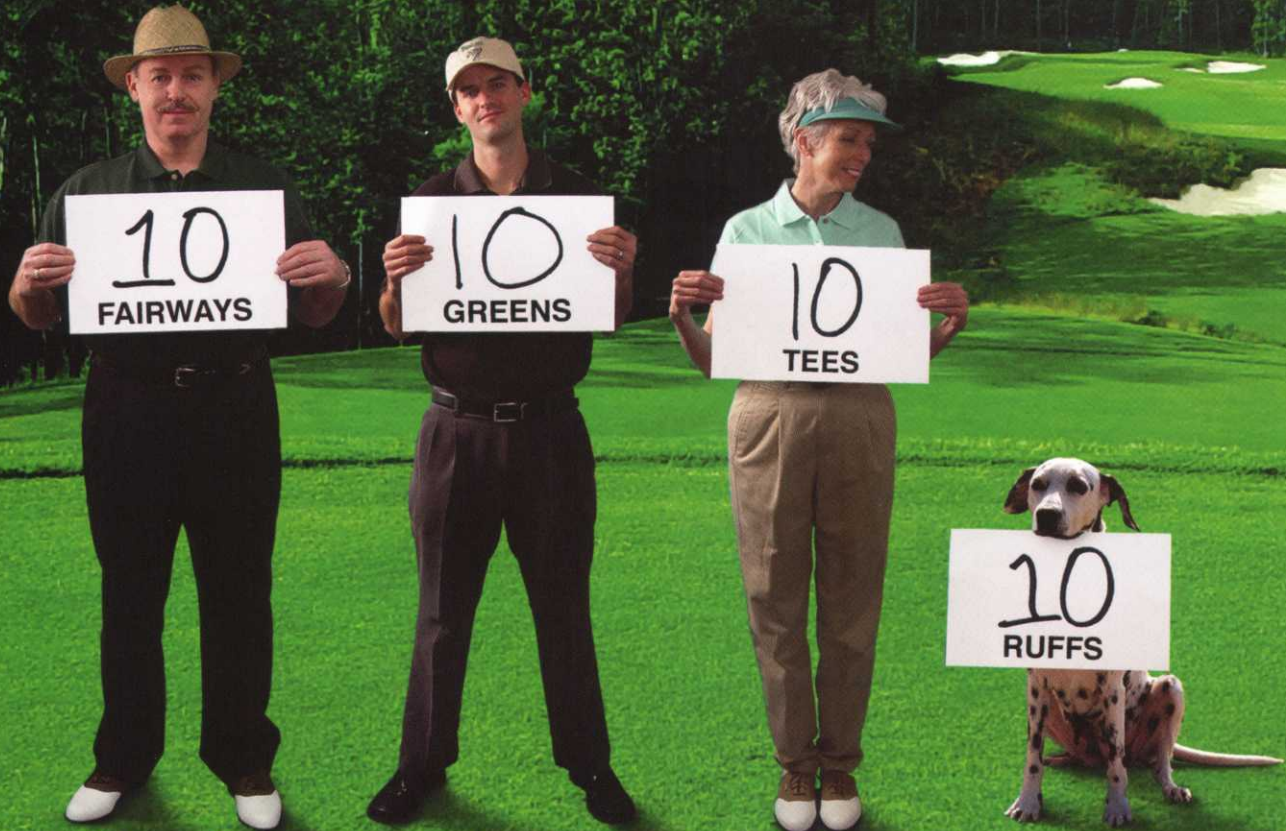


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- Tuesday, May 12**
MGCSA Spring Mixer
 Coffee Mill Golf Club, Wabasha
 Host Superintendent: Jeff Normandt
- Tuesday, June 3**
MGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day
 Brackett's Crossing Country Club, Lakeville
 Host Superintendent: Tom Proshek
- Monday, June 23**
MGCSA Scholarship Scramble
 Somerset Country Club, Mendota Heights
 Host Superintendent: James Bade
- Monday, July 14**
Tri-State Outing
 Big Fish Golf Club, Hayward, WI
 Host Superintendent: Tod Blankenship
- Monday, August 4**
MGCSA Harold Stodola Research Scramble
 Wayzata Country Club, Wayzata
 Host Superintendent: Bob Distel

