

Hole Notes

The official publication of the MGCSA



State Champ Lines Up For Success!



Vol. 46, No. 3 April 2013



Sprayers

- Offered in dedicated and Workman® vehicle mounted models
- Multiple performance-enhancing accessories
- Accurate and precise application rate



Multi Pro® 5800



Multi Pro® 1200/1250



Workman® 200 Gallon Sprayer



MTI Distributing, Inc.
 4830 Azelia Avenue N.
 Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
 800-362-3665
 763-592-5600
 Fax: 763-592-5700

MTI Distributing, Inc.
 2131 16th St. N. Suite C
 Fargo, ND 58102
 800-782-1031
 701-281-0775
 Fax: 701-281-9417



Count on it.



*The Legends at
Giants Ridge*

Precisely Blended Soils

Delivered or Mixed On-site

Topdressing Sands
Bunker Sands
Green Colored Topdressing
Black Dirt & Peat
Horticultural Mixes

As the Midwest's leading golf course supplier, consistent product quality is critical. We carry a full line of topdressing sands and mixes containing top-grade Minnesota peat. For special needs such as increasing CEC ratio, we custom blend topdressing with fertilizer or humates using our computerized *Accublender*™.

Landscape Rock & Mulch
Retaining Walls & Pavers
Field Stone Boulders
Construction Sand
Cart Path & Road Base

Call our technical service team for soil testing or soil mix recommendations. Visit our website to view the full product offering.

THE SOIL EXPERTS.



Zylam Liquid

SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDE

**For control of chewing
and sucking insects**



**For your local PBI-Gordon Distributor
visit pbigordon.com or call
Matt Cavanaugh @ 763.568.6696**

Always read and follow label directions. Gordon's® and Zylam® are registered trademarks of PBI-Gordon Corp. 04/13 02670



The easiest way to save money is to replace your nozzles and improve your coverage. Call Ken Today!

Frost Services

1-800-621-7910
Email: info@frostserv.com
www.frostserv.com

Country Club Turf

The Greenskeepers Choice

Sod for the perfect
putting greens

763-444-6753

Upcoming Events

May 13th
Affiliate Appreciation Day
Castlewood Golf Course
Host Jeremy Walker

June 3rd
The Scramble
Medina Golf and Country Club
Host Erin McManus



EDITOR

DAVE KAZMIERCZAK, CGCS
DAVE@PRESTWICK.COMCASTBIZ.NET

CONTENTS

Vol. 46, No. 3 April 2013

Feature Articles:

Jeff Pint: A Home-Grown Hero	pages 12-16
Contributed by Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS	
Avoid the Rebound with Growth Regulators	pages 18-26
Contributed by Bill Kreuser from Cornell University	
Mr. President Returns to Washington	pages 30-33
Contributed by GCSAA	

Monthly Columns:

Presidential Perspective	page 8-9
Scottie Hines, CGCS	
In Bounds	pages 10-11
Jack MacKenzie, CGCS	
Within the Leather	pages 42-43
Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS	

**Affiliate Members!!!
Affiliate Appreciation Event
on May 13th at Castlewood
Golf Club. Thanks for your
continued support!**



MGA Spring Turfgrass Forum on April 30!

*On the cover:
Jeff Pint, six time MGCSA
State Champion, lines up
another 'drop' at the GCSAA
National Tournament*



**E. Paul Eckholm shares his
perspective on the new DNR
water permit recommendations
on pages 35 and 36**

...Even More Content...

On Board	pages 27-29
Insights from Select Members of the BOD	
Peer Perspective	pages 35-36
Shared by E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS	

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bimonthly in November/December and January/February by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 10050 204th Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Jack MacKenzie CGCS publisher. Please send any address changes, articles for publication, advertising and concerns to jack@mgcsa.org.



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS

Wow! What a difference from a year ago? Most of us had been open three to four weeks at this time last year. Right now we have six inches of snow on the ground and possibly more coming? People often laugh when I say that Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average. I have found this to be true in many cases. The bottom line is: we can't control the weather, much to the dismay and disbelief of our members and guests, we just have to deal with what we are handed the best we can. That's about enough of the weather talk, for now.

I am sure by this point everyone has heard of the developments on waters at the state level. The DNR has proposed legislation that will significantly raise the cost of irrigation water. The proposal jumps us from \$8/million gallons to \$70/million gallons. An increase of this magnitude is absolutely absurd in my opinion. In retrospect, I guess, I knew the increased fees were inevitable, but a \$62/million jump in a single year seems outrageous. That said I now believe our focus has to be on adopting the BMP's on water management and to work with the DNR to guarantee that we, as golf course operators, and arguably the most responsible users of water, ensure that none of us will ever have our irrigation water permits pulled. This will be a monumental task, but I feel confident it can be accomplished. ALL of us: superintendents, owners, golf professionals and general managers will have to fully buy into the plan to make this happen. The Environmental Stewardship Committee will be meeting in late April to fine tune this plan and start the implementation process. Stay tuned for further information.

Despite the slow melt and the latest rounds of rain and snow, 67% of

the state is still in moderate to severe drought. The next drought update will come out April 18. Hopefully, we see some relief from the last bout of precipitation. Personally, I am not sure if it will make a significant impact on the drought status, as there is still significant frost in the ground and most of the waters, rain or melt, will run-off and not be absorbed into the ground. Lake levels may rebound a bit, but we need to re-charge the ground waters to really impact the drought status across the state. If you would like to monitor the drought and other environmental and climate impacts, please check out www.climate.umn.edu. This is as good a source as I have found on this subject.

I left Sunday, April 14 to Washington D.C. for the annual GCSAA Government Relations Committee meetings and visits on Capitol Hill with our local lawmakers. We also participated in the We Are Golf (WAG) coalition meetings. The GR Committee's two main focuses this year were the NPDES legislation and immigration reform. There seems to be growing support to eliminate the national NPDES legislation and we did our due diligence to further that cause. I am not going to get into the nitty-gritty of this, but we are already regulated and there is no need for plurality in this regulation. The other focus was bolstering the H-2B visa program to ensure that any industry that utilizes these workers can continue to get a legal work force at the appropriate time of year. I met with Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Representative Erik Paulsen.

Well, I guess we should all be happy we can relax for one last weekend, watch some TV golf and spend some time with family. Just keep in mind, only 60 more days until we start having shorter days. I have no fear that by that time we will be ready for shorter days!

Good Luck in the season ahead!

A TOAST, IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR BUSINESS. HERE'S TO YOU.

At Par Aide, we'd like to raise a paper cup to you, our valued customer. Because it's your unyielding dedication to the course that inspires us to keep building the industry's most innovative products. So from Par Aide, we salute all you do. Cheers.



Wherever golf is played.



PAR AIDE IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF
MCCSA, GCSAA, THE FIRST TEE
AND THE WEE ONE FOUNDATION.



2013 TURFGRASS FORUM

*A Free Informational Discussion & Round Table
for MGA Member Clubs and Members*

• **Speakers:**

- **Dr. Brian Horgan,**
University of Minnesota Turf Extension Specialist
- **Mr. Robert Vavrek,**
USGA Senior Agronomist, North Central Region
- **Mr. John Spitzer,**
USGA Managing Director of Equipment Standards

• **Topics will include:**

**THE LATEST ISSUES FACING GOLF COURSE
TURFGRASS**

**CURRENT EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AND HOW
THEY CAN AFFECT YOUR GOLF COURSE**

• **Tuesday, April 30**

8:00 a.m.....Registration (*coffee & rolls*)

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.Presentations & Discussion

at Mendakota Country Club

2075 Mendakota Dr, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

- **This meeting is for:** Course Owners, General Managers, Golf Professionals, Golf Course Superintendents, Club Presidents, Greens Chairs and any other MGA Members.

- **There will be no fee for this forum.**

- **GCSAA educational points sponsored by Reinders.**

- **PGA MSR credits available.**

• **For Reservations:**

Joel Comstock, Regional Affairs Director of the MGA

952-345-3968 or joel@mngolf.org

Please provide your name and golf course affiliation.

