What is West Nile Encephalitis?

West Nile Encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted to people and horses through the bite of an infected mosquito. West Nile virus (WNV) is maintained in a transmission cycle involving one or more species of mosquitoes and birds. Current research is focusing on which mosquitoes and birds are most important in this cycle.

WNV is usually found in Africa and southern Europe. The virus was first reported in North America during a 1999 outbreak of encephalitis in New York City.

How Serious is West Nile Virus?

Most people infected with WNV will have either no symptoms or a very mild illness. A small percentage of people, especially elderly patients, may develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). Approximately 10% of these encephalitis cases are fatal.

Most of the severe human cases of WN encephalitis begin with sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, and vomiting. The illness progresses quickly to include confusion and other mental status changes, altered reflexes, convulsions, and coma. There is no treatment for WN encephalitis other than supportive care.

Approximately 33% of symptomatic horses are put down or die from WNV infections.

What is the Risk of a West Nile Encephalitis Outbreak in Minnesota?

Since 1999, WNV has moved rapidly to 47 states, the District of Columbia, 75 Canadian Provinces, 24 Mexican States, Dominican Republic, EL Salvador, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands. WNV was detected in Minnesota (July 23rd, 2002). 9,858 human WN cases were reported in the United States in 2003.

With our abundant mosquito and bird populations, we expect that WNV will become established in Minnesota. Similar to other mosquito-transmitted diseases already established in this area (LaCrosse encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis and Eastern equine encephalitis), WNV will likely cause sporadic illness in humans (especially elderly people) and horses.

What Can People Do to Prevent West Nile Encephalitis?

Personal protection measures such as use of mosquito repellents, avoiding outdoor exposures at dusk and dawn (peak feeding time for many mosquitoes) and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants can reduce the risk of WN encephalitis.

Removal of water-holding containers (mosquito breeding sites) from residential areas will reduce numbers of several mosquito species.

There is a vaccine available for horses to prevent WN encephalitis. Please contact your veterinarian for vaccine recommendations. A human WNV vaccine is still in development.

How Can I Help Look for West Nile Virus?

The first indication of WNV in an area is usually an outbreak of the disease in wild bird populations. Over 255 species of birds have been found to be infected, but dead American crows and Blue jays are especially apparent in outbreak areas. If you find dead birds during the summer months (especially July-September), please report them to the Minnesota Department of Health. This year we are offering web-based reporting which is available on the MDH webpage at www.health.state.mn.us.

Scroll down the menu to access the submission form. These submissions will be reviewed daily by MDH staff and a small sample of birds will be collected for testing. If you are unable to report online, dead birds can be reported over the phone at 612-676-5055.

(Editor’s Note: The Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention & Control website is www.health.state.mn.us. The DEP&C phone is 612-676-5414 and the address is 717 Delaware St. SE Minneapolis, MN 55440.)
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Scholarship Scramblers at White Bear Yacht Club

LONG-TIME MGCSA MEMBERS
Gary Femrite, Sun Turf, and Steve Garske, Par Aide Products Co., take a moment to relax at the MGCSA Scholarship Scramble at White Bear Yacht Club.

THE MINNESOTA VALLEY GROUP
Pictured from left to right are Minnesota Valley Country Club Superintendent Michael Broeuer, Brady Scott, Nate Studer and Troy Lang. The group shot 66 at the Scholarship Scramble.

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As we develop our careers it is increasingly important to manage a set of contacts that become a part of your network. Remember that for job seekers it is often not just what you know but whom you know as well. Taking that a step further it can also be not only whom you know but whom they know as well.

Let's make a list of all the people that can help you in your career. It is not necessary to use names but for this exercise we will use positions to indicate areas to develop contacts:

- Fellow Superintendents
- Former employers
- General Managers
- Golf Professionals
- Golf Association staff
- Local distributors
- Manufacturer's representatives
- Educators
- Researchers
- USGA agronomists
- Media
- Golfers
- Neighbors
- Relatives
- Former classmates
- Alumni from your school
- Seminar instructors
- Golf Course Architects
- Consultants
- Headhunters
- Agronomists for Management Companies
- GCSAA staff

Now that you have a list of potential network opportunities, it is time to develop a strategy to build and cultivate relationships with as many people as you can.

