

## *An Adventure in Life—*

*(Continued from Page 20)*

make up for their shortcomings by being eager to learn, always asking questions, and willing to work long hours to get the job done.

### *What has been the most difficult part of the job?*

Dealing with the weather has been probably the biggest challenge. In a four-month stretch from May through August, we received in excess of 30 inches of rainfall each month. Along with the rainfall, this period of time produces normal daytime highs in the upper 80s to low 90s, and relative humidity of 85% or more. These types of conditions affect everything, and make it imperative that you have good, sound management programs. Good, sound programs such as needle tine aerification, topdressing, nutrient management, pest control, disease management and scouting are essential. Under the right conditions, a green or greens can be lost in one afternoon. One has to draw on the proven basics and really understand the turf grass plant to be able to survive these extremely wet conditions and be able to provide good golf courses. Drainage, drainage and more drainage are essential.

### *What has been the most frustrating part of the job?*

By far the most frustrating aspect has been dealing with the construction of the jumps and course for the 2008 Olympics Equestrian Events, which will be held here. The 28 jumps were constructed during the period of February 1 through October 1. Many of the jump sites are in areas of play on the three golf courses. These jump sites are approximately one

*(Continued on Page 22)*

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## *An Adventure in Life—*

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acre in size. The existing turf and soil was excavated to a depth of 1.5 feet, and hauled off site. These areas had irrigation and drainage installed, and a new profile of 100% sand is installed, and then finally sodded with Zoysia. Many of the cart paths were used for construction haul roads, which quickly destroyed the paths. Damaging an irrigation line was quite common, usually a weekly occurrence. All the construction equipment, traffic, noise and dust made for difficult conditions for the golfer. Now the turf has all been replaced, looks very nice, and a new network of cart paths are in place. But at times a very frustrating experience. In the future, I will be writing about the Equestrian construction experience.

### *What has been the most rewarding part of the job?*

Successfully being able to make the transition from maintaining cool season grasses to warm season grasses along with dealing with all the weather elements and the related challenges has been highly rewarding to me. Secondly, having an

effect on the lives of many of the staff members, especially my assistants. It has been a joy to be an educator each day, and to see the gleam in the assistant's eyes when programs and methods provide tangible results and conditions they can see and experience.

### *Which is easier to maintain: cool season or warm season grasses?*

So far cool season grasses have been easier for me to maintain. Each type of turf offers unique weaknesses and strengths, pluses and minuses, good times and bad. With warm season turf, you are maintaining the turf 12 months. You must constantly be aware of maintenance programs, pest controls, dealing with the weather and maintaining playability 365 days of the year. The turf never really has a chance to take some time off for a little R & R.

### *How do Asian and British golf club members compare to American golf club members?*

Golfers appear to be the same worldwide. The demands, complaints, etc. are all the same. Bunker concerns, green speed, ball marks, divots, speed of play issues, etc. I guess are universal. It has

been my observation that the Asian golfer's ability is far inferior to the abilities of the American golfer. A handicap of 10 or less is a rarity. The Asians enjoy the game and have fun, but are not very good at playing or really understanding the game. It appears the biggest challenge and thrill is to see how far the golfer can hit the golf ball. Some golf swings are a sight to behold!

### *How have I adapted to eating Chinese food? Other foods?*

To begin with, I enjoy Chinese well. The Chinese food is much different than the Chinese food you will eat in America. The food here is more highly spiced and very flavorful; it gets your taste buds going. The Chinese tend to eat only fresh foods. The typical Chinese will shop daily at the local market for fresh food to prepare for the evening meal. The daily routine is to have a family member stop at the local fresh market to buy what they will prepare for the evening meal. The local super markets have a very limited supply of any type of frozen foods. They will stock a few frozen foods for Westerners. The local markets have a tremendous amount of fresh food, and at very

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## *An Adventure in Life—*

*(Continued from Page 22)*

expensive prices. A major part of the Chinese daily life is to eat out. The villages have an abundance of small eating establishments with all different types of Chinese and Indian food available at very cheap prices. A family of four can eat out for less than \$12 U.S. total. The one neat Chinese custom that when dining out, separate dishes for each individual are not ordered. Someone within the group or family will order a number of different dishes or courses. In the center of a table is what Americans commonly call a Lazy Susan, a small, round glass table that revolves. The food is brought out in different courses, and placed on the round table. The table is slowly turned and each member of the group take some food and places it on their plate or bowl. Depending on the size of the family or group, you may have 6 to 12 different courses or foods to dine on. I have found this to be very enjoyable and fun. The Chinese seldom have refreshment at the bar before dining. Many of the eating establishments do not even serve alcohol. Various types of tea are the beverages of choice.

