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Count on it.



TROE CENTER UPDATE

By CRAIG KRUEGER

U of M TROE Center Field Manager

2008 was a very good year for the Turf program here at the University of Minnesota. The number of graduate students enrolled has doubled, the scope of the research projects has grown, and we had a very successful Field Day.

The 2008 MTGF Field Day was once again held in September. Even though it rained through most of the program, the spirits and interest of the more than 200 attendees remained high. Exciting research was presented and discussed throughout the morning. Next year, field day is scheduled for September 10, so mark it on your calendars now.

On behalf of all that make up the turf team, we would like to extend a very sincere thank you to all of the vendors who have supported our research this year by donating supplies and equipment. Without their support our program could not be as successful as it is. Please join us in thanking the following vendors when you have a chance to talk to them:

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Thank you again for all of your support and we look forward to another successful research year at the TROE Center.

From the U to You...Studies Funded by the MTGF

2005 NATIONAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TRIAL

By Eric Watkins, Andrew Hollman and Brian Horgan
Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota has a long history of breeding Kentucky bluegrass. The first variety 'Park' was released in 1957 and is still in seed production in northern Minnesota. Park is a variety characterized as having excellent seedling vigor, but has dramatically lost market share due to poor disease resistance and turf quality. The northern Minnesota turfgrass seed production industry contributes millions of dollars to the rural economy but has lost market share due to the older turf varieties currently in seed production. Evaluating available varieties will allow us to identify traits that should be the focus of our germplasm improvement program.

The goal of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is to develop and coordinate uniform evaluation trials of turfgrass varieties and promising selections in the United States and Canada. Test results can be used by industry, extension specialists, turf managers and plant breeders to determine a variety's adaptation across a wide range of environments and levels of turf maintenance.

Materials and Methods

In 2005, the National Kentucky bluegrass trial was established on the St. Paul campus with 110 released and experimental varieties. The evaluation of turfgrasses is generally conducted with visual ratings of numerous traits of interest to the end users. Visual traits evaluated include genetic color, stand density, leaf texture, disease resistance and turf quality. Most visual ratings collected on NTEP trials are based on a scale of 1 to 9 where 1 is the poorest and 9 is the best. Turf quality is a combination of color, density, uniformity, leaf texture, pest and/or environmental stresses. Turf quality ratings are taken monthly at each NTEP site during the growing season and will vary based on the turfgrass species, the intensity of the management and the time of the year. The data collected in 2007 included summer color, spring green-up, leaf texture, seedling vigor, drought tolerance, seed-head rating and turf quality ratings from May through October. The trial was managed using a medium maintenance schedule including a 1.5 inch mowing height, 4 lbs N per 1,000 square feet per year, and

irrigation only as needed to prevent stand loss; no chemicals were applied to the trial in 2007.

Results and Discussion

Since the inception of this trial, the top five varieties and selections for overall turfgrass quality have been Bd 03-84, Shiraz, J-2404, A00-1400 and Blue Note.

"In order to provide even better options for seed producers and end users, we are accelerating the development and release of new varieties of Kentucky bluegrass for use in Minnesota and the northern United States."

The data from the trial is available through the NTEP website at www.ntep.org and the University of Minnesota turfgrass science website at www.turf.umn.edu.

Our plant breeding program has developed a cooperative relationship with Rutgers University to access their valuable germplasm and provide seed producers with marketable, high quality turf varieties of Kentucky bluegrass that produce consistently high seed yields in northern Minnesota. There are three experimental Rutgers-UM varieties being evaluated in the 2005 National Kentucky Bluegrass Trial for potential variety release (MSP 3722, MSP 3723 and MSP 3724). In addition, a hybrid breeding program for Kentucky bluegrass has been initiated at the University of Minnesota.

Summary

There are a number of varieties and selections of Kentucky bluegrass that do well in Minnesota when grown under medium and high maintenance conditions. In order to provide even better options for seed producers and end users, we are accelerating the development and release of new varieties of Kentucky bluegrass for use in Minnesota and the northern United States. These new varieties should be available to seed producers and turf managers within the next two years.

