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From Your President's Desk

Perfect Day for Championship At Interlachen Country Club



What a perfect day for golf. My staff is currently in the middle of preparations for the annual Breast Cancer Charity golf event held at my club. The conditions should be perfect for a fun and fulfilling event. The temperatures have subsided and the rain threats are a week away, much as they were for the Annual Superintendents Championship held at the Interlachen Country Club. Host Superintendent John Katterheinrich had the golf course in excellent condition. The greens were slick as glass and the rest of the course was in an equally well prepared condition. It was certainly a day for home field advantage as most of the participants from the Interlachen staff went away with prizes, including the Championship itself which went to our host, Mr. Katterheinrich. Congratulations John!

By now all of you should have received the final form of the GCSAA PDI proposal. I hope that you have had a chance to go through it thoroughly. Included in this mailing is an informal poll on your feelings toward this GCSAA initiative; please take a minute to fill it out and fax it back to the association office so that our Voting Delegate, Mike Brower, can pass along those feelings to the association voting delegates meeting in early September. Remember this is your association and we are committed to voicing your feelings and voting according to your wishes.

As I explained last month and will continue to comment on until December, we will be taking a formal vote at the Annual Meeting to determine the percentages for and against this GCSAA PDI proposal. If you want your voice heard, you should plan on attending the annual meeting. This PDI initiative affects every member of the association through classification changes, entry requirements or the continuing education requirements, so be sure you understand all of the implications.

Just some notes on what is happening. We will again be involved in the political process this fall working with the Department of Agriculture to influence the Phosphorous ban legislation. Again this year the MGA has graciously offered their help and their lobbyist to assist us in this endeavor. We are continuing to build stronger ties to the University and are working hard to figure out ways we can make the U of M an excellent source of useful turfgrass research information. If you have any ideas for research projects you would like to see done, contact the research committee or Dr. Powell at the University. Incidentally, the Research Plot Field Day was fairly well attended. There are many more projects going on than would be imagined through which some quite useful information should come. Look for a summary of our supported research in this year's research summary which will be available at the annual meeting.

Keep your mental health and family in mind as the heat of the season draws to a close. In the end, all we really have is friends and family.

--Respectfully,
Paul Eckholm, CGCS

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Tom Kientzle Enjoys Some Golf With Governor Jesse Ventura At Cragun's

By RALPH TURPINEN

Take it from Tom Kientzle, Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura is a lot of fun to play golf with...and he hits the ball pretty well.

Kientzle, superintendent and director of golf at the Legacy Courses at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake north of Brainerd, had that opportunity on July 24 when Ventura was vacationing as well as celebrating his wedding anniversary at nearby Camp Ripley. Comfortable accommodations are available for the Governor here as well as for other governors when their military units train here.

Tom played nine holes with the Governor, his aide and his aide's wife, then with Dutch Cragun, owner of the resort, on the second nine.

"I really appreciate Dutch's giving me the opportunity to play with the Governor since it was a most enjoyable experience," Kientzle said

"Jesse hits the ball rather well and probably would score in the low 80s if he had the chance to play a lot."

The golf round came about rather suddenly when an assistant golf professional at Cragun's contacted Kientzle on his cell phone and said, "You won't believe this, but the Governor wants to play here today."

Naturally, Cragun's was more than accommodating and honored his request of not having people follow him around the course.

"The Governor wanted to keep his golf round low key," Kientzle said. "He didn't want a lot of hoopla. After all, he was on vacation and we wanted him to have a good time."

They teed off on the back nine, and it was interesting to note, Kientzle said, that the Governor had a good idea of what to expect, since the course had been designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., who also designed Edinburgh USA where Ventura had played a lot before becoming governor.

"When you play a Robert Trent Jones course for the first time, you have to be prepared for a lot of trickery. He's really a designer that designs for shotmaking, not necessarily for distance," Ventura said.

"Jesse's a lefthander, and he hits a natural draw," Kientzle said. "He hit it pretty well, but a couple times it went straight into the woods. One of his highlights came when he parred the fifth hole, the No. 1 handicap hole on Course No. 2 at Cragun's.

The Governor later admitted he had been struggling, said "you always go through the highs and lows in the game of golf."