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About the Cover

Before the snow melts and members get to play a newly renovated golf course, North Oaks Golf Club will host the MGCSA Mini-Seminar on March 11. Water will be the topic of the day.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing the Game of Golf One Player at a Time

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

During a presentation by Pat Jones recently, many of us learned that the annual number of rounds played by golfers averages around 510 million rounds, and has not increased significantly over the past five years. Pat also emphasized the fact that promoting golf isn't just an issue for the General Manager or Golf Pro anymore, we as Superintendents also have a responsibility to ensure the future of the game. In the article "Just One" on Page 26 of this issue of *Hole Notes*, the concept of inviting someone to the game of golf is addressed. I have to admit when I was a competitive golfer – at least in my mind, if not in my ability – I was less likely to play golf with someone who was just learning. I also understand why beginners have such a hard time playing golf with someone who has been playing for a while. It can be a complicated sport with its rules, as well as a little difficult to pick up on the subtleties of how to twist your body to get the most distance, especially if your midsection has started to grow in midlife. Now that my game has deteriorated and my competitive nature with it, it has been easier to invite people who are "golf challenged" to join me for a round of golf. I have found it to be a very rewarding experience and have developed many friendships. Even if you don't golf or don't have the opportunity to invite others to play the game, copy the article from *Hole Notes* and post it in your locker rooms or a conspicuous spot at your club, maybe your patrons will help start growing the game with "Just One."

Talk about growing the game we can also talk about growing the association. We can do that by inviting "Just One" non-member superintendent to participate in some of our events. A great opportunity would be one of our golf events or a social get together like the MGCSA social gathering we had in Orlando. I don't know if it was the weather, the food, the camaraderie, or the combination of all three, but in any case it was a wonderful evening. Thank you to the Industrial Relations committee as well as all the sponsors involved in making this event so enjoyable. After attending an event like that, you would think everyone would want to become a member of our great organization.

Congratulations to the MGCSA golf team at the GCSAA annual golf tournament. They finished ninth out of 80 teams in the net division of that event. If any of you haven't had the opportunity to play in the annual GCSAA golf tournament I would highly recommend it. It is a lot of fun and a very well run event.

I would also like to congratulate the U of M Turf Bowl Team for their efforts down at the GIS. They had three teams participating and their top team finished 13th out of over 90 teams. Great Job!!!

The annual directory edition of the Minnesota Golfer just came across my desk and I noticed there was a section called Turf Talk. The interviewee was Jack MacKenzie, CGCS and I would like to thank him for his input in that publication. He did an excellent job of representing our industry to the golfing public. While I have his name in this column, I would also like to congratulate Jack on his election as President of the MTGF. Jack will do an excellent job of promoting the foundation and our industry as the MTGF President.

Staying with that same theme and actually bragging a bit, you may have also noticed in the *Minnesota Golfer*, that Clayton Rask is the MGA player of the year. Clayton plays out of the Monticello Country Club and is a fantastic young man. He will also do an excellent job as ambassador for our industry and the game of golf.

There is little information to report on the Mendota Heights Par Three. We made a verbal proposal to the city administration, which in turn, passed our proposal on to the city council. The council has decided to start running the course this year until more discussions have taken place and they are comfortable with our goals and position. So we will continue conversations with the City of Mendota Heights, and should those conversations move in the right direction we could possibly take over later in the summer or in 2009.

Sorry I have been so long winded this month. Have a great month! - Rick

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152 Members Attend Hospitality Night

Generously sponsored by 22 MGCSA Affiliate Companies, Hospitality Night in Orlando attracted 152 members to Florida's Tommy Bahama Tropical Cafe on January 31.

The MGCSA thanks these companies for raising over \$12,000 for the event:

BASF Corporation; Bayer Environmental Science; Cycle Works of Minnesota; Duinick Bros., Inc.; GreenImage, LLC; GreenJacket; Hartman Companies; HYDROLogic; MTI Distributing, Inc.; Par Aide Products Co.; Paskvan Consulting; Plaisted Companies; Precision Turf & Chemical; Reinders, Inc.; Sports Turf Specialties Inc.; Superior Turf Services, Inc.; Syngenta; The Tessman Company; Tiziana Golf Cars of Minnesota; Turfwerks; Versatile Vehicles, Inc., and Vineland Tree Care.



