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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
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* * * *

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's Time to Utilize Our Stored-Up Energy For Course Clean-Up



Now that Spring is upon us, the time has come to utilize the energy we have stored over the winter. There is course clean-up and the start of special projects. A philosophy of mine is to make at least one annual improvement to the agronomic management program of the golf course. This year it will be two-fold: a new irrigation system along with fertigation. I am looking forward to being able to spoon feed every time we irrigate. Fertigation is a relatively inexpensive proposition. You may want to look into it and see if it may enhance the nutrient programs you already have in place.

* * * *

Our March Mini-Seminar was well attended. There was a lot of good information. However, some people did not share the same opinions of the presenters. It proves we all take different paths to the same end. Will there ever be one answer to managing our golf courses? I hope not.

* * * *

It is apparent that many courses are signing up for Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. This program not only provides a great learning experience but puts you into a proactive position concerning your golf course and the environment. Mike Brower at Hillcrest CC has been designated as our State Steward for this program. If you have any questions or need help, he can be reached at (612) 777-5186 during regular business hours. Rick Fredericksen, CGCS at Woodhill CC is also available to provide any needed guidance. He can be reached at (612) 473-5811 during regular business hours. What a great profession we are associated with that our colleagues are willing to share their expertise to those of us in need.

* * * *

Dr. Ward Stienstra wants me to inform our membership that he will retire from the University of Minnesota early this summer. He does plan to continue his research obligations. Ward's health will not permit him to continue the current pace at the U of M. He looks forward to spending time with his grandchildren and family. As many of you know, Ward is one of the leading authorities on snow molds. His research and recommendations have influenced many of our winter management programs. He is a great friend and supporter of our industry. We have all looked to him for assistance when a strange looking patch has appeared on our golf courses. We wish him the best and I know he will still be there for us.

* * * *

I look forward to seeing you at Bearpath and hearing about new ideas you would like the Board to explore.

— Jim Nicol, CGCS
MGCSA President

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1998 MGCSA CALENDAR

- April 16** **Bearpath (no golf)**
Host Superintendent: John Malloy, CGCS
- May 11** **Marshall GC**
Host Superintendent: Doug Larson
Guest Speaker: Dr. Ward Stienstra, U of M
- June 8** **Creeksbend GC**
Host Superintendent: John Betchwars
Guest Speaker: Robert Vavrek, USGA
- July 20** **MGCSA Scholarship Scramble**
Elm Creek Golf Links
Host Superintendent: Mike Klatte, CGCS
- August 17** **MGCSA Championship**
North Links GC
Host Superintendent: Jerry Storjohann
- September 14** **Stodola Scramble**
Pebble Creek CC
Host Superintendent: Cary Femrite
- October 5** **Chaska Town Course**
Host Superintendent: Mark Moers
Guest Speaker: Dale Spier, Golf Course Owners Ass'n.
- November 14** **Minnesota Zoo**
Family Outing
- December 10** **Annual Meeting**
Minneapolis Convention Center

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Benefits and Strengths Of GCSAA Membership

By **MICHAEL KLATTE, CGCS**
Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth

Since the beginning of GCSAA in 1926, the standard for excellence was always paramount in the hearts and minds of those early pioneers in this industry. Our forebears always wanted better and it became the driving force behind this great organization. Time and the achievements in technology have only served to create renewed interest and exposure to the industry.

There are many reasons for joining GCSAA. It starts with who you are and what it means to be considered as a professional person in your field. One must ask, what does it mean to become more professional? Professionalism is a status given to persons who accomplish a certain degree of expertise in a given occupation. How this is measured in terms of accomplishment is an important step in achieving professional status. Skill levels must be measured and monitored over time. This requires involvement with an organized group of your peers. So the first step toward being recognized as a professional is to join one of the oldest and best run organizations in our field, the GCSAA.

In 1971, GCSAA wanted a way to create a certain standard of excellence to bestow upon the members for all to see. It created the Certification Program for its members to substantiate their work and accomplishments in the area of education. This program was designed to recognize the expanding knowledge it takes to keep up with recent developments in the industry. This move not only achieved a symbol of excellence for its members, but virtually made joining

GCSAA a form of a status symbol with a high credibility rating. The more we participate in the activities of this great organization, the higher degree of professionalism is accomplished. This is really the goal and focal point of GCSAA.

There are many benefits in joining GCSAA. It is a great support group especially at the state level of affiliation with MGCSA. Many of its members ask questions with one another on "touchy" subjects related to turf, etc. We all need someone to lean on in rough times, especially when the weather turns against us. Strength in numbers to get a voice heard either at the local or national level. GCSAA is a leader in making sure our professionalism is protected and recognized as good stewards of our environment. The networking that is done among its members, sharing issues and developing solutions, has achieved new heights.

