

Hole Notes

The Official Publication of the MGCSA
Vol. 56, #7 August 2021



Featured in this issue:

John Steiner CGCS, 2021 MGCSA DSA Recipient
“The Doctor is In”



Big Events Ahead:
The Championship
Turfgrass Talkabout at OHGC
The Wee One
The Scramble

On the cover:

John Steiner CGCS, the 2021 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award recipient, earned his “doctorate” on the course. He is well known for his proficiency with a microscope in diagnosing diseases. Always willing to support his fellow superintendents, John has been a stalwart friend of the professional turfgrass agronomist and leader in the industry. As Superintendent at the White Bear Yacht Club for over 42 years, John has responded successfully through the many changes and challenges of Minnesota fine turf management. Read more about John in this issue of Hole Notes.

UMN

Golf-centric Field Day

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September 9, 2021

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Editor

Joe Berggren
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COM



Presidential Perspective

by Scott Thayer, Legends Club

It always amazes me how fast summer goes; I have been working on a golf course during the summer for as long as I can remember, and the season always seems to fly by. Now August is upon us and some of us are preparing for aerification on our courses, summer staff starts to head back to school, and we begin to prepare for fall. August always brings the beginning of the end of summer. And even though I am never happy to see summer end some cooler days would be nice.

August also brings football, which I enjoy so very much; from High School to Professional I enjoy it at all levels. My oldest son, going into 5th grade, is participating in tackle football this year and I am excited to see how it goes. It seems odd to me that this physical program

starts in 5th grade when my tackle football for me began in 7th grade. He has enjoyed it so far, but we will see how he likes taking a hit! August also brings the State Fair in MN, always a finishing touch to the summer for sure. With no State Fair in 2020 due the pandemic, summer never seemed complete. But this year, with it back on, it will be a nice conclusion to the summer, along with start to school, before fall begins. I hope everyone and their families enjoy the last month of the summer.

The drought continues and there seems to be no end in sight. Sure, we have had some rain showers occasionally at Legends, but nothing to bring us back to where we should be. I am hoping that everyone's irrigation systems and well pumps are holding up and you are all keeping the turf alive as best as you can, I know I am just living

day by day right now. Don't forget the MGCSA championship will be at New Prague golf club on August 23rd! Someone needs to take on Mason Drabant the defending champ! Tim Fleegel and I tried to beat Mason and Brian Brown in the Don White match play but the team from Chisago Lakes Golf Club were too much for us. Hope to see many of you there for the Championship as well.

Our DSA recipient this year is another well-deserved individual of this prestige MGCSA honor. John Steiner CGCS has worked at the White Bear Yacht Club for over five decades and a supportive member of the MGCSA for almost as many years. He has influenced many people in this profession, at White Bear Yacht Club and across the state. John is always there to lend a helping hand with anything anyone asked if, whether just advice or needing help with getting something. I encourage you to know John just a little bit and you

will learn what a great guy he is and that he would do about anything if you asked. One of my neighbors, who worked for John when he was in college and then a few years afterward told me it was the best job he had ever had and that John was a great boss. John knew so many people, my neighbor told me, "that he would take us golfing all over the cities with no problem". Congrats John, well deserved!

I hope everyone enjoys the end of summer and keep your heads up through this drought, we will make it better than ever before!

***Mark you calendar
for our fall event
schedule:***

***The Championship
The Wee One
The Scramble***

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent Association Presents:

The MGCSA Championship

August 23rd at New Prague Golf Club

Host Superintendent Jeff Pint

This golf opportunity offers a variety of competitive options: MGCSA Champion, First and Seniors Divisions. Price of the day per person is \$90 and includes golf, range, cart, prizes, box lunch and heavy appetizers or BBQ. Championship matches set by pro shop.

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2021 MGCSA Le



Sara Kelly

**Grandparent:
Mike Kelly**

**Mike is an Affiliate
member of the MGCSA and
owns and operates
Environmental Agronomics**

Sara is starting her senior year at St. Benedict's college in St Joseph MN. She continues to want to become a Veterinarian so the future includes many additional years at an appropriate Vet. school. The key will be finding the right one. She has been on the deans list every semester of her college career.