- **REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Even though I wasn't living in the community of Mahtomedi in 1984, I worked in the community as Superintendent at Dellwood Hills Golf Club, and could justify joining the Mahtomedi Lion's Club. A plebe, I was tasked with all the grunt work that the senior 'poobah's' felt was beyond them.

Selling raffle chances for sides of beef, pimping dinner tickets to the Wild Game Feed and clearing tables at the seemingly too often pancake breakfasts. I was covered with so much residual maple syrup it is a surprise that "sugar-bushing" is a hobby of mine!

All the while the Grand Poobah and his high-ranking initiates socialized, consumed adult beverages (although I snuck my fair share) and dolled out the sausages. The new lion cubs and I did all the heavy lifting and the S.O.B.'s, sweet old boys, did the kibitzing...or so I thought.

It wasn't until much later that I learned how important the old cats were to the fundraising process. In an all-volunteer organization it is expected that the youth "pay their debt to the cause" through sweat equity. On the other hand those who had been in the group for quite some time were in the enviable position of being able to contribute with direct financial support while having a relaxed social event.

That shiny new ambulance didn't materialize from my ball-busting-plate-bussing exuberance, but rather the monthly contributions at the Lion's Club meetings, excessive number of member purchased raffle tickets and the 'passing of the hat' contributions when not enough cakes were flipped for the general public.

Fundraising in the eyes of the veteran Lion's wasn't about the pounds in the side of beef, whether the rocky mountain oysters would be satisfying or if the orange juice had pulp or not. Nope, they only cared about generating funds for whatever the current cause was and if they had fun doing it, either through a few pops or down to earth fraternization, then all the better! The community and individuals at large benefited from the new rescue truck or park pavilion.

The Lions give to their community, for they know in their hearts that the community will reward their efforts by being a better place to live, and although they never want to use the service, a dedicated fleet of emergency vehicles is pretty darn nice to have around. The greater good of the community is perpetuated through individual generosity and typically no direct return on investment.

The MGCSA holds two fundraisers each year, The Scramble, which is dedicated to turf research and scholarships, and The Wee One, committed to helping “one of our own” in times of medical crisis. These events, while typically held at an awesome high-end destination complete with both chance and purse prizes, aren’t just social avenues to drive down. The end game is all about the serious business of generating financial support for good causes, some pleasant and some nobody wishes to have to pursue, related to our “turfgrass” community.

Since 1987 over 120 individuals have received scholarships for continuing education, be it directly related to turf or just general courses; individuals who grew to be leaders in the golf course industry or are productive contributors to the population. Without help from the MGCSA and its membership, the expenses of a college education would have been much greater. Isn’t it great that working together and supporting a fundraiser our industry contributed to the education of so many?

For as long as I can remember we have held a research event, once called The Stodola Scramble and now just The Scramble, to support the agronomic team at the University of Minnesota and other research destinations. Isn’t it great that working together and supporting a fundraiser our industry has been able to enhance a turfgrass research program that is gaining worldwide acclaim?

Three years ago North Oaks Golf Club hosted the MGCSA Wee One Event. Sadly, the funds raised since then have been requested and distributed. Yet isn’t it a great thing that working together and supporting a fundraiser event our industry helped our peers in a grave time of need?

In our organization, we don’t have prospects to flip griddlecakes and wipe down tables. However there are opportunities to participate in the promotion and financial enhancement of *our* philanthropic goals. Please play and support one or both fundraising events. It wouldn’t be the same without you.



Jeff Pint: A Home-Grown

by Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS

When you first meet Jeff Pint, Superintendent at New Prague Golf Club, you might not believe that you had just met an amateur golf version of Superman. But do not let the Clark Kent-style easy manor or humble way fool you, for Pint's big red "S" and cape come out right about the time he steps to the first tee.

Not that he would admit it, but

one mighty swing at the golf ball and any mere mortal would agree: Superman just launched one.

For Pint, the game of golf is both his livelihood and his passion. When he is not caring for New Prague Golf Club in New Prague, Minnesota, he can usually be found playing the game on the course he cares for or other area courses. Sometimes it is just for fun, but



rown Superman

more often than not it is competitive in nature. Pint has played in most of the Minnesota Golf Association events he is eligible to compete in at age 38, and has fared quite well in many of them.

But perhaps his best and most endearing achievement, is the fact that he has won the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's

Association tournament six times over the last 15 years or so, a feat equaled by nobody. Quite an accomplishment from a small town kid who now works, lives and plays in the same home town he grew up in.

Pint got his start in golf in the same manner most players of the game do, through his family. He would play with both his father and

his mother at New Prague Golf club but it was his mother who would drag him along with her women's club events not only at New Prague but surrounding courses.

"Thank God she did," explained Pint, as he revealed how he came to love the game at an early age. While the love of the game was nurtured, the skill acquired to be good came later. Pint said he really did not start playing the game at a high level until his senior year in high school.

"Until then I was just so-so," he said. "But I really enjoyed it."

From there it was on to St. Thomas University where he played on the golf team. He graduated with a Business Management degree but wound up back at New Prague Golf

Club working on the maintenance crew. From there he became an assistant superintendent and eventually was asked to be the Head Superintendent when the previous one left. When asked of his management style, Pint said he was definitely old school.

"A dinosaur," as Pint would say.

But this dinosaur is far from extinct. It roams the range at New Prague with a passion for the game, and a passion for turf maintenance. Pint related that there truly is no job he would rather have.

"To work maintenance and make a golf course good, it just doesn't get any better than that," Pint said.

The same passion he carries for the care of his course has always been poured into the refinement of his game.



However the key to Pint's game, other than some obvious natural ability, is his length, particularly off the tee. It is routine for Pint to hit a driver 325 yards and sometimes much farther. This is the space golf pros occupy, not golf course superintendents, but Pint can hit it with the best of them. When asked what generated this power he said he had no clue, just God-given ability. He also said he considers himself very blessed for that ability. He also works hard and practices all aspects of the game. The game takes time, and Pint realizes that being a single man gives him the opportunities other superintendents with families just do not have to refine their golf game.

While humble in his assessment of himself and his game, there does burn a competitive fire. Along with the six MGCSA titles, Pint and his partner Nate Proshek captured the 2003 MGA four-ball title with a state-record score of 20 under. He is the four-time New Prague Golf club Champion, and competed in the GCSAA National Championship the last two years finishing 20th in Palm Springs last year and 6th in San Diego this year, pretty good for a snow-bound Minnesota guy.

Any golfer will tell you that it takes a lot more than length to win a golf tournament, however the intimidation factor is there when watching Pint play. And while he



Above: Jeff Pint six time MGCSA Champion

Opposite: Jeff makes a 'super' save from the rough at the GCSAA Tournament at Torrey Pines

doesn't like to admit it, there is a certain satisfaction crushing the ball.

"The second hole at Torrey Pines (site of the 2013 GCSAA Championship) is a short par four, and I hit a good shot close to the green and it is fun walking up the green and seeing the look on the faces of the group ahead saying who the heck is this guy?," Pint said.

But for Pint it really is not about where he places, or how many

competitive events he can play. He revealed that the most important thing he gets out of playing in golf events is the camaraderie, and the opportunity to play with new people who love the game, especially superintendent events.

“Even more than that (winning) means to me, is the guys I meet playing in the events. These guys I meet, I now hang out with and become friends,” Pint said. “What a great opportunity we all have to be able to do that, and we take it for granted.”

Pint has played in every MGCSA championship since 1998. He has won six times in that span and that is quite a feeling of accomplishment. When asked about it though, he takes it in stride. While he wants people to look at the name on the trophy somewhere down the line and say to themselves that guy must have been pretty good, he likes to think of the guys that have bested him.

“This sounds strange, and I don’t mean it (egotistically) but when someone else wins, that look on his face that he beat Jeff Pint is pretty (satisfying),” he said.

The fact that playing the game of golf at a high level takes very good concentration has paid off for Pint in other aspects of his life. Besides the patience it takes being a superintendent, Pint applies his mental capacities in other activities such as bowling and hunting. Pint carries a 220 plus average with the large ball and likens the skill it takes to be a good golfer to that of being a good

bowler.

