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Are You Feeling Lucky?

By NATE USELDING
The Bridges Golf Club



I was in a job interview where one of the questions asked was, do you consider yourself lucky? It was a question that really caught me off guard because I didn't prepare for it. What do you say? When I think of being lucky, my initial thoughts are of winning the lottery or a new car. But when I think about it for a second longer, I think of everything else that I'm lucky to have or accomplished like my health, wife, family, house and life in general. Is it all luck, destiny or plain old hard work? Call it what you like, in the end, everything has a way of working itself out. Ten months ago, my life got turned upside down and my wife and I embarked on a new challenge where we needed a little luck.

While I was at the national conference in Atlanta last February, my wife was back home going through grueling interviews for a promotion within her company. She spent the last few months preparing herself for two days of interviews. It was a

good thing I was away, so she could focus and concentrate on the task at hand without any distractions. I received a call from her the night after the interviews with the results and she passed! Holy cow, we are about to embark on a life-changing journey.

What does this mean? With her new position, we would most likely be relocated to an area, which we elected to be anywhere in Minnesota and Wisconsin. We had to be open to relocation because the more you limit yourself, the less likely you will be chosen for a new position. We opened up our relocation to be within driving distance from our families. The next question was, when will this promotion take place and they told her it could take place anywhere from one month to a year and without much notice. Now it was time for the waiting game.

Eric Peterson, my boss for the past four years at Dellwood Hills, and I had a very open relationship, so when I received the

phone call with the good news, Eric was actually in the room with me. I got off the phone and he was equally

excited for my wife and I as I was. Knowing he was going to lose his assistant at anytime, he still put forth the effort to help develop me within this career. I kept him updated throughout the whole process, and we played out several scenarios to prepare us both for what could happen. Of course, the biggest question was how long would I be able to stay with the company after we found out where we would be going. It all depended on how far away we were moving but for sure I would stay through the summer and aerification. Eric has done a lot for me and I wasn't going to leave him in the heat of the season.

(Continued on Page 23)

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Are You Feeling Lucky?

(Continued from Page 22)

Throughout the next six months of waiting, my wife and I played out multiple scenarios from big to small cities and far away to close to home. One thing was for certain, there was no inclination of where we could go or when and that was hard on us. In one sense, it was exciting with moving, getting a new job and buying a new home and in the other it was scary thinking of what may happen. We had no real answers for anyone, including ourselves, of where the next step would be. We felt like we couldn't plan anything and it was difficult for us knowing our lives can be flipped upside down at any moment. But, we continued to live our lives as if nothing was going to happen. Then, August 15th we got the word we were moving to Winona, Minnesota. Whoa, there were a lot of decisions to make and my wife had to report one week later.

Preparing for the move required me to take care of everything here in the Cities while my wife was in Winona. There are realtors, appraisers, inspectors, movers

and open houses to attend to while looking for a new home in our new city. It was very overwhelming because we were on a timeline; we needed to sell our house as soon as possible in order for me to move to Winona. Looking back, everything went very smoothly and we were very fortunate to sell our house right away to someone who wanted to move in immediately. The whole moving process was stressful on us and going through it alone in our respective places made it much more difficult. Decisions we usually make together had to be made over the phone with a little phone tag.

As we tied up some loose ends to sell and move, I had to start looking for a new job. Winona is a very small market and I was concerned about finding a position in a city with three golf courses. I thought to myself, what if I don't find a job? What else could I do? My first goal was to stay in the field and work hourly till the end of the season. Maybe there would be some assistant positions opening in the off-season to apply for. I had to start networking. I knew a couple of superintendents in the southeastern part of the state but who else could help me? I turned to Eric for some help and advice because he knows more

people than I do and he put me in contact with many more superintendents in the area. This really got the ball rolling and after speaking with them, I had some options to weigh out. I looked at all of them and asked myself, what would the best opportunity be for me? The Bridges Golf Club, formerly known as Winona Country Club, needed help and needed it fast. I set up a formal interview with the Superintendent, Jamie Plomedahl, to talk about my situation. To my luck, the club was going through big changes and with it, they were looking to create an assistant position for the 2007 season. I couldn't believe my ears. Everything worked out for the best and here I am today with a job, within my field, doing what I love.

Now, do I think I am lucky? You bet I do, but it only comes with hard work and determination. I never would be in the position I am in today if I took things for granted and hoped it all landed in my lap. I went out and fought for what I wanted just like I have done my whole life. I may not be lucky enough to win the lottery but right now, my wife and I feel like we already have.