She volunteers at the St. Cloud Animal Shelter and has had the opportunity to assist during the surgical preparation, surgery, and recovery.

Sara is still involved with the college skating team however Covid-19 created major problems in 2020.

At the end of August she is looking forward to studying the Fall semester in Greece. She will be back by Christmas.

Legacy Scholarship Award Recipient

Minnesota Chapter



GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Our family appreciates the Association for providing this scholarship. It has helped her on her way through these expensive college years. Thank you.



2021 MGCSA Le



Elliott Ische

**Parents: Jennifer and Jeff
Ische**

**Jeff is an affiliate
member of the MGCSA. He
is a Commercial Product
Manager at The TORO
Company**

Elliott Ische of Shorewood, MN is a 2020 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Minnetonka HS. While in high school, he volunteered at youth football and lacrosse camps, packed meals for Feed My Starving Children and did Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup. He was a varsity captain of both the football and lacrosse teams.

Elliott attends the University of Denver (CO) where he is studying mechanical engineering and playing on their lacrosse team. He finished his first year with a 3.9 GPA, was named to the Dean's List all three quarters and was selected as a member of the Big East Conference All-Academic Lacrosse Team.

Legacy Scholarship Award Recipient

Thank you to Par Aide and the MGCSA for generously sponsoring these scholarships!



Minnesota Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

2021 Joe Garske

Renewal Recipient

Sophia Kelly

Grandparent Mike Kelly

Mike is an Affiliate member of the MGCSA and owns and operates Environmental Agronomics



We appreciate the gifts of the Garske Foundation. I am very happy to say that Sophia had an excellent academic freshman year at St. Benedicts college in St. Joseph, MN. However Covid-19 made it a little more challenging with class presentations and social activities. She did get the Virus but luckily had small complications or effects from it.

This summer she worked in the Registrar office at the college and then took a leave to assist at the Elks youth camp near Brainerd MN. She is convinced that she will work again next year the camp. She enjoys working with the children & the other counselors.

Sophia has now declared Sociology as her major. But I would not be surprised to see her major focus on working with children and youth. She started as a Elementary Education major.

Hopefully this next year will prove to be a little more normal for school learning, fun activities and life.

Legacy Scholarship Award Recipient



2021 Joe Garske I



Mikayla Santjer

**Parents: Ross and Sheryl
Santjer**

**Ross is the Golf Course Super-
intendent at Moccasin Creek
Country Club in Aberdeen,
South Dakota**

Mikayla is entering her senior year at Northland College in Ashland, WI. Mikayla is majoring in biology and chemistry with a minor in environmental studies. Her goal is to attend graduate school to become a doctor of veterinary medicine. While at Northland, she is on both the women's hockey and golf teams. Mikayla enjoys competing for Northland. She holds the low-round record for the women's golf team and has received UMAC first team all-conference three years for golf. When she is not on the ice or the golf course, she holds down three jobs. She works as a golf shop employee at Chequamegon Bay Golf Club, a fitness center employee at Northland College, and is a head resident assistant in the dorms.

During the summer Mikayla has a job working at Moccasin Creek Country Club for her father. She does everything on the golf course from changing cups, raking bunkers, mowing hazards, even garbage and coolers. Mikayla also volunteers at the local humane society during the summer. At the humane society, she works with large dogs to help socialize them and train them. This summer Mikayla had the

Legacy Scholarship Award Recipient



opportunity to work at a local veterinary clinic as a veterinary assistant.

Mikayla enjoys staying busy and appreciates every job and opportunity she is given. Thank you, Par Aide, MGCSA, and the Garske family for sponsoring the scholarship. The scholarship will help aid Mikayla in the upcoming school year.



The MGCSA is excited to present the second in a series of social/educational programming:

***Tuesday Talk-about Turf Tours at
Olympic Hills Golf Club***

September 14, 2021* Rain or shine!

8:30 until 11:00 am * meet up in OHGC Clubhouse

Host Superintendent Jake Schmitz

Jake has had a few exciting years since becoming the Superintendent at Olympic Hills Golf Club. The complete rebuild in 2014 offered many agronomic challenges including the introduction and management of large fescue plantings, a signature of Jake's course. Come learn about post construction modifications and the inside scoop about maintaining large pure stands of fescue grasses.