University of Minnesota Turf Club Update

By JOE LeVOIR

President, University of Minnesota Turf Club

Turf Club

Throughout the year, Turf Club members volunteer at local golf courses and solicit donations for the Club's annual trip to Turf Bowl. In past years, members have volunteered at U of M-sponsored tournaments, or grown centerpieces of turf for various events.

In 2008, Turf Club helped out the grounds crew at the U. S. Women's Open at Interlachen Country Club in Edina and tended the course at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine for the 3M Championship, annual Champions Tour event. This past month, the Turf Club hosted a booth at the Minnesota Green Expo to promote its activities within the community. All of the experiences and connections made are invaluable and will be valuable to Turf Club members upon graduation and job searching.

My personal experience at the Women's

Open was to be lucky enough to walk the grounds and the greens with the professional lady golfers. Words cannot describe how great of an experience that was. Also, after I didn't think anything could get better than working on the grounds crew at TPC. I was grateful enough to meet the king of golf, Arnold Palmer.

Turf Bowl

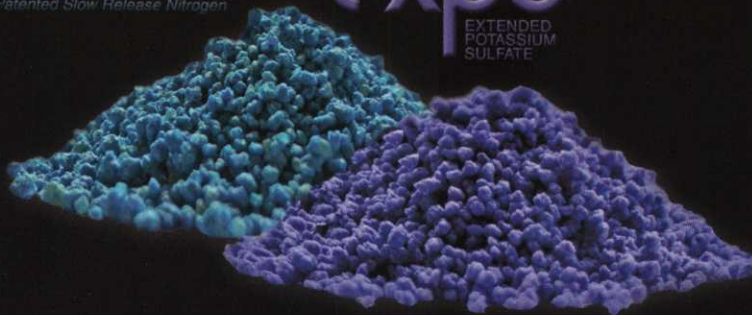
Every year, Turf Club goes to conventions of the United States Golf Course Superintendent Association and competes in the annual Turf Bowl, an event attended by schools from around the nation. Professors who administer Turf Bowl have suggested it is "the hardest test a turf student will ever have to take." The test includes identification of grasses (warm and cool season), soil, bugs and diseases. There are multiple-choice questions, math problems, and a written essay. Groups are composed of four people or fewer. This year the University of Minnesota has a

team built of four turf students going down to New Orleans to compete in the annual Turf Bowl.

All the volunteer work and fundraising that Turf Club has done throughout the year is used towards our trip. Additionally, the Turf Club members have developed a fundraiser entitled "Don't make a bogey, bring back the birdies" in which members build bluebird houses. These houses are intended to attract bluebirds, increase wildlife in the area and create environmental awareness and preservation. There are two bluebird house options available for purchase: rough cedar or green painted rough cedar. Each house costs \$30 and all proceeds go to support the Turf Club on their annual Turf Bowl trip. Please contact Joe LeVoi at levoi007@umn.edu by February 16 to obtain an order form or if you have any questions.

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MGCSA members were asked: *What do you love about your job most? ...and what is not so much fun?*

What I love most about my job is putting together a plan, executing that plan, and seeing the results over time with the ultimate goal of creating a drastic improvement. Within this planning process are a number of little "games," which ultimately affect the results of your plan. By games I am referring to communication with members, research into new products and methods, analysis of the efficiencies of operations and many more. Playing and winning the "games" is both exciting and rewarding and ultimately ends up creating a better product for the membership of Northland Country Club. I also very much enjoy the idea of maintaining an ideal playing surface for my favorite sport, working on a Donald Ross design,...how much space do I have, I could go on for awhile. The things that are not so much fun about my job are getting caught up in the day tasks and losing perspective on what it is I actually get to do for a living and where I get to do it. Also, the free time I miss out on with my family.- *Chris Tritabaugh, Northland Country Club*

