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Just stick around awhile if you don't like the weather and it will change. This is not some old saying that grandpa just came up with, it is fact! In May and June we were slopping in mud and muck and as I write this column we have just had the longest string of 90 degree days in a row since 1988. We have now adequately tested our drainage systems and our irrigation systems and know the areas of weakness and needed improvements. It should be no problem to come up with projects for course improvements, just the dollars to fund them, right? I cannot think of two more critical areas on the golf course that can make or break a maintenance program, drainage and irrigation.

Of course, these are only a couple of the issues we deal with during the season but many other challenges we face are affected by our lack of either drainage or irrigation. Who better to evaluate these situations and make recommendations for improvements than the superintendent? Certainly the golfer recognizes the problems that are created by deficiencies, but the superintendent has the course knowledge and experience to evaluate the problem from all angles and recommend solutions. I encourage you to enlist the help of other superintendents and/or affiliate members with expertise in these areas to assist you in "selling" solutions to your owners and boards. Be sure to stress the long term benefits of the solutions from the "golfers" perspective.

I want to thank David Oberle and Jeff Hartman, our affiliate representatives on the MGCSA Board, for organizing a vendor-only summer meeting and golf outing July 18 at Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. We had the opportunity to visit about some issues and concerns they have as well as enjoy a great golf course. Thanks to all who attended and to host Superintendent Barry Provo.

Believe it or not we only have two more events scheduled for this season, the MGCSA championship at Midland Hills Country Club on September 26 and the "Bunker Boot Camp" at Monticello Country Club on October 10. Watch your mail/e-mail for registration information.

Until next month,
Rob
Albany/Wapicada Team Wins Stodola Scramble
At Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville

A team of MGCSA members from Wapicada Golf Club and Albany Golf Club posted a 15-under par 55 on August 1 to win the 2005 Harold Stodola Research Scramble at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville on a hot, humid day.

Host Superintendent Tom Proshek and his staff had the golf course in great condition. The MGCSA appreciates the generosity of the Brackett's Crossing membership and staff for the use of the golf course and facilities for this MGCSA fund-raiser.

The winning team members were Tom Kasner and Mic Saatzer from Albany Golf Club, and Mike Kasner and Scott Milstroh from Wapicada Golf Club.

After a slow start, making just one birdie in the first four holes, the Albany/Wapicada team finished strong with an eagle on 18 (the team's ninth hole) and birdies on the nine holes coming in to win this year’s Stodola Scramble.

The defending champions: Marlin Murphy, Justin Funk, Todd Samarzia and Adam Larson of Stillwater Country Club finished in second place by carding a 14-under-par 56.

Winning a scorecard playoff for third place were Wes Salo, Ridgeview GC; Jud Crist, Enger Park; Mike Day, Enger Park, and Todd Folie, Hydrologic.

(Continued on Page 7)
The turf industry in Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and western Wisconsin just got stronger with the recently announced joint venture between Turfwerks and Helena Chemical Company. Helena's nationwide distribution business will bring business efficiencies, while Turfwerks' knowledge of local and regional turf needs will allow them to focus closely on the needs of their customers for improved production, quality and returns.

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Field event winners were Dan Brown, Par Aide Products Co., and Todd Samarzia. They won the two long drive contests. Two closest-to-the-pin awards went to Wes Salo and Tom Kasner. James Gardner, CGCS, Indian Hills Golf Club won the other two closest-to-the-pins by hitting shots closest twice.

Todd Loecke, Syngenta, conducted a contest on the fifth hole. This event combined with the previously held Scholarship event at Dellwood Hills Golf Club has raised over $600. Syngenta matched the funds taken in for a total donation of over $1,300. Thank you Todd and Syngenta.

Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota offered a Club Car to anyone making a hole in one on the 16th hole. Tiziani plans to contribute $4,000 to the prize purse at the MGCSA Championship at Midland Hills Country Club on September 26. Mark your calendars and join your peers at Midland Hills.

As always, the MGCSA would like to extend thanks to our event sponsors:
- Agrotain International; BASF Corporation; Bayer Environmental Sciences; Cycle Works of Minnesota, LLC; Dow Agrosciences; E. C. Grow, Inc.; GreenImage, LLC; Hartman Companies; Hydrologic; Leitner Company; LESCO, Inc.; MTI Distributing, Inc.; Plaisted Companies; Pro Source One; Professional Lake Management; Reinders, Inc.; Renaissance Fertilizers; Syngenta Turf & Ornamental; Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota; Turf Supply Co.; Turfwerks, LLC, and Twin City Hydro Seeding, Inc.

Harold Stodola Research Scramble
August 1, 2005

RESULTS

55  T. Kasner, M. Kasner, Saatzer, Milstroh
56  Murphy, Funk, Larson, Samarzia
58  Salo, Folie, Christ, Day
58  Ruhoff, Meyer, Ramler, Notch
58  Eckholm, Arentz, Marvin, Weber
62  Gardner, Moers, Diegnau, Parrke
62  Backstrom, Lillemoen, Hoover, Lindman
62  D. O'Brien, M. O'Brien, Hochmuth, Christianson
60  C. Belland, K. Belland, Snuggerud, Salwe
60  MacKenzie, Brown, Hilliard, Melling
62  Churchhill, Schmitz, Breitbarth, Anderson
62  Proshok, Stonebach, Schmidt, Lierman
62  Negen, Weatherly, Fleming, Teichert
63  M. Nelson, D. Nelson, Kocak, Kuelbs
63  Bjornberg, Schrick, Hansen, Trudell
64  Kazmierczak, Melsa, Bezanson, Reig
65  Horgan, Watkins, Baidel, McGowan
65  Gray, Hemyquist, Adams, Pap
66  Rostal, Makowske, Carr, Boll
66  Haroldson, Otto, Stoffener, Smith
66  Hines, Cranvold, Frank, Almqquist
67  Panuska, Langager, Senst, Fritz
67  Nolan, Jordan, Daniel, O'Neill
67  Zimmerman, Gorman, Simeon, Hartman
68  Bade, Olson, Wettenkamp, Rocha
72  Meyer, Kirsch, Oberle, Whitehouse