Members are encouraged to bring the "rising stars" on their green staff to encourage them into the industry.

This is a free event but the association needs an accurate count for coffee. Please register at mgcsa.org



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The Real Deal: John Steiner CGCS **2021 MGCSA Distinguished Service** **Award Recipient**

By Various Contributors

The authors gratefully acknowledge the historical information found in *Wind, Waves and Waggles: 100 Years of Golf at the White Bear Yacht Club*, written by Dr. Mark Mammel.



In 1912, the White Bear Yacht Club, located on the shores of White Bear Lake in a community north and east of St. Paul, opened for play. The original nine was laid out by the esteemed golf course architect Donald Ross, and then expanded to 18 holes in 1915. Untouched by the large equipment associated with golf course construction today, the track has the free-range contour features associated with classic golf course design.

As was typical upon golf courses in the “old days”, property management fell upon the shoulders of the golf professional; a jack-of-all-trades who managed the pro shop, caddie schedules, made golf clubs and kept the

course playable with a handful of helpers. The first official greenkeeper of the White Bear Yacht Club was Vince Frost, hired by, then golf professional/factotum, Len Mattson sometime in the early 1960's.

Vince Frost's reign as greenkeeper lasted for roughly ten years. Upon his death in 1973, his son Tom took over and was soon followed by Bill Peitz in 1975. In total, established "turf managers" have only been a part of the WBYC history for about six decades.

The 1960's and 70's were very transitional in the professional turf management industry. With appreciation for the growing expectations of the players of the game, universities across the country began programming specific to the education of golf course greenkeepers, grooming them into today's golf course superintendent.

One such individual, perhaps captured by the lure of the WBYC as a caddy in the late 1960's and then a worker on the grounds crew in 1970, and who attended the University of Minnesota's turf management program, was John Steiner. Under the direction of renowned instructor, Dr. Donald B. White, John was introduced to a new concept in the golf course management industry, the scientific turf agronomist. Upon graduation from the UMN in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Horticulture, specializing in Turfgrass Science, John was hired as the WBYC's assistant



Just a few of John's certificates of merit.

golf course superintendent. Three years later, John became the White Bear Yacht Club's longest standing Golf Course Superintendent at 42 years. In total, John has dedicated most of his life, 54 years, to the course he fell in love with on that first "loop" in 1967.



Thinking "outside the box" in 1982, John manages the cultural practice of walk aerification of the 10th fairway with Ryan Greens Aires.

Although the general landscape has not changed much since horse drawn plows gently altered the land to form the White Bear Yacht Club, the course itself has been upgraded several times since John became superintendent. In the 1970's and early 80's much of the concept work was instigated by the Green Committee or Chair and implemented, often "hands-on", by Steiner.



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Tees were leveled and expanded, trees planted/removed and replanted again, greens enlarged, ponds dug and filled in, fairways altered and bunkers re-sanded. Then there were the projects dictated by growing golfer expectations, failing infrastructure and modern equipment. Again, John

Hole Notes advertisement August 1975



Although installing drain line was always a priority, in 1981 John began rebuilding the tees, starting on hole four at the White Bear Yacht Club using 80/20 mix and seeding with 100% perennial rye grass.

and his crew stepped to the plate and accomplished the bulk of improvements in-house. The mantra then and now...”drainage, drainage, drainage”.

Outsourcing design and construction didn't take hold at the WBYC until the mid 1990's and through today with a member driven push to develop a master plan to include tree removal and bringing the course back to the original architectural intent. John has worked closely with golf course architect Jim Urbina in recent years. While drainage still is important, an example is the installation of XGD in all the greens over the last two years (except number 8 which is a USGA base green), you won't find John riding the ditch witch

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Hole Notes June 1970

or dragging a construction blade. He leaves those tools to the professionals like Hartman Companies.

As if design and infrastructure weren't enough, Mother Nature never failed to pull any punches during John's lengthy career. The big stuff; a ten-inch rain in 1987 followed by tremendous drought in 1988, the snowstorm(s) of 1991 along with the challenges of getting snow mold chemistry applied, widespread winterkill in 1976, 2005 and 2019 and the typical "little stuff"; storm damage, lightening hits to the irrigation satellites, bunker washouts, vandalism, animal damage, employee accidents and oversights have, over the last five decades, developed John into the resilient, proactive, insightful and patient professional golf course manager he is today.



