pesticides?

Are medicines good for us and pesticides bad for us?

That's the perception held by many people, yet according to Dr. J. M. Vargas, a professor of Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University for the past 25 years, the reality is that many "medicines" and "pesticides" use the identical chemical ingredients. He is concerned that the word "pesticide" attaches unfounded fears to products that are useful and beneficial to plants as "medicines" are to people. Dr. Vargas points out, "The drugs that we call medicines are really human pesticides. It doesn't matter if the bacterium or fungus is attacking a human or a plant; if you are going to control it, you have to use a chemical to kill the pathogen. Whether you call this chemical a medicine or a

pesticide, technically it doesn't matter, but it does as far as the public perception is concerned."

Some of his surprising examples of ingredients that are common to medicines and pesticides include the common use of a cream to control athlete's foot that contains micotin or myconazol, the same active ingredient that's used to control fungal disease in turfgrass. Lindane is the medicine used to control human body lice and it's the same ingredient used to control spider mites in plants. Another of Dr. Vargas' examples is the wide-spread use of dog collars containing carbaryl to control fleas, yet some pet owners have a fear of exposing their pet to a yard treated with the same chemical used to treat the lawn for insects. Pneumonia, strep throat and tuberculosis are controlled by antibiotics such as strptomyci and oxytetracycline, yet according to Dr. Vargas, while we put these products into our bodies through our digestive tract and veins, we would be required by law to wear a respirator and protective clothing to apply them to our yards!

While not always suggesting that pesticides are always safe, Dr. Vargas believes that some in the media have unnecessarily scared the public through a lack of understanding and accurate reporting.

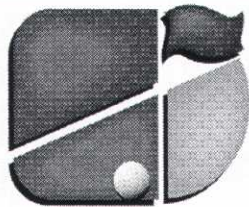
*(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the October 1996 Turfgrass Facts, the Turfgrass Resource Center.)*

## **Golf Participation Up 1% Sport Ranks Top-10 in U.S.**

The number of people who played golf more than once in 2001 increased 1 percent compared with participation numbers the previous year, according to an annual research report from the National Sporting Goods Association. The report, which tracks participation in 64 sports, recreation and fitness activities, ranked golf as the tenth most popular sporting activity with 24.3 million participants.

Although it declined more than 12 percent, exercise walking placed above swimming as America's most popular activity, with 71.2 million participants in 2001 vs. 81.3 million in 2000. Swimming drew 54.8 million participants, a 7 percent decrease from 58.8 million in 2000.

Completing the top-10 activities are camping (45.5 million); fishing (44.4 million); exercising with equipment (43 million); bowling (40.3 million); bicycle riding (39 million); billiards/pool (32.7 million); basketball (28.1 million); and golf.



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