“It’s all about repetition,” Pint said. “You have to be focused on repeating the exact same shot. You have to completely focus for a few seconds, and then there is a lull, and you have to be able to get that focus back again.”

When asked how long he might be able to stay on top of the local superintendent golfing world Pint just smiled and was non-committal. He said he hopes to keep playing at a high level if his body will let him. At age 38 it does not seem like Pint is anywhere near the back nine of life, but he does admit time has made him change his thinking. If anything, it has made him wiser. In his early years Pint would essentially be bombs away, which would get him into trouble sometimes. Pint said now he does take pause and thinks shots through a lot more often.

“You can’t win it (a tournament) on the first hole but you can lose it, as time goes by you become more strategic,” he said.

With spring right around the corner Pint is hoping for another solid season both with the care of New Prague Golf club and his overall golf game. He is scheduled to play in a handful of events, including the defense of his MGCSA title at Prestwick Golf Club in August. Along the way he is hoping to connect with old friends and make some new ones. His competitors had better bring their A game as well.

Or a bag if Kryptonite.

Presents **"The SCRAMBLE"**
AT MEDINA Golf and Country Club



MONDAY, June 3, 2013

Medina, Minnesota

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Erin McManus

This is a combined scholarship/research fundraising event. Proper golf attire required. \$120 entry fee (per person) includes lunch, research donation, range balls, cart fee, and heavy appetizers. The format is a scramble and open to all members with emphasis placed upon inviting your club officials to join in the fun. Prizes from the Pro Shop will be based upon participation. A 50/50 skins game for \$50 per team. 50 percent of which goes to the Research and Scholarship funds. Low net and low gross as well as long drive, closest to the pin and longest putt. Join the fun, it won't be the same without you!!!

FORMAT: FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE

11:30 - 12:45 p.m. Registration – Driving Range available, lunch
 1:00 p.m. GOLF - Shotgun
 5:30-7:00 p.m. Reception and heavy appetizers
 (Dinner tickets available for \$60 ea. -- includes donation.)

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY. THE DINNER COUNTS ARE IMPORTANT.

NAME	CLASS	GOLF COURSE / COMPANY	GOLF - \$120 ea.	DINNER ONLY - \$60
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

REGISTER: ___ **GOLFERS @ \$120 ea** (Golf, dinner, donation, range balls, cart) ___ **NON-GOLFERS @ \$60 ea.** (Dinner, donation)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD: ___ **Check** ___ **Credit Card:** ___ **VISA** ___ **MASTERCARD** ___ **DISCOVER**

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make check payable to MGCSA and mail to: MGCSA, 10050 204th Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 27, 2013

Avoid the Rebound: Use of Growing Degree Days to Re-apply Growth Regulators

Bill Kreuser
Cornell University

The most poorly understood products applied to turfgrass are plant growth regulators (PGRs) because 1) it is difficult to tell when they are working and 2) their labels can be vague. This is especially true when PGRs are applied to golf course putting greens. Despite best efforts, it is nearly impossible to tell how well a PGR is suppressing putting green clipping yield. As a result, many golf course superintendents use vastly different application rates and frequencies for each PGR in their arsenal. This ambiguity leads to one of the most common questions superintendents tend to ask, “What rate should I use on my greens?”

Before we tackle that question let's get back to the basics. The most commonly applied PGRs used on putting greens are Primo Maxx (trinexapac-ethyl), Trimmit (paclobutrazol), and Cutless (flurprimidal). These products alter growth rate in two distinct phases. Following PGR application clipping yield becomes suppressed relative to non-treated turfgrass; the suppression phase. After a period of time the suppression phase ends and clipping yield increases to a level greater than non-treated turfgrass; the rebound phase. Researchers have found that the duration of the suppression phase is dependent upon air temperature (Lickfeldt et al. 2001; Beasley et al. 2007). As air temperatures increase into the summer the length of the suppression phase decreases. This occurs because turfgrass plants breakdown PGRs, such as Primo Maxx, faster as air temperatures increase (Beasley and Branham, 2005). This means that calendar based PGR re-application intervals are not efficient at maintaining yield suppression because the ideal re-application interval changes during the



course of a growing season.

During my Masters degree with Dr. Soldat at the University of Wisconsin-Madison we studied how PGR re-application frequency and rate affected yield suppression on creeping bentgrass golf putting greens; primarily with Primo Maxx. Instead of evaluating inefficient calendar-based intervals (i.e. weekly or biweekly applications), we used a growing degree day (GDD) model to estimate the duration of the yield suppression phase and aid in scheduling Primo Maxx applications. The goal was to sustain season-long yield suppression and avoid the rebound. Growing degree day models are used extensively in traditional agriculture to estimate crop growth and development in relation to air temperature and recently have been used to estimate weed growth and development in turfgrass, i.e. *Poa annua* seed head formation (GDDTracker.net). To calculate GDD the high and low air temperature are averaged together, subtracted from a base temperature where metabolism is minimal, and added to values from the previous days.

In a 2008 study, we measured daily relative clipping yield from a creeping bentgrass putting green treated with Primo Maxx every 100, 200, 400, and 800 GDD as well as every four weeks. *The GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C and began after the previous Primo Maxx application. After the GDD threshold had been surpassed (i.e. 200 GDD after Primo Maxx application), Primo was re-applied and the model was reset to zero.* We realize that most Americans avoid using the Celsius scale, however, it is convenient in this case because there is no need to subtract a base temperature (the base is 0°C). Additionally, spreadsheet programs such as MS Excel can be used to track the progression of GDD after PGR application and convert temperatures to Celsius. $\text{Temperature } ^\circ\text{C} = ((\text{Temp } ^\circ\text{F} - 32)) / 1.8$

We found that the 400 GDD, 800 GDD, and four week re-application

frequency did not maintain season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). We plotted relative clipping yields at different GDDs after Primo Maxx application to create a Primo Maxx response model (Fig. 2). This model showed that the suppression phase occurs during the first 300 GDD; after 300 GDD the turfgrass entered the rebound phase of increased yield relative to non-treated turf. The maximum amounts of both yield suppression and rebound was 18% of the non-treated turf.

We found that the 100 and 200 GDD re-application frequencies maintained season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). The 100 GDD re-application interval resulted in a greater level of yield suppression than the other treatments. The 200 GDD re-application interval is the furthest Primo Maxx re-application interval to maintain yield suppression because the yield begins to transition into the rebound phase after 200 GDD. For some perspective, 200 GDD occurs in 14 days during an average May in Madison, WI (average day temp. 57°F) and as frequently as every 9 days during an average July (72°F). During a heat wave with high temperatures of 100°F and lows around 75°F (average day temp. 89°F) 200 GDD occurs in 7 days or less (Fig. 3). This illustrates how Primo Maxx re-application interval needs to be adjusted depending upon air temperatures to avoid the rebound phase. As temperatures warm into the summer, Primo needs to be re-applied more frequently than it does in spring and fall to avoid the rebound.

In 2009 and 2010 we wanted to verify that the 200 GDD model worked on a different creeping bentgrass putting green and see how it was affected by Primo Maxx application rate. There were two application rates (0.125 and 0.25 fl oz/M) applied either every 200 GDD or every four weeks. In both years the 200 GDD re-application interval maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of the time of year. Surprisingly, we found that the 0.25 fl oz/M application rate did not increase either the level or duration of yield suppression. ***Application rate did not matter.*** The only effective way to increase the amount