I will try to provide a few tips that I have learned, over the years, to help you cast a wider net in developing relationships.

**Business Cards**

Be certain to have professional business cards with you at all times. Keep your information current. The greatest value is not in handing out your business cards but in exchanging them to develop new contacts. The exchange of business cards alone will not ensure the memory of your encounter. Follow up with an e-mail or a note to set you apart from the crowd.

**Working the Room**

Set a goal of making a certain number of contacts at any meeting or function you attend. If there are 100 people at a meeting it is reasonable to assume that you might walk away with 5-10 new contacts depending on the type of function. Target people that are leaders or influential in the industry. Most people are not interested in talking to you for half hour but surely will give you 3-5 minutes of their time.

**The Elevator Speech**

A long time ago I had a mentor that taught me about the "elevator speech." He indicated that if you got on an elevator and were going up five floors, what would you say in that short time frame to sell yourself to someone? We should all have a speech, prepared in advance, that would allow us to make a connection with anyone. When someone says hello and asks what you do for a living...you should have a quick reply that would be interesting and memorable. Although I call this an elevator speech it is more applicable at social functions, out on the golf course, in the locker room, etc. When introduced to members or guests, at my golf course, I like to reply "Hi, my name is Bruce Williams the golf course superintendent here and I hope I make your game more enjoyable with the conditions that see today." This usually leads to further conversation. The goal is to make a lasting impression.

**Six Degrees of Separation**

In The Tipping Point, Malcolm Gladwell talks about the origin of this phenomenon. He describes how a large group of people ultimately became connected to one another by just a few, surprisingly connected individuals who provided a common link. Gladwell talks about how there are pivotal people in any network of connected individuals who know a lot of other people. Connect with those who are connected.

When I meet people I try to find out what we have in common together. It is amazing that I rarely find someone that I have nothing in common with. Usually we are familiar with a certain golf course, a city, an individual, a hobby or something else. Without probing you can ask a few questions to find common ground and expand into those areas of mutual interest.

In closing, it is easy to see why networking is so complex. There is a lot to be considered. Nobody grows up with a networking gene in his or her DNA. It is a learned skill. By following some of the tips I have provided you too can get "connected". While I have never thought of making new contacts as merely a lead for a job search, I can tell you that it has been the most enjoyable part of my career. I am one of those individuals that truly feel that the most important thing to me, over the last 35 years, is not what I have accomplished but the people that I have met along the way!
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I consider myself one of the luckiest men alive. Today I celebrate with my wonderful wife one year of marriage.

Not only is Kim witty, charming, intelligent, funny and attractive, but also she has the patience to put up with an often times retentive superintendent husband. And the latter means a lot especially when her spouse's work demands many hours and a product close to perfection. I truly appreciate her attributes and regularly let her know how much she means to me in thought, word and deed. However, the lesson to love and show appreciation was learned the hard way.

As is so often the case, my first marriage, which ended in 1993, was dedicated to even longer work hours and an almost maniacal attitude toward my job. It was my understanding that to make it to the top of the profession I needed to work at least 10 hours a day and make sacrifices along the way. Sadly this included putting my family on the back burner. My wife at the time became quite bored raising two children without me, and chose a different path for her life than marriage. Throughout my first marriage in my mind I had foolishly thought my wife KNEW what to expect and would acclimate to my schedule.

In hindsight I should have seen the dissolution coming. But my selfish quest to be the best at my job blinded me to the fact that to be part of a family I needed to be present. The divorce was an eye-opener. And perhaps it started one of the best journeys of my life, one back to fatherhood.

It began with taking Thursdays off to be with my young children, and attending ALL of their functions, including school, chaperoning at every opportunity. I saw the Muppets twice, went to several museums and zoos, toured the local nature centers and led a troop of kids around the city of Wyoming to visit the local businesses. Events included ice skating, gingerbread house construction, snow shoeing and the logging of many, many miles cramped inside a yellow bus built for munchkins. To be factual, the elementary school in Wyoming is a long, long way from the Twin Cities, especially inside a bus packed full of excited juveniles. And there were also the T-ball, baseball and basketball games, plays and band concerts and who could forget Parent/Teacher nights.