*Does Hong Kong feel really strange  
and "foreign" to you?*

Hong Kong the city and Hong Kong Island are very westernized. Hong Kong is one of the major shipping ports in the world. Hong Kong has a large financial center. This Westernization has created a city that is extremely diverse. Every type of nationality is represented in Hong Kong, thus every type of food is available. Western fast food is extremely popular with the Chinese. McDonalds, Pizza Hut, KFC and Krispy Kreme are very popular. A recent article in the South China Daily News newspaper brought to light that the Chinese youth are becoming overweight and experiencing health problems due to their fascination with fast food. One will seldom see a McDonalds that is not packed and people waiting in line to get in the front doors.

*Has language been a problem?*

Language has not been a real problem. In Hong Kong and on the island of Hong Kong, English is widely spoken and understood. In the New Territories or rural Hong Kong where our golf courses are located and I live, the area is made up of many small villages. Within these villages English is not as widely spoken, but the majority of the population has an understanding or does speak some English. Also, over time, I have begun to pick up words or phrases of Cantonese. If I need to go somewhere or do something that is too difficult to communicate, one of my Assistants who is fluent in English will write the destination or request on a card for me, then I just hand over the card to accomplish the task. So far no one has considered playing the obvious practical joke that would be possible in this situation. Thankfully, as I have mentioned before, the Chinese tend to not have much of a sense of humor and are very serious in nature.

*To date, have you regretted your  
decision to go to Hong Kong?*

Though Hong Kong is much different than the good old USA, I have not regretted the decision at all. So far it has been a great experience, and I look forward to the professional and personal growth that I am sure is ahead of me, along with the challenges and adventures that will accompany that growth.

# A Dramatic Concept, A Bold Opportunity

By James Bade and Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

## The Concept

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to call a local turf pathologist for a quick visit should an unidentifiable disease rear its ugly head upon your course? Or maybe send samples of dead grass to a local lab to diagnose a disease? How about going to a local destination with your Green Committee, staff or owners to see research being conducted upon a fully operational golf course? Perhaps you would like to see a lecture hosting "your" turf pathologist presenting information generated at "your" Association's research center.

This idea really isn't too far-fetched considering the needs of our state Association. Today there isn't any local pathological service available. Time sensitive samples must be sent away for examination. Plus it would be nice to know if the cultures were actually grown out for positive identification. Many of the highly regarded consulting services are just too cost prohibitive to acquire at a moment's notice.

## The Answer

Locate and negotiate the management of an existing local golf course with the goal of creating a living science station dedicated to further research, education and outreach which would include a turf pathologist and destination to conduct the research. A possibility? You bet!

Over the last decade our Association has made leaps and bounds in turf science and self promotion through its relationship with the University of Minnesota with cash and in kind contributions used to develop the TROE Center Research Facility. Our Chapter of the GCSAA has truly done its part to create a long-range plan to make the University a destination for the implementation of applied turf studies. Kudos on a job well done!

Changes in the direction of the priorities at the University of Minnesota, and across the country, have generated uncertainties in applied disciplines like turf-grass science. This isn't to say that the TROE Center will cease to exist but rather new options must be created to further turf research in our state.

The MGCSA Board has been seeking

other avenues of research and promotion for our industry. During the past three years we have investigated alternatives including affiliations with other regional superintendent associations and the potential of a self-supporting center for research not unlike the Chicago Golf House, which was visited by Rob Panuska, Dr. Brian Horgan and Tom Ryan of the MGA the spring of 2005.