On display in John's office for a long, long time!

Although John continues to be a master at turf agronomy, perhaps one of his greatest attributes has been the ability to get a diverse green staff, working very hard together, to manicure a great piece of property into an amazing product for those serious about the game of golf. To do this, John "lives" his job as Golf Course Superintendent. Countless individuals, those who pursued careers in the turf industry and many others, owe their work ethic to Steiner's dedication to his craft.



The Doctor is always “in” at the White Bear Yacht Club. With fondness and a grand appreciation for his pathology expertise, John’s peers have come to rely on him for plant disease diagnoses. Often just an affirmation, but frequently sage advice from a Master of Fine Turf Management, John has always been willing to talk turf (alive and dead) with those willing to make the request. Whether casual observation with a hand lens or deep review through a microscope, John’s conclusions and ensuing recommendations have likely saved or enhanced many industry careers.



***“Hey, let me get a ‘scope on that,”
The Doctor is always willing to learn more
about turf and share his knowledge with
anyone interested.***

Perhaps the best way to share John’s Distinguished Service attributes would be through sharing comments from those who respected John for his professionalism and loved him for his personality and good intentions.

Shane Andrews, MTI Distributing, “I have known John for more than 30 years. First as a peer when I was a GC Superintendent. In those days I was always impressed with John’s turf knowledge and attention to his educational detail. When others would have pathology questions John would be under the microscope figuring out what pathogen was present and sharing his findings. As I moved forward in my career in turf distribution, John always had time for me, and allowing me to help him and the club with their needs, along the way pushing products and services that help John perform his job.

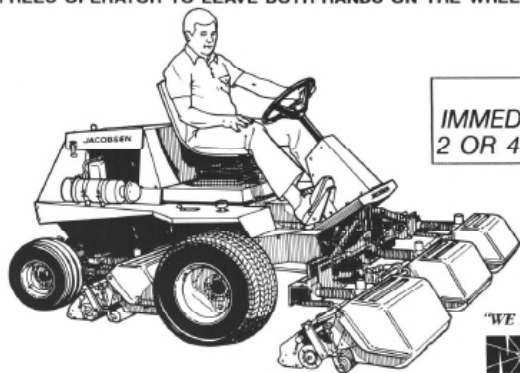
The relationship has grown through the years as we both love to play golf. John would have me out as a guest playing golf and talking shop during the round. One of the most gratifying rounds of golf with John was when we once won the WBYC Pro-Am, held each fall. During the celebration I noticed that many of John's members were as happy for John winning as he was. This recognition from WBYC members to John shows how deeply the membership cares for John and what he has done during his career. John takes great pride in sharing his education.

A few years ago I asked John if he and the club would be interested in holding an event for the First Tee Program. This event, with the help of MTI, Toro and the WBYC was able to bring First Tee participants from around the country to the club. Included in their day at the club the students would have a morning of education from John and his staff. It was impressive to see John teach and share his knowledge with young people,

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Hole Notes May 1990

some of those interested in the golf business and some just interested in learning from working professionals. The afternoon was for the students to play a round of golf and enjoy what the WBYC had to offer. Many of the students wrote John and his staff messages thanking them for the once in a life-time experience.

John in a word is a very proud individual. He is proud of his ability, proud of his family, proud of spending more than 50 years at the WBYC."

Brad Marty, current Assistant Superintendent at the White Bear Yacht Club, “What can’t a person say about John? I have worked with him since 1987. I can say he is very dedicated to the turf industry and his job at WBYC. He helps other superintendents when they are stumped. Steiner is the guru of the turf industry with problem solving turf issues. He works countless hours because it’s part of the job, but this is also his hobby; he enjoys it that much. He makes going to work fun. He searches for the answer to a question until he finds it no matter how long it takes. He enjoys learning new things at his job, even after 50 years. He claims he is a glorified dirt farmer, but I think he grows some great turf. It’s my privilege to work with him every day.”



John with his “A” Team, Jimmy Olson, Equipment Manager on left, and Assistant Superintendent Brad Marty.