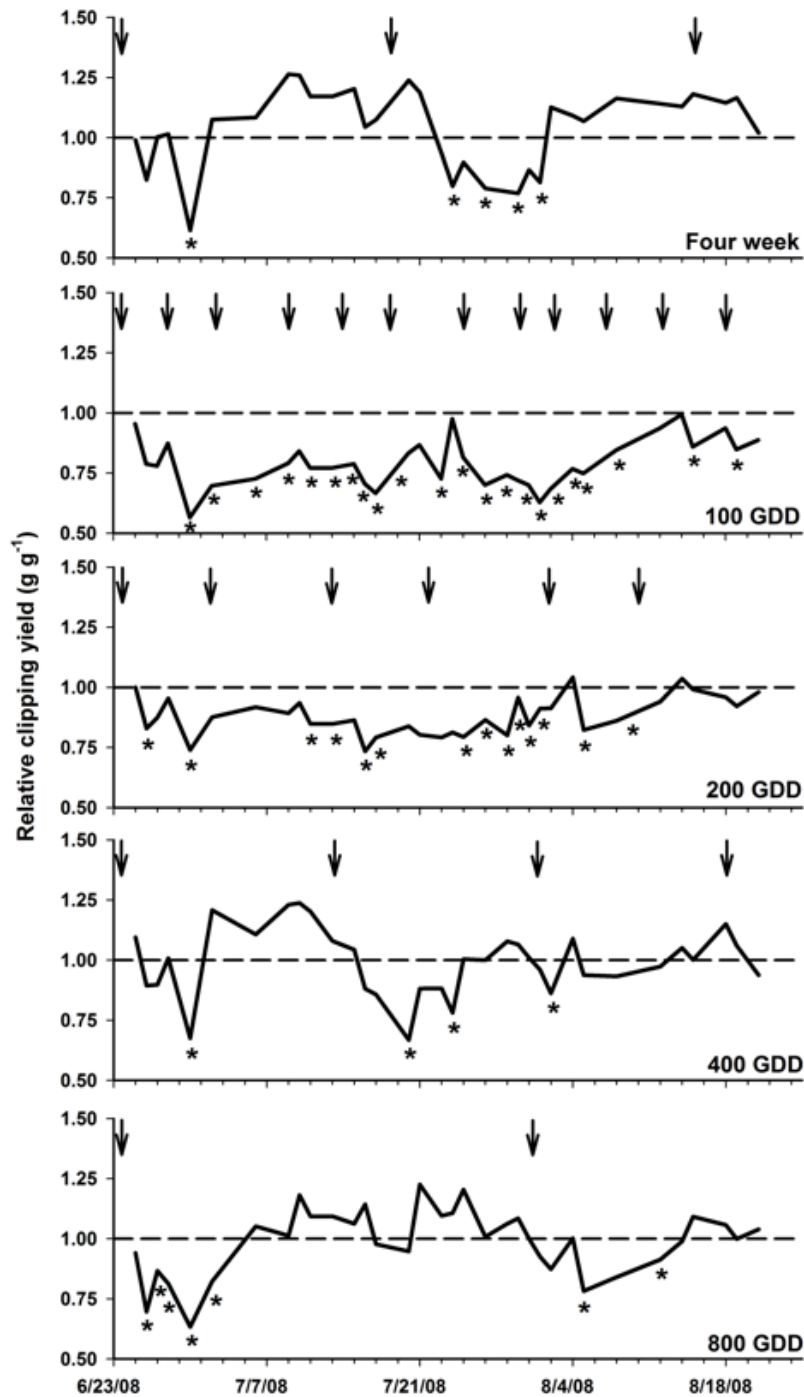


Figure 1. The effect of Primo Maxx re-application frequency on the relative yield of a creeping bentgrass putting green. Stars indicate days clipping yield was less than the non-treated control (dashed line) and arrows indicated Primo Maxx applications. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

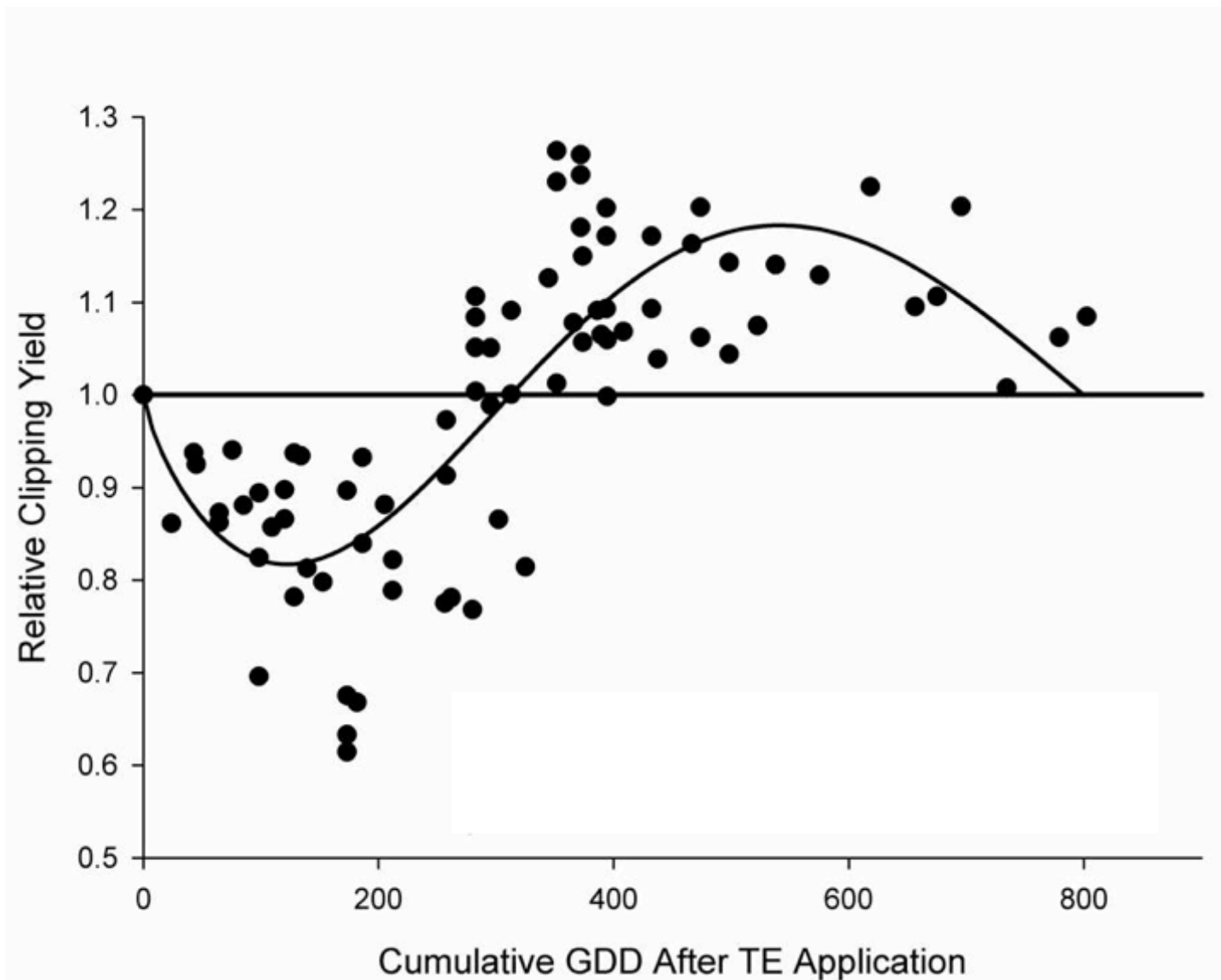


Figure 2. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Primo Maxx application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Primo Maxx application. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.



of yield suppression is to re-apply more frequently than 200 GDD (i.e. 100 GDD). The only benefit of the high application rate is that the bentgrass visual quality was greater compared to the labeled application rate of 0.125 fl oz/M.

It needs to be very clear that 200 GDD re-application interval is only meant for Primo Maxx applications to creeping bentgrass golf putting greens. Bermudagrass greens and taller mowed turfgrass such as Kentucky bluegrass athletic fields are more sensitive to Primo Maxx and would have a different Primo GDD threshold. Some preliminary research on *Poa annua* putting greens found that the 200 GDD re-application interval is effective at maintaining yield suppression of *Poa*. We also have found that 200 GDD applications to mixed bent/*Poa* green decreased the *Poa annua* population from 23% to 16% of the surface. However, golf course superintendents visually estimated that there was more *Poa* invasion on those same plots. This occurred because the bentgrass and *Poa annua* populations began to segregate as the grass density increased with repeat Primo Maxx applications. This gave the illusion of more *Poa* invasion while the actual amount of was diminished (verified with a grid count).

