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**About the Cover**  
Deer Run Golf Club will be the site of the  
MGCSA Spring Mixer on May 14

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WHEREVER GOLF IS PLAYED

## MGCSA

### Upcoming Schedule

**Monday, May 14**  
**MGCSA Spring Mixer**  
Deer Run Golf Club  
Victoria  
*Host Superintendent: Barry Provo*

**Monday, June 18**  
**MGCSA Scholarship Scramble**  
Greystone Golf Club  
Sauk Centre  
*Host Superintendent: Hugh Lynch*

**Tuesday, August 28**  
**MGCSA Championship**  
Hillcrest Golf Club of St. Paul  
*Host Superintendent: Thomas Schmidt*

**Thursday, September 13**  
**University of Minnesota Field Day**  
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus  
*Hosts: Dr. Brian Horgan and Larry Vetter*

**Monday, September 17**  
**Harold Stodola Research Scramble**  
The Jewel Golf Club  
Lake City  
*Host Superintendent: Doug Mahal, CGCS*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Refresh Yourself and Build Bridges That Make Life Worth Living*

*By James Bade*

March sure came in like a lion, and I was gone for the big melt down towards the middle of the month. I was in the desert southwest, in a city I never heard of until in-laws became a part of my life. Lake Havasu City is on the western border of Arizona with California just on the other side of the Colorado River. Havasu is actually the home of the London Bridge, the real bridge from London, England. A fellow name McCullough, from chainsaw fame and friend of turf growers, founded the city, bought the bridge and brought it over piece by piece. It is kind of amazing what one will think of doing in life.

**Havasu is the home of the most 5th wheels and diesels I have ever seen.** And talk about muscle-boats, they sell jet fuel to power these things for \$5.00/gallon at most gas stations; talk about an expensive hobby. There are some serious toys in that town and fuel is no object. If I had to guess, Havasu has a population of 50,000 doubling to 100,000 during snowbird season. It would be an interesting town to see in the heat of the summer.

**As big as this world is at times, it is a small world as well.** Barry Provo and Dave Krupp were boarding the same plane to play some golf. When we landed in Bull Head City/Laughlin airport we got out right on the tarmac. And why not, it doesn't rain out there and it is rarely cold by Minnesota standards. We had a good laugh at the luggage claim. They trucked the luggage over maybe 50 yards and threw it on a non-revolving platform 30 feet long by four feet wide. It looked more like feeding time for cattle than the arrival of a flight. By the way, the city of Laughlin was founded by Mr. Laughlin of Minnesota and is a destination for those who like to gamble.

**There is a very nice golf course in Havasu called The Refuge.** The Lee Hornig that some of you might know from Minnesota, was the original golf course superintendent. Lee went from the Land of 10,000 Lakes, where most everything is green, to a place where the only thing green is a golf course; from a place where wind blown snow was a concern to where blowing sand on your greens, tees and fairways is your problem. My hat goes off to Lee for taking on such a challenge. For me, Havasu is a nice place to visit.

**The flight out of Bull Head City was just as memorable.** There were two gates and one plane. I knew the luggage was getting on the right plane and I had a 50:50 chance of finding the right gate. Once again we went right out on to the tarmac. When boarding I felt like turning around and waving to our family like the President boards Air Force One. I know it is an airport where I would feel comfortable being the air traffic controller. It is one of those places everyone should experience just once.

**Why this story?** For a week I was able to be with my family, sit by a pool in the warm weather with no agenda for the day. I was able to be still and take in the shadows of the mountains as the sun set over the horizon leaving an incredible silhouette. I was able to marvel at the heavens in the dark night sky. The trip was my way of getting my roots down before the stress of a new season (Psalm 1: 8) where we put in long hours away from the family. The McCullough story ends on a sad note by the taking of his own life. My hope is that you spend time refreshing yourself and that you build bridges that make life worth living. I hope you and your club have a wonderful year ahead. - James

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the MGCSA

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## Deer Run Set to Host MGCSA Spring Mixer

By TOM ABTS, Head PGA Pro / General Manager  
Deer Run Golf Club

The MGCSA kicks off a new season with its Spring Mixer at Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria on May 14.