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MGCSA Annual Membership Business Meeting Minutes

*Thursday, January 4, 2007
Minneapolis Convention Center*

- Board Roll call:** President James Bade, Vice-President Rick Traver CGCS, Treasurer Paul Eckholm CGCS, Secretary Matt McKinnon, Ex-Officio Rob Panuska, Jack MacKenzie CGCS, Paul Diegnau CGCS, Jeff Hartman, Dan Brown, Tom Proshek, Scottie Hines CGCS, Eric Peters, Tom Meier, Jeff Vinkemeier
- Members at Large:** 122
- Call to Order:** President James Bade called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- Necrology Report:** James read the necrology report and a moment of silence was observed for the members deceased in 2006 Life members Fred Anderson and Harold Davis; Superintendents Blass Brual, John Fuller, Dale Evans, and Assistant Superintendent Dennis McKenna.
- Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve 2006 Annual meeting minutes by MacKenzie, CGCS, 2nd Eckholm, CGCS approved.
- President's Report:** President Bade read the President's Report to the membership as written in the Annual Membership meeting report.
- Treasurer's Report:** Eckholm, CGCS, read the Treasurer's Report as written in the Annual report. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Eckholm, CGCS, 2nd Traver, CGCS, approved. Motion to raise dues \$5.00 for all classes Eckholm, CGCS, 2nd Traver, CGCS, approved.
- New Business:** President Bade reported on the Research Center Golf Course. The Association is not going through with partnership of the course. It was a good exercise for the Board. If the opportunity comes up again we will be more prepared.
- Honorary Members:** Motion to add Bev Durgan and Ron Golembiewski to the Honorary Members list by Traver, CGCS, Panuska 2nd, approved. Eckholm, CGCS, made an amendment to the motion to add Irv Fish, USGA to the list as well. Eckholm, Panuska 2nd, approved. Eckholm also made a motion to remove Alex Ellram from the list, Panuska 2nd, approved.
- Bylaws:** President Bade made the motion to accept the 2007 proposed bylaw change. Meier, Hines, CGCS, 2nd, approved.
- Elections:** Ex-Officio Panuska called for election officials Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Jerry Murphy, CGCS, and Greg Hubbard, CGCS to come forward as he presented candidates for office: For Secretary McKinnon. Motion to close floor for nominations, Panuska, Eckholm, CGCS 2nd, approved. Motion to accept by unanimous consent, Eckholm, CGCS Panuska, approved. For Directors - Diegnau, CGCS, Mike Knodel, Mackenzie, CGCS and Proshek. Motion to close nominations Eckholm, CGCS, Panuska 2nd, approved. Motion to accept candidates for Directors by unanimous consent Traver, CGCS, Panuska 2nd, approved. President Bade reported the Industrial Relations Committee meeting was earlier that day. Hartman was re-elected for the Industrial Relations representative.
- Booth Challenge:** 10 winners were awarded prizes totaling \$1,000.00.
- Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn. Bade, Jim Nicol, CGCS, 2nd, approved.

Insight *One Superintendent's Perspective*

By RANDY WITT, CGCS, Hong Kong Country Club



Course and statistics

Hong Kong Country Club has three courses: The Eden Course, a Par 70 measuring 6,060 yds with a slope of 124; the Par 71 Old Course, which stands at 6,231 yards and slopes at 118, and the New Course New Course, a Par 70, 6,531 yard layout with a 116 slope. They are all located in the New Territories of Hong Kong.

Years in the business and short vocational biography:

I have been in the turf business for 30 years. I was fortunate to start my career as Superintendent at Reedsburg CC in 1974. During my tenure there the golf course was expanded from nine holes to 18 holes with the majority of the construction performed in house. Continuing my career I have served as Superintendent at Janesville CC, Oneida Golf and Country Club, The Bull @ Pinehurst Farms, and currently The Hong Kong Golf Club.

Why and/or how did you enter the turf management industry?

As a young kid growing up, I played a lot of golf during summer vacation. This led to a job at the age of 14 on the golf course grounds crews at Maple Grove Golf Club in Lacrosse, WI. My first year's work experience consisted of hand-raking bunkers and becoming an expert rotary push mower tech. I entered the job market with hopes of becoming a millionaire, but unfortunately that has yet to occur.

Who was your professional mentor?

