

## Benefits of Membership in the MGCSA

**MGCSA.org:** The MGCSA provides its membership an electronic destination. The site offers a broad range of services including latest news, meeting information, important links, local association contacts and meeting schedules, as well as a market place for used equipment or student internships. Links are provided to the Affiliate Members who advertise on the web site.

**Education:** The MGCSA provides a range of high quality discounted professional education with more than 100 hours of relevant classes at the Northern Green Expo in January each year, supplemented by an extensive program at the Mega Seminar, as well as the annual MGA Spring Turf Forum.

**Research:** The MGCSA coordinates with researchers at the University of Minnesota's TROE Center to make sure you get the information you need. The association also directs Turfgrass Research Benefit Week, the annual sale of donated tee-times, to raise money for golf turfgrass research. And the association also contributes to The Turf Endowment fund to ensure a continuing program at the University of Minnesota.

**Government Relations:** The MGCSA provides access to the State Capitol through a continued relationship with the Minnesota Golf Association and other Green Industry Allies. This service keeps your association aware of issues likely to affect golf as they emerge rather than after the fact. This proactive presence also helps us educate legislators and regulators by providing solid information and research findings as they strive to make sound decisions for the good of the whole community. The MGCSA has representation at the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape's 'Day on the Hill' event.

**Hole Notes Magazine:** The MGCSA provides an award winning professional golf course superintendent association journal. Published ten times each year in a digital format, Hole Notes strives to provide relevant, interesting information that reflects the personality and professionalism of the membership. Links are provided to the Affiliate members who advertise in the magazine.

**Membership Directory:** At the Member's Only section the MGCSA provides an annually updated listing of names and contact details for every member of the association. This electronic directory puts each within fingertip reach of around 700 allied professionals across the region.

**Employment Referral Service:** The MGCSA provides a link between the people with jobs and those who want them. The employment referral service is available on-line at MGCSA.org as well as electronically delivered weekly through 'e-updates'.

**Email Alerts:** The MGCSA uses the internet to provide updates and alerts on urgent matters as they arise so we remain current with issues that may effect you, the industry and the Association.

**Scholarships:** The MGCSA extends its support to the next generation through an annual scholarship program to assist children and grandchildren of superintendents who have achieved academic excellence.

**Wee One Support:** The MGCSA annually hosts a Wee One fund raising golf outing with the proceeds going to support this outstanding program that serves those in the golf course turf management industry.



# Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak, CGCS

**“They grow up so fast”**

**I can still hear the voice of the nurse as I was holding my son a**

**few hours after he entered this world on the final day of Major League Baseball in the strike year of 1994. He entered, and the boys of summer exited, all in about an 18 hour span. Maybe that’s why my son Kyle gravitated to football.**

**At any rate, in the subsequent months and years that followed, that phrase- they grow up so fast- was repeated to me by a plethora of well meaning individuals. From Grandparents, to friends, to Pastors, to co-workers and even complete strangers, they grow up so fast was uttered as a catch-all phrase to remind you that your children won’t be children very long and you had better make the most of it.**

**If I had a dollar for every time I heard it, I would have enough for a grand time in Vegas with a few bucks to come home with more than likely.**

**So I am going to be the first person to go ahead and say that indeed kids don’t grow up so fast. In fact, for the average person, they don’t reach maturity until somewhere in their 40’s. Heck, I know seventy year olds that act like six year olds. Every golf course has a couple of infants in saggy skin and bad plaid shorts. We’ve all seen them chunking greens with their putters and throwing clubs in a temper tantrum from time to time.**

**It takes the average child 18 years to get through infancy,**

**kindergarten and twelve years of schooling before he or she leaves the nest to college or joins the ranks of the permanently employed. Eighteen years is a long time. A lot of things have happened since 1995. Nobody had a cell phone, much less an I pad. Dial-up was the sole means of getting on the Interweb, as Homer Simpson called it. Bill Clinton hadn’t met Monica Lewinski. Tiger Woods was still in college. The Vikings hadn’t won the Super Bowl. Oh wait, that still hasn’t happened and I don’t think ever will.**

**The point being from day one you have a long, long time to be with your children and watch them mature. The real question is how well is the time spent? Have you created memories for them and you that will last a lifetime? Have you been there when they really needed you?**

**Those are tough questions to answer, and sometimes harder to have the answer be “yes”.**

**The job of golf course superintendent can be very family unfriendly. It demands long hours at times. It can be very stressful at times. Summer vacations that the Smiths and Johnsons down the street take are a rumor in Joe Turf’s home. Odds are the spouse is building the snowman because the turf manager has to plow the clubhouse. But despite these demands, there is adequate time to spend with them if one makes the commitment. And really, how can you not?**

**My son Kyle is now a sophomore at UW Madison. He spent this past summer at home and worked his fourth summer on the crew at Prestwick. I am so very lucky to have that, not many parents have their kids work with them. While we don’t see each other very much during the day, it’s comforting knowing he is around, and he’s turned into a pretty good**