What I love about my job: Helping people. Working with supts, sports turf managers and other turf professionals helping them see progress in their work. Building relationships over the years. Making friends with a wide range of turf managers throughout the upper Midwest. We are great people! Learning something new everyday from my customers, peers and suppliers. I also enjoy traveling through Minnesota and Wisconsin. They are truly two of the most beautiful states in the country. What I don't like: Spending a lot of time living out of a suitcase. Driving in cold, snowy weather. Putting up with all the big company/corporate politics and lip service! - *Joe Churchill, Seed Solutions, Land O'Lakes*

The thing that I love the most about my job is showing up early in the morning and getting out on the golf course. The solitude, the fresh air. Also I love the respect that I get from the small town people here in Montevideo for just doing the best that I can at my job, working hard, and creating great golfing conditions. The thing I least like is showing up on a weekend and one of my crew decides not to show up. Also, I hate irrigation problems!! Why can't the system just fix itself?? Oh, don't forget that 85mph wind that we had sustained for an hour last summer; that wasn't too much fun either. I believe it was around 350 man hours for the clean-up.- *Jeremiah Niebolte, Montevideo CC*

I love being outdoors and working together as a team to achieve a common goal. Not so much fun is the decline in the golf economy that is making it more difficult to maintain the golf course at our current standards with limited budgets. - *Brett R. Hetland, CGCS, Brooks National Golf Club*

As a vendor, or affiliated contractor to the MGCSA I like helping people the most. I get a feeling of self worth when I can assist someone in this industry, "teach" them to understand what a component is doing, why a problem is occurring and how it can be corrected. The people that I deal with are all professionals and are looking for a professional to assist them. A second item that I like about my job is working with the other employees at our company; we are like an extended family. The item I like least in my job is calling someone about paying an outstanding invoice or letting someone go. This is never exciting, and doesn't happen all that often. I realize that if someone has not paid an invoice, it is normally because of a hardship or tough times that hopefully will pass soon. If someone has to be let go it is normally for a lack of performance, a hardship, or tough times. - *Tim Berquam, Bergerson Caswell Inc.*

It is really gratifying to be able to make meaningful things happen, things that look like accomplishments that can stand on their own, and are not just on a daily check list. The price to be paid, however, can be a rather severe restriction on leisure time. - *Mark Stennes, S&S Tree Specialists*

What I enjoy most is being outdoors. - *Dan Hinton, Jackson Golf Club*

I think the ever-changing nature of the business is the best part of the job. That and the fact that it is the second best job in golf. Only thing better would be to be able to make a living playing. Too old for that now. Worst thing about the job..lack of respect for what we do for the industry as Superintendents.- *Walt Braunig, Thompson Oaks GC'*

What I love is the passion I feel for the golf course and nature. Feeling that 'high' when I check out the course. Feeling euphoric when I'm dead tired. I love going out to my passion every day! What is not so fun is dealing with backstabbing employees; one can fix any problem, but you cannot fix broken trust! - *Riley Kieffer, Dakota Ridge*

Best part - being outdoors. Enjoying God's creation is by far the best part of the job but also those late evenings on the course, especially as an Assistant Superintendent and young Superintendent. I have often said that you can learn more about yourself and the golf course between 6-9 pm than between 6-9 am. Not so much is the unpredictable weather. Then again, the job wouldn't be as exciting if I always knew what was coming!- *David J. Soltvedt, CGCS, The Ridge at Castle Pines North*

If I had a job in my profession currently, I

would still honestly say I liked everything about it. Especially being outdoors and having constantly being directly involved with the decision-making process. I also grew to like the constant changes that occur. Things such as environment, regulations, finances, memberships and personnel. To see over one's career the technology advances, countless research programs and development within the industry, just makes you love your profession even more. The combination of these factors can make EVERY day different, challenging and rewarding. And that single concept of challenge is what makes all of us in this profession tick. On the other hand, if I were to pick something that really wasn't much fun for me, it would have to be seeing your course or a friends put through the devastation of Mother Nature's fury. Personally, and amongst some of my best friends in the business, I have had to get through and help others get through some awfully discouraging events. - *Chip Lewison, CGCS, Associate Member*