*"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." - Shirley Chrisolm*

Several weeks ago an opportunity came to our attention. The City of Forest Lake was interested in a management change at its city-owned golf course; their intent to improve conditions and eliminate financial support from the city as well as suppress the unhappy golfers whom frequented the course. Your Board of Directors visited the course, discussed options with the City of Forest Lake and reviewed the long-term potential of using the facility as a tool to generate money, create a "living research center" and hire a Turf Pathologist. At the time the only catch was a symbiotic partnership with two local businessmen, their name being on the city contract and our interests as a concept until further review of the idea could occur.

Throughout the process we have had contact with both Dr. Horgan and Dr. Watkins from the University of Minnesota to discuss potential conflicts and benefits. They embraced the idea wholeheartedly. The TROE Center would continue to conduct small plot-controlled experiments. Results from the TROE Center and other large scale experiments would use the Research Center Golf Club for further development. Other opportunities abound through the creation of a curriculum of study on real life applications ranging from NTEP trials to chemistry research and stress tolerant studies. Environmental impact as well as water management investigations could also be conducted.

In an effort to solicit input from various groups of the Association affiliates, the BOD invited representatives from the equipment sector to the first of several planned meetings. Through discussion it

was confirmed that the idea of creating a destination Research Center Golf Club complete with a Turf Pathologist had strong backing. However, due to the nature of the "partnership" with a private entity, the attendees at the meeting felt a misperception could ensue as to where the profit of the course was going. Support for that particular destination would be very limited due to the potential of misperception of sponsorship.

The meeting concluded with the following suggestions:

1) Make sure management is solely the

MGCSA

2) Continue discussions with other affiliate sectors, allied associations and "green" industry to generate a strong consensus and financial backing for the creation of a foundation dedicated to further research, education and outreach which would include a turf pathologist and destination to conduct the research.

3) Keep on track with the development of this progressive concept.

To that end the MGCSA broke off negotiations with TruRing, the Forest Lake businessmen who were working with us. While everyone was disappointed by the outcome, we welcome them as members into the MGCSA.

## Where to from here?

At the current time your Board is continuing a series of meetings with the other affiliate sectors including irrigation, soft-goods, services and design. In particular, key upon the tech reps of the chemical companies to get a solid handle on their needs for a research center and potential commitment in paid research. We need to have parameters for their research to be applied with confidence.

Your BOD is also preparing to contact the Minnesota Allied Golf Associations such as the CMAA, MPGA, MWGA and MPGMA for their input. The MGA will also be pursued for ideas as they are the backbone of the allied associations. By selling the program as a benefit for associations, the plant pathologist and RCGC should be very comprehensible and gain support.

*(Continued on Page 30)*



## Musing the Minutes

By **MATT MCKINNON**  
MGCSA Secretary

The MGCSA Board of Directors met October 9 at Oakdale Golf Club.

**Paul Eckholm, CGCS**, brought up the discussion of raising the dues \$5.00 for 2007 and the need to have small annual increases. Eckholm made a motion to increase dues by \$5 for all members for 2007 - motion passed.

**President James Bade** reported that Dr. Donald White was inducted into the Minnesota Section of the PGA of America's Hall of Fame in honor of a lifetime dedication to the turf industry. James said there was a great attendance from Superintendents.

**Kevin Clunis, CGCS**, will attend and report on the

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, Kans.

**Dr. Brian Horgan** reported that interviews for the Dean's position have finished. There are three candidates for the position. Two are from out state and one internal. Also the department will be going through a review from the Federal government in December.

**The biggest topic of the meeting was Castlewood Golf Course** in Forest Lake. This could possibly become a research center for the MGCSA. Bade mentioned we need to gauge interest to move on and pursue this possibility. This opportunity could turn out to be great for the MGCSA.

## Nematodes-

(Continued from Page 15)

**8. Plant nematode populations develop slowly** since an average female nematode will lay only 30 to perhaps 500 eggs in her lifetime. And if that average plant nematode needs about 30 days (more in a cool summer, less in a hot one) to develop from an egg to an egg-laying adult, then there will probably be no more than four or five generations/year in a Minnesota golf green.

