

magazine has also progressed style-wise and will continue to evolve.

The MGCSA event schedule has evolved, and will continue to evolve. There is a commitment by the board and the event committee to add new and different events while strengthening the already popular ones. Attendance has been up at a majority of the events this year over last year, and hopefully this will continue to rise.

Jack MacKenzie has demonstrated an amazing amount of enthusiasm and commitment at the executive director position, the likes of which have never been seen before. Lack of ideas and ambition will never be attached to his name. This commitment will pay off not only in your up-front dealings with the MGCSA, but there is a lot of behind the scenes things Jack is doing that will help you in the future without you even realizing it. Things like being involved in government affairs, being present and advocating the association with other associations, and generally being on top of matters concerning the association, that were not conducted in the past.

I really think this is the tip of the iceberg. There are some pretty progressive individuals on the MGCSA board, and within the MGCSA membership. There will be many ideas both large and small that will help the MGCSA evolve into a bigger and better association. Some will work well, some might not, but at least there is an impetus and desire to progress.

The latest big idea will be presented to the association at the annual MGCSA meeting in a few months. The idea is to directly fund research that we want and need at the T.R.O.E center at the University of Minnesota. While not a new concept,

(other turfgrass associations have similar support mechanisms to local universities), it is potentially a bold new step for the MGCSA. It is an opportunity to say yes, we care about turfgrass research and we want to do something about it. It will be a direct benefit to every member of the MGCSA and their facilities, and could lead to much bigger and better things in the future. What it takes is a commitment to funding.

All the great ideas in the world start with an idea, and the need to be funded. Currently, the MGCSA annual dues are \$115 per member. If you look around the country, or even the world, you will notice that that figure is rather low in comparison. The New England chapter is at \$150. Carolinas are at \$165. Ontario chimes in at a nice round \$173. Our neighbors to the east are at \$150. Iowa is at \$100, but why would we want to be like Iowa? (Just kidding, of course, many of my former assistants were from Iowa.) The point I am trying to make is that this idea is solid, progressive and puts the MGCSA in line with the rest of the country.

It takes many things to forge progress. It takes time, effort, work, planning, money, and many other things I am sure I am omitting, but mostly it takes commitment. I see a great deal of commitment from the leaders of the MGCSA to further and better the association. If you, the members of the association, have not noticed it yet, check it out. The leaders are leading, they just need the association members to commit to joining in if they have not already.