The best part of my job is seeing the beautiful course conditions, knowing that your direction of your summer help provided your course with the best playing conditions possible. The not so much fun is plowing our never ending snow we have had almost every other day this winter. - *Charles A. DeGrio, Monticello Country Club*

Love the perfect, calm, 65 degree, morning cup moving in June when you get to the 3rd green which is away from the shop and completely quiet. The sun is coming up through the trees and you pause, look around and realize that everything looks almost...perfect. It is 3 below zero today and I can smell that morning from here. I don't like the inevitable phone call, on one of those mornings about the oil or irrigation leak, that shakes you out of the peace and quiet. I can smell that morning from here as well. Now it is 5 below zero. - *Jason Swanson, Hidden Greens*

In the spring I love to see the course coming back to life, the greening of the grass and the trees leafing out. The return of the critters on land and in the air. In summer I love to see the sun rise over the dew laden course as the staff works in harmony like a horticultural orchestra to produce our daily symphony, a well maintained golf course. In fall I love to see the arrival of frost and the colors in the trees. In winter I love the quiet peacefulness as the golf course sleeps under a blanket of white. My dislikes are too few to trouble over. In these times I am grateful to have a job that includes a beautiful 250 acre office that I love to work in. - *Michael Sonnek, Spring Hill Golf Club*

Watson Winner and Hole Notes Recognized at Annual Meeting

The MGCSA is very fortunate to have a vehicle as distinguished as the *Hole Notes* to disseminate relevant educational and sometimes humorous professional writings. It is not easy and requires several elements to come together for the cogs to run smoothly.

A good publication needs great columnists. We are fortunate to have several who monthly give their time to bring us anecdotal educational materials for our enjoyment and edification. Paul Dignau, CGCS, Scottie Hines, CGCS, Randy Witt, CGCS and Jake Ryan are to be commended for their wonderful efforts.

A good publication needs advertisers to fill the pages between editorial content. And we are fortunate to have many vendors who see value in the publication *Hole Notes* and continue to advertise, thus keeping the cost of our magazine a mere two dollars per issue. Thank you to those who have and will continue to support our publication through your advertising.

A good publication needs to have a quality publisher and editorial staff. Scott and Jeff Turtinen have and will continue to do an exceptional job publishing the *Hole Notes* and making sure each issue makes it to its destination on a timely basis. Also not to be forgotten, a good publication and editorial staff needs to have a proof reader. We are very fortunate to have Andrew Carlson on board to pre-read each article for any mistakes. Standing kudos Scott, Jeff and Andrew for your efforts.

And finally, a good member-driven publication needs to have member writers who are willing and able to share their creative

expressions with their peers. This year we have had several good articles submitted for publication. Of most note is the 2008 Watson Award winner titled *The Superintendent's Wife*, submitted by Bill Gullicks, the Superintendent at Bellwood Oaks Golf Course is pictured at the left with his wife Kristen.

In the May 2008 issue Bill shared with us his respect and admiration for his wife Kristen. Bill captured the dynamics of each of our marital relationships with a smooth articulation full of insight and a bit of humor. Each of us can relate to the following sentences,

"Over the years my wife has come to the realization that there is no such thing as a schedule in a superintendent's life. When I call to let her know when I will be home, she simply asks, 'Is that real time or golf course time?' Supposedly golf course time tends to run one or two hours longer than actual time." What a truism.

The love and respect Bill has for his wife and family was easy to read between the lines and identify with. Professional turf managers are away from home too frequently and for too many hours. Sometimes we have a hard time leaving work at the course. Often we take our spouses for granted in maintaining a sane household while we wrestle the elements.