We also wanted to determine the GDD threshold for Trimmit application to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* golf putting greens. We used the same methods described above to determine Primo Maxx GDD. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.25 fl oz/M (11 fl oz/A) and was lightly watered in after application. We found that 300 GDD re-applications (base °C) maintained yield suppression during the growing season for both grass species. After approximately 350 GDD the turf entered the rebound phase (Fig 4). A word of caution however, the 300 GDD Trimmit treatment contributed to the collapse of the *Poa annua* stand during 2010 and was described in more detail in Dr. Soldat's January/February 2011 Grass Roots article (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?recno=175732>). In conclusion, the use a GDD model to estimate

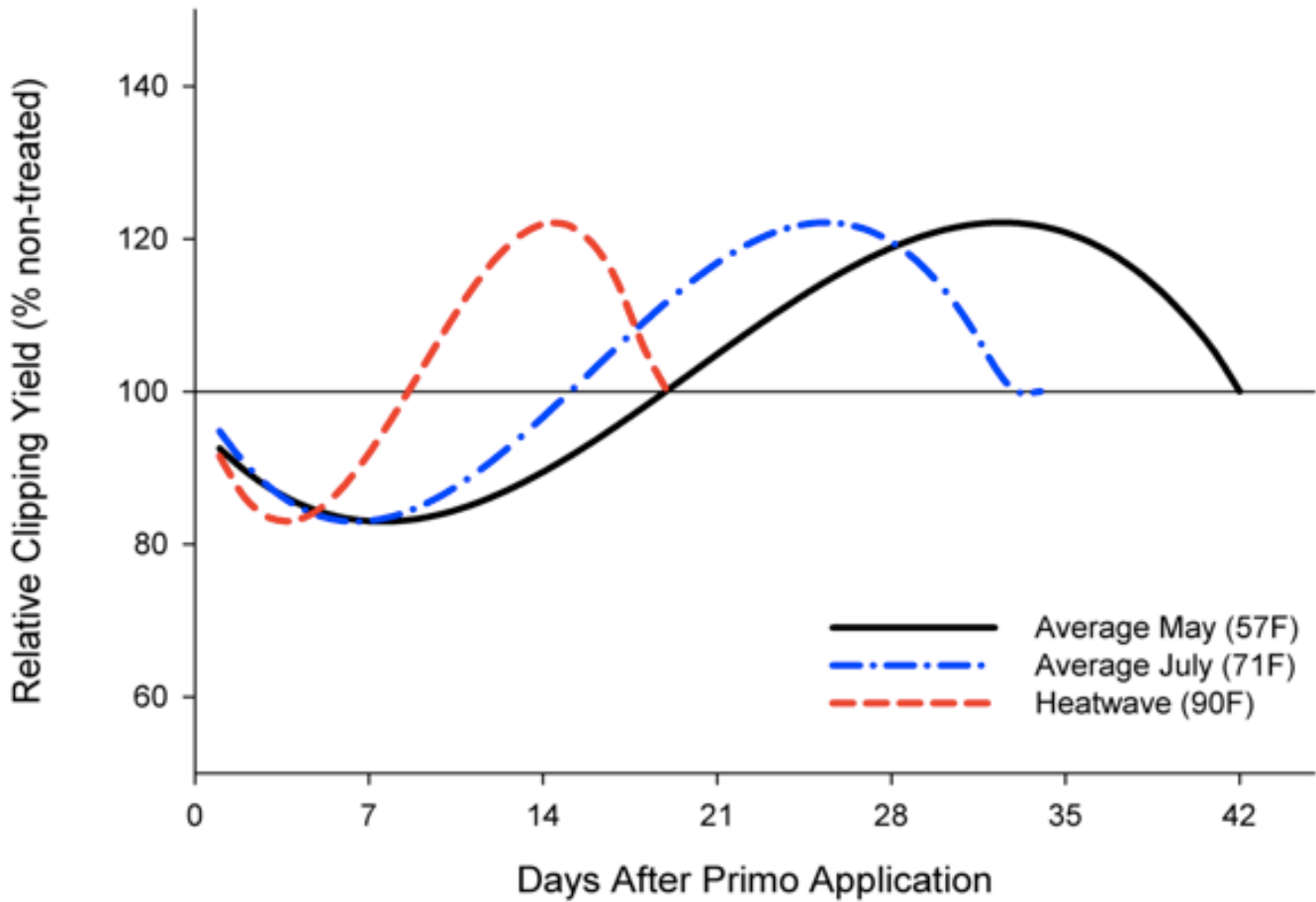


Figure 3. The influence of air temperature on the duration of the yield suppression and rebound phases in Madison, WI. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.



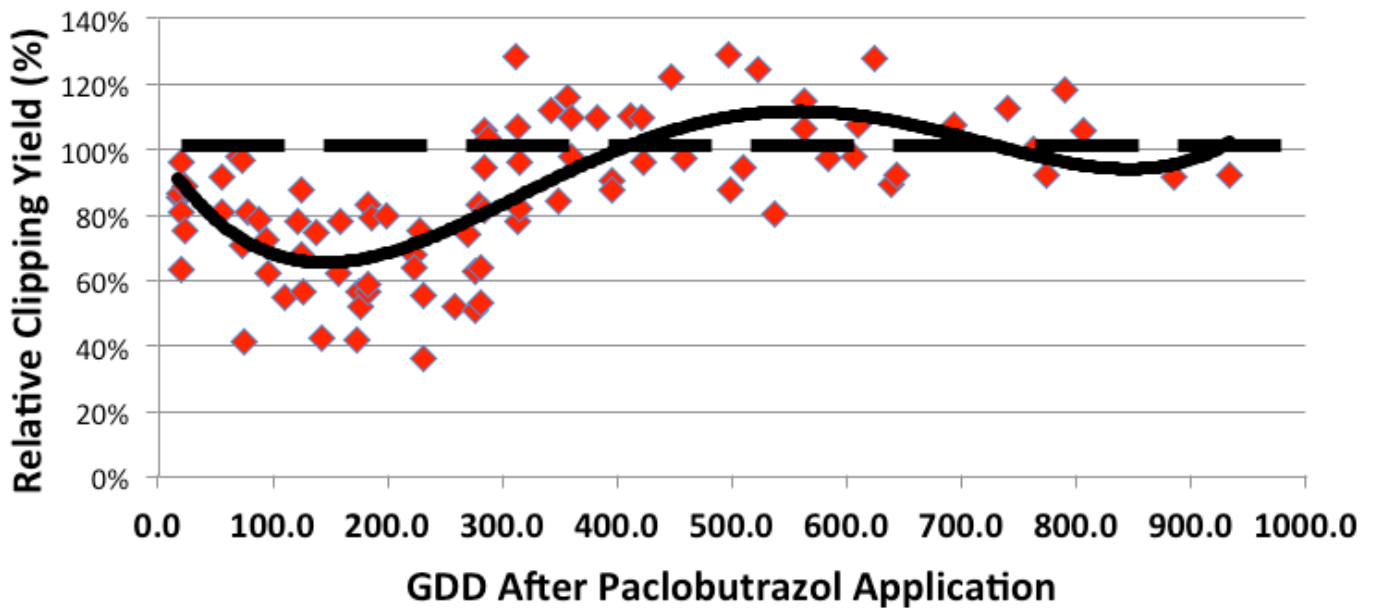


Figure 4. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Trimmit application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Trimmit application. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

PGR metabolism and schedule re-applications increases application precision and removes some of the mystery and misconceptions involved with these PGRs. If you have any questions or would like a copy of an Excel spreadsheet to track GDD accumulation please email me at wck38@cornell.edu or go to this link <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/turf/> for the actual spreadsheet.

Summary Points

PGRs reduce clipping yield for a duration dependent upon air temperature.

GDD systems can be used to estimate the duration of the suppression



growth phase.

Re-applying Primo Maxx to creeping bentgrass putting greens every 200 GDD (base 0°C) maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of season.

The 200 GDD re-application interval is specific only to creeping bentgrass (and likely *Poa annua*) golf putting greens. Other turf species have different GDD thresholds which need to be determined experimentally.

Increasing Primo Maxx application rate did not increase the level or duration of yield suppression, but the higher application rate resulted in greater visual quality enhancement.