I worked at a couple of different courses early in my career, but was thrust into a Superintendent's position at a very young age so most of my experience was a product of my own professional trial and error. As I look back at my career, no one individual stands out as a mentor. In retrospect, the people who influenced me the most at a young age were Dr. Duich, Dr. Watschke and Dr. Waddington at Penn State University.

What has been the highest point in your career?

My first Superintendent's position which got me started on my career path at

a very young age. The beginning had to occur for all else to eventually happen. Every day is a good day; some are just better than others.

What has been your lowest point?

At the time, being non-renewed at Oneida G&CC. But as many times in life where lemons turn into lemonade, this event actually was to be a very fortunate happening for me.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

My current position and location, agronomical challenges are the greatest due to the tremendous effect that weather has on our courses. We go from winter conditions of 30s and 40s at night with day temperatures of 60s and 70s to summer temps of 90s during the days with nighttime lows in the 80s with rainfall exceeding 30 inches per month. These vast extremes keep you constantly on your toes and aware of what may be happening or could be happening both positively and negatively to the turf grass and ultimately the golf courses.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course and how do you?

Leaf spot is the most prevalent disease, but not too difficult to manage with good cultural programs and a good pesticide program. Weather is the biggest factor in causing the disease problem.

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

Staff is relatively easy to acquire. Training is very critical, as staff members have no concept of the Game of Golf until they begin work here.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

Yes, Rambo. A black lab.

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

In 10 years I see our industry decreasing in size. I personally believe that United States golf, as a whole, will decrease in the number of existing courses when compared to the number of courses today. The ever-increasing cost for the golfer will effectively cause the number of

golfers to decrease steadily.

On the other

hand, I see continued growth in certain foreign markets such as Asia. Currently, Asia is experiencing a large increase in the number of golfers and golf courses. A new middle class is developing within the population with the economic ability to play the game of golf. With budgets continuing to be stressed, I see a decrease in the ability to stress the turf grass with lowering heights of cuts, wall to wall manicuring, etc. New turf grasses will continue to be developed with the ability to be more disease – and pest – resistant.

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

Owning a small business in Northern Wisconsin.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

Due in large part to being a great distance away, both in Wisconsin and now Hong Kong, I have been unable to participate in association functions, boards, etc. Unfortunately, I have been unable to participate in the inner workings of the association. From a distance, I view the association as being very progressive and active for the membership. I have always believed that the state association primary function should be to serve its members. At times I've felt that the GCSAA as a whole has lost sight of serving the membership.

Name your foursome, who would you play with and why.

Arnold Palmer: For me, the one person who has moved the game of golf forward more than any other person. I believe it would be incredible to be able to listen to Mr. Palmer's observations on a multitude of golf-related topics and life itself.

Lee Trevino: To keep the golf round light, lively and humorous. To listen to the perspective and views of two great golfers on today's game of golf and life in general.

Dr. Henry Kissinger: A career politician who has no doubt some wonderful insights, views, and experiences to relate about the world past, present and future. ...and myself.

The Truth about Exercise

By PHIL CAMPBELL, M.S., M.A., FACHE
Author Ready, Set, GO! Synergy Fitness

A new study published on the National Institutes of Health Web site pulls together a body of previous studies and makes it clear that middle-age and older adults should be doing anaerobic exercise – high-intensity wind sprints rather than, or in addition to standard, long, slow cardio like walking.

Anaerobic sprinting types of exercise – running, cycling, swimming, cross country skiing – are shown by medical researchers to make the body produce significant amounts of anti-aging, growth hormone.

It's no secret that several well-known entertainers take growth hormone (GH) injections for its bodyfat cutting, muscle toning, youth rejuvenating properties, but there can be serious side effects from GH injections.

Unquestionably "natural"

Natural is always best. And producing growth hormone from high-intensity exercise is unquestionably "natural."

Growth hormone injections are given to children with clinical stature growth problems to help them grow normally. Growth hormone does not make adults grow taller. For middle-aged adults, GH can reverse several measurable clinical factors of the middle-age bulge – officially named "the somatopause" by researchers.

The middle-aged somatopause is signified by energy decline, weight gain (around the middle and hips), loss of muscle and wrinkled skin after age 30.

Researchers report "aging is often associated with a progressive decrease in the volume and, especially, the intensity of exercise." A growing body of evidence suggests that higher intensity exercise is effective in eliciting beneficial health, well-being and training outcomes. In a great many cases, the impact of some of the deleterious effects of aging could be reduced if exercise focused on promoting exercise-produced growth hormone."