Bill shares it well with this paragraph, "During the golf season my wife does a fabulous job keeping everyone going in the right direction. She has learned how to keep things balanced at home with and without me around. We have four children that range from high school to kindergarten that fill the calendar each month with piano lessons, sports, church activities, choir concerts, doctor/dentist appointments and many other things. I feel lucky that my career hasn't stood in the way of my children enjoying family times to the fullest."

Talk about hitting home with all of us who are married and rely upon our spouses so very much.

Our Watson Award winner summed it all up and reminded us of one very important point, "As the sun starts shining and the days get longer, remember to thank your Super Wife for all she does during the busy season before it begins, not after."

Congratulations Bill on a wonderful wife, family and aptitude for writing. - Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, Editor



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"A Quality Grown Reputation"

MGCSA Honors Larry Vetter With 2008 Distinguished Service Award

Written and Presented by
JERRY MURPHY, CGCS

It is a real pleasure and honor to introduce to you a man who needs no introduction, Larry Vetter, a former golf course superintendent, a colleague and a very special friend. As you know, Larry is being honored tonight by being awarded the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association's Distinguished Service Award.

This award is given to those who have dedicated much of their time, attention and skills to providing leadership for our Association and building a strong foundation upon which future leaders can build.

Larry was born in Iowa and spent most of his early years there. Of course, we won't hold that against him in as much as he has become a true blue MINN A SOTAN.

After high school years, Larry attended the University of Iowa where he received a BBA degree in Marketing and General Business. Enjoying college and being encouraged by others, Larry enrolled in Iowa State University where he received his BS degree in Horticulture with a specialty in Turfgrass Management under the well-known Dr. Elliot Roberts.

Larry developed a keen interest in the Turfgrass field which was recognized early by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America who awarded him a scholarship in 1965.

It was also in 1965 when I had the pleasure of meeting Larry for the first time. I was involved in rebuilding a green at Somerset Country Club. I heard someone call my name and looked around in time to see this handsome young man and Dr. Jim Watson crawling over the fence. I think they were there to inspect our workmanship on the green. Dr. Watson made the introductions, indicating that this young man was going into the Turf Management field. After visiting with him for a short time about the industry, it became apparent to me that Larry would leave his mark on our profession.

Larry didn't waste any time getting into the profession as he accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent at The Minikahda Club in 1965. In 1966 he joined MGCSA and GCSAA and took over the responsibilities of Superintendent at The Minikahda Club where he remained for the next eleven years.

Larry became deeply involved in the Association almost immediately by working on various committees. His expertise and dedication was recognized and appreciated by the membership who elected him to the Board of Directors in 1970. In 1972 he was elected as the Vice President and then was elected twice as the MGCSA President in 1973 and 1974.

It was a busy time in MGCSA history. As you know, each generation builds on the foundation of the preceding generations. And it was now time for our Association to turn the next corner. To do so it was going to take strong leadership and out-of-the-box thinking. It was also a point in time when the Association was struggling financially. The check book rarely had more than a couple of hundred dollars in it and there was little if any savings. Of course there was no such thing as research funds and scholarship funds were a far-off dream.



Larry Vetter, left, received the DSA from MGCSA president Rick Traver, Jr., CGCS at the Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet at Windsong Farm Golf Club on December 5.

The professional image of the Superintendent was in need of help and our *Hole Notes* was just that, "NOTES". It was run off on a mimeograph machine and was one page, newsy and nice, but didn't inspire much of a professional image!

I remember receiving copies of *Hole Notes* from Larry several times with red ink markings all over it and his comments always indicted he was looking for ways and developing ideas to improve the "NOTES."

When you look at the *Hole Notes* now and compare it to the '60s and early '70s look, you will see a huge improvement and what a testimonial to Larry for having the foresight to recognize the impact a professional publication would have on our profession. Larry spent several years as Editor of *Hole Notes* refining and developing its content and look and with each published issue it became more and more of a professional journal. This was a labor of love for him and a vast improvement for all of us. Thank you, Larry, for building that solid foundation!

