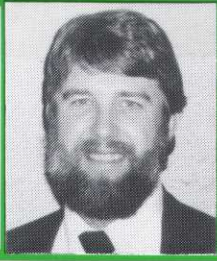


EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Parent
River Oaks Golf Course



Turfing the Net Confessions of an Info Junky

I finally took the jump and signed up for the Internet. After three nights of "surfing" I found myself becoming depressed. In 10 hours of probing, most of which was learning how to run the program, I had uncovered more data bases and home pages than I could explore in a month, much less read. The wealth of information is mind boggling. I began by typing in Turf, a few seconds later I had one hundred listings. Each was a home page that you could Hyperlink (net term that means in essence a call transfer) to other home pages which had hyperlinks etc. etc. etc.

It wasn't long before I was "talking" to computers in China; Oxford, England and Canada. And that was just the World Wide Web (WWW). There is also Gopher, developed by the University of Minnesota and other programs (search engines) that search other Internet sites that are not on the WWW. There are Chat lines that you can send in your problem, or great ideas, too. People from around the world can respond or try and help and vs/vs. If you really want to get excited, type in weather!

E-mail

This is probably the most useful advantage of being on the net. E-mail is electronic mail by which you can send letters across the world. E-mail will probably replace the fax in ten years. As the *Hole Notes* editor I need to harass people for articles. One of the first questions that is asked by anyone at the university, usually after a not very encouraging groan, is if I have an E-mail address. That's how these people communicate. They check their E-mail first, then they read their mail while they're on the phone and if it has stopped ringing long enough, they check their phone messages. Then if the phone doesn't ring again, they do their best to reply and if you're not out on the course they can get in touch with you. E-mail eliminates the game of phone tag.

If you need information, this is how you can get it. All someone needs to do to respond is hit the reply function on their program, type in a message and hit send . . . done. No paper, no stamp, no mail room, no postal service and no huge phone bill. Most university Home pages have a faculty directory of their staff's E-mail addresses. You could send me articles you've written for *Hole Notes* on E-mail.

When enough superintendents in Minnesota have Internet hookups, for a small investment, the MGCSA or the

MTGF can set up its own home page. This could have several advantages. When (if?) the University of Minnesota builds the turfgrass research station, regional disease warnings, ET data, weather forecasts, etc., could be posted daily and prevent unnecessary spraying. We could have our own "chat line" where we could communicate with each other regularly without the expense of long distance. If one of us found a product or combination of products that worked on a disease that is plaguing us, it could be posted and a lot of trial and error saved by everyone else. The possibilities are endless and the cost would be minimal.

Downside to the Net

If you thought you knew a lot, you'll find out you don't. It also sucks up time like nobody's business. Several times when I've come up for air and look at a clock, it was 1:00 in the morning. If you have an addictive personality, sign up for a program that costs you dearly if you run over your monthly time allotment. That way, if you're not mesmerized, the cost will be nagging away in your head and force you to shut down. Pornography, it's on the Internet. In the Internet book I purchased, it listed a home page that downloads 5 million megabytes (that's alot!!! — a small library!) of porn a month. Not something you would like your kids viewing. Fortunately, programs are coming out that can block this type of unwanted material.

How to Get on the Net

First, you need a computer with a modem. A 14.4 modem is fine if you are just downloading text. If you are downloading alot of graphics, you will want a 28.8 modem. These are almost always fax modems, so you will have a built-in fax. You will be able to receive faxes. However, you will be limited to sending material you've generated on your computer. I've been told that 8 megs of ram or more is best and will speed up the process of connecting and downloading home pages.

If you're looking for a family computer or upgrading, from the experience of running an Apple Macintosh at home and an IBM compatible at work, the Mac is the only way to go for a family; however, software selection is more limited and harder to find. Major software companies will not put out a Mac version of a program unless the PC version sells well. Until the Windows 96 communication package comes out later this year, running Internet programs on a Mac is far superior for now.

Next you will need what is called a server. America Online, Compuserve, Genie, etc. are national services that will allow you to get on the Internet, E-mail etc. There are also regional private servers which you can subscribe to that charge a flat fee for Internet access. The company I'm hooked up with charges around \$25 a month for unlimited time.