Deer Run Golf Club opened in the fall of 1989. The former McKnight Angus and Horse Farm was the perfect site for a golf course in the picturesque town of Victoria.

The club's founder – Bill Maple – designed the golf course with Hazeltine National Head Golf Pro Mike Schultz. Deer Run's original Superintendent – Pat Walton – did the irrigation, while Jeff Hartman and Tom West did most of the construction of the golf course.

The intention of the design team and construction crew was to build a course that flowed with and emphasized the natural beauty of the land. Along with being aesthetically pleasing, the goal was a golf course that was to be enjoyable and challenging, yet not overbearing.

But Deer Run was to be more than a golf course: It was to be a planned community with houses and townhouses surrounding the course. Most of the housing project occurred over the first six years, bringing with it new roads, drainage problems and other issues for Superintendent Tim George to deal with. Fortunately, Jeff Hartman and Tom West were the cavalry

that was often called to save the day.

Though the course was going through growing pains, the golf club as a business was very successful. In the '90s, Victoria was still considered beyond the fringe of the metro area, but because of strong leagues, did a surprising number of rounds. Like other courses that had a lot of play, Deer Run was plagued with slow play. So in 1997, Deer Run GC instituted **FAST PLAY FRIDAY** – on Fridays all rounds had to be played in four hours. The success of FPF led to a culture of fast play that continued throughout the week and has continued to this day.

By the year 2000, Victoria was in the heart of the upscale development happening on the western side of the metro area. Deer Run GC had to reinvent itself to capture this new market, and thus renovated the clubhouse and made changes to the golf course. New Superintendent Barry Provo worked wonders to transform DRGC from a nice golf course to a beautiful golf course.

Though there is always room for improvement, we believe that we have reached our goal of transforming Deer Run Golf Club. In fact, last year *MPLS / StPAUL Magazine* chose DRGC as one of

the best golf clubs in the western suburbs. The other chosen clubs were Interlachen, Bearpath and Hazeltine. It's been quite a journey.

### *Superintendent Barry Provo*

Barry Provo and his wife Kary have two kids, seven-year-old Alex and three-year-old Kendra.

Barry's career in golf course maintenance began in 1980 at Bent Creek Golf Course.

Superintendent positions along the way have included Lakeview Golf Course / Red Oak Golf Course, Le Sueur Country Club and currently Deer Run Golf Club where he enters his sixth year as Superintendent.

Barry enjoys activities with his family, playing golf and snowmobiling.

### *Assistant Seth Swanson*

Seth is a 2005 graduate of the University of Minnesota and enters his third season at Deer Run Golf Club.

Seth's hobbies include golf, softball and fishing.

# William "Bill" Johnson Celebrates 50 Years with the MGCSA

By JACK KOLB  
MGCSA

**I**n the spring of 1953 a young Bill Johnson was a high school junior attending Central High School in Superior, Wisconsin and dreaming about some sort of career after his senior year. He had two cousins, one of whom was Carl Anderson, the Park and Recreation Director with overall supervision of Nemadji Country Club, and the other was Richard "Dick" Hoff who was Superintendent of the Golf Course

It usually is not difficult to get a summer job from a relative, so Bill applied for a position with the grounds crew for the summer of 1953 and was accepted.

Golf was not a part of the Athletic Program at Central High but Bill decided he would learn as much as possible about the game for his own pleasure, taking advantage of the opportunity to learn on the job in his spare time. After playing an 18-hole round with him as part of a foursome at Minneapolis Golf Club, I would say he became very proficient.