Mark Plombon, Assistant Superintendent Logger’s Trail, “I was a turf student at the U of M, Dr. White was my adviser. When I was ready to do my internship, he asked me if I wanted to go to a course that paid more money, or one with a better program. I chose the better program. Dr. White sent me to Mr. Steiner.

As a graduate of the U of M John’s skills are excellent. Turf pathology, entomology and meteorology knowledge are areas where John continues to educate himself to stay on top of his profession. He has taught me the importance of communication with all working departments within the club and the ability to interact with club members.

John is a great leader. He is diligent with new staff training, teaching them with the right and setting clear expectations. My experiences with John have made me a better person. My knowledge, abilities and skills have been elevated through my time with John. When John retires, the industry will be losing not only a fine Superintendent, but a quality individual.”

Linda Carol, White Bear Yacht Club General Manager, retired,” For over 42 years John Steiner has been held in the highest regard by both the members of WBYC and its staff. John “lives” on the golf course and that’s his “baby”. He is one of the most dedicated individuals that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. When he is not working on the golf course, he is playing it. He loves the game of golf and most evenings after a long day, you will find him playing a quick 9 or 18 holes. John was one of the first group of MN Superintendents to receive his Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation and was adamant in his pursuit of WBYC receiving and maintaining it’s designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

I think one of the most outstanding attributes that makes John so deserving of this award is the respect he has among his peers. John is one of the most talented ‘plant pathologists’ in Minnesota and is referred to as ““Dr.” Steiner by



In 2008, John hosted two good friends during a fall tour at the WBYC. Dr. Don White, retired UMN Professor of Turfgrass Science, and Jack MacKenzie, then superintendent at North Oaks Golf Club.

his fellow Golf Course Superintendents. His phone is one of the first numbers called when a plant, organism, or disease is found on a golf course and not recognized by his peers.

Golf as we know it today would not be possible without the talent and dedication of people like John Steiner. I can think of no one who exemplifies the passion and dedication to the game of golf and the integrity and care of its playing field than John Steiner.”

David Longville, former Assistant at the WBYC and current owner/operator of Longville Lawns, Eau Claire, WI, “I worked eight seasons for John on the grounds crew and another six years as his assistant. He was my teacher, my friend and a brother to me. To be honest, he still is. John is and always will be the most dedicated, most intelligent, and most committed keeper of the green that the industry has been so fortunate to have. John is the best of the best, and he is a truly wonderful human being.”

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Hole Notes, May 1998

These concise comments emulate the general feeling the membership of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association has for John Steiner CGCS; mentor, teacher, pathologist, agronomist, leader and lifetime superintendent of the White Bear Yacht Club Golf. Several years ago, the Association changed their Distinguished Service Award Format to become a more powerful accreditation of individual accomplishments, while holding our profession

to the highest regard. No more worthy individual could possibly define the intent of this award.

The White Bear Yacht Club, fine turf management, the MGCSA and John Steiner will all be synonyms associated with the recreation enjoyed by many. For years to come, new player expectations will push the limits of agronomy and grass genetics, turf management equipment will be developed to enhance player enjoyment and products will find their way to the market to be the cure for all that challenges the turf. But it will always come down to the professionalism of the golf course turf manager who knows how to use the tools to trick the 'elements', to provide the surface, to encourage the staff, to subdue the critic, to educate the ignorant and to powder the golf course with the magic dust of greenkeeping. John Steiner CGCS is such a superintendent and worthy of all the honor associated with receiving the 2021 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award.

On behalf of Minnesota Golf and the members of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, "Congratulations John on your hard-earned success as a premier Golf Course Superintendent".



Photo credit Hod Irvine

Congratulations John Steiner CGCS for more than a half century of dedicated and Distinguished Service to the MGCSA and Minnesota Golf.

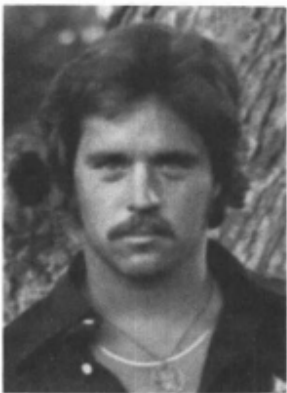
Changes Over Time

Reflections on his career by John Steiner CGCS, Superintendent at the White Bear Yacht Club and the 2021 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Over the course of my 51 years here on the green staff at the White Bear Yacht Club, I have certainly seen some changes. I was reviewing the hot, dry summer of 1988 in my journal the other day and saw that the greens were rolling 9 feet and a week before that, 8 ½ feet on the stimp meter. Wouldn't work today, would it?