Larry was also very instrumental in the hiring of our first Executive Director, Mr. Al Wareham. He recognized the value of having an identifiable office where correspondence could be generated and mailed, where records could be kept, filed and stored and where the golfing community could identify with our organization. Before Al, the Association Secretary had the duty of keeping all the records, etc. with him or her. No one wanted the job knowing that after being elected the many boxes or records would be handed over to reside in his office, basement or wherever there was room for them. You can only imagine how many important items may have been lost or misplaced during those years.

(Continued on Page 19)

Larry Vetter-

(Continued from Page 18)

I remember well the Annual Meeting where the Board was asked to stand in front of an apprehensive membership to state their case, to answer questions and explain why they supported such a move. Not many were as far-sighted as Larry and there was much concern and some resistance. The question most often asked was "how can the Association finance this type of venture"?

Earlier we talked about how poor our Association was in those days so this was a very legitimate and weighed heavily on everyone's mind. The short answer was that the Executive Director selection was done carefully. Al was the recently retired Executive Director of the Minnesota Golf Association, so by hiring him he could dedicate his time to our Association and use some office space, phones, staff, etc. at the MGA office. The next biggest concern was the possible loss of identity followed closely by concern that the MGA might have access to some of MGCSA's deliberations. Remember, the Association was working hard to develop a more professional image which would lead to better working conditions and higher salaries and the MGA membership was made up of the very ones the Association was trying to influence- our club members. Can you imagine where the Association would be today without an office and an Executive Director? Again, our thanks to Larry for pushing so hard to get this format established.

Larry was the lead person in another area where Minnesota received a great deal of national recognition. During the 1976 GCSAA Conference which was held in Minneapolis, Larry was in charge of all of the welcoming activities with a charge of making it a memorable event.

Larry determined that the real problem for thousands of members coming into a large city was that it is confusing and sometimes frustrating for them. Then by the time they were comfortable with the city and knew where to go for the various events it was time to depart. His plan was simple - get them informed as soon as they hit town.

Do you remember the old leisure suits? I kind of liked them. Anyway, Larry had all the volunteer men greeters dressed in blue leisure suits and stationed with their wives or girlfriends at all the hotels and at the airport. He supplied information packets so each attendee would be greeted, welcomed and given

information on where to eat, what to see and do and how to find their way around the city. I still don't know how he did it but he managed to arrange for the nicest weather we had all winter that year.

GCSAA was so impressed they sang MGCSA praises for months after the Conference and they still offer that type of service at the conferences in some form or another.

Larry has always been innovative and at the forefront of new ideas. As an example, he was the first superintendent in this area to professionalize his office by hiring a part-time secretary for the grounds department. To keep crews motivated, he instituted a competitive crew competition with special rewards and recognition times. He worked closely with The Toro Company in evaluating and testing new equipment and ideas.

Larry always had an eye on the bigger picture. When the idea of several turf organizations forming some kind of partnership, Larry became a staunch supporter and participated in the initial planning and organizational meetings from which the MTGF was born. And his involvement didn't stop there. After the MTGF became a reality Larry and then MGCSA President Mike Brower signed the contract with the MNLA which allowed the very successful Minnesota Green Expo to become a reality. Larry was also responsible for revising that contract into a rolling 3-year cancellation term which is a protection for our Association in case the MNLA decided to back out of their Green Expo commitment.

Larry has had a very rewarding career in the turf management field. He was a superintendent for eleven years, the National Sales Manager for Northrup King for eleven years, the Director of Professional Sales for the Ringer Corporation and was the owner/operator of his own company for eleven years. He was the Executive Director of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation for eight years and has been an Adjunct Professor for Turf Management and Culture at North Hennepin Technical College since 1997 and is also currently a Territory Sales Manager with Twin City Seed Company in Edina, Minnesota.