Re-application of Trimmit to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* putting greens every 300 GDD (base 0°C) maintained yield suppression. However, that application frequency was stressful on the *Poa annua* and contributed to collapse of the turfgrass stand in 2010.

REFERENCES

- Beasley, J. S., and B. E. Branham. 2005. Analysis of paclobutrazol and trinexapac acid in turfgrass clippings. *Int. Turfgrass Soc. Res. J.* 10:1170-1175.
- Beasley, J. S., B. E. Branham, and L. A. Spomer. 2007. Plant growth regulators alter Kentucky bluegrass canopy leaf area and carbon exchange. *Crop Sci.* 47:757-766.
- Lickfeldt, D. W., D. S. Gardner, B. E. Branham, and T. B. Voigt. 2001. Turfgrass Management: Implications of repeated trinexapac-ethyl applications on Kentucky bluegrass. *Agron. J.* 93:1164-1168.
- Soldat, D.J. 2011. Minimizing annual bluegrass encroachment with trimmit: a growing degree day approach. *Grass Roots.* 40(1): 8-9.



On Board

Q&A with Members of the Board of Directors

Considering the unusual spring weather...how will the delay in opening change your business management plan? Budget, staffing, strategies?

Jeff Girard, Superintendent at StoneRidge Golf Club



With the later than normal start to the season, we have tried to keep our start up of the staff somewhat the same. While we haven't brought back as many seasonal staff to this point, we have had 3-5 of our hourly guys return over the past 3 weeks. We realized that once it is finally time to open, we need to hit the ground running...fast. We probably won't have that nice extended period of time between snow melt and opening

to prep and ready the golf course for opening day.

In regards to our business management plan, we will hopefully try and keep things as usual, despite the late start. Our hope is that people will be flooding thru the door after being locked inside all winter and spring. So we want to make sure that things are 100% ready to go and presentable come opening day.



Jamie Bezanson, Superintendent at Oneka Ridge Course

Oneka Ridge Golf Course is a public golf course

that relies heavily on public play for revenue. With this spring being a delayed start we are predicting revenue shortages. To offset these shortages our proposed plans and budgets will have to be modified to maintain our

financial security.

Our largest areas where we can potentially realize savings and make changes will be in pesticide and fertilizer applications, and fuel and labor expenses. At Oneka Ridge Golf Course we have a lot of capital improvements planned for this coming season. To insure everything will be completed reducing labor costs will be limited or projects possibly put off to the following season.

Other reductions in costs that

will be noticed because of the late spring may include less fuel used because of less mowing. I will be able remove an application or 2 of pesticides and fertilizer and carry the inventory over to next year. There may be opportunities to skip a cultural practice such as verti-

cutting or topdressing this spring which will also save on labor and sand. By now we are all a little Vitamin D deprived and anxious to get the season going. On the positive side of things, my family gets to see a little more of my thick eyebrows.

On Board

Q&A with Members of the Board of Directors

Considering the unusual spring weather...how will the delay in opening change your business management plan? Budget, staffing, strategies?

Mike Kelly, Bayer Science and Environmental



This spring has been one of those seasons that makes me ask why I live in Minnesota? After pondering long and hard, it is because of the seasons, and most of all, the type of people that also choose to live here. Believe me, in all my travels, there is such a thing as “Minnesota Nice”.

From a Manufacturer Representative’s perspective, the unusual weather we are experiencing means that I will be able to complete a Business Plan this season. Typically, I am traveling from course to course and spend very little time in the office doing the tedious reports, expense accounts, etc. The phones have definitely been quiet, however it is a great opportunity to do some research on my own

regarding chemistries, new research at the University level, and the latest and greatest products and procedures for managing the golf course. Bayer is continually monitoring strategies in the turf industry and it seems that meetings have been on going at the company level, which means more travel within the US.

I am eager for the season to get underway just as most of you, and soon the courses will be full, and you will be complaining about cart traffic, unfilled divots, ball marks, un-raked bunkers and before you know it-geese. So when you’re given lemons, make lemonade and make the best of an uncontrollable situation.

Cheers to a great season.

*Casey Andrus, Assistant Superintendent Interlachen
Country Club*

The weather is what it is; allocating energy into why or when weather conducive to golf arrives is one headache I know to avoid. How does this delayed opening affect our budget? It doesn't; budgets had been approved months ago, back when snow was the norm. This year will not affect our decisions for next year. Rather than worry about weather, we focus on things within our control: equipment preparedness, staff in-line ready to go, projects planned, goals made and procedures in place to ensure another great season.

At the end of the day, we are at Mother Nature's whim; hopefully, the law of averages will come into play. In 2012 we saw a very early start with some long stints of hot dry weather. So far in 2013, we are seeing a later start with lots of precipitation; precipitation many of us would like to see recycled back into our lakes and ground water.

Staffing? That is hardest on the crew; they came in for two days before the early April snow. We looked at the long range forecast and made decisions accordingly. I am grateful that we have such an understanding staff; they are aware the current conditions are out of our control. Many of them also know that once this season does begin, it will be like a huge switch being flipped ON! Another certainty is that, they, and we,

are raring to go! Strategies? Our strategy is the same for any spring; once the course is ready

to handle our traffic we will be in full force clean-up. For the time being, we are walking out and doing chores by hand with ease of clean-up in mind, piling branches near trees or cart paths.

An interesting part of this job is that we are typically the "End of the Line." We are people who make things happen when others may balk. It is very exciting to see what a grounds crew can do to a property in a short time. I could tell you that this year players will be antsy to get down the fairway, but that is true every year. Minnesotans are known for our enjoyment of all four seasons, though we can be extremely anxious to begin each new season. We have sound practices and know what works, by following our plan we set ourselves up for another successful golf season. Here's wishing you all a wonderful season.



**June 3rd, Medina Golf and
Country Club
THE SCRAMBLE
*A Fundraiser Event***

Scottie Hines, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent at Windsong Farm Golf Club in Independence, MN, traveled to Washington, D.C., April 16 with nine peer members of

taxation and environmental issues.

“Scottie’s participation in National Golf Day serves an important role for the association,”

Mr. President Returns to Washington

the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Government Relations Committee to meet with members of Congress as part of National Golf Day.

The goal of the visits with lawmakers was to promote the true face of golf, one that better reflects the economic, human and environmental benefits of the industry across the nation. The Government Relations Committee also discussed with their federal elected officials immigration,



GCSAA Government Relations Committee Chairman Rafael Barajas, CGCS, said. “This important event allows our federally elected officials the opportunity to understand the golf industry’s concerns. It was truly an honor to work with Scottie, GCSAA’s

Government Relations Committee and the leaders of golf’s allied organizations to speak up as a unified voice to ensure lawmakers have an accurate perception of the golf industry.”

The Capitol Hill visits coincided with those of WE ARE GOLF, a coalition led by four of the golf industry's leading associations and supported by other small businesses. Founded by GCSAA, the National Golf Course Owners Association, The PGA of America, and the Club Managers Association of America, WE ARE GOLF is a broad-based coalition that seeks to maximize the industry's synergy and reduce redundancy. Its growing membership includes participation from association members, multi-course owners, manufacturers and golf facilities.

Beyond better demonstrating golf's profound economic clout, WE ARE GOLF illustrates the industry's environmental sustainability initiatives, its health and wellness benefits, and its unparalleled charitable giving. First and foremost, the goal of WE ARE GOLF is to get members of Congress to understand golf's contributions to communities across the country when they're developing and advancing important legislation – just as all small businesses want. WE ARE GOLF will work to share information, case studies and articles with media, elected officials, regulators and other



Dedicated to fighting evils, *StressGard™* Formulation Technology never rests.

Protect your course with the most powerful technology out there. When it comes to overall plant health, Bayer fungicides with *StressGard™* Formulation Technology give you control when it matters most. We've developed these products to work at a cellular level, strengthening turf and fighting against evil stressors like heat, drought and traffic so you'll have the strongest, healthiest turf and happy golfers. **To learn more visit BackedByBayer.com/StressGard.**

Tartan® | Chipco Triton® Flo | Interface® | Chipco® Signature™ | Reserve®

Our five quality fungicides with StressGard Formulation Technology are proven to have preventive and curative properties against disease.