**In the fall of 1953 Bill returned to Central High as a senior** and graduated in the spring of 1954. Again he went back to work for Nemadji but was laid off in the late fall. As many young people discover, there has to be a choice as to whether you want to work for the money involved or do you want a career where you love your job? Bill got his chance to make that choice when he went to work for U. S. Steel. Starting as an apprentice: Bill was trained on a machine making "nails." This machine was fed by a coil of wire or rod (depending on what size nail) and with powerful compression along with tremendous noise produced nails.

**OSHA may have been in force at that time** but it had not gotten around to checking decibels, the formula used to measure noise. Earplugs or soundproof headsets were not issued. Long after leav-



*Former MGCSA President Bill Johnson  
with his friends Zac and Shep.*

ing the plant each day, Bill had ringing noises in his ears and weird sounds affecting his hearing. After a very few months Bill decided he would rather hear the sound of birds, crickets and the call of Lake Superior seagulls, the decision to

stay with the Golf Course was made.

In the Spring of 1955 Carl Anderson came down from Duluth to take the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Woodhill Country Club, replacing Milt Wiley who had taken a position with the Toro Distributor, at that time called "Minnesota Toro Inc."

**It is interesting to note** that when Bill Johnson and Dick Hoff would come down to the Twin Cities for MGCSA meetings, they usually came by train. Interstate or I-35 was not completed and the train was the better choice of transportation.

**Bill Johnson did not waste time in applying for membership in the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.** The bad news was that applicants at that time had to take an oral exam. In the writer's estimation it was not run fairly. There was bias and much debate over certain questions.

Questions such as the diameter of the putting cup had just been standardized by the manufacturing industry (Standard, Par

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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## Bill Johnson—

(Continued from Page 6)

Aide et al). There were a lot more controversial questions and that particular test was later abandoned. But to Bill Johnson's credit he passed the test and became a MGCSA member on March 26, 1957.

In the Spring of 1965 Bill was invited to the Twin Cities to interview for the position of Course Superintendent at Edina Country Club and got the job.

Joe Rush, the retired former Superintendent at Edina, had assembled a grounds crew that many Superintendents were jealous of. Lorin Maenke, a member of that crew, still works at Edina. Bill continued the reputation of Edina Country Club being a "well groomed" course and was a leader in innovations.

Bill was the first Superintendent in Minnesota to treat his entire fairways with fungicide. At the time Cadminate was the preferred fungicide for the disease called "Dollar Spot." By calculation a golf course with nearly 40 acres of fairway would take

anywhere from 125 lbs. to 215 lbs. of Cadminate.

Cadminate only came in 5 lb. cartons. Suppliers like myself at Turf Supply Company rarely carried up to 10 cartons. Somehow Bill was able to gather enough

*"Bill was the first Superintendent in Minnesota to treat his entire fairways with fungicide."*