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Pet Of The Month
Name: Milo (10)
Terrier Beagle Mix
Location: Arbor Point Golf Course (Inver Grove Heights, MN)
Superintendent: Darren Johnson

4/23/2004
2006 MGCSA Calendar Taking Shape

MGCSA Arrangements Chairperson Matt McKinnon has diligently been working to finalize golf course sites for the upcoming 2006 monthly meetings.

The MGCSA still needs courses for the April / May Spring Mixer and the July BASF / MGCSA Fund Raiser Golf Tournament.

Please contact Matt as soon as possible if you would consider hosting either of these events in 2006 or an event in 2007. Matt may be reached at (218) 825-2751 or mckinnon@scicable.com. Possible hosts may also call Executive Director Scott Turtinen at the MGCSA office at (952) 473-0557 or scott@mgcsa.org.

2006 CALENDAR

APRIL
SPRING MIXER
Site: TO BE DETERMINED

JUNE 5
SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE
Somerby Golf Club
Byron, Minnesota
Host Superintendent: Casey Conlin

JULY
BASE / MGCSA FUND RAISER
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Site: TO BE DETERMINED

JULY 27
FIELD DAYS
U of M TROE Center
St. Paul, Minnesota
Hosts: Dr. Brian Horgan, Larry Vetter

AUGUST 21
MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
Wayzata Country Club
Wayzata, Minnesota
Host Superintendent: Robert Distel

SEPTEMBER 18
HAROLD STODOLA
RESEARCH SCRAMBLE
Rolling Green Country Club
Hamel, Minnesota
Host Superintendent: Drew Larson

OCTOBER 9
FALL MIXER
Oakdale Golf Club
Oakdale, Minnesota
Host Superintendent: Mike Knodel

MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
TO BE HELD
SEPTEMBER 26
AT
MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
FIELD LIMITED TO
128 PLAYERS
HOST SUPERINTENDENT: BEN JUST
Check MGCSA.ORG for more information

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Head Scratcher Hits Minnesota

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS
Keller Golf Course

Oh, what a year! Winter kicked us in the pants, spring was anything but cooperative and summer seems to have emanated from the jaws of hell! And just when you thought it couldn't get much worse, a pandora's box of disease became entrenched in the land of 10,000 lakes. Pythium, dollar spot and Rhizoctonia have had some good runs so far. But, a new player on the block has emerged this year. Its name is Take-All Patch (Gaeumannomyces graminis) and IT MEANS BUSINESS.

Take-All Patch (TAP) probably doesn't ring a bell for most of us in this state and there is a good reason for that. It is generally associated with new construction and is considered a disease of new bentgrass putting surfaces up to seven or eight years old. The "theory" is that new, sterile sand rootzones are lacking in a full complement of soil microbes, and the checks and balances system within the soil is temporarily out of balance, allowing this pathogen to flourish. I recently read a study on new sand-based greens and microbial populations. The author concluded that these biological organisms actually establish rather quickly in sand rootzones, debunking the "sterile environment" line of thinking. Whatever the case, TAP has now crossed the line into older, established sand-based greens and native soil greens with sand caps.

It was mid-to-late June when some superintendents in the southern half of the state started noticing abnormal yellow to lime green patches on some of their putting surfaces.

The disease progresses in stages, thinning affected areas and eventually killing the grass plants. It only attacks bentgrass, which excludes summer patch as a player in these outbreaks. Eventually, pathology labs from across the country were confirming TAP as the culprit throughout the state at large and small clubs, both private and public.

TAP is known in pathology circles as an ETRI or Ectotrophic Root Infecting fungi. Ectotrophic fungi are pathogenic fungi that grow over living plant roots as single hypha (a fungal thread) or as ropes of hyphae (runner hyphae). This group of fungi also includes Summer Patch (Magnaporthe poae) and Necrotic Ring Spot (Leptosphaeria korrae).

So, what caused TAP to appear with a vengeance in places not normally seen? In my conversations with several turf pathologists, it appears that our spring weather played a key role in the proliferation of this pathogen. The cool, wet, overcast conditions we experienced in May were ideal for TAP to infect bentgrass roots. The symptoms do not show until plants experience stress. This year, our plants experienced winter injury, shallow root systems from constant spring rain, then drought and extended high heat and humidity. In addition, many courses had young, vulnerable bentgrass plants trying to establish and fill in winter-damaged areas.

Beyond the weather factor, pathologists admit that knowledge of these pathogens is limited and more research is needed to answer such questions.

So how does one control this disease if it is present on your greens? Speaking from personal experience - good luck! Prevention is the key to avoiding this fungus. Apply DMI fungicides in the fall and spring when soil temperatures are between 40°-60° F and the fungus is actively infecting roots. Remember to immediately wash the product off the leaf and into the root zone. DMI fungicides only move upward in the plant, so use a.