**9. We will be surprised if Global Warming** does not have the potential for increasing the pathological significance of plant nematodes in Minnesota. The activity levels of those organisms will increase and the length of their life cycles will decrease as golf green soils become warmer than they were just six or 10 years ago. Even though it is unlikely that some of the more "infamous" nematodes that inhabit Florida's greens will ever find their way up here, maybe some of our more pathogenic indigenous nematodes like the lance, lesion and root-knot, *Hoplolaimus*, *Pratylenchus*, and *Meloidogyne* spp. respectively, will become more significant and prevalent than they are now.

**10. And now, in 2006, what might be happening nematologically in greens** that don't have any problems caused by or attributable to the activities of plant nematodes? As superintendents are learning more about plant nematodes in their own golf courses, we think that we are hearing those superintendents at least wondering out loud about plant growth problems that for so long having been caused by other things and asking "Maybe its nematodes?"

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# Have You Flossed Your Trees Lately?

By JIM WALSH

Consulting Arborist, Vineland Tree & Landscaping Care

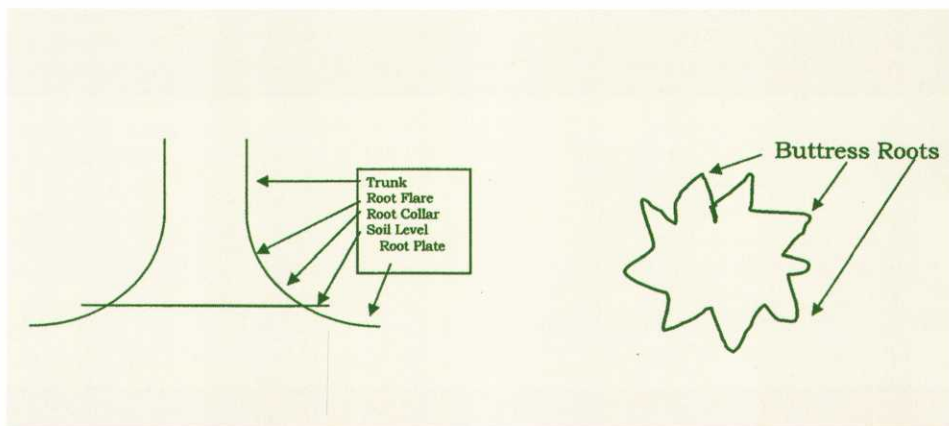
As a youth, my sweet tooth led me to many hours in the dentist chair. Dentist visits always started out well with the beautiful hygienist cleaning my teeth but invariably ended up poorly with drilling, filling and sanding cavities; these practices have the opposite of the desired effect on trees – they actually encourage decay.

Yet, we can still apply lessons learned from good dental hygiene to tree care. We floss our teeth to keep the spaces between them clean and keep the gums from advancing down the tooth creating places for decay to start. I propose flossing trees to establish and maintain a healthy relationship between the root flare and the soil level. Healthy, long living trees have many favorable attributes; chief among them is a pronounced root flare.

A flossed tree has an exposed root flare

which tells us much about a tree's potential. Each root buttress on the root flare is

large chunk of uprooted system is the root plate.



the beginning of a primary root. A greater number of primary roots equals a greater potential root system and tree. Decay at the root collar and potential tree failure is easily detected if the root flare is exposed.

Like teeth never brushed and covered with plaque, trees with no exposed root flare raise many questions. It's no secret tree trunks grow above ground, tree roots grow underground. The root collar is the dividing point. The root collar holds the root plate together. The root plate is the primary system anchoring the tree to the ground. Think of the last time you saw a tree and its root system completely uprooted by a storm. That

Stem girdling roots grow against soil covered tree trunks, compressing the vascular system, and ultimately reducing the tree's life span. (Ummm, I guess that would make them like braces left on too long?) As the trunk expands, the roots close in on the trunk, forming a tourniquet which slowly strangles the tree to death. When these trees fail, they break off at the base like a ball and socket joint, leaving the root collar in the ground. A root flare even with the soil level is less likely to develop this problem.

A few ways root collar problems get started are: Mulch and soil piled high on the root flare and trunk tissue; tree planted with soil on top of the root flare, and trees planted too deep, with the root collar below the soil surface level.

## How do we fix these problems?

+ **Plant properly**, with the root collar at or above the soil surface level.

+ **Mulch** with the intention of keeping the root collar exposed.

+ **Floss**: remove excess soil and mulch from the root collar. Keep flossing!