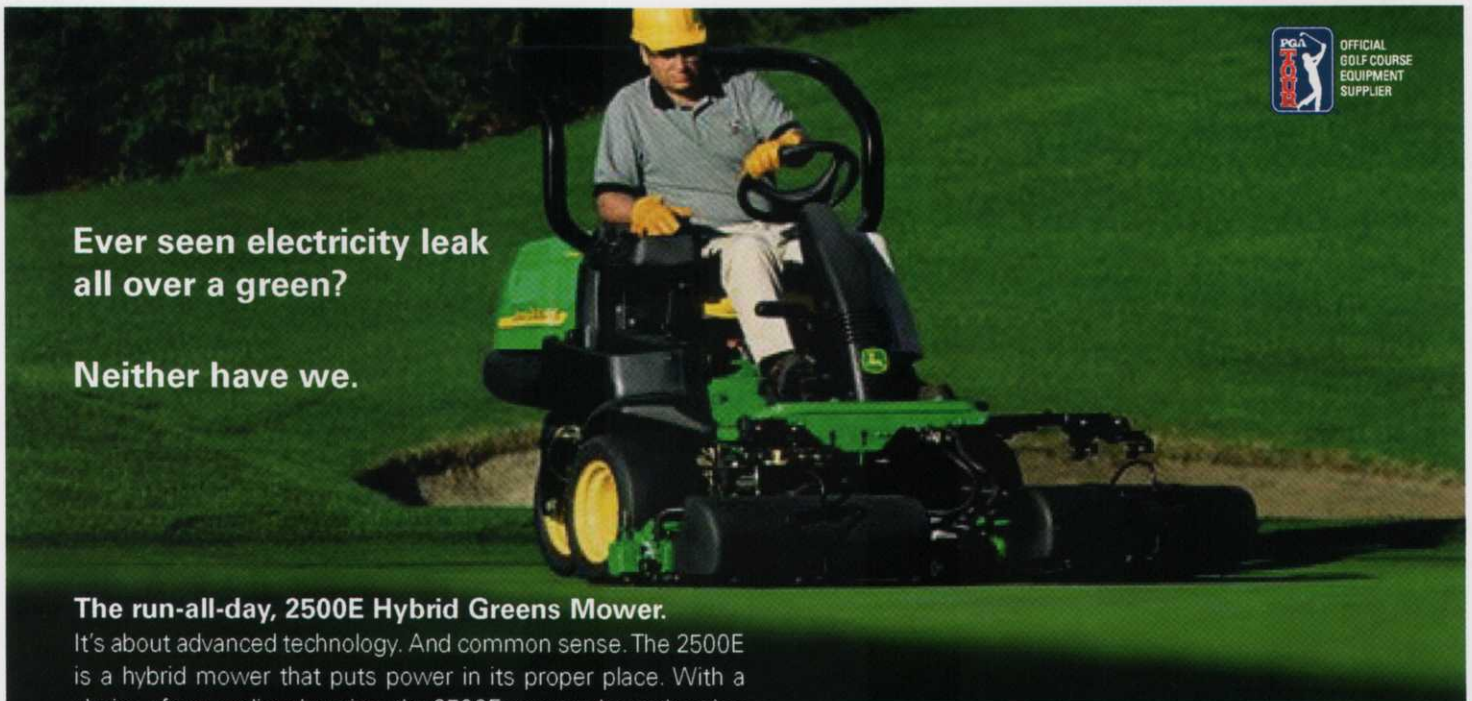
material between other suppliers such as R. L. Gould, Minnesota Toro, his own reserves and possibly other golf courses to get the amount needed for the treatment.

Bill has been an asset to the Minnesota Association. He raised the level of professionalism by organizing a group that exchanged information on budgets, salaries and perks. It raised the awareness of club officials to the fact that they could not have a highly rated club without keeping pace with salary requirements, environmental practices, budgets,

chemicals, improved grass species and ongoing education for their Superintendent.

Bill became president of MGCSA in 1970 and was the first to recognize that MGCSA had to become more sophisticated by having monthly meetings and to have more involvement by the membership. Bill formed specialty ad hoc committees to deal with new issues facing a growing organization, and since the issues were not clearly defined he had to sit and chair many of the committees that were formed

It is good to know that Bill in his retirement has many activities that keep him occupied and happy doing the things he loves. He has a kennel of border collies that he uses in a side business called "Honkers Away." He also has a hideaway up near his home town of Superior. Bill was given an "honorary lifetime membership at Edina Country Club" for his many years of service and when this writer was assigned to do an article on Bill, we had to wait several weeks for Bill to return from a warm part of the country to get his story.



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## PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

### *Question for Superintendents: Do you allow your staff to use personal radios on the course for pleasure?*

"Absolutely not! If you need a radio to do your work, find employment somewhere else."

- Kevin Clunis, CGCS  
Tanner's Brook Golf Course, Forest Lake

"At **Marshall Golf Club** I was originally skeptical about the use by employees of personal radios on the course during work, simply for the fact of not knowing if there is a problem with the equipment. I decided to run a trial period for use. It seemed to work relatively well. My staff was happy and the progress of work details seemed to improve. I have even went as far as to purchase a mobile radio so when the staff is working on a project or repairing an irrigation leak, they have the ability to listen to there favorite channel and detail to the specific task seemed to improve. I have put in restrictions such as volume as golfers approach and a probation period if use gets out of control."

