Nesting Structures Very Successful On Golf Courses

By MICHAEL BROWER
Hillcrest Country Club

A recent project funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited and other conservation groups has found that artificial waterfowl nesting structures can dramatically increase hen mallard nesting success. The four-year study showed that the nest structures were readily accepted by hen mallards and that 77% of nests produced ducklings.

This past golf season, we placed two floating nest platforms in ponds on our golf course, at Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul. Our success was dramatic, and clearly demonstrated to us what the study results showed. Mallards were quick to use the floating structures, and the production of ducklings was outstanding. The mallards stayed close to the nest, the pond and the shoreline, and were never a nuisance to golfers. It was actually the opposite, the golfers enjoyed watching the activities of the ducks. There's nothing cuter than a hen mallard moving along the water with six or eight itty-bitty ducklings close behind.

There are several sources that manufacture the floating nest structures, as well as many other songbird and waterfowl houses. My recent purchase was from Jim Savre, of Fridley, who calls his company Nesters. He typically makes them for the DNR, with goose nests over the top of the mallard tubes, but is open to making them right for you. We opted to have two additional mallard tubes on each of our structures rather than the goose nest. The platforms are made of cedar, with PVC floats underneath, and feature double-hay covered metal fencing cylinders on top. Geese, by the way, showed no interest in our structures, but the turtles absolutely loved sunning on them almost daily.

Jim Backes of Sauk Centre manufactures 15 various structures including a floating duck nest. His floating nest structure weighs just 15 pounds and is made of maintenance-free, hand-woven fiberglass. He also makes snowshoes made of woven fiberglass at his rural Sauk Centre home and they have been a big hit with many outdoor enthusiasts because of their strength and durability.

David and Laurie Silewski of Valley City, N.D., also produce a floating nesting structure and would welcome a call from a golf course superintendent. In speaking with them over the telephone, it's easy to tell that they take great pride in their work and how well their products benefit wildlife. They have a wide variety of products, and utilize molded polyethylene in building their structures. Their products are used extensively throughout the Upper Midwest and Canada. In addition to their floating structure, they currently build what is called the Duck Den, the popular Delta Hen House, which can be mounted on poles.

To purchase nesting structures, contact:
Jim Savre, 144 Satellite Lane NE, Fridley, MN 55432. Phone (612) 574-0771.
Jim Backes, Rt. 2, Box 55B, Sauk Centre, MN 56378. Phone (320) 352-6457.
Dave & Laurie Silewski, 3471 Woodland Park, Valley City, ND 58072. Phone (701) 845-5457.
Cokato Town & Country Club is looking to fill the position of Course Superintendent and Clubhouse Manager. These could be two separate positions or a combined position depending upon the applicant’s desire and skills. Cokato Town & Country Club is one of Minnesota’s finest 9-hole golf courses, located just 40 miles west of Minneapolis on Minnesota State Highway 12 in the community of Cokato.

General responsibilities include:
• Supervising maintenance of the golf course
• Supervising the maintenance and repair of maintenance equipment.
• Rendering professional advice, opinions, assistance and services to the facility’s board of directors
• Participating in all long-range planning meetings
• The golf course superintendent reports directly to the board of directors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Superintendent</th>
<th>Clubhouse Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Pay</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple IRA</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple IRA</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested persons with questions should contact Sol Bernhardt at (320) 286-2007 or send your application to:

SOL BERNHARDT, Cokato Town & Country Club, P.O. Box 506, Cokato, MN 55321

All applications must be received by Jan. 20, 1999. It is our desire to fill these positions by February 15, 1999.

The new 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower from John Deere.

Soon, greens everywhere will experience a tri-plex mower that not only delivers a superb straight cut, but also excels at the cleanup cut. That’s the essence of the new John Deere 2500 – a quality of cut that’s second to none.

The 2500’s John Deere-designed and manufactured cutting units feature a new bedknife-to-reel design. The patented offset-cutting unit design provides the operator with a clear view of the center cutting unit and helps reduce “tri-plex ring.” Operators have never had it so good. The operator station on the 2500 has convenient fingertip controls for the throttle, reel drive, and cutting unit lift/lower.

The 2500 is also extremely service friendly. Cutting units can be detached in seconds, with adjustments designed with the technician in mind. And daily service points can be checked from one side of the machine.

Let your greens experience the unique cutting prowess of the John Deere 2500. Call us for a demonstration soon.

www.deere.com

Polfus Golf & Turf
12040 Point Douglas Drive S.
Hastings, MN 55033
(612) 437-7747 • Fax: (612) 437-3483
Julie Sprau Succeeds Ross Galarneau\nt As MGA Executive Director, COO

Julie L. Sprau, a 36-year-old attorney, has been selected as the new executive director and chief operating officer of the Minnesota Golf Association.

