Former Superintendent Now Bar Owner in Rockford

Keith Greeninger, former Superintendent at Baker National Golf Course in Medina, is now the proud owner of Billy’s in Rockford.

Keith was a 24-year member of the MGCSA. His brothers Butch and Lucian are MGCSA members. Butch is Director of Sales & Marketing at MTI Distributing Co. in Brooklyn Center and Lucian is Superintendent of Golden Eagle Golf Club in Fifty Lakes.

Keith’s first day as a bar owner was July 1. Many MGCSA members continue to stop by to wish Keith the best of luck and to try his great hamburgers.

MGCSA Members
Receive Certification

Steven A. Van Natta, CGCS, Owatonna Country Club, Owatonna, and Michael Nelson, CGCS, Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, Morton, both recently achieved CGCS status through the Golf Course Superintendents’ Association of America.
Get 'er Done!

By NATE USELDING
Assistant Superintendent, Dellwood Hills Golf Club

I love Fridays. Everyone is in a great mood because they are looking forward to the weekend where they get two days off to enjoy themselves. Of course, our profession is not a typical nine-to-five, five days a week gig either. Some days it takes a little more to get the job done whether it's Monday, Friday or Sunday. Bruce Williams, CGCS of L.A. Country Club, first taught me about what it takes to get the job done at a seminar here in Minnesota two years ago. Then at the National I took another seminar by him and he touched on it again and that is when I set in. Part of the responsibility of a manager is to oversee their team and accomplish tasks that may take longer than expected. This I had to accept and, once I did, I found myself with less anxiety and was much happier after work.

This particular Friday I personally had a lot going on when I was "done" with work. With family in town, I arranged for all of us to hit the links and play our course at 3 p.m. Besides the routine maintenance for the day we were due to receive 22 gigantic rolls of sod. It was going to be a great day. We figured laying these rolls would be real easy, just put it on the back of the tractor and plop it down. But after hooking up the first roll to the tractor and watching the front end pop up because of the weight, we knew it was going to be one of those days. What were we going to do now? We never planned on this happening. We made a few phone calls and finally found some attachments to fit our Bobcat. It's one o'clock in the afternoon and we are now starting to lay sod. I don't think I will be making my tee time this afternoon, it looks like there is a bit of work to do. Laying the sod didn't go without having a few problems either. It was still a great day though. We finished up around dusk and everyone was pooped. Yea, it was Friday and everyone wanted to get out of there early but staying late is what it took to get the job done. I sometimes have to remind myself, when the going gets tough, you lead by example and do what it takes to get it done. It's not about a hurry-up-and-get-the-job-done either. You do the same quality of work you were hired to do.

I missed my tee time with the family that afternoon. I really wanted to leave and play golf but I couldn't take off and enjoy myself with only half the job done. I could only imagine what would go through the crew's mind if I left and later they saw me heading down the fairway playing golf. I did meet my family out later that evening for dinner and I felt bad I couldn't spend the afternoon with them. I don't like putting work before my family but some days that's what it takes. I don't make a habit of it but if there is a project at hand and it needs to get finished I'm there.

This past weekend while it was a sweltering 95 degrees out and we hadn't received any rain in 13 days, we sucked it up and worked a long weekend. It was filled with a lot of syringing of the entire course all day long. I wanted to go hang out at the beach but every time I said I was done, I would go to the next hole and it would be on fire. I couldn't leave, the turf was turning crispy and I wasn't going to have it fail on my watch. We work too hard during the week for me to throw it away on the weekend because I want to enjoy myself. What it takes to get the job done may be a sacrifice at times but the rewards of this job far exceed them.

While working my way up the ranks in this industry I never had to really worry about having too many responsibilities.
A Rain Bird Pump Station is custom-built to your requirements.

Rain Bird offers a variety of pump station options to meet your needs. Pump stations from Rain Bird feature Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) or Constant Speed technology. Constant Speed pump stations are designed for budget conscious courses, or for smaller irrigation applications. However, electronically controlled VFD pump stations are the preferred choice. VFD Technology has proven to be the most efficient in reducing energy costs and minimizing system wear. Regardless of which system you choose, affordable financing options are available to make it even easier to own a quality-built Rain Bird Pump Station. Additional Rain Bird Pump Station variations include:

- Variations with a pressure maintenance pump and a maximum of 6 main pumps
- Vertical, centrifugal and submersible configurations up to 100-hp per pump
- Custom skids and retrofit options
- Compatible Rain Bird filtration with integrated controls, including Sand Media Filters, Automatic Backwashing Screen Filters and Self-cleaning Pump Suction Screens

To help determine which pump station is right for your golf course, Rain Bird’s dedicated engineering staff is at your service. You will work as a team to arrive at a turn-key solution tailored to meet your requirements, including design specifications and 3D drawings. Rain Bird designs are generated using a cutting edge, 3D solid modeling system that allows for precise placement of components and the ability to accurately fit into space-constrained renovation applications. These solid modeled designs allow for easier component serviceability and pump station expandability.

