

# GCSAA Student Chapter at U of M Wraps Up Its First Year

By **MIKE HARRINGTON**  
*1998-99 Chapter President*

On Thursday, April 16, the Turf Club at the University of Minnesota held its new officer elections, thus bringing its year to a close. The first year saw the Chapter being named a Charter member as we completed the application process before the deadline, thanks to all that helped in the application process and especially those who had the idea to start this club.

The first year saw a lot of different activities, from golf course visits to Fox Hollow, Woodhill, Town and Country, Somerset, Willinger's, Edinburgh, The Wilds and Spring Hill. We had a special visit with Jim Nicol, CGCS at Hazeltine, where 10-12 of our members helped hand sweep the sand off of the greens after aeration and topdressing, in exchange for \$1,500. That money will be used to send as many of our members as possible to Orlando in February for the GCSAA National Convention and Trade Show.

We also invited a variety of speakers to come and talk about their respective roles in the turf management industry. A representative from Century Rain Aid visited with us and showed us some of the important aspects of irrigation. Another representative from North Star Turf Supply spoke with us about Heritage and other fungicides and diseases. Sue Galatowitsch, a professor at the University of Minnesota, spoke with us about wetland restoration and its interaction with golf courses. Van Cline, a graduate student at the University, showed us some of the research he has done for Toro and also for his Ph.D.

There were also some fundraising activities, such as the Easter Basket Sale, where we grew perennial ryegrass in 4-inch baskets and added some Easter candy and wonderful pastel ribbon. We sold them for \$5

each on campus the Thursday and Friday before Easter. Unfortunately, the pink bunny suit was not available; otherwise sales would have been much higher. We also made up some hats through a local business that say Minnesota Turf and have a golf green de-

sign on them. These were sold to our members and others who were interested. New hats have been made up that say Minnesota golf and are being distributed to local pro shops in hopes of making some more money. The other

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## BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE

*By Scott Turtinen*  
*Executive Director*

Time and space are running out for the 1998 Scholarship Scramble at Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth on Monday, July 20. Teams must be registered by July 13.

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**MGCSA membership dues are now past due.** To assure yourself of being in the 1998-99 Directory please send your dues in now (if you haven't already). If you need a new dues form, call the office at 612/473-0557 or toll free at 800-642-7227.

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**The MTGF has hired Bob Mugaas as its executive director.** More information on this hiring is in the Spring/Summer 1998 issue of *Clippings*. MTGF Golf Tournament and MTGF Expo information is also available in the most recent issue of *Clippings*. If you need golf tournament or Expo information, please call 612/473-8169 or 888-473-8873.

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**The MGCSA Golf Championship is August 17 at North Links GC in North Mankato.** Pre-tournament favorite is New Prague's Jeff Pint who has already carded a 74 and a 69 at two MGCSA mixers this year.

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**The MGCSA Directory** is scheduled to be printed in July. If you have any changes to your address or phone numbers, please call or fax the business office as soon as possible.

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**DID YOUR AREA CODE CHANGE?** In early July, St. Paul and surrounding communities will be changing its area code from 612 to 651. If this affects your phone number, please notify the MGCSA office at 612/473-0557 or toll free at 800-642-7227.

## Student Chapter—

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big fundraiser was soliciting the Affiliate members of the MGCSA. We received donations from a lot of the people we sent solicitations to and raised approximately \$800. That was used to pay for as much as possible to send six members to Anaheim.

There was also some fun. Occasionally a few of us would head out to the links to play some golf. After all, those of us that went to Anaheim heard that playing golf is a major part of our jobs. Some of us must be really good employees then. Thanks to those that allowed us to play for free, it is a privilege that is not expected but greatly appreciated.

Six of our members went to the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim. It was the first time for all of us. Now our goal is to get everyone to go next year because we all felt it was a very valuable experience. The Turf Bowl was a fun experience. It really humbled all of its competitors as the winners got only 110 out of 160 total points. Next year, we will be better prepared. Not only were these things valuable but the other student activities were also a large part of our experience. We learned a little bit about the career to be coupled with our knowledge of turf.

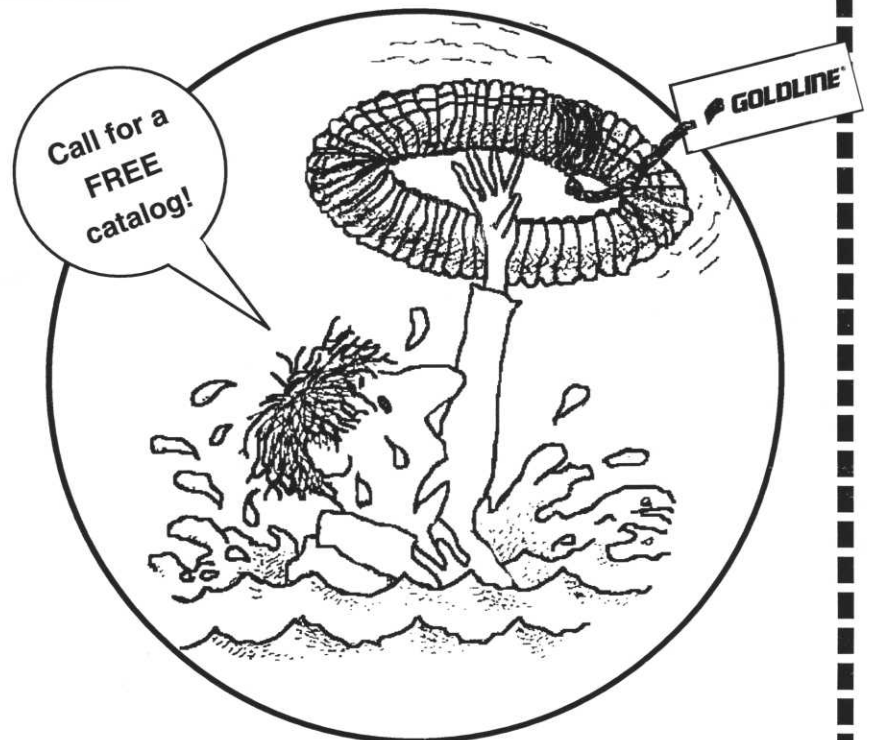
The only disappointment was the golf tournament that never worked out. We would like to work on it ahead of time in the future to get as many people as we can to come play golf with us. All MGCSA members would be welcome. So as we move from year one into year two we have set the goal of establishing a more tight affiliation with the MGCSA, now that we have our feet on the ground as a GCSAA chapter. We would like to better interact with the MGCSA members both socially and professionally through the MTGF show and other monthly meetings.

Now that you know we have a chapter of students who are willing to learn and be devoted to their future careers, we could work with the association on future experiences. Our other main goal is to send as many of our members to Orlando as possible. Those that went this past year feel it would be a great experience for the younger students to see well before they graduate. Four of the six of us who went

out there landed jobs, one internship and three full-time jobs. That alone is worth the trip.

Since we are saying goodbye to seven graduating seniors our group will be smaller until we can recruit incoming freshman. We thank those seniors for their time and efforts in making this club a success. We look to the future to move farther than we did this past year to give a better opportunity to those students who are devoted to their education and future careers. We also look to all of the other members out there for your help in allowing us to do this. Our club needs your help to move ahead; however, you will be getting better employees and interns from our club. The time and money is well worth the investment.

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