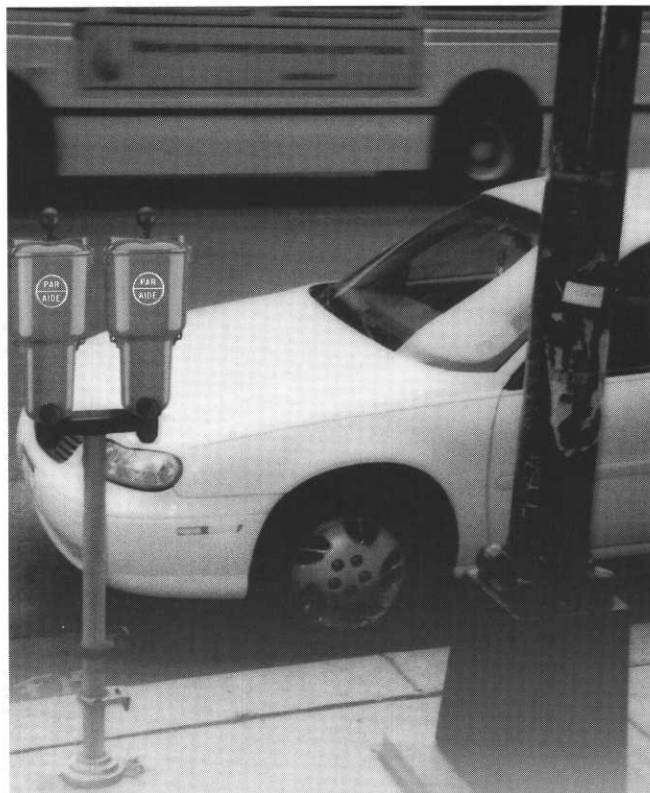
"We didn't keep score, and we didn't talk politics, but we did talk a lot about golf and I was impressed with his golf knowledge," Kientzle said

Did Kientzle outshoot the Governor?

"Let's put it this way," Tom said. "I might beat him at golf, but he sure would beat me at wrestling."

It was obvious, too, that the Governor was very familiar with the impact golf was making in the Brainerd Lakes area.

"He had played with Arnie Palmer at the opening of Deacon's Lodge, and he was going to play the following day at The Classic at Madden's," said Kientzle. "He spoke highly of all the facilities in the area. In addition, he was a great golfing partner. He knew course etiquette, he knew what the game was all about and he was a lot of fun to be with."



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Jim Nicol Spends Weekend at 80th PGA at Vallhalla In Preparation for 2002 PGA at Hazeltine National

By RALPH TURTINEN

The 84th PGA Championship, to be held in August, 2002 at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska may seem eons away, but Superintendent Jim Nicol, CGCS already is getting his checklists ready for this major competition.

Last month the former president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association spent a busy weekend at the 80th PGA at Vallhalla in Louisville, Ky.

"It was a good way to get a solid idea of what to expect, both inside and outside the ropes," said Nicol, 48, who was up before 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, to meet with various tournament officials.

On Saturday he spent considerable time with the PGA rules people to review how they were setting up this very hilly Kentucky course which had some extreme slopes on some greens.

He also spent some early morning time with the Valhalla superintendent to learn what he had been doing and what Hazeltine would be expected to do.

Nicol said he "learned a lot about what went on outside the ropes, such as the corporate areas, various compounds and roads."

Jim also noted how important it is to be ready for any types of emergencies, like when three inches of rain fell during the night before the second round at Valhalla and the sudden problems that evolved when a mower clipped off a sprinkler head.

"Those things happen," he said, "and you have to be ready to cope with whatever comes up."

At the request of the PGA, considerable advance preparations already are being made at Hazeltine. For example, the course has been lengthened (it will play more than 7,300 yards), some bunkers have been redone and tees have been squared.

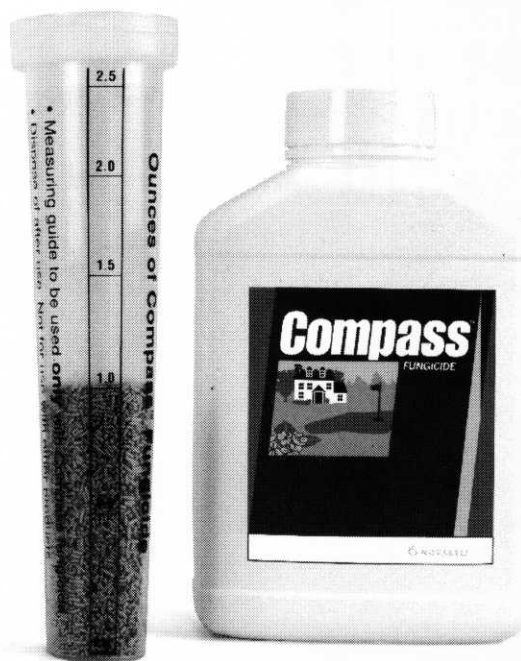
Some trial runs on the greens already have been held with the course being prepared to roll 12 feet from Tuesday through Sunday.