She succeeds Ross Galarneau, who will be leaving in the near future after 15 years of service.

Sprau was named after an Executive Search Committee, headed by Past MGA President Bill Bohmer, spent several months evaluating more than 90 applicants. Other members of the committee were MGA President Dick Bennett, Past President Roger Gordon and First Vice President Cal Simmons and board members Loren Hegland, JoAnn Hernandez, Mary Jahnke and Jan Nelson.

"Julie is extremely well qualified," said Bohmer, "and the MGA will be in excellent hands for many years to come."

Current secretary-treasurer of the MGA, she has submitted her resignation to take over her new position.

A 1980 graduate of Hopkins Lindbergh High School, Julie was graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Iowa State University. She was employed by General Mills as a financial analyst for the next four years. During that time she earned her Master of Business Administration with honors at the University of Minnesota, then received her law degree in 1991 at William Mitchell Law School.

She worked for the Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey & Whitney for three years before establishing her own firm in 1983 to pursue a career in the areas of corporate and international law.

Sprau has competed in amateur golf throughout her life. She played high school golf for Eisenhower High School and competed in the Minnesota State High School tournaments as well as various state amateur competitions.

At Iowa State she was a member of the varsity golf team and played in the AIAW national golf tournament, now known as the NCAA national golf tournament.

Julie also has been active with various Minnesota golf organizations. During her college years she helped conduct various junior golf tournaments and camps held by the Minnesota PGA. She recently completed her term as Long Range Planning Director of the MWGA. She became a director of the MGA in 1986 and served as chair of the Bylaws and Legal Affairs Committee, was a member of both the Executive and Management Committees and was named Secretary-Treasurer of the association in 1996.

Julie and her husband, Joe, also an attorney, are the parents of two daughters, Lauren, 5½, and Nicole, 3.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
NEW MEMBERS: DECEMBER 9, 1998

Steven J. Hall
Hillcrest Golf and Country Club ......................... C
417 Washington St., Apt. 209, Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 838-0632

Curtis J. Helget
New Ulm Country Club ................................ C
R.R. 2, Box 198 B, New Ulm, MN 56073 • (607) 334-6510

Brittin J. Mattson
Gann's Ridge Golf and Ski Resort ..................... C
130 Anderson Dr., No. 10, Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 865-4143, Ext. 438

Alex J. Stuedemann
Bunker Hills Golf Course ............................... C
980 157th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 • (612) 755-4150

James Ball
Anoka Hennepin Technical College ........................... Student
7012 Unity Ave. N., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429 • (612) 586-9728

Christopher J. Rust
Mendakota Country Club ............................... D
81 W. Kraft Rd., West St. Paul, MN 55118 • (612) 454-1441

Ruth Anderson
Anderson Nurseries, Inc. .............................. Associate
Rt. 1, Box 88, Wentworth, SD 57075 • (605) 489-2582

Dale Wesselman ............................................. GCSSAA — Assoc.
3935 E. 27th St., # 102, Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 729-4706

Rick Keller
Site Design ................................................... Affiliate
7910 Brink Dr., Horace, ND 58084 • (701) 232-8440

Eric Carlson
Pinewood Golf Course .................................. C to B

James Johnson, CGCS — MGCSA Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
NEW MEMBERS: DECEMBER 17, 1998

Jon Sundvold
Beverly Country Club ................................. C
1518 W. Belle Plaine #2, Chicago, IL 60613
Bus: (708) 636-8700

John Tos
Spring Creek Country Club .............................. D
4809 East Hanover Ct., Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Bus: (605) 749-2000

James Johnson, CGCS — MGCSA Membership Chairman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
NEW MEMBERS: NOVEMBER 17, 1998

Donald W. Davidson
Fairway Shores Golf Course .......................... GCSSAA — A
13200 — 285th Ave. N., Zimmerman, MN 55398
(612) 856-3334

Mark R. Regan
French Lake Golf ........................................ GCSSAA — A
9519 Rosewood Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55369
(612) 428-4544

Robert A. Traver
The Links at Northfork ............................... GCSSAA — B
12315 Jenqui Street NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433
(612) 441-7430

Steve Jegtvig
Cragun's Golf ........................................... C
3954 Ojibwa Park Rd., #2, Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 825-8485

Amy D. Berquist
Cragun's Resort ......................................... Student
2253 Lexington Ave. N., #223, Roseville, MN 55113
1-800-272-4867

Amy D. Berquist
Cragun's Resort ......................................... Student
2253 Lexington Ave. N., #223, Roseville, MN 55113
1-800-272-4567