Smiles were abundant at the Tommy Bahama Tropical Cafe in Orlando during MGCSA's Hospitality Night on January 31 at the national Golf Industry Show. Pictured from the left are, Shelly Duinick, wife of Judd Duinick, Duinick Bros. Inc., Todd Plaisted, Plaisted Companies, and Jeff Hartman, Hartman Companies.



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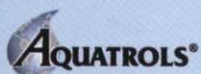
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Things You Should Know About Sunglasses

Choose Sunglasses that Protect Your Eyes and Fit Your Style

By CARLY WICKELL

There's such a huge selection of sunglasses styles, prices and features that sometimes it's hard to decide which pair is the best. Finding a pair of sunglasses you love is easier if you start thinking about your possible choices now, before you go shopping.

What should you look for in a pair of sunglasses? Three big things: good eye protection, comfort and a fantastic style.

Put UV Protection On Your Must-Have List

Your sunglasses must provide protection from ultraviolet radiation, a component of sunlight that contributes to eye disease. The FDA, the government agency that oversees sunglass manufacture and sales in the U.S., recommends you look for sunglasses with lenses that block 99-100% of UVA and UVB radiation. The label should read either UV 400 or 100% UV protection.

About Sunglasses Lens Materials

Sunglasses lens materials differ quite a bit. Some are heavier than others and some types are more durable. Three materials are commonly used for sunglass lenses: Polycarbonate, a durable lightweight plastic CR-39, a plastic used mostly in prescription-grade lenses; Glass, durable but much heavier to wear.

Sunglass Lens Tints And Other Coatings

UV filtering is one coating that's applied to sunglass lenses, but there are many others.

Sunglass Lens Tints

Colors are applied to sunglass lenses to help absorb light as it passes through them. The color you choose is a matter of personal taste, but there are a few important color-related benefits to consider.

Gray lens tints reduce brightness, but do not distort color.

Brown and amber tints reduce glare, including the glare created by the blue frequency in sunlight, which can make

things appear hazy. Brown and amber tints distort colors more than gray tints do.

Yellow lens tints reduce the haze from blue light better than browns, so they really sharpen up the view, but they cause more color distortion.

Green-tinted lenses reduce glare and help filter out some of the blue light. They provide good contrast between objects.

Rose-colored lenses might be a good choice if you participate in water sports or other outdoor activities, because they provide good contrast for objects viewed against blue or green backgrounds.

Should You Buy Sunglasses With Polarized Lenses?

Polarizing films applied to lenses help reduce the glare created when light bounces off of some objects, such as water, highways and other similar surfaces. I prefer polarized lenses, but it's a personal choice.

Watch for Sunglasses With Lens Scratch Resistance

A thin coating can be applied to lenses to make them more resistant to scratches. Plastic lenses scratch more easily than glass lenses.

Sunglasses with Mirrored Lenses

You've seen sunglasses with a mirror finish on the outside of the lenses. They're popular, but mirrored lenses scratch easily because the mirror finish is applied last.

Sunglasses with Photochromatic Lenses

Photochromatic (or photochromic) lenses become darker when exposed to UV radiation. The shift happens quickly as your surroundings change from bright to dim.

Buying Sunglasses with Anti-Reflective Coatings

Anti-reflective coatings reduce the reflection caused by light that hits the back side of lenses, keeping it from bouncing into your eyes.

Sunglass Frame Components

Sunglass frames are made from plastic, base metals, titanium, aluminum and many other materials. Try on lots of frame types to compare their weight and to find out which ones feel the best.

Children Need Sunglasses, Too

Children need protection from UV radiation and glare, so take care when buying sunglasses for them. Forget about those flimsy little play sunglasses, get them something that will protect their eyes.

Sunglasses with Extra Eye Protection

Sunglass lenses that wrap around to your temples keep out more light and UV radiation than typical lenses.

Toss on a wide brimmed hat for more protection from the sun. It'll help keep your skin healthy and younger looking.

Experts tell us that less squinting equals fewer wrinkles. Protect those eyes now!

