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## Upcoming MGCSA Schedule

**Tuesday, June 3**  
**MGCSA Affiliates' Appreciation Day**  
 Brackett's Crossing Country Club, Lakeville  
 Host Superintendent: Tom Proshok

**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

**Monday, September 8**  
**MGCSA Championship**  
 The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis  
 Host Superintendent: Jeff Johnson

**Thursday, September 11**  
**University of Minnesota Field Day**  
 The TROE Center  
 U of M Host: Dr. Brian Horgan

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## About the Cover

Somerset Country Club hosts the Scholarship Scramble on June 23. Pictured on the cover is the eighth hole at Somerset. (See article on Page 5)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Give Yourself a Pat on the Back*

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

Recently I have had a couple of opportunities to hear Tom Ryan explain the Economic Impact Study for Minnesota golf that the MGA had compiled in 2007. During the first of these opportunities, there were a few spots of interest generated for me, but the second time I heard him speak, many other issues started to stir my synaptic responses.

Since many of you have not had the opportunity to listen to or read this report, I will throw a few tidbits in your direction; however, I encourage you to go to the MGA website or the latest edition of *Minnesota Golfer* and read the report.

In that report are a number of positive informational tidbits about the golf industry in Minnesota, such as the fact that golf contributes \$2.4 billion to the state's economy. That there are 508 golf courses in Minnesota of which 90% are public, and that Minnesota is the only state to have hosted all 13 USGA national championships. One item that really caught my attention was that among visiting golfers, Minnesota ranks third highest in golf destinations behind Florida, and Arizona. (In the report it has us ranked fourth, but after further review Tom Ryan clarified that to third.)

So my recommendation to the members of the MGCSA is to give yourselves a pat on the back. To be ranked third when we have only six quality months to play golf tells me that we are doing an excellent job of building and maintaining quality golf courses. I have always said and

still believe, that Minnesota and our surrounding states have some of the best golf course superintendents managing turf under some of the worst conditions.

All the information gathered in this study will help our industry on several levels, but primarily when dealing with the state legislature. At the risk of upsetting a politician or two, it seems that every political season the local legislature finds something to get our membership stirring or make our jobs a little more difficult. The most recent of those was the surcharge on irrigation water. As we learned at our last Mini Seminar, irrigation water has become the new hot topic on the political agenda, and more regulation is being sought by several different state agencies. This could lead some superintendents to make dramatic changes in how they manage their turf. The MGCSA will be working with the MTGF and affiliates, to develop a Best Management Practices program for irrigation water. By putting together a BMP and using it in conjunction with the information from the MGA and the Economic Impact Study from the MTGF, which includes all turf industries, we will be able to show the legislature that our industry is on top of conservation and no additional controls are necessary. Hopefully they will take the information to heart.

Since the season is finally underway, I hope you have all had a great start and I will see you next month.

-Rick

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the MGCSA

#### Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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952/473-2582 Fax: 952/473-2586  
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227  
scott@mgcsa.org

[www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org)



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# Scholarship Scramble Set for Somerset on June 23

By JAMES BADE

Superintendent, Somerset Country Club

Somerset Country Club was established in 1919 when some of the members from Town and Country Golf Club of St. Paul felt their club was becoming too busy. To create a certain atmosphere Somerset was formed with the goal of not having any tee times. The members picked out a great piece of land on which to build their course just south of downtown Saint Paul in what is now Mendota Heights. They hired one of the best architects of that time, Seth Raynor, who rose to prominence with C.B. MacDonald. Mr. Raynor designed while Holm and Olson florists of Saint Paul transformed the old farm and apple orchard into a nice place to play golf.

Like many old clubs Somerset has seen its share of changes over the years. However it usually still feels like the same place it was in the 20's and 30's. With the exception of 4 holes the lay out is basically the same. Raynor mimicked famous golf holes of St. Andrews and other European courses. SCC most famous hole is the Par 3 fourth hole. It is called a Redan Hole and looks just like another Raynor hole, the Par 3 seventh at Shinnecock Hills. One of the holes that gave the pros fits at the U.S. Open in 2004. It is the biggest green on the course at 11,000 square feet and is never on the most requested walk-mowing route. SCC's present 9th hole is modeled after the Road Hole, which we are in the process



No. 11 at Somerset Country Club

of restoring to some degree. Oddly enough, a non-original hole is often considered Somerset's signature hole. The second is a 500-yard Par 5 going up a good sized hill. The walk up the hill can be tiring but the views of the Minneapolis skyline from the second

*(Continued on Page 25)*

**David J. Oberle**

**Sales**

**david.oberle@comcast.net**



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# The Superintendent's Wife

By BILL GULLICKS  
Bellwood Oaks Golf Course

It's that time of year again where the golf course is running on all cylinders. The adrenaline is flowing through our veins 24 hours a day. I have butterflies in my stomach, and my wife is dealing with her own pains as the snow melts and a new season of golf is about to begin. The 'divorce open' (my wife's favorite saying) has just begun in many marriages across the world.