\* \* \* \*

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1 lb. of N per 1,000 = 290 lbs/acre = 2.0 particles per sq in.


The matrix shown below demonstrates a dramatic increase in particle coverage (PPSI) by using smaller particle products versus increasing the rate (lbs.) of a larger particle product.

POLYMER SIZE	Particles Per Square Inch Matrix 20-3-20 Fertilizer with 65% Nutratone					
	SGN 125	SGN 150	SGN 175	SGN 215	SGN 240	SGN 300
100	3.8	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
125	4.9	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.4
150	5.9	3.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4
175	6.9	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.5
200	7.9	4.6	2.9	1.6	1.1	0.6
225	8.9	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6
250	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.8	1.4	0.7
300	11.8	6.8	4.5	2.3	1.7	0.9

Avg. SGN (gms) = 1.8


The illustration below shows the effect of using a non-uniform fertilizer product. Note the severe skewing and banding of different nutrients.

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All smiles at the Awards and Recognition Banquet at Rush Creek Golf Club on December 5, from the left, Mike Brual, Greenhaven Golf Club, Al Starke and Fred Taylor, CGCS, Mankato Golf Club, and Butch Greeninger, MTI Distributing Co.



Representing Versatile Vehicles at the banquet are Kurt Ruehling, left, and Ron Manske. Kurt is rehabilitating after shoulder surgery.



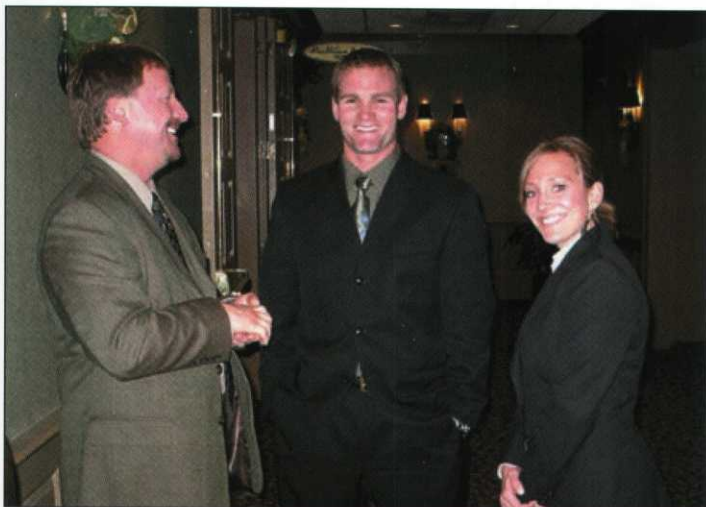
Rob Adams, Superintendent at The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course, right, received the 2006 Watson Award from Hole Notes editor Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club, during the MGCSA Awards and Recognition Banquet at Rush Creek Golf Club on December 5. Rob received the award for his series of letters published in Hole Notes over the past year during his tour of duty in Iraq.

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*Superintendents Tom Proshek, left, Brackett's Crossing CC and Ben Just, Midland Hills Country Club with Ben's wife Jessica.*



*Beth Whitehouse, DowAgroSciences, enjoyed the evening at the Awards & Recognition Banquet at Rush Creek GC.*



*Orland Maenke, left, recently retired from Olympic Hills Country Club and recipient of a 40-year Service Award from the MGCSA, chatted with Golden Valley Country Club Superintendent Jeff Ische and his wife Jennifer.*

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## *In Bounds: Forgiveness*

By JOHN "JACK" MACKENZIE, CGCS  
North Oaks Golf Club

Christmas! What a festive time of year with smells and sounds which evoke fond memories of yesteryear. Glimpses of the past brought ahead in time through the cutting of a fresh tree to décor the living room, a light blanket of snow upon the ground and a flutter of the heart once the mistletoe is hung. Such is the Holiday time of year.

Fifteen years ago I received a different kind of gift, one that left me breathless, mystified and trembling with emotions unspent. Fifteen years ago my wife announced a separation from me after seven years of marriage. But please, no woes for me my friends, for my personal tragedy afforded me the opportunity to mature and learn and grow.

