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***MNLA/MTGF***

***December 5th***

***MGCSA Annual Awards Banquet***

***Medina Golf and Country Club***

***Erin McManus Host Superintendent***

***January 8th-10th***

***Northern Green Expo***

***Minneapolis Convention Center***



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***Get 'Er Done E. Paul!!! In kind support build a destination for turf research, the TROE Center. Now the call is out for a dues increase to support member generated research. Read about the Board proposal on pages 32 - 37***



*The University of Minnesota TROE Center celebrates its 10th Anniversary with this issue. Throughout this edition of Hole Notes follow the center through challenges, victories and finally the creation of a solid destination for turf grass research. The future looks bright for MGCSA member driven research!!!*



**Dale Ledstrom shares a humble and heart felt "Thank You" at the Wee One Event. Read his article on pages 17-19**

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# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Wow, mid-October already! Seems odd to have this much play, be using this much irrigation water and having this much staff on at this time of the year? The weather forecast FINALLY has some rain in it. I will believe it when I see it. I obviously have not been in Minnesota my entire life but it has been a very long time since I have seen conditions this dry. A nice four-day soaker would be great right about now.

The Wee One fund raiser was held at North Oaks last week. What a great day and a great cause! We raised over \$14,000 for our recipient, Dale Ledstrom of Tim's Tree Service, this year. Dale was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and is now awaiting a bone marrow transplant from his brother. The Wee One is a foundation set up to donate funds to members of the golf industry during times of financial hardship due to emergency or life threatening health events. Simply, this is "us" taking care of "us". If you have been a supporter, please continue. If you have not been a supporter, please consider it. I certainly hope to never have to tap this fund but I will find a way to support it as I follow my career path in this industry. From all of us, best wishes for a complete recovery Dale!

The Fall Mixer was held at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club yesterday. Another great day! I even goaded Jack MacKenzie to tote a gun along and do some extra shooting after the event. Not a bad shooter, I might add. Congratulations to Jon Glader winner of the 2012 MGCSA Gun Raffle. He takes home a very nice Weatherby 12 gauge, O/U shotgun. Erin Mc Manus was High Gun only dropping 4 targets! Well done. Not a bad day for Jon, Erin or anyone who shot!

The call for GCSAA Committee Volunteers has gone out. The deadline to sign up is October 24. You can sign up for up to five committees. There are many to choose from. Things like expertise in a given field, prior local chapter leadership and local chapter committee work will be considered when GCSAA makes its committee appointments. This is a great way to give back to our national association, expand your industry network, learn and forge new relationships. I sit on the Government Relations Committee and I can't begin to explain what a great experience it has been. I will be honest, I was a little intimidated at first but the GCSAA staff and the other committee members made me feel very welcome and very comfortable. Most of the committee work has been done via conference call or e-mail. The time commitment is minimal. Please consider volunteering for a committee, with GCSAA or MGCSA.

Speaking of the GCSAA GR Committee, our latest endeavor has been creating the GCSAA Priority Issues Agenda. These are the issues the Committee recommends to GCSAA for focused attention by staff and the appropriate committees. On the list to be considered for 2013 are: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Fertilizers, Labor and Immigration, Pesticides, The Value of Golf and Water Management. I am sure you will be hearing more from GCSAA or me on these issues in the near future.

Kevin Clunis, CGCS recently attended the Chapter Delegates meeting at GCSAA HQ. He will be giving us a re-cap of the meetings at our next board meeting. Thanks Kevin for taking the time and effort to act as the MGCSA Delegate.

It has been a long summer and as we wind into fall and shorter days take advantage and get a few of those things done you have had on the back burner since early summer. It is almost time to relax, even if only for a little while....



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# 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!”***



# World Renown Facility Breaks Ground

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

**Vision:** The University of Minnesota will be recognized for its leadership in environmentally sound and responsible turfgrass systems. An aggressive statement? Perhaps. But the quest of a determined group of turf scientists to become leaders in the industry will not be stopped. Through dedication, promotion and implementation, the University of Minnesota is in the process of developing a program worthy of national and international acknowledgement.