By making an 800 call, America Online, Compuserve, etc. will hook you up and give you five to 10 hours free. This is a good way to find out if you are interested in being on

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS—MARCH 13, 1996

	Class
Shane Eastman Pomme de Terre Golf Club C	
151 Sunnyslope Rd., Bldg. 311 Morris, MN 56267 W: 612-589-1009	
Mikkel Larson Mn. Riverland Tech. College ST	
1123 3rd Ave., S.E., Apt. B-5, Rochester 55904 H: 507-289-8499	
Jeffrey Erickson Anoka-Hennepin Tech. College ST	
1488 Farrington St., St. Paul, MN 55117 H: 612-489-1997	
Thor Larsons Minnesota Valley C.C. D	
10005 Greenbrier Rd., #103, Minnetonka 55305 W: 612/884-8733	
James Balogh, PhD. Spectrum Research, Inc. Assoc.	
211 Mygatt Ave., Duluth, MN 55803 W: 218-728-3459	
Wayne R. Kussow University of Wisconsin E	
3213 Todd Drive, Madison, WI 53713 W: 608-263-3631	
David Grant Grant Golf F	
162 Woodfield Bay, Winnipeg, Man. R3R 3B1 W: 204-832-9303	
Bryan Wood Commercial Turf & Tractor F	
P.O. Box 724, Chillicothe, MO 64601 W: 800-748-7497	
Donald Chelmo MTI Distributing Co. F	
6911 46th Place N., Crystal, MN 55428 W: 612-537-3098	
Mike Bentson MTI Distributing Co. F	
Box 9132, Fargo, ND 58106 W: 701-234-9135	
Dean Chaltas MTI Distributing Co. F	
14550 96th Ave. N., Maple Grove, MN 55369 W: 612-420-3031	
Gerald Sunde Sunde Engineering, Inc. F	
4200 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN 55437 W: 612-881-3344	
Erik Christiansen EC Design Group, Ltd. F	
1105 6th Street, W. Des Moines, IA 50265 W: 515-240-6621	
Sam Monson Monson Consulting, Inc. F	
4525 Tonkawood Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345 W: 612-933-4638	

RECLASSIFICATIONS—MARCH 13, 1996

Harold Newville Retired A to AA
Allan Richard Hanson Viking Meadows C to A
Michael Brower Hillcrest Country Club C to A
Thomas Stout Deep Tine, Inc. B to F
David Lundeen Deep Tine, Inc. C to B
Michael Bohnenstingl Minnesota Valley C.C. C to B

David Sime, Membership Chairman

MINNESOTA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE WASTE PESTICIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM

APRIL — NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA REGION SCHEDULE AND FACILITIES

COLLECTIONS FROM 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. DAILY

Mon., April 1

County Highway Garage, Cty. Rd. 1 • Fergus Falls

Tues., April 2

County Highway Garage, 8th and U.S. Hwy. 75 • Breckenridge

Wed., April 3

County Highway Garage, 329 9th St. • Hawley

Thurs., April 4

County Highway Garage, 200 E. State St. • Detroit Lakes

Fri., April 5

Fire Hall, Minn. Hwy. 108 E. • Ottertail

Turfing the Net—

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the net. These are also good services for those addictive personalities mentioned above as the price of extra hours is very high.

If you think you will spend more time on the Internet, a private server will probably be more economical. Many have various service plans that range from as little as five hours a month for under five dollars to unlimited service. The price of extra hours is around one dollar. Check the prices in your area. If a server's price is too good to be true, there is probably a good reason for it. If a server has more customers than it has phone lines and modems to handle them, you will have difficulty getting on their system. Some good questions to ask would be how often is the system maxed out and when. Then run the system for a week or so before you start giving your E-mail address out.

Excellent Home Pages for Turf

Excellent home pages for turf are:

<http://www.wisc.edu/phstest>

The phs stands for plant health services and was developed by the Plant Pathology Department at U.W.—Madison to be used in a seminar on "Turfing the Net." It contains hyperlinks to useful home pages relating to turf and other subjects such as: weather services, congressional E-mail addresses, etc. Eventually, it will have sections on landscape plants, entomology, etc. This home page doesn't always load, if you have trouble try:

<http://www.wisc.edu>

and use the hyperlink text Plant Path.

<http://www.scgt.oz.au/page11>

The above is a home page that has numerous hyperlinks to turf-related home pages and data sites.

My E-mail address for those *Hole Notes* articles is: tparent@minn.net
Happy surfing (turfing).