("The exercise-induced growth hormone response in athletes," Godfrey, Sports Med. 2003;33(8):599-613.2003)

Can you handle the truth about fitness? Here's the truth.

Being overweight causes cancer. The

researchers aren't talking just about obesity, they mean obesity and being "overweight."

Being overweight, which is far less than obesity, now accounts for 14 to 20% of deaths by cancer, report researchers in a major new study. ("Overweight, obesity and mortality from cancer in a prospectively studied cohort of US adults," 2003, Calle).

This wasn't a small, out-of-context study conducted over a few months. Over 900,000 adults were studied for 16 years. Researchers estimate that more than 90,000 cancer deaths each year could be avoided if every American maintained a healthy weight.

"We estimate that current patterns of overweight and obesity in the U.S. could account for 14 percent of all deaths from cancer in men and 20 percent of those in women."

The study also shows that the risk of dying from cancer – caused from being overweight – is 52% greater than men of normal weight. And it's 62% higher for women, and all the more reason to start and maintain a lifestyle that makes fitness training a priority.

Is low-intensity exercise enough?

Long and slow forms of cardio - like walking are great ways to begin for someone who is inactive. But don't be misled. The research is clear. This form of exercise doesn't compare to the benefits of anaerobic exercise. We're talking about the difference between kindergarten and college.

Low-intensity exercise is absolutely necessary as a starting point, but it needs to be the starting point and a stepping stone that leads to moderate-intensity exercise, which in turn, needs to be a stepping stone for high-intensity anaerobic exercise.

Low-intensity does not prevent death from heart disease

For years, the gold standard for exercise was 30 minutes of activity a day. And walking for 30 minutes a day was said to be adequate enough to delay heart disease

and premature death. Not true, report researchers.

A new study of 2,000 men over 10 years destroys the low-intensity, walking standard. Researchers show that low-intensity does nothing to prevent death from heart disease.

Nearly 2,000 men, ages 45 to 59, were tracked for 10 years. Initially, none of the men had any evidence of heart disease. Exercise was performed and measured by three levels of intensity: low, moderate and high.

Low-intensity included walking and bowling. Golf and dancing qualified as moderate-intensity. Running and swimming were placed in the high-intensity category.

Of the 252 deaths that occurred during the 10-year study, 75% were linked to heart disease and stroke. And cancer accounted for 25%.

Conclusion: Walking 30 minutes five times a week is not enough to prevent early death from heart disease. Moderate-intensity also failed to reduce premature deaths.

Only the highest levels of exercise intensity lowered death rates.

Solution: add anaerobic exercise...wisely

Be wise. Don't read this and go run a 200-meter sprint full speed. Pulling a hamstring or killing yourself to improve fitness misses the point.

Anaerobic exercise is the most productive form of exercise, and it should be a part of every fitness routine. However, anaerobic exercise is also the most dangerous form of exercise. Physician clearance is a must.

A progressive build-up program – from low, to moderate, to high-intensity – is necessary. The progressive build-up will help prevent injury, and it will condition and develop the body so you can receive all the benefits from increasing exercise-induced growth hormone.

Have a great day!

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Musing the Minutes

MGCSA Board of Directors Meeting December 1, 2006, University of Minnesota

By SCOTT TURTINEN
MGCSA Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the University of Minnesota.

Roll Call: Tom Proshek, Scott Turtinen, Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, Dan Brown, Jeff Hartman, Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Jeff Vinkemeier, Rick Traver, CGCS, Brian Horgan, James Bade.

Previous Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Paul Eckholm reported that the Board is working on the 2007 Budget, trying to get the budget to match the actual financial numbers better. Dues are a little down from budget.

Bruce Williams sent a thank you for our donation to his foundation.

Lebanon sent a \$250 donation from its potash seminar. Aaron Johnson won the GCSAA National scholarship award. It is the highest award given to an undergraduate in the nation.

President James Bade thanked the board for its participation this year and also the extra hours spent on the Castlewood project.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen distributed sponsorship funds and donations to

the Research, Scholarship accounts. The Banquet will have \$3,400 from sponsorships and the spring and fall meetings will get \$2,720. Research gets \$9,100 including member donations and Scholarship gets \$2,400.

Hole Notes is going well. The next issue will contain the last part of the Nematode series. We always need member contributions, always. Bade asked about a tear-out calendar section.