During a period of time when the U of M has been rocked by sports scandals and an almost across the board budget reduction, one specialized group in the university system stands alone, unscathed and even growing. The Turfgrass Working Group, comprised of faculty from the departments of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Soil, Water and Climate and Horticultural Sciences, has made an incredible move forward in the progression of turfgrass science. This diversified collection of departments recently acquired the space necessary to move ahead with the development of a new turfgrass facility on the St. Paul campus.

Up until the early part of April, the University's only

Education (TROE) Center. Four programmatic research themes, (1) alternative plant materials, (2) general production, (3) pest management and (4) environmental quality, were created to help define the importance of the TROE Center.

After a broad description had been created, the Turfgrass Working Group identified specific needs:

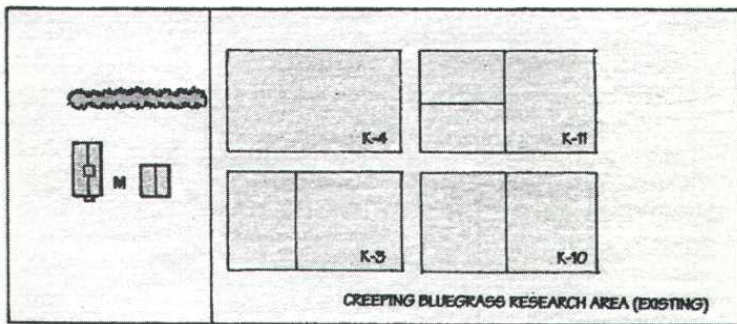
- + 5.9 acres to be used for short term (< 2 years)
- + 6.4 acres to be used for medium to long term (2-5 years)

Outreach programming and undergraduate and graduate education

+ 2.2 acres for the undergraduate outdoor laboratory which will include a shade research area

+ 1.5 acres of land would provide infrastructure such as parking, buildings and wash areas

*(Continued on Page 7)*



dedicated turfgrass research facility was located on 4.5 acres of the St. Paul campus. While very nice to have, this area was barely large enough to adequately support a limited research program. For the past few years the site has been dedicated to a creeping bluegrass breeding program. Additional space was needed to create the program envisioned by the Turfgrass Working Group.

A diligent search located 16 acres of terrain off Cleveland Avenue and near the existing research facility. In order to procure the property, a plan had to be developed which provided a framework for the creation, occupancy and construction of the new Turfgrass Research, Outreach and

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# TROE Center-

(Continued from Page 5)

Once compiled, the information was condensed into a 27-page report and presented to the Dean and Associate Deans of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences. The presentation did not just focus on the TROE Center, it described a process to attract new undergraduate and graduate students, develop innovative outdoor applied laboratories, further develop outreach and extension activities, and intimately involve the turfgrass industry. And approve they did, embracing the idea and dedicating over 16 acres of University property to the TROE Center project.

idea and dedicating over 16 acres of University property to the TROE Center project.

Timing is everything. Already, because of the Drive For The "U" Program, industry leaders, individual members of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, and members of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation have contributed in-kind donations of over \$115,000. This program, the catalyst for the TROE center, began two years ago with a prophetic vision of the development of a first class research facility dedicated to turf related studies.

And even timelier, phosphorous pollution concerns have prompted political action. During the most recent Legislative session, both the house and senate have reviewed bills designed to reduce the potential for phosphorous pollution perceived to be contributed to by the application of fertilizer upon turfed surfaces. As part of the

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- K-4. GENERAL RESEARCH
- K-10. LITTLE BLUESTEM
- K-11. CREEPING BLUEGRASS / GREEN / TEE
- M. STORAGE BUILDINGS

proposed law, the golf course industry will be required to develop and monitor a fertilizer application program and create a location for the development of a phosphorous run off research program.

What an exciting time for the University of Minnesota, the MGCSA and homeowners in the state. The results of dedicated individuals have created a facility sure to educate private individuals and the industry alike. Soon the University of Minnesota will be renowned for its prestigious Turf Program and research projects implemented at the TROE Center.

Watch for upcoming articles relating to specific research projects and funding information.

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