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Indeed the past seven months have been challenging. What with the setback of dead turf when the snow melted followed by a marginal May recovery period and then a June of excessive rainfall, it is not surprising that recovery has taken a long time. With the delayed rejuvenation many have experienced unhappy golfers who demand perfection for their dollar.

**Challenging?** You bet, but it is disheartening to hear so many of my brethren wishing the summer away and pray for an early fall. I do not know about you folks, but my life and my friends! Keep that summer time coming. Bring on the challenges, triumphs, losses and gains.

First off, I have been able to apply my craft, that of a turf manager. The diploma that hangs upon my office wall testifies to the fact that I sat through many classes and came away with passing grades. But it takes a difficult growing period to really make me evaluate the situation at hand, gather my talents and produce the best conditions I possibly can within budgetary limitations and climatic conditions.

**Nobody told me it would be easy.** It hasn't been. Mother Nature pounded me hard and that really bruised my ego. My course still has evidence of winter injury and probably will until the fairways are aerified this fall. But my staff has done an excellent job in their recovery efforts and it shows. This despite a bad bout with Pythium attributed to a control product failure, several major irrigation issues and a never-ending golf event schedule. Personally my skills as a turf manager have shined.

**Second, my son and I have taken our relationship to a new level;** we have become very good friends. Upon the course I realize I have done all that I can possibly do and still maintain my sanity, and this allows me to concentrate my remaining energy upon my family. This summer I have been fortunate enough to again work with my son. In his sixth season at North Oaks he has matured into a dedicated and hard-working employee.

**But it is not all work that has forced our camaraderie.** Our commute allows us the opportunity to discuss relevant issues, from the possibility of UFO's to the war in Iraq to personal finances. And the drive home affords us time to formulate our evening plans, fishing, wake boarding or even just a movie. Of course he has other events going with his chums and chicks, but I am so very thankful for the moments we have shared this summer. How could I wish them away?

**Third, the tests I have faced this golf season have brought me closer to my higher power.** Many have heard the phrase, "If you are going to pray, don't worry and if you are going to worry, then don't pray." Reflecting on the last 200 days has given me a great appreciation for this wisdom. Very often during the course of my crisis I have reminded myself to "just let go, it is only turf, nobody's life is at stake and grass grows in spite of what we do (not to mention it often dies in spite of what we do)!" So very much of life is out of my control that to spend effort upon peripheral crisis would only serve to harm me mentally and emotionally.

**Good managers are at their best during a challenge, primarily because they can measure the options and appreciate their own abilities to change or accept the outcome of their choices.** Letting go of circumstances beyond a person's control will only allow that individual to better manage the issues that can be controlled.

**For many superintendents this is difficult to embrace.** And perhaps that is why golf course managers often burn out by the age of fifty.

**Finally, who could wish away the smell of freshly mowed grass, the coolness of dew under your feet, the morning voice of the Robin or the beauty of a rainbow?** How about the measured gains made through teamwork? That has to count for something.

Here at North Oaks we have ended many days this season with the phrase, "We saved a lot of grass today." By focusing on the positive, my staff and I have kept it together and managed during a trying summer. By bolstering the pluses and minimizing the negatives we have survived, no we have excelled.

**Hoping for an early fall? Not I my friends! Keep that summer time coming. Bring on the challenges, triumphs, losses and gains.**
On an annual basis, a representative from the MGCSA attends the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting. This year's Chapter Delegates Meeting will take place September 30 - October 2 at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kans.

Kevin Clunis, Tanners Brook Golf Course, will represent the MGCSA. Chapter delegates carry the opinions of their chapters' members regarding initiatives and issues affecting the profession, the association and its members to this meeting. Chapter delegates also have the opportunity to hear GCSAA officer and Board of Director candidates presentations, and have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions during informal discussions.

Meeting Discussion Topics

Future of the profession (small group discussions) - Chapter delegates will help develop the vision and strategic goals for the future of the profession within the context of the 2020 horizon.

Membership growth and engagement - Chapter delegates will provide input on ways to engage our shared members (local/national) to maximize the value of their membership.

GCSAA Board responsibilities - GCSAA board travel and expense policies, as well as board voting principles will be discussed.