Nicol is happy and excited about the PGA coming to Hazeltine, where he has been superintendent since 1996.

He has had considerable experience in preparing courses for tournaments, like the Senior PGA when he was super at Bunker Hills.

"But the PGA is huge," he said, "and I look forward to getting our course ready. It's a real challenge, and it should be a lot of fun."

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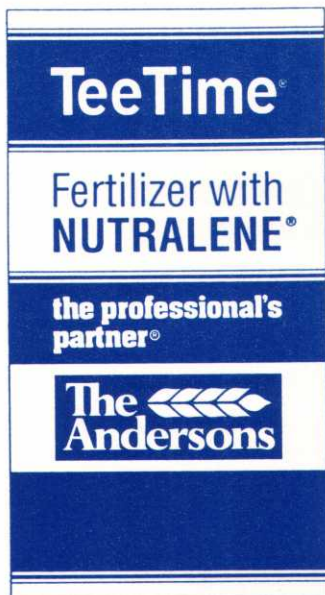
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Green Waste Recycling Recommended by GCSAA

Golf course superintendents often face environmental questions regarding their management practices. One such question is the disposal of green wastes such as grass clippings, leaves, brush and other vegetative trimmings. Many states have passed laws banning clipping disposal. GCSAA encourages superintendents to recycle green wastes generated on golf courses.

Whenever possible, grass clippings are not collected. Clippings allowed to fall to the soil will return nutrients and organic matter. This practice is sometimes limited by the aesthetics and playability demanded on certain areas of the golf course, such as tees and greens. And under the right conditions, clipping return may encourage the spread of turf diseases at certain times of the season. For these reasons, returning clippings to the turf may be limited to roughs and fairways and the time of season. Mowing frequently to keep clippings short is a method of enhancing the appearance of the turf because it encourages rapid clipping degradation on the playing surface.

The dropping of leaves in the fall presents challenging management options for their removal. One option is to mulch the leaves with mowers directly on the turf. Similar to grass clippings, leaves provide nutrients and organic matter for the soil. Also similar to clipping return, mulching leaves is limited to fairways and roughs because of playability constraints. Many superintendents blow leaves off fine turf areas into roughs and then proceed with mulching. Mulching mowers can expedite the exercise of grinding the leaves into fine particles.

Brush can be shredded for use as landscape mulch. When processed through grinding and shredding equipment, woody brush and trimmings make an excellent landscape mulch for use around plantings and walkways. Mulch conserves soil moisture, prevents weeds and adds valuable organic matter to the soil.

Green wastes can be composted on the golf course. If clippings, leaves and brush cannot be directly added back to the course because of operational constraints, they can be composted in a compost pile. Such materials readily degrade to rich organic composts to use as soil amendments when a few key management techniques are used. These include grinding all coarse material, blending green fleshy material with woody materials, frequently turning the pile and providing adequate moisture. Detailed composting information is available from most state agriculture extension agents or universities.

Homeowners are encouraged to leave the clippings on their lawns, to use slow-release fertilizer and to mow every five to six days. Bagging grass clippings only contributes to the landfill problem and shouldn't be necessary if lawns are mowed regularly.

Recycling on Golf Courses

Today's world has placed a renewed emphasis on both voluntary and mandatory recycling. New technology has given many former waste products a second chance. GCSAA supports the recycling effort and encourages its members to conserve and recycle.

Recycling is a process that leads to the reuse of wastes. This process consists of collecting, transporting, sorting/grading, storing and processing. Golf course wastes that can be recycled include used motor oil, tires, batteries, cardboard, pesticide rinsate, grass and tree clippings, solvents and, in some states, pesticide containers.

Recycling makes economic and environmental sense. By reducing waste disposal, landfill space can be preserved. Some experts estimate that grass clippings and yard wastes make up

(Continued on Page 11)

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