Larry has been a Conference Speaker and Seminar presenter in over 19 states with many presentations to a variety of turf groups. He has written numerous articles for trade magazines and various association newsletters.

He is also a very good golfer having won the MGCSA championship at least four times and played in numerous GCSAA tournaments, bringing home a

number of trophies. On one of those southern state golf events, the Minnesota group didn't bring along enough warm clothes and after the first day on the course they realized that they needed to dress better. After much deliberation and, I might add, speculation, they decided that if panty hose could keep the ladies warm it should work for them. And it did, but there was one small problem. After drinking hot coffee there came a time when it became necessary to make room for more liquid. Being equipped differently than the ladies, a problem ensued. To remedy the situation a small hole was cut in the front of the panty hose without taking into account the amount stretch built into panty hose. You may visualize the gaping hole that appeared when the hose was stretch into place!

With all of the accomplishments Larry has had over his career, he feels, and I agree with him, his greatest success and his most rewarding accomplishment was winning the love of his life, his beautiful wife Carol. Larry and Carol were married on July 3, 1981 and between them they have four children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild, enough to warm their hearts for many years to come.

Early on Larry learned a great lesson from a Will Rogers quote! "There are two theories to arguing with a woman and neither works!"

Larry, you have been a mentor and an example for many of us as well as a gifted leader and dear friend. We have talked about some of your accomplishments here tonight. What we don't have time to do is to go into detail on all of the behind-the-scene accomplishments you have provided for our Association and its individual members. But we can again say "thank you" and present you with the Distinguished Service Award for your many years of above and beyond service to your Association and profession.

Larry Vetter's Distinguished Service Award Acceptance

2008 has been an eventful year for me, most good with some bad.

- 27th wedding anniversary with Carol (not bad for having to start over once)
- 50-year high school class reunion
- Celebrated the 90th birthdays of both parents along with their 69th wedding anniversary

(Continued on Page 20)

Larry Vetter-

(Continued from Page 19)

- Changed employment from MTGF to Twin City Seed Company (still trying to decide what I want to be when I grow up! Better hurry up 'cause I'm probably running out of time!

- 42 years of MGCSA & GCSAA membership

- Along with many of you, I watched 401 K's and IRA's delay retirement

- Saw the highest number ever show up on a gas pump when filling the tank

And then back to the good, getting a call from Scottie Hines telling me that I was the 2008 recipient of this great award from an Association that I'm extremely proud to be a member of.

Thank you, Doug Mahal, for nominating me for this very special award and the MGCSA BOD for approving it. And of course Murph, who is one of the greatest friends that anyone, especially a skinny old sodbuster, could ever have, for his willingness to share those kind words with us tonight.

I know that a lot of "old people" may bore the younger set with stories about walking miles to school, uphill both ways in snow knee deep when it was 20 below, but I can't help but share a few comments along that line. As we all know the world has changed. Managing golf courses has changed. And many of us know that the MGCSA has changed tremendously over the years.

The world has changed. When I first started working on a golf course in small-town Iowa (incidentally, I've lived in the Twin Cities long enough now that most people have forgiven me for being born in Iowa), a buck's worth of gas could set you up for several days of driving. Many people, even those with big appetites like me, couldn't possibly eat a dollar's worth of food at McDonalds and you could understand the words of almost every song that you heard on the radio or played on your 45 rpm record player - and they all had melodies and lyrics!

Managing golf courses has changed. Some of this was certainly different here at the major clubs, but when I started working on a golf course the stimpmeter had not been dreamed of, tournaments weren't on TV and golfers and club members weren't pseudo agronomists. Triplexes hadn't been invented and we mowed greens with walk-behinds at 5/16th inch and changed cups twice a week whether they needed it or not. In mid-to-late summer the only thing green on fairways most years was crabgrass. Tees weren't watered

because there was no grass left to irrigate plus there were no water lines run to them. Some players even carried small hammers in their bags to get their tees into the ground. Mowing around bunkers and green and tee surrounds was with a hand push reel mower that was transported from one location to the next by pushing it. We didn't have a utility vehicle. Watering was only on greens with just enough pressure and supply to do a couple at a time with a hose and sprinkler coiled in a box by each green. There were many surprises reaching into those boxes in the middle of the night! Fungicides were used on greens if we had some to prevent death and fertilizer for only greens was whatever happened to be cheapest at the time.