GCSAA financial update and long-term dues strategy - Chapter delegates will receive a report on GCSAA's financial health and discuss options for long-term dues pricing for members.

Candidates' presentations - Presentations from the candidates running for the 2006 GCSAA Board of Directors will take place.

Delegates' open discussion time - An open forum without GCSAA Board or staff will be available.

Meet the candidates - Questions will be asked of the candidates in breakout sessions on Saturday evening.

GCSAA and member branding - An update on discussions with the Strategic Communications Committee and related task groups will be available.

Update on chapter effectiveness - Strategy to provide more resources to serve members through chapters will be discussed.

Diversity task group update - An update on discussions with the task group will be available.

Environmental baseline data collection - GCSAA members will be asked to provide information about their facility's environmental effort.

Environmental programs update - An update on GCSAA's environmental programs will be available.

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FORTIFIED ORGANIC FERTILIZER

The 5-4-5 is the flagship of the entire EarthWorks product line. Effective in all horticultural applications, supplying the soil with rich amounts of organics, minerals and available carbohydrates.
Layer poultry compost, hard rock phosphate, soft rock phosphate, greensand, potassium sulfate, dakota dry humic acid, molasses
Total Nitrogen (N)..........................5%
Water Soluble Nitrogen..................2%
Water Insoluble Nitrogen..............3%
Available Phosphoric Acid (P₂O₅)......4%
Soluble Potash (K₂O)......................5%
Calcium........................................3%
Sulfur..........................................2%
Application: 10-20 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft.
*Available in both Standard and Greens Grade.

Replenish 10-2-5
AMMONIUM SULFATE
FORTIFIED FERTILIZER

Ideal blend of soluble ammonium sulfate and bio-active organic material.
Layer poultry compost, ammonium sulfate, methylene urea, potassium sulfate, dakota dry humic acid, molasses
Total Nitrogen (N)..........................10%
Water Soluble Nitrogen..................5%
Water Insoluble Nitrogen..............5%
Available Phosphoric Acid (P₂O₅)......2%
Soluble Potash (K₂O)......................5%
Calcium........................................3%
Sulfur..........................................2%
Application: 3-15 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft.
*Available in both Standard and Greens Grade.

1. Soil test - to determine basic nutrient needs such as calcium, potassium, magnesium and phosphorous
2. Calcium – if limestone is needed in large quantities, it is best to apply up to 20 lbs of gypsum per 1000 sq. ft. 2-4 weeks before aerification and then add the required limestone into the aerification holes. This allows for exchange of other nutrients off the soil colloid
3. Magnesium - if the soil test shows a need for magnesium, either Pre-Mag or Sul-Po-Mag can be applied at time of aerification, although Sul-Po-Mag is fairly soluble and does not have to be applied in aerification holes.
4. Potassium – Potassium sulfate is very soluble and is best applied over the top of the turf and not in the aerification holes, but Eco-Lite, a physical amendment and sustainable form of potassium is best applied in the holes at high rates.
5. Phosphorous - if phosphorous is called for on the Soil First soil test, two forms are most likely recommended. MAP is a soluble form of phosphorous and should be applied over the top of the turf, but rock phosphate should be applied into the aerification holes.
6. Organic amendments - aerification is the best time to apply organic fertilizers because they are designed to feed the soil
7. Nitrogen – soluble forms of nitrogen can help heal aerification holes, but is best applied over the top of the turf

Aerification: This is the best time to add needed sustainable nutrients and food sources such as rock minerals and carbon (limestone, rock phosphates, organic fertilizers and physical amendments). The soluble nutrients such as nitrogen, gypsum and potassium sulfate can all be added to the soil surface before or after aerification.

Organic fertilizers are used to feed and build the soil. The best time to add organics is when you have open aerification holes in the ground.

The EarthWorks Replenish line of Formulated Organic Fertilizers will:
• Re-mineralize the soil
• Provide needed available carbon
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• Supply as much as 60% more organic than a meal-based product for the same cost
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Brackett's Crossing Country Club's Grounds Crew
Pictured from left to right are: Bill Gray, 2nd Assistant; Arik Hemquist, Assistant; Tom Proshek, Superintendent; Ken Adams, Assistant / Mechanic, and Matt Pap, Foreman.

Dr. Horgan Lands a Shark Off the Coast of Wales

Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota, caught a shark off the coast of Wales while on an educational trip with students.