- Kurt Hovaldt  
Marshall Golf Club, Marshall

"At **Windsong** I do not allow employees to utilize personal radios. This is for several reasons. First, as most of my employees are good at clearing the playing field when golfers are present, the golfers are not always the best at keeping shots within the playing field. I feel it is important to hear the warning call of "Fore!" from anywhere on the course. Second, I feel the ability to hear a machine running and recognize the sound of a properly running machine is important. If an irregular sound, a knock, a ping, a grinding sound is noticed and the operator stops further damage can be minimized. Furthermore, there is a distinct sound to a leaking hydraulic system. If an operator can notice that sound, how much damage can be reduced?

In my opinion the safety benefits are far too great."

- Scottie Hines, CGCS  
Windsong Farm Golf Club, Independence

"Have gone both ways at **Grand National** and I am now back to restricting radios and cell phones except during break and lunch time. It is my observation that radios and cell phones distract from

the task assigned. Also it is important to listen to your mowers and other equipment so the operator is aware of any sound that may indicate a problem. There are many morale boosters available that are more in line with responsibility required when operating machines."

- Del Taft  
Grand National Golf Course, Hinckley

"We allow radios and ipods at **Oak Marsh.**"

- Bob Porter  
Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale

"I allow personal radios on the course at **Milaca Golf Club**, however, our club has a membership that is not very particular. We always pull machines off to the side and idle down to allow play, but a lot of the time we are told to just "keep going."

- Travis Kiel  
Milaca Golf Club,  
Milaca

Here at the **Ely Golf Club**, employees are banned from using portable radios and starting this year, they will not be able to use their cell phones. I have found from my own experience that operators are not paying attention to their job as much as they should be when listening to the radio. We have also had accidents and hydraulic leaks go unnoticed in the past where portable headsets were used. Was listening to the radio partly to blame for the incidents? Maybe and maybe

not. It is just a part of the equation that I felt needed to be eliminated. As far as cell phones are concerned, I feel that they are the MOST distracting device out there. The phone rings and before you know it, employees are talking on the phone for 15 minutes! Or even worse yet, they are text messaging while they are in motion on equipment. It will no longer happen on my time for which they are getting paid.

- Justin Gustafson  
Ely Golf Club, Ely

"I do let employees use radios on the golf course at **Edinburgh**. This rule was changed two years ago. Before that they were not allowed."

- Tom Fischer CGCS  
Edinburgh USA, Brooklyn Park

(Continued on Page 9)

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## Peer-to-Peer-

(Continued from Page 8)

We have no policy against personal radios, cell phones or other personal devices at **Coffee Mill**. We train our personnel to be conscious of golfers, guests and other workers. We expect them to be aware of their surroundings and courteous at all times. We have had no incidents of damage to turf or equipment and no comments of unprofessionalism.

- Jeff Normandt  
Coffee Mill Golf Club, Wabasha

"I allow them at **Birnamwood**."

- Dan Hill  
Birnamwood Golf Course, Burnsville

"We allow personal radios at **Dacotah Ridge** but all wires are to be run under the shirt so nothing can get snagged. Absolutely no cellphones are allowed on the course. The one stipulation that we have is if anyone is seen being distracted because of personal radios everyone loses the privilege for a week. This keeps everyone in check and I also believe the use of radios helps the crew from getting bored with certain jobs.

I encourage the use of headphones made by Peltor. They have a radio built into safety earmuffs. Killing three birds with one stone!

No wires and hearing protection and keeping morale up!"

- Tony Rahe  
Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, Morton

At Somerset C.C. we allow radios, i.e. headsets. But if they become a distraction or a time waster we will take them away for a while. We take away everyone's so the lesson is learned. The thought of losing radios is a good motivator. They need to be listening in the morning and ready to perform the task at hand. Cell phones are a no no outside the maintenance area.