Affiliate sponsorship for the National Hospitality Night is up to \$5,500.

Legislative Committee Chair Eckholm continuously looks at 29 different committees for any bills pertaining to the golf industry.

A motion to approve new members and re-classifications passed.

Don White and Brad Pedersen were honored at the MTGF booth at the Green Expo in January as a way of saying thank you for their years of service.

Retreads for Research is underway. The concept is getting golf balls found at your course and selling them at the Green Expo and the Minnesota Golf Show. People donating to the Research fund will receive 12 used golf balls.

The Research Committee met on November 30 at the University. Topics discussed were the Castlewood project, 2006 update, Goals for 2007. Eckholm mentioned we should send TruRing a bill for the work that was done. This would give TruRing a value of our work. Bade said we did this to bide time until we knew if we could get involved. Decision made not to send a bill. Discussion took place on the phosphorus study. The whole study costs \$120,000. Motion to give the phosphorus

study passed. The U of M Field Day had 100 attendees this year. More promotion will take place on the MGCSA's part at the 2007 Field Day to be scheduled in mid-September.

The U of M Turf Club will have two-teams in Anaheim.

Castlewood experience taught us a lot. Concept is good and people like it. The MGCSA will try to keep this moving forward. Affiliate meeting was good and should get other allied associations involved, along with the MGA. Horgan said the goal is to promote golf, research and education that would include a Turf Pathologist. Discussion took place on continuing with the concept of a research center golf course. We should create a proposal to give to the associations. We should have additional meetings with the soft goods suppliers like we did with the equipment vendors. Hartman stated that the end user benefits the most. Tell the individuals why this will help them. Homeowners would benefit so why not have them contribute?. The end user should learn why they need this. They will benefit the most, so they should help pay. How do we educate the people of this concept so they will help contribute? Promote the reason why we need research.



163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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Scholarship Applications Available at MGCSA Office

The MGCSA Scholarship Fund, originated in 1987, began accepting applications for the upcoming scholarship year in January 2007. The MGCSA also offers Legacy scholarships. The Joseph S. Garske Legacy Award, originated in 1996, and the MGCSA Legacy Award, originated in 1998.

Applications can be obtained by calling the MGCSA office at 952/473-2582 or by e-mailing scott@mgcsa.org

The MGCSA scholarship is an annual grant awarded to candidates who are interested in golf course management as a career, have high scholastic capabilities and have superior performance as an employee of a golf course. Students meeting the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- 1) Candidate must be a resident of Minnesota or have been employed by a Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association member Superintendent the season prior to applying for a Scholarship.
- 2) Candidate must (a) be currently enrolled in his or her first year in a two-year turfgrass technical program or (b) currently enrolled in the second or third year of a four-year program with major emphasis in turf management.
- 3) Fill out the application form completely and return with transcripts by March 1, 2007. Also include two current head and shoulder photos.
- 4) Have both Advisor and Superintendent return their reports postmarked by March 1, 2007.

The MGCSA Scholarship Chair is Scottie Hines who can be reached at 763-479-6524.

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Andersons 25-3-9 + 2% Fe (150 SGN)



1 lb. of N per 1,000 = 175 lbs/acre = 3.7 particles per sq. in.

Local Competitor 15-5-10 (215 SGN)



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.

PPSISQ INCH	Particles Per Square Inch Matrix 20-3-20 Fertilizer with 65% Nutratone						
	SGN 125	SGN 150	SGN 175	SGN 215	SGN 246	SGN 300	
100	3.9	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	4.5	2.9	1.5	1.1	0.6	
225	8.8	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6	
250	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.9	1.4	0.7	
300	11.8	6.8	4.3	2.3	1.7	0.9	
	Avg. SGN (gms) = 1.1						

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

Uniform Particle Distribution
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In Bounds: By The Numbers

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

Numbers and I are not very good pals. In fact you could say that mathematics are my stumbling blocks. Through high school I dodged any course above geometry. And college algebra devastated my first semester freshman year gpa with a D, solid. This, after blowing the final question, "Make up your own algebraic question." I left it blank. Recently however, I have been reacquainted with digits and their relationship with our association.

Proceed cautiously; the following facts may amaze you, as they did me.