Contact Info:

Mike Kelly
Area Sales Manager
MN, IA, WI, NE, ND, SD
952-292-1966
mike.kelly@bayer.com
www.backedbybayer.com



Bayer Environmental Science, a division of Bayer CropScience LP, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. 1-800-331-2867. www.BackedByBayer.com. Chipco, Chipco Triton, Interface, Reserve and Tartan are registered trademarks of Bayer. StressGard and Signature are trademarks of Bayer. Not all products are registered in all states. Always read and follow label instructions carefully. © 2011 Bayer CropScience LP.

 Bayer Environmental Science



Erin McManus, Superintendent at Medina Golf and Country Club, and his capable staff promise a challenging venue for The Scramble, the MGCSA Research and Scholarship Scramble. Who is on your team?

key constituents so they are better informed on issues of concern.

“GCSAA has long had a strong advocacy program,” GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. “We had a great presence in Washington, and several of our members have built solid relationships with their congressmen. The work the GCSAA Government Relations Committee does is of great benefit to our members and the industry.”

The committee, along with several GCSAA board members, GCSAA members and staff, made visits to the offices of more than four dozen members of Congress to advocate on behalf of GCSAA and the golf industry.

Hines also participated on April 15 in the Government Relations Committee meeting in Washington. During the meeting, the committee addressed priority issues, as well as

discussed updates on GCSAA public policy concerning general permits for pesticide applications, H-2B rules, ADA accessibility guidelines, Endangered Species Act litigation and more. Committee members also discussed local resources regarding pesticide and fertilizer advocacy efforts.

About GCSAA

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus 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 nearly 18,000 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. Find GCSAA on Facebook, follow GCSAA on Twitter, and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.



Superior Tech Products

Leading Edge Turfgrass Solutions
Golf Courses | Sport Fields | Parks

952-546-3678

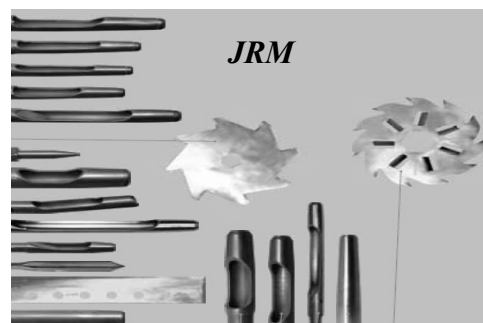
www.stproots.com
stp@stproots.com

**smooth
healthy
consistent
greens**

**Vibratory Greens Roller
& Greens Care Collection**

True-Surface

- * **Liquid & Granular Fertilizers**
- * **Organic Fertilizers**
- * **Post Patent Pesticides**
- * **Aerification Tines & Bedknives**
- * **Natural & Artificial Turf Grooming Equipment.**





WHEREVER GOLF IS PLAYED

The Program: The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association offers a scholarship program designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM, C, D, Associate and Affiliate members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post-secondary institution. The program is independently managed by Scholarship America, a national non-profit student aid service organization. Awards will be granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, national origin or financial need.

Selection of Recipients: Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal. Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship Management Services. In no instance does any member of the MGCSA play a part in the selection. Applicants will be notified by the end of July whether they have been awarded or denied a scholarship.

Eligibility: Applicants for the MGCSA Legacy Scholarships must be: children/grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM, C, D, Associate or Affiliate members who have been members of the MGCSA at least five years; High school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students who are already enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school, and under 23 years of age.

Awards: Three awards will be given to children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM and C members. One award of \$1,500 in the name of Joseph S. Garske will be given to the highest evaluated applicant. That award will be renewable for one year contingent upon full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic performance. One other \$1,000 award will be given to other qualified applicants from this group. One \$1,000 award will be available to children and grandchildren of Class D, Associate and Affiliate members. These awards are not renewable. However, students may reapply to the program each year they meet eligibility requirements. Awards are for undergraduate study only.

Obligations: Recipients have no obligation to the MGCSA or its members. They are, however, required to supply Scholarship Management Services with current transcripts and to notify Scholarship Management Services of any changes of address, school enrollment or other relevant information. Except as described in this brochure, no obligation is assumed by the MGCSA.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2013. For more information go to mgcsa.org

Peer Perspective

By E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

Intended Consequences

As most of you are all now aware, the Minnesota legislature has decided to back a plan by the Department of Natural Resources to dramatically increase water fees for all users of groundwater in the state. The stated goal of this increase is to raise money for the study of the ground water in the state, by increasing the number of monitoring wells and funding other studies to identify ways for protection of this vital resource for all. This is a noble plan worth supporting, and I, for one, do support it.

Not stated in the goals is the reduction in use do to the increase in the fees, in some cases up to a 300% increase. This is, however, one of the intended consequences. Currently, the DNR has no real plan as to how it can get the citizens of Minnesota to reduce their water consumption rate. We as a state take water for granted. After all, we live in the land of 10,000 lakes. Recently, events such as the lake level in White Bear Lake and others has proven that the water in Minnesota is not limitless and some type of control needs to be put in place.

As we have seen in the past with issues like tobacco, liquor and gasoline,



governments in general try to limit use by punishing us in the pocket book to get us to conform to their wishes. But, as with those issues, this type of system, while generating lots of cash, rarely gets the public to change their ways. Change takes time and education, and no amount of money will force the average citizen to drastically change the way they do things immediately.

The water issue in Minnesota is a real issue that needs to be tackled. It is, indeed, an issue that needs real study by qualified researchers to come up with real results that can solve problems down the line. The problem is that this too will take time, and no amount of money thrown at an issue will produce good results instantly. Valuable research is a long process.

Until such time, there are a number of practical things that can and should be done to limit the wasteful use of water in Minnesota. (At this point I could give you a list, but, you might not agree with it and neither will the DNR, so what would be the point.) These options should be debated and thought through, so we can reduce the wasteful use of water and start having an impact immediately. Granted, much of this will be a drop in the overall bucket, but you have to start somewhere.

The MGCSA as a group has been focused on this issue and the Environmental Committee has been developing a plan for our industry to use, and take the lead on this issue.

We are close to finalizing those plans and you should see them soon. We have been working with the DNR and will be presenting our plan to them to show that we are not just users, but rather responsible protectors of the environment as a whole.

This type of process should be forced on all industry users of water. From agriculture to manufacturing to landscape use, every group should have to develop a plan to reduce water use. This will be much more effective in the near term than trying to force reduction through increased fees. Intended and unintended consequences will result from these fee increases, let us hope that both types produce positive results.

The advertisement features a background image of a golf course with a green, sand traps, and trees. The Hartman logo is prominently displayed in the upper left, consisting of a stylized green tree and the word 'HARTMAN' in large, bold, serif letters. Below the logo, the text 'Golf Course Construction & Renovation' is written in a smaller font. In the upper right corner, the slogan 'Quality since 1971...' is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom left, the text 'Specializing in...' is written in a purple font, followed by a list of services: 'Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades'. At the bottom left, the address '8099 Bavaria Rd. Victoria, MN 55386' and phone number '952.443.2990' are listed. At the bottom right, the email 'info@hartmancompanies.com' and website 'www.hartmancompanies.com' are provided.

HARTMAN
Golf Course Construction
& Renovation

Quality since 1971...

Specializing in...

Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades

8099 Bavaria Rd.
Victoria, MN 55386
952.443.2990

info@hartmancompanies.com
www.hartmancompanies.com

Golf Architect Staying Busy Even in Tough Times.

By Ken Moum

In the 1990s golf course architects were building courses at a feverish pace. But that all changed with the economic difficulties of the past several years. More recently, many golf course architects have either moved most of their practice overseas or have tried to find other ways of paying the bills.

Minnesota-based golf architect Kevin Norby, says that hasn't been the case for him, in fact, he's currently hiring. That's right – hiring. "I guess it's a bit unusual" says Norby. "We've been fortunate to have picked up a number of projects over the past few years and 2012 was one of our busiest years in 22 years".

