



*Season's Greetings
and
Best Wishes for a
Happy New Year
from
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Upcoming Events

January 8

Beer and Pretzel Social

5:00 Until 6:30

The Seasons

Minneapolis Convention Center

January 9

MGCSA Annual Meeting

Minneapolis Convention Center

Host President Scottie Hines CGCS

January 20th

Shop Tours

**Brookview Golf Club, The Minikahda Club
and Interlachen CC**

**Hosts Greg Spencer, Jeff Johnson and
Matt Rostal**

February 5th

The National

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Orlando, Florida

March 10th

10,000 Duck Campaign

Assistant's Spring Break

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Host Roger Stewart, CGCS

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JANUARY 8TH, 2014
THE SEASONS
AT THE NORTHERN GREEN EXPO**

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Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President for, arguably, the best group of superintendents, assistants and affiliates in the country. The past two years have been more fun, stress and work than I could have expected. Looking back, I am not sure where two years have gone? I do, however, subscribe to old adage: “Time flies when you are having fun!” So I will move forward knowing that the last two years have been fun!

We, the MGCSA, have made significant changes during my tenure as President. We made a change by hiring a true Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. We have made changes internally with the committee structure. We initiated the Environmental Stewardship Committee to spear head the completion and implementation of BMP’s in respect to water quality, water quantity, nutrient fate and pesticide fate. We have engaged our allied associations; MGA, Minnesota Section of the PGA,

Minnesota Chapter CMAA and the Mid-West GCOA to partner with us in our regulatory efforts. Our relationships with state agencies: DNR, PCA, BWSR, Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota have never been stronger. We have positioned ourselves as educated turf professionals with these associations and state agencies. I feel strongly that this will pay us big dividends as we partner with these people to self-regulate.

I know you have heard it in the past from me, but I would like to stress how important it is to give back to our great industry. Volunteering at the committee level, attending educational offerings, supporting research, sitting on the Board of Directors are just a few of the ways to accomplish this. It is important to understand that it is up to us to carry our torch, tell our story and advocate for what we see as beneficial to ourselves and our profession. No one else will do this for us. Take the time, get involved. It is well worth it at the end of the day.

Speaking of involvement, I would

like to call out our Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. Everyone knows Jack is passionate, outgoing and a great advocate for us. Do you know all the ways Jack does this? Probably not.

Jack sits on or is involved with the following groups on behalf of us, the MGCSA: The Stormwater Taskforce, The Turfgrass Working Group, The Pesticide Management Plan Committee, MN Dept. of Ag. Applicators Category E SMEG, MN Dept. of Ag. Bee Pollinator Stakeholder Group, the Anoka Community College Advisory Committee and the NGE Strategic Planning Committee. He has been to Capitol Hill to represent us in the egregiously large water fee increase hearing. I know I am missing more than one thing from this list but I think it is important to understand what our ED does for us beyond managing the Association. Thank you Jack.

As I take a step back from almost 10 years of serving on the Board of Directors, I know the MGCSA is in great hands with the leadership at the helm. I would like to thank those who served before me and those on the Board now for your contributions in

shaping our profession and livelihood. I would like to thank my staff, Todd Kranz, Justin Ellison, Jon Dailing and Bret Foster. Leaving the course for meetings and other functions was much easier and less stressful knowing I left it in your capable hands and watchful eyes.

Support of ownership and upper management is important as well in making the commitment to serve on boards and other committees. I would like to thank David Meyer, Bob Lamp and General Manager, Jim Kidd for their support and understanding in my endeavors to give back.

Then there is my family: my wife Kristin, son Leighton, daughter Olivia and mother-in-law, Jojo. Knowing I have the support at home makes everything I do that much more fun. I love you all very much.

Finally, thanks to you. You elected me President when I wasn't even employed. That gesture alone meant a lot to me. I will never forget it. At the end of the day, I hope in your eyes I have served this association well. I have certainly enjoyed every minute of it.



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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

A project, a personal challenge with many future returns.

Too long in the waiting, I had been putting off the task as I didn't know how difficult the trial would be. Into it by two months now, I don't understand my hesitancy; the rewards are beginning to show themselves.

Abused and neglected the once beautiful shell sat for too long in the elements, her vibrant red was now a sun scalded, weathered raw and undeterminable hue. Thwart-less and sprung, wooden ribs carefully set in 1972 were free to push outward causing a warped gunwale and off-centered appearance. Stored along a city lake during a summer of discontent, the craft was marred with engraved "KKKs", deep gouges through her veneer, cracked skeleton from a severe attack of boulders and hand woven cane seats decomposed and collapsed. My project had the potential to be a real money pit.

Dropped off years ago, the 15-foot Old Town wooden canoe was a gift from my brother who had originally picked the new watercraft up in Maine with my father. "Now that you live by a lake, you will use it more than me Jack," he said which was actually code for, *I don't have any space to store this ugly boat anymore and you do!*

Under my deck, decrepit, it sat in stasis collecting dirt, spider webs and leaves as I waited to do something-anything with it. As a superintendent I didn't have time to give the restoration justice and last year I was consumed with a new vocation. Such was my reasoning.

With no more excuses, eight weeks ago I racked it on top of the car, grabbed my father and adventured to North West Canoe for a bit of education. A grumpy passenger, my Dad was angry over the shape of this once valuable "woody". He was frustrated with my bro and disappointed his 85 years of age would deny him the opportunity to really help on the project. With one look at the canoe, Dennis sent us off to Urban