On April 5, 1928, the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association was organized. The Preamble from the 1928 Constitution and Bylaws stated it quite clearly: "Realizing the necessity of a permanent organization in this northwest district, following a meeting of Greenkeepers at Minikahda Club last summer, it was decided to organize such an organization and a date set for such a meeting, whereupon Mr. James A. Hunter, lessee of The Country Club, offered the use of his club for the meeting and also arranged a dinner for the occasion. There were 17 Greenkeepers present out of a total of 26 clubs in the Twin Cities district."

The charter members and their clubs were: Chas Erickson, Minikahda Club, Leo Feser, Woodhill CC, Erich Pahl, Interlachen CC, F.G. Anderson, Town & Country, Victor Larson, Minneapolis GC, M.P.Schiefner, Somerset CC, Mike Sanko, Golden Valley GC, M.F. Byrne, Meadowbrook Municipal Course, John Pearson, Armour Municipal Course, Carl Erickson, Glenwood Municipal Course, Emil Anderson, Columbia Municipal Course, E.H. Picha, Midland Hills GC, John Streed, Hilltop GC, Gustaf Olson, Minikahda Club, Leonard Bloomquist, The Country Club, Arthur Anderson, University Golf Club, J.E. Benson, Northwood Country Club.

Annual dues in 1928 were \$3.00 per year for regular and junior members.

Over the last 80 years the MGCSA has blossomed into an organization of almost 900 members. Just short of amazing. The 2007 dues structure of \$105 dollars reflects the ever expanding charge placed upon the membership. According to today's MGCSA bylaws, "The objective of the

Association shall be 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."

In a nutshell, the MGCSA has met and continues to meet its objectives annually. Since January of 1996 the MGCSA has contributed over a quarter of a million dollars to research in our state and across the country. And since 1987 the MGCSA has contributed over \$84,000 in scholarships. That's a lot of coin from an organization with an annual operating budget of just over \$250,000.

Research Funding

TROE Center - \$162,376.06
U of MN Donations - \$21,289.69
U of MN Study - \$3,200.00
USGA Donations - \$14,000
Winter Cover Study Powell - \$10,000
Fairway Foundation - \$4,000
GCSAA Donations - \$35,000
Musser Foundation - \$3,000
O.J. Noer Foundation - \$5,000

Scholarships

Turf Scholarships - \$69,000 (1987-2006)
Garske Scholarship - \$30,500 (paid by Par Aide 1996-2006)
MGCSA Legacy - \$15,000 (1998-2006)

But ours is not just a golf-related industry. The MGCSA also participates in a larger organization called the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation. The Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation (MTGF) was formed as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation in 1993. It is a partnership of eight turf and grounds related associations and the University of Minnesota. These associations, referred to as "Allied Associations," are: Minnesota Association of Cemeteries (MAC), Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association (MGCSA), The Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors (MASMS), The Minnesota

Turf Association (MTA), Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA), Minnesota Society of Arboriculture (MSA), The Minnesota Turf Seed Council, Inc. (MTSC), and the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA).

The MTGF's mission "is to promote the green industries in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere." In pursuit of that mission, the MTGF partners with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) to annually sponsor the Minnesota Green Expo in January. The MTGF also sponsors educational workshops each year as well as the annual Turf & Grounds Field Day held on the St. Paul campus. These events are sponsored as a service to our members as well as being vehicles to raise funds for the pursuit of their mission. The MTGF has contributed approximately \$351,272 through 2006 and has authorized an additional \$92,290 for 2007, the vast majority of which has been allocated to various requests received from within the University of Minnesota.

Much of this funding goes to direct support of the TROE Center as well as general turfgrass research applicable to sports field, park and playground and golf course management. Broad studies into nutrient fate, water use and sustainable turf varieties are important to each of the allied associations and everyone benefits from the contributions from the MTGF.

And finally, not only do you belong to the MGCSA and the MTGF, but you also are one of 54,000 individuals who work in the turf and grounds industries of Minnesota and impact the state's economy to the tune of 10.4 BILLION dollars. That's right, a recent Economic Impact Study conducted by the MTGF indicates that our combined efforts with our allied associations stimulate the Minnesota economy hugely. And this study doesn't even take into account the entertainment value of golf.

Take a break, grab some coffee and reflect upon the importance of turf in our state's commerce. Just look at the numbers and appreciate how fantastic our industry really is. Even a simple add and subtract guy such as I can realize the significance of the MGCSA and the MTGF. United, we are a big, big, big.

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(Editor's note. Thanks to Scott Turtinen, ED of the MGCSA and Larry Vetter, ED of the MTGF, for helping with the data provided.)