However, besides participating in the extracurricular activities, I watched my children grow up, make new friends and have fun in school. At first they would hang by me with their little clusters of pals, and then in the later years my heart would bruise as "Dad" was no longer a novelty, but rather a nuisance to be avoided. All part of growing up they say, and I wouldn't have traded my injured ego for a minute without them.

I learned a lot in the course of my divorce. Tolerance, acceptance and most importantly, the value I was as a mentor to my children rather than just a provider of a roof, the next meal or clothing.

My divorce also matured me into a much better partner. Love and marriage is a team event, and the first time around I didn't understand the complexities of combining two different personalities to achieve one common goal. At the time my views were rather focused upon my making the money and my wife spending it while raising the kids of course. The emotional volatility of a separation and the finality of a divorce forced me to review my goals as a husband.

All along I knew that I wanted to have a deep relationship. At first I went the "rebound, live in girlfriend" route. Complete with two creatures, oh I mean children, who didn't have quite the same values as my kids did. Quite an education, right up until the day they accepted my invitation to move out of my house.

After a two-year hiatus from long-term relationships, yet full of dating many different women, I chanced upon my wife. I guess I give credit for my marriage to Bill Gates for inventing the personal computer and Al Gore for creating the Internet. You see, Kim and I hooked up through the personal ads!

Following an extended multi-year courtship we were married last summer on June 21st. Since then I have experienced a life beyond anything I ever imagined. You could say that the love I share with Kim was created in heaven. Even with a few bumps in the road, I wouldn't want to travel the highway of life without her. Kim is my best friend and understands the complexities of my waking on the dark side of dawn and beating the sunset to bed.

Kim consoles me when I'm crabby and makes the sun shine on my rainy days. She is the kindest, most sensitive woman I have ever known and I am curious what I have ever done to deserve her. But I am sure of several things; I will never, ever take her for granted. I will never place my job ahead of our relationship. And I will let Kim know every day of our lives together that I love her with all my heart.

MULLIGAN MASTERS AT THE SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE
Representing Mulligan Masters, a new course and practice facility in Lake Elmo, are, from the left, Jeff Whitehurst, John Means, Pangie Nascene-Schauer and Chris Bach.

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ANDERSON, PAT
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DELLWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB
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MOBILE: 651/470-8121
FAX: 651/426-0484
YEAR JOINED: 1984

ANDERSON, TIMOTHY
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LAFAYETTE CLUB
2800 NORTHVIEW RD PO BOX 128
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YEAR JOINED: 2001

BAERT, DANIEL
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CITY OF PIERZ
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BEZANSON, JAMES
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DAHLBERG, DAVID
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MYSTIC LAKE GOLF CLUB
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YEAR JOINED: 1989

DAVIDSON, DONALD
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YEAR JOINED: 1998

DUCHARME, WILL
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RUM RIVER HILLS GOLF CLUB
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FAX: 763/753-6106
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YEAR JOINED: 1996

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Jaygus@uslink.net
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YEAR JOINED: 1990

JOHNSON, AARON
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WOLLA, CHRISTOPHER E.
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BRIGHTWOOD HILLS GOLF COURSE
1975 SILVER LAKE RD
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BUSINESS: 651/638-2152
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FAX: 651/638-2135
cwolla@ci.new-brighton.mn.us
YEAR JOINED: 2000

YONAK, JOSH
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YEAR JOINED: 2004

FREIER, WALLY
THE FINLEY GROUP - SYNTHETIC TURF SOLUTIONS
PO BOX 206
CHANHASSEN, MN 55317
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12040 POINT DOUGLAS DR S
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YEAR JOINED: 1972

MEYER, JOHN
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18155 ITALY AVE
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OBRIEN, DAN
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951 E 79TH ST
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YEAR JOINED: 2004

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WEST HIGHWAY 212 PO BOX 231
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