Brandon Schindele
Edina Country Club ...................................... Student
318 8th St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414 • (612) 922-9012

Christopher R. Lidle, Jr.
City of Bloomington (Dwan Golf Club) ................ D
7401 W. 101st St., Bloomington, MN 55431 • (612) 948-8851

Scott Sonnette
Majestic Oaks Golf Club ............................... D
18017 Macon Street N.E., Elk River, MN 55330 • (612) 789-6530

David Hackleman
Jefferson High School ................................. E
415 Jefferson St., Alexandria, MN 56308 • (320) 759-2383

Don Chelmo
Century Rain Aid ........................................ Affiliate
6911 46th Place N., Crystal, MN 55428 • (612) 509-8920

Irene M. Kelly
Redwood Signs .......................................... Affiliate
2050 Victoria Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55347 • (612) 424-7887

Neil McKewon
Normiska Materials ........................................ Affiliate
5580 Timberlea Blvd., Mississauga, ON N4W 1E5
(905) 212-9553

Jay Stellmacher
Watertronics .......................................... Affiliate
N6429 Cty. Rd. V, Iron Ridge, WI 53035 • (800) 356-6686

James Johnson, CGCS — MGCSA Membership Chairman

A Growing Business:
More seed, service, and satisfaction for you.

We're growing to meet your needs for improved turfgrass seed, wildflowers, and erosion control products. All at reasonable prices and just the right kind of services. Call 1-800-545-TURF.
When you need Top Dressing Material...

you need Plaisted.

Plaisted Companies is the one call for all your golf course materials, including top dressing blends to meet your most demanding specifications.

Plaisted Companies INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 332 • 11555 205th Avenue N.W. • Elk River, MN 55330

612-441-1100

Construction Materials • Top Dressing Blends • Bunker Sand • Carpath Aggregate • Draintile & Decorative Rock

Photo courtesy of Burian Photography®
December

Tiz the season, for golf?? This is supposed to be the time for snowball fights, skiing and snowmobiling. Seems weird, could we be in a midst of a wimpy winter? Here’s one, early December I’m putting up my Christmas lights around my house. That same evening I decided to have a bonfire because the weather was so nice. There I sat staring at an unfrozen lake and wearing a flannel shirt. This is Minnesota, right??? People play golf in December all the time, but not usually in this neck of the woods. But after looking at the forecast for the next week or so, below zero temps are on the way. I think the fun is over. Back to reality!!

The Hunt

For those of you that have followed my previous articles on hunting and fishing. Well.......deer hunting for me.....let’s just say the weather was great for watching all the animals in their habitat was fun, too. If you haven’t figured it out yet, I along with a few others got skunked this year. Hmmm, it’s Bambi 1 and me 0. I do look forward to doing a little ice fishing in the next few weeks. With the cold weather coming it shouldn’t be too far off. Guaranteed to be a good time, too!! It’s been a while since I’ve had a fresh walleye dinner.

Conference

This year’s MTGF conference has come and gone. From an educational side, I thought it was o.k., not great but o.k. Next year, trust me, will be a lot better!! I had a few people comment on some of the speakers and what have you, but every year things can’t be perfect. The attendance showed that. I know from sitting in board meetings and all that this coming year the conference will be much better. I’ll try to keep you posted on what we can look forward to this upcoming year. The Mini-Seminar will soon be upon us and I hope to see all of you there. As always it’s a blast to see your friends and sit around and shoot the bull. Have lunch together and maybe dinner and drinks, too. For me, I didn’t get a chance to see everyone I wanted to see. I didn’t get a chance to spend the time I wanted to spend with most of them either. It seems sometimes you get caught up in everything and there just isn’t time to do all the things you want to do.

Thanks

I want to take this time to thank you, the members, for your comments, articles and compliments you’ve given me this past year as editor of Hole Notes. The feeling I got whenever someone would come up to me and say they liked what they’re seeing and reading made me feel really good. Really, I appreciate it!! I would normally be passing on my duties to someone else this year as editor, but guess what, you get me for another year!! I’m looking forward to serving as your editor again. I hope I can do as well or better this upcoming year than I did this past year. All I know is, I couldn’t do this without you, the members’ participation, and Scott, Jeff and Ralph Turtinen. With out this combination our Hole Notes wouldn’t be what it is. Thanks to all of you. For those of you that said you were gonna write me something and never did last year...you’ll be getting a phone call from me!!!! With that I’ll close. I hope your holidays were spent with much cheer!!!

See ya next month,

— Steve Shumansky
Editor
May The Inspiration
of the
Holiday Season
bring forth
a full measure of happiness
for you and yours.