All greens were vegetatively planted with Old Orchard or one of the other "C"s that the USGA had released. We were really excited when we were finally able to get 5 lbs. of Penncross when Dr. Duich released it from Penn State. As I recall, we were on a waiting list and paid \$11 or \$12 per pound for it. We treated it like gold!

Cutting sod was done with a spade in about 1 sq. ft. pieces. Spiking greens was one of the worst jobs as it was done with a hand push/pull drum spiker with concrete blocks weighing it down.

Imagine how I felt coming from this type of a maintenance program directly to The Minikahda Club in 1966.

MGCSA has changed. I was coming to Minnesota to be the Assistant Superintendent at Minikahda to learn under Jack Kolb who was the Superintendent at that time. My primary interviewer that fall in 1965 was Dr. James Watson of Toro, beginning at his office and concluding with a walking tour of the course with him and the Green Committee. I was one scared skinny kid realizing that I was being quizzed during that tour by one of the foremost turf authorities in the world. Following the interviewing process, Jim took me for a ride to Mendota Heights where we climbed a fence behind the 4th green at Somerset CC to visit with Jerry Murphy. Little did I know that this was the beginning of one of the best friendships that I would ever have.

My first MGCSA meeting was in February, 1966 in the "barn" at Woodhill CC. Some of the "old-timers" there like Emil Picha, Carl Anderson, Harold Stodola, John Fuller, George Ostler and Kurt Erdman, among others, gratuitously welcomed me but also had me feeling like the young, inexperienced whippersnapper that I in fact was at the time. That meeting was the beginning of one of the things

that I'm most proud of. A record of almost 11 years of never missing an MGCSA monthly meeting, a GCSAA Conference or an MGCSA Board meeting while serving on the Board.

Around that time the average age of the superintendents in this area dropped maybe more than at any other period either before or after. Bill Johnson started the invasion coming from Superior, Wis. in 1956. Jerry Murphy came to Somerset from the Dakotas in 1960. Jim Lindblad joined in 1962 as did Russ Adams. Dean Sime came to Interlachen that same year. Rich Rannells came to Braemar and then to Golden Valley CC and Larry Mueller came to MN Valley in 1964, Roger Kisch joined in 1965, I came to Minikahda in 1966 the same year that Joe Morris and Orly Maenke joined. Ron Helming went to Hazeltine in 1968, the same year that Dick Grundstrom joined. John Queensland joined in 1969 as did George Jennrich and Keith Scott, who was kind enough to be my Best Man when Carol and I were married in 1981. There were undoubtedly others that came on board during that time. What made it unique is that there wasn't as much turnover in those days as there seems to be now and most of these individuals replaced superintendents who had been at their clubs for many years.

The annual meeting was held at the Normandy Inn in downtown Minneapolis. Remembering some of the things that took place during those conferences, which I won't detail here because of mixed company, but you can probably imagine when I say that one evening was "Stag Night," still make me wonder why we didn't all end up in the slammer. Outgrowing the Normandy the conference was moved to the Sheraton NW and then to the Northland Inn. With the addition of other groups, the annual conference, now the Minnesota Green Expo, fills the two largest domes in the Minneapolis Convention Center featuring over 1,000 exhibits, fills several major hotels and offers over 100 educational sessions over the course of three days.

Digressing, in the early 1970s it became obvious to some of us that the MGCSA needed to upgrade our professional image for more reasons than just "Stag Night". Everything that MGCSA did up until then was done by members who were volunteers, including the newsletter, conference arrangements, monthly meetings, etc. Many of my records from that time period have been purged. Consequently, I can't

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