Choose Sunglasses That Suit Your Style

Sunglass styles change every year, just like every other fashion, but the selections are so varied that no pair will ever really go "out" of style. And since sunglasses don't have to be expensive to be effective, you don't have to spend a fortune to develop a nice collection.

Designer and specialty sunglasses, like the kinds used for sports, cost more than most sunglasses, but you'll find all kinds of fashion glasses for sale at affordable prices. Watch the UV ratings carefully and you'll be fine.

Unless you already know which frame shapes look good on you, go shopping and try on as many styles as possible. If you can get permission to walk outside with glasses on, do it, so that you can find out how they actually work in the sunlight.

Chinese Holidays

By RANDY WITT, CGCS

Courses Manager
The Hong Kong Club



Holidays. The holiday season encompassing Christmas and New Years has always been a special time of year for myself as well as many others in the golf business in the Midwest. This has always been a time to spend with family and friends in a relaxed atmosphere away from the trials and tribulations of the golf business. The holidays such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day were days I never fully enjoyed with the golf course being under attack from golfers enjoying at least one day off from their jobs. The courses still were expected to be in good playing condition regardless of the holiday. For me, these holidays were many times a nuisance for staff and maintenance scheduling. I really never appreciated or seemed to enjoy the in season holidays. Thus, Christmas and New Years always were special and very enjoyable.

Upon coming to Hong Kong, I quickly learned that the Asians truly look forward to and fully enjoy all holidays – including some American holidays. American Christmas is time for celebration. Downtown Hong Kong is closed off to traffic on Christmas Eve and the downtown area turns into a large block party with stages of live music and a fireworks display over Victoria Harbor at midnight. The American Christmas provides the Chinese time off from work to enjoy being with family members. The family is central to most of the Chinese. It is tradition that most Chinese care for their parents until death. The Chinese parents live with their children or live in close proximity to their children so the children can care for their parents. Retirement facilities, assisted living homes, etc. are very few in Hong Kong or China. It is the children's responsibility to care for their parents until they pass away. In Hong Kong, there are 18 holidays recognized by the government, in Red China there are 28 holidays as Chinese New Year covers 15 days in China, while Hong Kong only recognizes 3 days for Chinese New Year. While Christmas is the high point of the holiday season for many Americans, Chinese New

Year is the focal point for the Chinese. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion, a wishing of happiness and good fortune, and a time of thanksgiving for last year's gifts. Religious ceremonies and traditions are given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and good fortune, and the family ancestors. During this time departed family members are remembered with reverence and respect for laying the foundations for the fortunes and happiness of the family members to come. The family ancestors are remembered and honored with a fami-

"Red is an important color for the Chinese during the celebration period. Red symbolizes fire, which in Chinese legend will drive away bad luck and bad spirits."

(Hmmm... Tiger always wears red on Sundays...)

ly gathering and dinner on New Year's Eve. The spirits of the ancestors along with the living celebrate the beginning of a New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the New Year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Chinese legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve animals came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in rat years tend to be leaders, pioneers, and conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, and practical and hardworking.

Red is an important color for the Chinese during the celebration period. Red symbolizes fire, which in Chinese legend will drive away bad luck and bad spirits. A very important tradition is the handing out of Lai See, or Red Envelopes. These envelopes contain new script or money. The amount depends upon the wealth of the giver and the relationship that the giver has to the receiver. Here at

Hong Kong Golf Club I give an envelope to everyone of my staff members and other people that I may come in contact with. This year I gave out almost 200 envelopes during the four days that covers the celebration of New Year here in Hong Kong. The receiver of the gift acknowledges the gift by saying "Gung Hay Fat Choy." This is a wishing of health and happiness to the giver of the envelope for the upcoming year.

Chinese New Year is centered heavily on the family. On Day 2, the Chinese pray to their ancestors as well as to all the gods.