Steve Mona, the CEO for GCSAA, has accomplished many things in his tenure. The dual membership issue, which really wasn't an issue if one looks at the other professional organizations and what they achieve, turned out to be a great way to build a system of checks and balances to keep abreast of an ever-expanding industry. The latest work being done now will be a new fund for membership retirement. This is something that will be of future benefit.

Every golf course has its unique qualities and the superintendent has a great deal to do with this. The style he or she projects into the daily work schedule makes a statement to the public on the quality of the work. It

shows up when the superintendent overcomes the many adversities that may come up over time. Being able to network with other superintendents in times of need is a big benefit to have at a given time. The comparison and selection of equipment including its maintenance requirements and experience is a high benefit when one can use it with fellow superintendents.

So one can see that there really isn't a reason not to join and participate. It's as simple as that.



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VINTAGE 1955: Kneeling or sitting front row: Mal Clark, Gates Rubber Company; Jack Kolb, Toro Manufacturing; C.L. "Jim" Graham, Minnesota Milorganite; Richard "Dick" Ryshavy, Woodhill Country Club; Lyle Cran, Stillwater Country Club, and Walter "Wally" Adams, Seldon Watts Seed Company. Standing, back row: Emil Picha, Oak Ridge Country Club; Carl Anderson, Woodhill Country Club; Milt Wiley, Minnesota Toro (MTD); Leonard "Lennie" Bloomquist, Brookview Golf Club. Ludwig Nelson, retired (The Minikahda Club); Clarence Reynolds, North Oaks Country Club; Maynard Buseby, Armour Golf Club (Gross); Paul Miller, R.L. Gould Company (North Star Turf). Art Thorud, Hiawatha Municipal Golf Club; With cap? unidentified; Irwin Fuller, Sr., Mankato Country Club; Henry Toupal, New Ulm Country Club; Leo Feser, Orono Golf Club, and Frank Chellis, Minnesota Valley Country Club.



1955 MGCSA PHOTO TAKEN AT INTERLACHEN COUNTRY CLUB. Off to far left: Ludwig Nelson, retired from The Minikahda Club. Seated first row: Pat Kane, Como Golf Course; Leonard Bloomquist, Brookview Golf; Carl Zahn, Marshall Golf Club; Scotty McLaren, Toro Manufacturing, and Ernest Kimker, Phalen Golf. Secon row: Herb Cohrs, Minneapolis Golf Club; Maynard Erickson, Theodore Wirth Golf Club; Jack Kolb, Toro Manufacturing Co.; Irwin Fuller, Sr., Mankato Country Club; Frank Chellis, Minnesota alley Country Club, and Ralph Lundin, Columbia Golf Club. Third Row: Oscar Bergman, Minnetonka Country Club; Mike Weinhandl, Highland Golf Club; Ernest Lindgren, Town & Country Club; Mal Clark, Gates Rubber Company, and Lyle Cran, Stillwater Country Club. Last row: Art Thorud, Hiawatha Golf; Maynard Buseby, Armour Golf Course (Gross); Pat Johnson, Interlachen Country Club and host; Henry Toupal, New Ulm Country Club, and Clarence Reynolds, North Oaks Country Club. The young man in the far upper right hand corner remains unidentified.

Applications For 1998 MGCSA Legacy Awards and MGCSA Scholarship Awards Are Available at the MGCSA Office

The MGCSA Legacy Awards offer educational aid to the children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, D and Affiliate MGCSA members who have been active members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post-secondary institution.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal.

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

MGCSA Scholarship Committee
240 Minnetonka Ave. So.
P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, MN 55391
Phone: (612) 473-0557
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227
Fax: (612) 473-0576

Applications must be postmarked by June 1, 1998.

An Association's True Meaning

By an Anonymous Affiliate Member of the MGCSA

Wow! How about going from one extreme to the other? The difference between the winter of '97 and this winter is a perfect example. It is nice that Mother Nature has given us a break so far, but after conditions of the last two winters, that was actually a very easy task.

It's great to see spirits so high around the golf courses. I even saw smiles on both the course superintendent and manager as they walked by each other. It's rumored that even some of the golf course board members forgot they were turf maintenance experts and have offered less advice. Many attitudes towards the maintenance crews are much better this year than at the same time last year. Maybe Mother Nature throws unusual conditions at us to make us appreciate her and each other more.

My travels to the courses this spring consist of a lot less visions of ice rinks. To this day, I have not put on my hockey skates to glide over to take some turf samples, although it is hard to not bring them with me. It was easier to leave the rusty ice auger and chisel at home.

Many weather professionals have stated we experienced some of the worst winter conditions during November of '96 to April of '97 in recent memory. Conditions were right for turf damage in many areas. Many experienced superintendents indicated that was the harshest they had seen in a long time — if not the worst. Ideas and techniques that were almost long buried in memory were brought out to test the most experienced of the turf managers. The lessons learned are always invaluable.

