



It's in the Hole

Jason and Pam Ruhoff are proud to announce the birth of Hailey Beth Ruhoff. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 o.z and was 21 inches on her March 1st birthday at 7:57 am. She's pictured above with her sisters Erica, 2, and Shelby, 4.

Jeff Girard is the new Superintendent at Stoneridge Golf Club in Stillwater. Jeff formerly was an Assistant Superintendent at Windsong Farm Golf Club under Scottie Hines, CGCS.

Lee Maenke is the new Superintendent at Greystone Golf Club in Sauk Centre. Lee comes over from Wisconsin.

Birdies and Bees: How Superintendents Can Help Native Pollinators

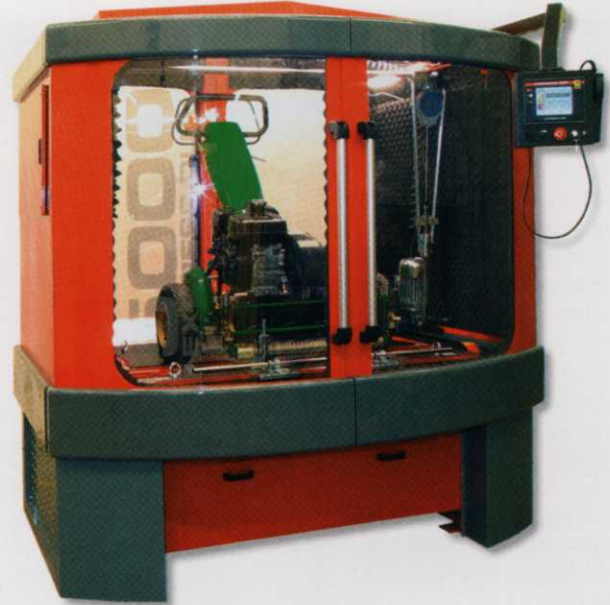
Pollinators are in decline across North America and golf courses can play a role in their conservation. These are two of the findings of the recently released National Academy of Sciences report Status of Pollinators in North America.

Pollinators-including butterflies, bees, beetles, flies, and hummingbirds-are arguably one of the most important groups of animals. The work they do in moving pollen from flower to flower results in successful seed set and fruit production for over 70 percent of flowering plants. We rely on these plants for much of our food, and wildlife rely on them for food and habitat. Imagine spring without flowering meadows, summer without berry picking, and fall without pumpkins and you get an idea of how the work of pollinators impact our lives.

What can a superintendent do? The NAS report identified habitat loss and fragmentation as one of the main causes of pollinator declines. Golf courses can help significantly with reversing this trend by providing flowers and egg-laying sites. Even on the most compact urban golf course, flowering plants can be part of the landscape. On more extensive courses, out-of-play areas offer great opportunities for creating prairie-type habitats rich in native flowers. For greatest benefit, the flowers should bloom throughout the growing season. Add in some wooden blocks drilled with holes or create patches of bare ground in which solitary bees can nest, include hostplants for butterfly caterpillars, and your course can support healthy and diverse pollinator populations.

(Editor's Note: To learn more visit the Society's website at www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation.)

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