Day 3 and 4 is for the sons-in-law to pay respect to their wives parents. The fifth day is called Po Woo. On that day, people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. Visiting of families and friends is prohibited as legend has it that this will bring bad luck to both parties. From day 6 through day 10, the Chinese tradition is to visit relatives and friends. This is a

visit of friendship and wishing of happiness and good fortune throughout the year. This is also a time to go to the temples to pray for good fortune, health and happiness. As you can see, the family, friends, health and happiness are very central to the Chinese New Year. The seventh day is considered the birthday of humans. Noodles are eaten to promote long life, and raw fish eaten for personal success and wealth. Day eight is marked by having a family reunion dinner, and at midnight prayers are offered to Tian Gong, the God of Heaven. Day nine is for making offerings to the Jade Emperor. During the period of days 10 through 12, friends and relatives get together for dinners and wishing of happiness and good fortune. Day 13 is to eat simple rice congee and choi sum, or mustard greens for cleansing the bodies system of impurities. Day 14 is devoted to preparing for the Lantern Festival, which is held on the evening of Day 15 of the celebration period. The Lantern Festival is celebrated with children carrying lanterns in a parade, and

(Continued on Page 9)

Chinese Holidays-

(Continued from Page 8)

a fireworks display at midnight.

Prior to New Year's Day, the Chinese decorate in the same manner that we in America decorate for Christmas. Central to their decorating are fresh flowers and oranges. Live blooming plants symbolize rebirth and new growth. Flowers are believed to symbolize wealth and happiness. Having a plant bloom with flowers on New Year's Day is considered very lucky as it foretells a year of extreme wealth and prosperity. Flowering plants are closely associated with superstition that is a good omen for a year of happiness and good fortune to come. Oranges and tangerines are symbols for great happiness for the New Year. So, instead of the pine tree as used in America for Christmas, the tangerine of miniature orange tree is the tree used to symbolize the Chinese New Year.

Many traditions and superstitions abound surrounding Chinese New Year.

The entire house or flat is cleaned before the start of the celebration period. This symbolizes getting rid of the old and bringing in the new. In sweeping floors,

superstition has it that if you sweep the dirt out the door, you will sweep one of your families away. The dirt is swept to the center of the room, picked up, and carried away. All dirt and garbage is to be taken out the back door.

Preparing for New Year's is similar to Spring Cleaning that Americans do after a long, hard winter. On New Year's Day, washing your hair is washing away good fortune. Crying on New Year's Day may mean crying all year. Do not use scissors on New Year's Day; this is cutting off your good fortune for the New Year.

Many of these customs, superstitions, and celebrations are still followed closely in China. The New Year's period of celebration is still 15 days long. With preparing for New Year's, observing the 15-day



New Year's Lunch Buffet for Hong Kong CC's Grounds Staff.

period, and getting back into a work mode, the month of February in China is basically a month of very little work activity. Here in Hong Kong the celebration period is recognized as only 4 days in length. Many of the Chinese still observe the 15-day period, but officially the period is 4 days in length. For me, this has been a great learning experience of another culture and a way of life. Truly another adventure in life.

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UM Students Excel in a Tough Turf Test At the GCSAA Turf Bowl in Orlando

By CHARLES FISCHER

Vice President, University of Minnesota Turf Club

For those of you who are unaware of the Turf Bowl, it is simply put as one of the hardest tests a student will take before leaving school and moving on into the industry. Every year at the National GCSAA Conference students from across the country get together in teams of four, from their respective schools, and compete in what is known as the Turf Bowl. The Turf Bowl is a test that consists of up to 10 different sections relating to golf course functions including an essay and lasting up to three hours.

This year the University of Minnesota Turf Club sent three teams to compete in the Turf Bowl. For a second year in a row two of the teams consisted of students who were first time attendees, while the third team consisted of four returning attendees to the event.



The returning team who took the test included Ryan Browning, Joel Hanson, Anders Lindberg and Charles Fischer. Expectations were set high for this team by advisors and instructors. This team of four individuals, met the task head on, placed 13th overall and 3rd in the essay among 92 other teams. This finish was one

of the highest placements a University of Minnesota Turf Club team has ever achieved in the 14 years the Turf Bowl has been in existence. All four team members will be graduating this spring and look forward to utilizing their knowledge gained from their experience.

Congratulations to all members of the Turf Club for their participation and we all hope to hear about your placement in the future.

The U of M Turf Club would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their support and generosity. If it were not for those Superintendents donating golf passes for the raffle and allowing us to volunteer for donation, we would never be able to send so many students to take part in such a great learning experience.

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