The flooding of the Red River Val-

ley was predicted for the spring of '97. The media alerted everyone, and as can be expected, there were many volunteers to help with this disaster. It was well understood that very little could be done to prevent the damage that was about to happen, but the spirit to help was still there. Most people felt sorrow for everyone caught in or by the river's fury.

These two examples of environmental hardships are both very similar in many circumstances, with one very big exception. Flooding victims lost their houses and belongings, while some sups thought they were going to lose their jobs. To lose your house and belongings is indeed very unfortunate, but at least there was help offered to them in different ways to help them rebuild. But to lose a job? Could this be possible in a situation, as stated above, the worst conditions seen to date were thrown at us? Unfortunately, during my travels in the winter and spring of '97, I saw many worried faces in the maintenance shops.

In all other industries, with all the high tech advancements, research and testing being done, they still concede that there is nothing they can do to stop Mother Nature at her worst. The golf course maintenance industry is no exception. It seems, however, some golf industry people think that since maintenance people work side-by-side with Mother Nature that maybe she slipped some cheat sheet notes to them to reveal all her secrets and remedies. It is now most people's opinion that there was no common *human factor* that was the cause for the turf damage that was seen on many greens across the state.

In November of '96 is when many turf maintenance people from within the association started discussing the problems they were seeing on the courses. Ideas and solutions were presented. *Hole Notes* had articles on winter damage. Groups of superintendents alerted the media of possible heavy winter damage to the golf courses in their local area. The association had a special meeting to discuss the topic with the regional USGA representative. I am not a fan of labor unions, but I do think that industry associations are very critical in advancing their cause and standing their ground.

It is human nature that makes us not want to go through difficult times alone. I believe that the networking, discussions and brainstorming that went on within the MGCSA was very critical and did a lot for the self-preservation in all of us. To withstand the uneducated, pure emotional pointing of the finger would have destroyed many people trying to stand alone.

Given the bad circumstances, the majority of people did understand, but the few that complain the loudest are usually the most uneducated on this subject. I believe it is times like the winter of 1996-97 that makes our association stronger. The stronger the association, the stronger the recognition and the more educated people in and around our industry will be.

With the passing of time everybody learns something new in all aspects of life. So, with the lessons learned from the past year's turf challenge, have a great '98 and don't forget your cheat sheet!

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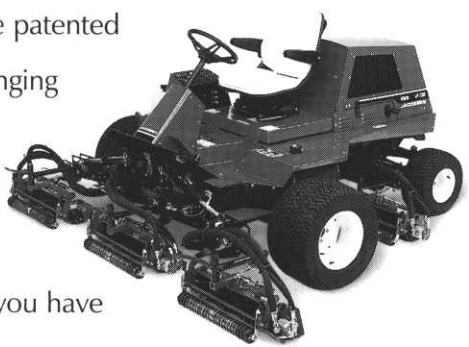


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MGCSA Earmarks \$8,250 For 1998-99 Scholarships

By JOHN QUEENSLAND
MGCSA Scholarship Chairman

The MGCSA Scholarship Committee has \$5,000 available for Turf Student Scholarships and two \$1,000 Legacy Scholarships for the 1998-99 school year. Also available is one \$1,250 Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarship.

Turf Student Scholarships will be available to students completing the first year of a two-year turfgrass technical program or students completing the second year of a four-year or baccalaureate program with major emphasis in turf management. Candidates must be a resident of Minnesota or be employed by a MGCSA member. The MGCSA Scholarship Committee processes and determines recipients for the Turf Student Scholarships. Applicants for these scholarships have until July 1 to return completed applications to the MGCSA business office.

Legacy Scholarships are processed and determined by the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation (CSF) of America. In no instance will any member of the MGCSA play a part in the confidential selection process of Legacy awards. These scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students already enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, univer-



sity or vocational-technical school. Recipients of the Garske Award and at least one of the MGCSA awards must be children or grandchildren of Class AA, A, B or C members (for at least three years) of the MGCSA. A child or grandchild, who qualifies of Class D, Associate or Affiliate members (for at least three years) of the MGCSA, would also be eligible for the second MGCSA Legacy Scholarship. MGCSA Legacy Awards are for one year only. However, students may reapply to the program each year they meet eligibility requirements. The Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarship is renewable for a second year if the recipient completes an application and meets minimum standards set by CSF.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal. Students are eligible to apply for both a Turf Student Scholarship and a Legacy Scholarship, but will only be allowed to receive one.

Applications for each of the scholarships are available, on request, by contacting the MGCSA business office. A personal photograph will be requested of successful applicants to accompany articles published in *Hole Notes*.

1998 Scholarship Committee

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