With the shocking divorce rate among superintendents, I wanted to step back and recognize the Super Wives in so many of our lives who choose to stand beside us and keep our families ticking throughout the golf season. My Super Wife, Kristen, is an elementary teacher, so our work seasons are com-

pletely opposite of each other. She always says that we have a love/hate relationship with our careers. She loves mine during the winter and hates it over the summer, while I feel just the opposite. Despite these differences, I've found it interesting how many other superintendent's wives are school teachers. The two

occupations must complement each other.

When the golf course is in full swing, we are at its beck and call. We are checking irrigation systems during the evening hours, working weekends, attending meetings and, of course, dealing with unexpected occurrences (ie..

*"On the way home I turned to my wife and said, Let's hope that you don't have to deliver on your due date, since that is the day scheduled for aerifying the greens." She gave me that 'I'm too tired, so just call yourself an idiot look,' and never responded."*

Mother Nature). Our work day is never 9-5 five days a week. We have the mentality to work until we have the course the exact way we envision it. Some days we will work from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., but more often than not our days will last until the early evening. That is when those Super Wives in our lives gently remind us that "It is just GRASS!"

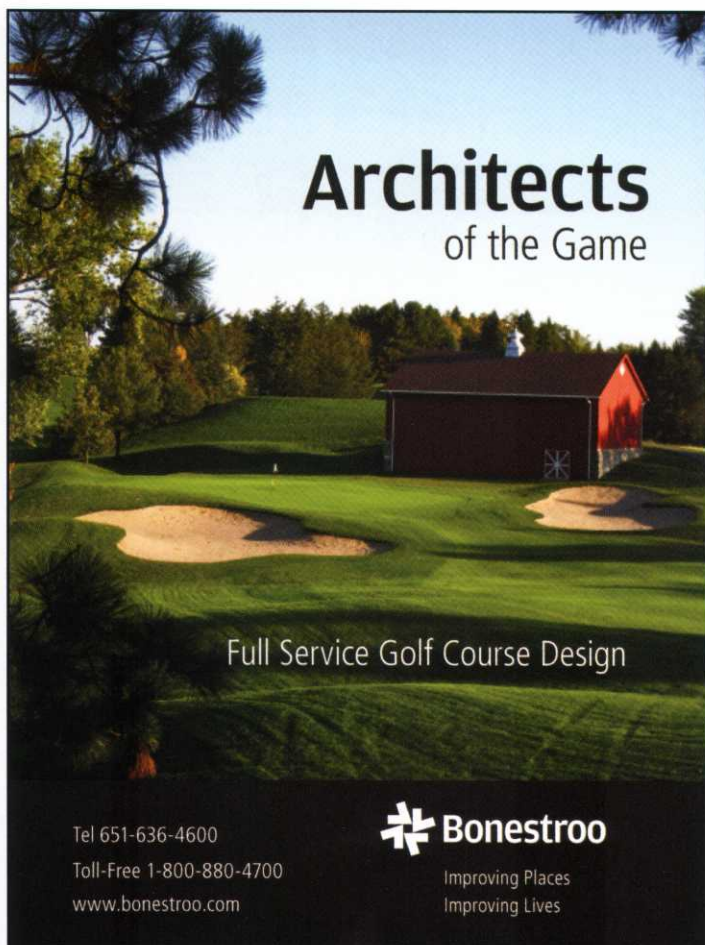
When things do get busy during the "dog days" of summer it is nice to have someone to share our frustrations with, whether it is simply a personnel issue, equipment problem or the weather. The ability to share with and get input from someone we truly trust is valuable in keeping us going.

Over the years my wife has come to the realization that there is no such thing as a schedule in a superintendent's life. When I call to let her know when I will be home, she simply asks, "Is that real time or golf course time?" Supposedly "golf course time" tends to run one to two hours longer than actual time. I guess it is her way of dealing with those frustrating, long days when she receives my "good news" phone call.

Early on in our marriage I made a mistake that I will never be able to live down. I put "the grass" first. We were expecting our second child and had just visited the doctor for the first time. He informed the proud parents that their child would be due on September 5th. Immediately my wheels started turning and I had already figured out that it would be around Labor Day weekend. What??? That is the time that we aerify the greens.

On the way home I turned to my wife and said, "Let's hope that you don't have to deliver on your due date, since that is the day scheduled for aerifying the greens." She gave me that "I'm too tired, so just call yourself an idiot look" and never responded. Abigail came along on September 9th after the greens looked great and we had moved on to other fall projects, but to this day I still hear her tell the Great Aerifying Story of 1995 to all her friends.

(Continued on Page 7)



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## The Superintendent's Wife-

(Continued from Page 6)

During the golf season, my wife does a fabulous job of keeping everyone going in the right direction. She has learned how to keep things balanced at home with and without me around. We have four children that range from high school to kindergarten that fill the calendar up each month with piano lessons, sports, church activities, choir concerts, doctor/dentist appointments and many other things. I feel lucky that my career hasn't stood in the way of my children enjoying family times to the fullest. Several times over the summer my wife doesn't hesitate to hook up our 23-foot camper to the back end of our 3/4 ton Suburban and head off on a camping adventure. I try to take advantage of two camping trips each year as well as traveling somewhere warm during the winter.