- James Bade  
Somerset Country Club, Mendota Heights

Prestwick's policy always has and always will be while I am here that personal radios are off limits. For me, it's a safety issue as well as an equipment issue. If they get plugged by a shot while a golfer is screaming "fore" and couldn't hear due to loud music in their ear, it opens up the club to a lot of potential problems. Equipment operators need to be able to hear how their mower is function-

ing. While most wear ear protection, they can still hear the basic operating sound. You can't hear a clicking out of adjustment reel to bedknife or a squeaking bearing or even a low oil buzzer if you have Van Halen blasting your ear drum!

- Dave Kazmierczak  
Prestwick Golf Club

NO!!!!

- Walt Braunig, Jr.  
Thompson Oaks Golf Course, West St. Paul

I do allow personal radios most of the time. One issue I have had is the employee can't hear if there is a problem with reel-to-reel contact, i.e., hitting a stone or adjustment. One employee with an ipod kept operating a piece of equipment that had a bearing going but continued on because he couldn't hear it over the music. An employee without a radio heard it and stopped him. The damage was \$700 instead of perhaps something less costly. The radio/headphones at least have some hearing protection provided the music isn't too loud!

- Tom Johnson  
New Richmond Golf Club,  
New Richmond, Wisconsin

(Continued on Page 10)



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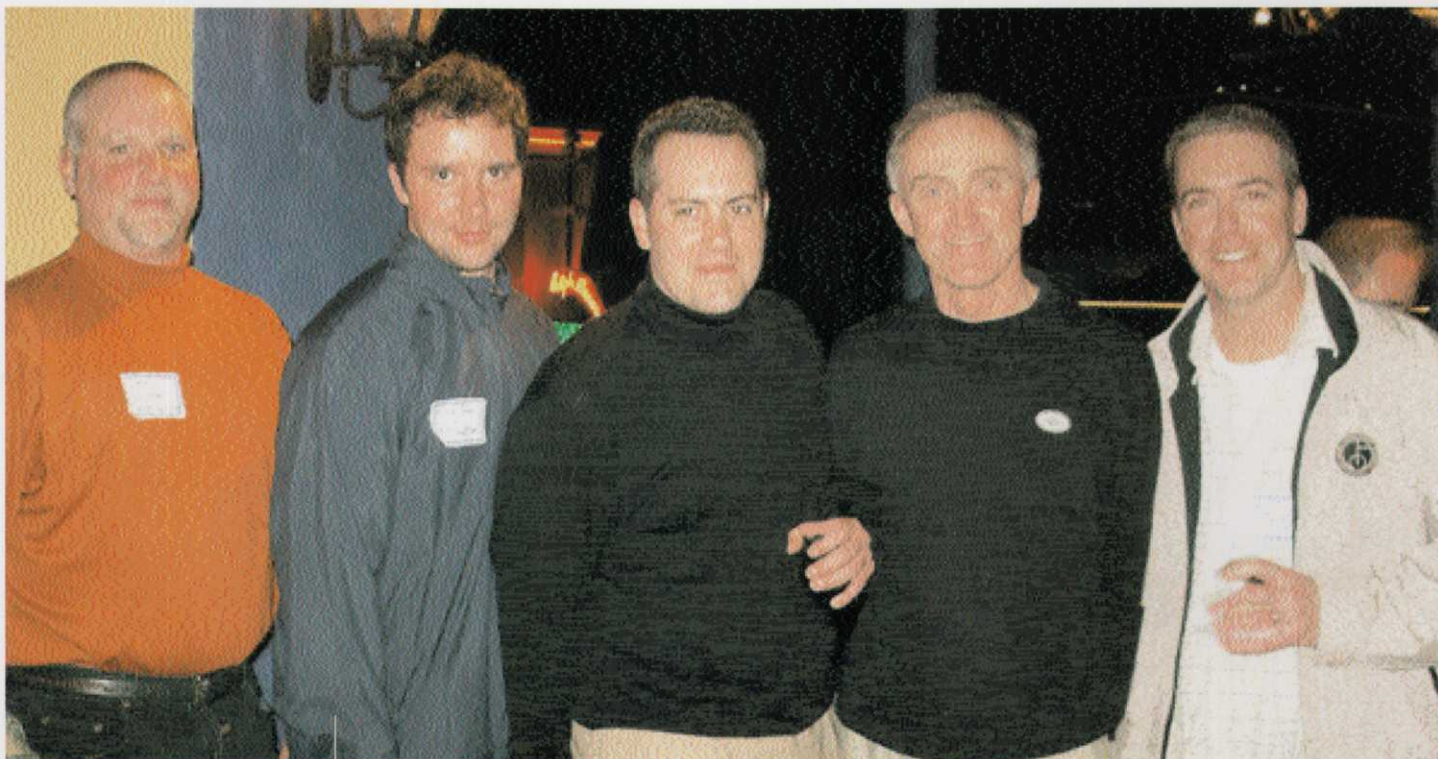
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**A Minneapolis Golf Club reunion at the Hospitality Night in Anaheim.** Pictured from left to right are Richard Skjonsby, Assistant Superintendent, MGC; Nathan Peters, former 3rd Assistant MGC, now Assistant at Burl Oaks; Sebastian Schultz, former intern at MGC from Hamburg, Germany, now an Assistant Superintendent in Germany; MGC Superintendent Dale Caldwell, CGCS and Tom Herzog, Assistant Superintendent, MGC.