"Like a lot of guys, after things slowed down in 2008, I chased a couple projects in China and even thought about opening an office over there or hiring a marketing consultant to help us find projects overseas". In the end, Norby decided to focus his efforts domestically so he could dedicate the time to make sure the projects turn out right. "When we do a new project, I spend a lot of time researching the market and then



spend a lot of time on site to make sure they turn out like they should".

As a result, if there is a renovation or expansion project going on in the Midwest, there's a good chance Norby has a hand in it. He just landed what might be one of the only 18-hole construction projects in the country – a nine-hole expansion and renovation at Fox Hills Golf Course in western North Dakota. "Our plan is to start with the twelve new holes that won't impact the existing course. Then, when those holes are ready to play, we'll build the remaining six holes and the new practice facilities". According to Norby, there

will be 18 new holes and about 300 home sites situated on about 500 acres.

Norby also has projects under construction in Minnesota and South Dakota including a major renovation at Bakker Crossing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and at Bunker Hills in Minneapolis. He is also working on projects in Colorado, North Carolina, Iowa and the Dominican Republic.

In addition to completing some pretty high profile and highly acclaimed design projects, Norby has developed a reputation for helping owners figure out how to make their course successful. “A lot of what we do involves long range master planning and what makes us unique is the amount of time I spend trying to help owners figure out how to increase membership and revenue, rather than simply making architectural changes to rejuvenate the golf course or reduce maintenance costs.”

Norby says, “Often times that means spending days getting to know the local golf market, the culture, the other area courses, our client and our client’s golf course.” Ultimately, we want to create a course that is enjoyable yet profitable. For a private club that means new members and for a public course that means increased value and increased play. We can only do that if we understand what it will take to make our courses successful and then make the changes needed to reposition or differentiate them from their competition.

“We’ve been fortunate to have weathered this downturn pretty well,” says Norby. “It’s been a tough few years but it seems like, as long as we’re willing to focus on building great golf courses and focus on finding ways to make them successful, we’ll stay busy”.



***The Wee One. October 7th at Brackett's Crossing.
Join in the tradition of giving***

Benefits of Membership in the MGCSA

MGCSA.org: The MGCSA provides its membership an electronic destination. The site offers a broad range of services including latest news, meeting information, important links, local association contacts and meeting schedules, as well as a market place for used equipment or student internships. Links are provided to the Affiliate Members who advertise on the web site.

Education: The MGCSA provides a range of high quality discounted professional education with more than 100 hours of relevant classes at the Northern Green Expo in January each year, supplemented by an extensive program at the Mega Seminar, as well as the annual MGA Spring Turf Forum.

Research: The MGCSA coordinates with researchers at the University of Minnesota's TROE Center to make sure you get the information you need. The association also directs Turfgrass Research Benefit Week, the annual sale of donated tee-times, to raise money for golf turfgrass research. And the association also contributes to The Turf Endowment fund to ensure a continuing program at the University of Minnesota.

Government Relations: The MGCSA provides access to the State Capitol through a continued relationship with the Minnesota Golf Association and other Green Industry Allies. This service keeps your association aware of issues likely to affect golf as they emerge rather than after the fact. This proactive presence also helps us educate legislators and regulators by providing solid information and research findings as they strive to make sound decisions for the good of the whole community. The MGCSA has representation at the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape's 'Day on the Hill' event.

Hole Notes Magazine: The MGCSA provides an award winning professional golf course superintendent association journal. Published ten times each year in a digital format, Hole Notes strives to provide relevant, interesting information that reflects the personality and professionalism of the membership. Links are provided to the Affiliate members who advertise in the magazine.

Membership Directory: At the Member's Only section the MGCSA provides an annually updated listing of names and contact details for every member of the association. This electronic directory puts each within fingertip reach of around 700 allied professionals across the region.

Employment Referral Service: The MGCSA provides a link between the people with jobs and those who want them. The employment referral service is available on-line at MGCSA.org as well as electronically delivered weekly through 'e-updates'.

Email Alerts: The MGCSA uses the internet to provide updates and alerts on urgent matters as they arise so we remain current with issues that may effect you, the industry and the Association.

Scholarships: The MGCSA extends its support to the next generation through an annual scholarship program to assist children and grandchildren of superintendents who have achieved academic excellence.

Wee One Support: The MGCSA annually hosts a Wee One fund raising golf outing with the proceeds going to support this outstanding program that serves those in the golf course turf management industry.



Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak, CGCS

In March of 2012 I sat down and wrote a column about how

wonderful life was for the snow had melted, the sun was shining and the temperatures were unbelievably above normal. A year and a month later, I and the rest of Minnesota golfdom are in agony and misery as somehow last March decided to show up in April 2013.

However after writing last month's column about the misery of pothole season and at the risk of completely going off the deep end about weather I refuse to let it hijack another column. Rest assured, the warm weather will come eventually and our golf course will be live and vibrant again.

Instead, I will focus this column on another bit of misery that needs to be addressed.

As most of you have heard, the Minnesota Legislature is attempting to pass a water appropriations bill that will re-structure fees paid to the state for the privilege of drawing water out of a lake, river or aquifer. This new fee structure would triple the amount of money paid by

a course to the DNR on average, and in some cases even more. I have some strong opinions on this.

First of all, let's address the word fee. Fee is cute little word commandeered by politicians recently to replace the word tax. For tax is an evil word, that apparently will not allow politicians to be re-elected. Fee seems to be so much easier on the electoral palate. It is used freely on both sides of the political spectrum, not one party or another. Fees have slipped into our business as well. There is the environmental recovery fee we pay to our waste haulers. We pay certain fees when chemicals are delivered to us. We have paid fuel surcharge fees when the price of fuel shot up a few years ago. Let's call it what it is- it's a tax.

So the state feels it needs to charge more for water use. On the surface, that is not an unreasonable request. After all, water is still relatively cheap in our neck of the woods compared to other places in the country. If you browse the bill, the politicians have some grand plans with the funds they are attempting to procure. Some make sense to me, some seem to do nothing more than perpetuate big government. You might want to take a peek at the bill and formulate your own opinion.

My biggest problem with this is that we have been trying to work with the DNR on self-regulation through

our own water conservation project. Then we get almost blind-sided with this proposal, and while it affects many more industries other than just our own, we will feel the impact more than most. That, coupled with the fact that they are not easing into the increase, they are blowing the increase right out through the front door, is upsetting. At the time when budgets are already set, we are being asked to adsorb a couple thousand dollars more, minimum, to the negative on the bottom line.

When this issue was brought to the attention of the MGCSA Board of Directors by Jack MacKenzie and others on the board, the question posed was whether or not to try and fight the bill in some way, if dialogue with the DNR could not bring a sensible resolution. But how? Certainly a request from golf (the MGCSA, MGA, etc.) to be heard could sway some opinions, but it seems clear to me the Dayton administration and the DFL controlled legislature is on a full-fledged cash grab from the tax payers on Minnesota and it is not going to stop anytime soon.

So what can we do? There is the vote, but we all have to wait a while to exercise that option. Shorty after the last MGCSA meeting I jokingly sent out an email that stated that in my club's situation, I figured out that if I was to pass the fee on to our golfers for this brand new legislation it would equate to about 13 cents per round played at

Prestwick. We could charge \$40.13, \$50.13 whatever the going rate would be, and see the reaction of the consumers. We would call it the "DNR" fee. Has a nice ring, doesn't it?

But what a pain in the hind end for the pro shop collecting the 13 cent fee. So I now say we take it a step further. Include all the government taxes and "fees" levied on our business and pass it on down the line. Surely any wise thinking government entity would appreciate this maneuver. They have been doing this for years.

Add up all the money from your maintenance budget paid for licenses (water permits, pesticide, FCC, phosphorus, low-voltage, DOT, etc.) and the cost for the continuing education for them. Add in man hours updating OSHA regulations, MSDS sheets, right to know training, etc. and any other costs for them. Figure out the dollar total and what percentage that is of your budget. Take that figure to the clubhouse and proudly proclaim you have found a way to lower the cost of golf at your golf course. The customer will be charged only \$35 or \$45 for golf, but has to be assessed a \$10 "Governmental Fee."

All we are trying to do is keep golf affordable for our customers, and make everybody happy. If you can't beat em', join em'.