The new year of 1992 brought bitterness and anger, sadness and rage. Interesting how a broken heart can peel away layers of kindness and display hatred; pure and unadulterated, to the bone, frosty enough to chill an individual through a long and hot summer. Hatred, my new found companion rode my shoulder and helped me vent my frustrations with a vengeance I was unaware I had inside of me.

**Clearly now, I look back upon those times and lament the energy I used** in reconciling the phantom issues that lead to my divorce. I can remember how the quagmire of misery clung to my sole like the stench of rotten eggs, to be shared with everyone whom I had contact with. I bitched and moaned, pissed and ranted about the injustice, the humiliation, the defeat to anyone who would listen. Those individuals grew fewer as time went by.

**My salvation came Christmas of 1994.** A gift was placed under the tree from one of my few remaining friends. Adorned in gold and silver paper with a green velvet bow, I knew it was a book just by feeling its identifiable shape. Great, I thought, probably another guide to unraveling the secrecy of my golf game. But no, I opened a treasure that would soon change my life.

*A Return To Love*, by Marianne Williamson, revealed knowledge I had

long locked away and a key to opening my heart to a healthy perspective of how my life could be. Her commentary and

*"Acknowledging and apologizing for acts, both intentional and unintended, can free wasted energy spent on anxiety and worry."*

thought provoking wisdom stirred my mind and caused me to reflect upon me; who I was, how I acted and the manner in which I lived. Her conversation with me, as I found it to be quite personal, solicited a new direction in my life.

The premise of the book is based upon giving yourself to love. And the greatest gift I took from the account was practicing the art of forgiveness. Perhaps you may be skeptical about the power of forgiveness. I know that for two years in the early 90s I sure was.

Williamson's work inspired me to develop the courage to meet with my former wife and ask her forgiveness for my part in our marital dissolution and forgive her for her actions. Not unlike being "saved" at the Jesus People Church in 1976, my heart soared with emotions I had hidden in the center of my chest. I was free again. The lead chains that weighed me down and were drowning me in the languid depths of self-pity melted and I rose once again to life. Beautiful and wondrous life.

**It is amazing what the act of asking forgiveness can do for a person.**

Acknowledging and apologizing for acts, both intentional and unintended, can free wasted energy spent on anxiety and worry. And accepting forgiveness can liberate those requesting it. In fact, I believe it compounds the emotional release.

To bring my heart relief, I have since tried to practice forgiveness whenever it was necessary. Even the act of asking forgiveness from those whom I cannot physically talk with brings me solace. And finally forgiving myself for sometimes

doing idiotic things, thinking dumb thoughts or saying something stupid allows me to move forward with comfort.

Peace, reassurance and harmony. The great equalizer is forgiveness.

Christmas is a happy occasion for me. Introspections upon my life's journey cause me to smile and be very thankful for my capacity to forgive. Since 1995 the revelations of forgiveness have provided my former wife and me the ability to raise our children as thoughtful parents. We communicate on a sincere level and share the good parent/bad parent skills sometimes necessary in disciplining our children. We attend school functions together and celebrate holidays as a family. We have the capacity to hug and laugh and share.

**This Holiday Season I wish each and every one of you a quiet moment** to reflect upon

your life. Within yourself, celebrate your accomplishments and take pride in your good deeds. Review your "not so polished moments" and consider righting any wrong. And perhaps as you take a personal inventory, there may be an opportunity for you also to share the greatest gift of all, forgiveness.

## *Letter to the Membership-*

*(Continued from Page 24)*

Furthermore, we plan to keep in close contact with the MTGF and University of Minnesota. There are big changes happening at both of these entities. MTGF is working hard at "branding" themselves and promoting the turf and grounds industry through the wide spread presentation of an in-depth Economic Impact Statement. And the University of Minnesota has just signed on a new Dean of Agriculture. It is imperative that these two organizations be in the scope of this project.

Finally, the BOD is committed to keep the membership informed about its intent to continue moving forward with a very progressive idea.

Who knows, someday you may have a pathologist just one phone call away. Maybe you will come up with a new idea and may want to try it out on the RCGC. Or perhaps you will be bringing your Green Committee or course owner out to the RCGC to demo a variety of sands and review bunker liner options. The possibilities are endless. Together we can achieve them.