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International loader/backhoe - $7,500
New turf tires (front and back) - $2,100
Rims fit John Deere Tractor
20 golf bag pull carts - $20 ea.
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952-492-2644, ext. 24

WANTED
My 223D Toro died
Looking for an engine
22hp Mitsubishi Year 2000
Contact: John Betchwars
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CUSHMAN TURF TRUCKSTERS
Several used Trucksters available
1992 to 1997 3-WH with A/C engines
Excellent mechanical condition
$2,500 to $4,500
Some with PTO
Contact: Erik Olson
Halla Greens, Chanhassen Executive
Golf Course & Driving Range
952-919-2121 or 952-252-2525

FOR SALE
5 LTC Irrigation Clocks - 16 stations per
Make an offer we no longer need them.
Contact: Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club
612-333-3487 or 800-759-5343

FOR SALE
Smithco Super Rake.
One has standard rake and center-mounted adjustable grading blade.
Was rebuilt by NorthStar Turf in 1999 and never used since,
new rake and front plow attachment, has 33 hours on meter.
$1,200 and 1,700.
Contact: Robert Paine
Fire Hill Golf Course
715-398-7663

FOR SALE
1995 John Deere 3235 5-plex reel mower,
4WD, no hour meter - $2,995
1993 Jacobsen HR5111 wide area rotary,
4WD, no hour meter - $9,995
1996 Toro 455D wide area rotary,
4,000 hours - $2,995
Turco pull behind topdresser,
like new - $4,995
Ryan Greensaire 24
very good shape - $1995
Top Canopy for Toro Reelmaster
(brand new) - $120
Agrimetal BW300 Spt.
Leaf Blower - $1,200
55 gal. Barrel Roots 1-2-3
(5/4 full) - $400
Clamp-on forklift attachments for loader bucket (never used) - $900
Contact: Guy Leach
Spring Valley GC
715-778-5513

FOR SALE
1997 Greensmaster 3. No front rollers or reels but is in working order

FOR SALE
1995 Jacobsen GK IV greens mower
with 2,142 hrs.
Excellent condition. - $2,500
12 Toro Veritme mechanical clocks.
We also have a number of complete Veritme satellites.
Make an offer we no longer need them.
Contact: Kevin Rue
218-847-8070

FOR SALE
1999 Jacobsen G2-14 greens mower
with 4,445 hours - $2,900
Contact: Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club
612-518-2435

FOR SALE
223D Toro Fairway Mower 1992,
4-wheel drive
8-blade reel sharpened,
4,445 hours - $2,500
Contact: Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club
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WANTED
Ground Master 62' - Good Condition.
Walk behind Greensmower.
Contact: Erik Olson
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FOR SALE
1996 Toro Greens Aerator with some repair parts.
Good condition. $3,500
1998 Toro Greens Aerator with some repair parts.
Good condition. $3,500
Contact: Jared Finch
Giants Ridge
218-865-3022

FOR SALE
1995 Terra Briggs Broom Set
5 hp Briggs Engine in excellent condition
$1,500 or best offer
Contact: Mike Hansen
River Falls Golf Course
715-429-2838

FOR SALE
5 LTC Irrigation Clocks - 16 stations per
Contact: Terry Negen
The Crossings Golf Club
320-226-2887

FOR SALE
Two Toro Network LTC satellites
16 Stations
Make Offer
Contact: Joe Otto
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651-388-9524 Ext.129

FOR SALE
1999 National 68" deluxe trim mower,
4WD, no hour meter - $2,995
1995 John Deere 4WD, no hour meter - $2,995
1993 Jacobsen HR5111 wide area rotary,
4WD, no hour meter - $9,995
1996 Toro 455D wide area rotary,
4,000 hours - $9,995
Turco pull behind topdresser,
like new - $4,995
Ryan Greensaire 24
very good shape - $1995
Top Canopy for Toro Reelmaster
(brand new) - $120
Agrimetal BW300 Spt.
Leaf Blower - $1,200
55 gal. Barrel Roots 1-2-3
(5/4 full) - $400
Clamp-on forklift attachments for loader bucket (never used) - $900
Contact: Guy Leach
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8-blade reel sharpened,
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Contact: Barry Provo
Deer Run Golf Club
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WANTED
Used set of Verticut Heads
Contact: Bruce Leivermann
Montgomery Golf Club
507-364-5602

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FOR SALE
5 hp Briggs & Stratton pull-behind Sprayer
with 100-gallon tank and 200 ft. hose.
New/seldom used: $2,000
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Contact: Bill Brooks
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FOR SALE
1997 John Deere 3235 5-plex reel mower,
4WD, no hour meter - $2,995
1993 Jacobsen HR5111 wide area rotary,
4WD, no hour meter - $9,995
1996 Toro 455D wide area rotary,
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