This past winter my wife decided that she would like to attend The Golf Industry Show. She wasn't going for the equipment or speakers, unless they were planning on presenting pool side. During the trip she didn't hesitate on asking questions and was amazed at all the different



The Gullicks family in Cancun.

*"As I look ahead at the golf season and glance back at the past few months, I now understand how my career changes my wife's daily routine. So as the sun starts shining and the days get longer, remember to thank your Super Wife for all she does during the busy season before it begins, not after."*

vendors, distributors and suppliers who support the superintendents. It gave her a new perspective on what my career involves, and she was able to put faces to many names.

She had to laugh at how easy it was to spot a superintendent from far away. If it wasn't the blue blazers or golf shirts that gave us away, it was the trendy name tags. You can imagine her excitement as she received her own name tag for the trade show. She is already talking about San Diego in two years and looking forward to the Minnesota Hospitality Night.

During the past few months, I attempted to become a Super Dad and gave my wife a much-needed break. I took over her daily routines so she was able to read the paper, drink some tea and head out the door at 7:00 am. That is when I truly understood how much I take for granted during those long, summer months. Every day I had to get the kids ready in the morning, drive them to school, pick up for after school activities, cook supper, and so much more. And all of this while I was trying to get myself to work each day, which some days seemed impossible.

As I look ahead at the golf season and glance back at the past few months, I now understand how my career changes my wife's daily routine. So as the sun starts shining and the days get longer remember to thank your Super Wife for all she does during the

busy season *before* it begins, not after.

Happy Anniversary on May 14th Kristen, just in case I forget or I'm on "golf course" time.

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## Mark Woodward Selected GCSAA Chief Executive Officer

Mark J. Woodward, golf operations manager for the City of San Diego, has been selected chief executive officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

His selection by the GCSAA Board of Directors comes after conducting a national search to replace Steve Mona, who became the chief executive of the World Golf Foundation March 3. A familiar face to GCSAA, Woodward has been actively involved as a committee participant, a member of the board of directors and 68th president of the association in 2004. He is in his 30th year as a GCSAA member and first achieved the status of certified golf course superintendent in 1986. He is the first golf course superintendent to serve as GCSAA's permanent chief executive.

"We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of candidates that were interested in the position. Without a doubt, Mark presented the best fit for the association," GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS said. "He is a talented individual with a myriad of skills and

abilities that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry and the game well. He has a strong track record of service to GCSAA and success as a golf course superintendent and an administrator. His efforts have earned him rave reviews in bolstering golf operations for the city of San Diego."

In his capacity in San Diego, Woodward developed a five-year business plan that has resulted in generating an additional \$3 million in revenue from 2006 to 2007, including the implementation of the Advance Tee Time program that added \$500,000 in revenue in the first year. His department has hosted numerous high profile events including three junior world golf championships, three city amateur championships, three PGA Tour events and the upcoming U.S. Open - on top of the three golf facilities annually hosting 260 golf outings. His plan resulted in creating 20,000 additional tee times available for the public golfer. From a golf course standpoint, Woodward has implemented a management plan that has pro-



Mark Woodward  
New CEO at GCSAA

duced drastically improved course conditions and enhanced environmental stewardship.

"Mark will begin his duties at GCSAA on July 1," Downing said.

(Continued on Page 9)

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## Mark Woodward-

(Continued from Page 8)

It is a wonderful celebration of the game and it is only fitting that he finishes his integral role in conducting the event."

Woodward was named to his position in San Diego in January 2005 after serving 31 years in various capacities with the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz. His last position there was parks and recreation administrator, which included the oversight of two golf courses, a tennis facility, the Chicago Cubs spring training home, a minor league baseball training site, a park ranger program and a cemetery. He is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in environmental resources and holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

In addition to his past volunteer service to GCSAA, Woodward is active in the National Institute of Golf Management sponsored by the National Golf Foundation. He joined the NIGM board of regents in 1992, serving as its chair in 1999. He was a trustee for the Environmental Institute for Golf, serving as secretary in 2004.



Woodward has a strong golf course management background. He began his career as an assistant golf course superintendent at Mesa's Dobson Ranch Golf Course, helping to construct the layout. Two years later he assumed the superintendent position and then in 1987 assumed the additional duties of managing Mesa's Riverview Golf Course. His grandfather Jay is one of only three superintendents to have been inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame and was recognized as one of 11 GCSAA members to be recognized for outstanding service at the association's 50th anniversary celebration. Other family members to have served in

the superintendent profession include his son Matt, son-in-law Cody Swirczynski, a cousin, Mike Pock, and his sons, Ernie and Jay.

Woodward, 55, (born September 6, 1952) is a native of Phoenix, Ariz. He and his wife Amy have six children including Mark's son, Matt, and his daughter, Erin, and Amy's daughters, Rachel, Christine, Nicole and Jessie. They currently have seven grand children.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus on golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 21,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf, works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts. Visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

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