## Peer-to-Peer-

(Continued from Page 9)

I have always looked upon radios or cell phones as a person-to-person situation at **Southbrook**. Some workers can handle them and some workers can't.

- Brian Peterson

Southbrook Golf Course, Annandale

We have always allowed personal radios at **Monticello Country Club**. One thing we do emphasize in our employee meetings is that they are a privilege, not a right.

It has caused some frustration on my part, getting the attention of an operator; however we have never had an incident or accident. We did fire an employee over it one time because he was stealing batteries from other people's lockers to feed his machine. I felt if he couldn't be trusted for batteries, he certainly couldn't be trusted for the big stuff.

- Rick Traver, CGCS

Monticello Country Club, Monticello

At **Tartan Park** we do not allow personal radios to be used during the work day. We require our employees to use hearing protection with any loud equipment and feel the personal radios are a direct contradiction to those practices. That said, we have recently had a change of thought about employees carrying cell phones on the golf course. Last year one of our temporary employees called in a grass fire that would have otherwise gone unnoticed, and as a result, no one was hurt and minimal property damage was sustained. Although we discourage personal use while working, we encourage the employees to carry cell phones for emergency purposes.

- Jeff Hanson

Tartan Park GC, St. Paul

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	SGN 125	SGN 150	SGN 175	SGN 215	SGN 240	SGN 300
100	3.9	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
125	4.9	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.4
150	5.9	3.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4
175	6.9	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.5
200	7.9	4.5	2.9	1.5	1.1	0.6
225	8.8	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6
250	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.9	1.4	0.7
300	11.8	6.8	4.3	2.3	1.7	0.9

Avg SG (g/ml) = 1.11

The illustration below shows the effect of using a non-uniform fertilizer product. Note the severe skewing and banding of different nutrients.

Uniform Particle Distribution  
Spreadability : Particle Flight

Varying particle sizes and density cause irregular ballistic behavior resulting in inconsistent delivery of product.



"Get the Andersons small or midsize particle advantage"

- Andersons small and mid-size fertilizer blends provide a uniform application of nutrients across the entire spreader swath.
- Andersons fertilizer blends provide up to 7 times more particles per square inch (PPSI) than typical fairway grade products.
- Avoid inconsistent turf response by experiencing the Andersons formulation advantage. Compare Andersons SGN advantages and discover true performance and value.