Through the years some of the biggest changes have been the technology, specifically the irrigation systems and turf equipment. In 1970, we were mowing the rough with a 5-gang reel mower—with ground driven reels—pulled by a Toro General Tractor. We mowed fairways with a Toro 7-Gang Park Master, also with ground driven reels, and we would lift the mowers with hydraulics and move from fairway to fairway. Triplex greens mowers were coming into their own. I believe the first one came onto the scene in 1968. Now we have GPS sprayers and autonomous mowers. Irrigation systems have also advanced tremendously. We had a quick coupler system down the middle of our fairways, and yes, I had to night water

MEET YOUR SUPERINTENDENTS !



JOHN STEINER is presently enjoying his tenth year as a member of the White Bear Yacht Club's maintenance department. During those ten years, John has moved up the ladder from groundsman in 1970 to the assistant superintendent in 1976 and finally to being named the head golf course superintendent in March of this year. A member of MGCSA since 1976, John received his Bachelor of Science degree in turf maintenance from the University of Minnesota and also worked for one year on a grounds crew in Palm Springs, California before returning home to join the staff at White Bear. John, an eligible bachelor, likes to spend his free time golfing in the summer and skiing when the snow flies. The White Bear Yacht Club has traditionally been regarded as one of the most finely manicured courses in the state and with someone as eager and hard working as John leading the way, we are sure this tradition will continue for years to come.

Hole Notes August 1979

once in a while. We had pop up Toro heads on greens and tees controlled by hydraulic tubing which was installed around 1968. We did not have any irrigation in the rough. When we wanted to water greens and tees, we would set the control boxes in the field. The technological advances in this industry since 1970 have been astounding.

Looking into the past at some of the changes to the golf course, I would say tree removal has made a huge impact. In 1995, Tom Doak and Jim Urbina remodeled our 8th green and green site. Prior to that, we had a handful of architects tinkering with our bunkers and Don Herferd re-did our 8th green for the first time in 1971. When Urbina separated from Doak many years ago, we reached out to Urbina again and made him our go-to guy for architecture.

Urbina is in the process of making a master plan that we will adhere to for many years to come.

Most recently we have had the greens drained by XGD Systems, LLC. Over the past couple of years Urbina and Hartman Com-



White Bear Yacht Club Superintendent John Steiner, CGCS

Hole Notes July 2000

panies, Inc. have reworked our bunkers on hole 2 green site and all of the bunkers on holes 3, 8, and 14. Hartman also drained the 14th fairway. Once Jim Urbina completes the master plan, the White Bear Yacht Club

will continue with the restoration.

We can't talk about days gone by without saying a little something about pesticides. They are much more nature safe these days.

Look at the short list of some of these pesticides from the 1970s.

1. Chlordane Insecticide
 2. Calo-clor Fungicide for snow mold (mercury compound)
 3. Lead Arsenate Insecticide
 4. Cadmium Chloride Fungicide for dollar spot
 5. Phenylmercuric Acetate Fungicide for snow mold and take-all patch
- Those are just a few of the bad boys that are no longer in use.

Industry Professionals

I would like to recognize a few people who were part of the White Bear Yacht Club and went on to be industry professionals. Important to note that these guys worked for not much money in the beginning. I personally started out making \$1.75 per hour here back in 1970. These men worked their way to the top and found themselves at the White Bear Yacht Club at one point or the other.

Jack MacKenzie: 10 years Executive Director MGCSA, 26 years as the superintendent at North Oaks Country Club, one year superintendent at Dellwood Hills Golf Club and The Lost Spur Golf Club.

Max Olson: 34 years as the superintendent at Minnetonka Country Club.

Dave Longville: 5 years as a superintendent at Hillcrest Country Club, WI, 5 years at Millrun and Wildridge Country club, WI, 2 years at Short Hill Country Club, IL, and 10 years running his own lawn care business.

Dave Parker: 3 years as a superintendent at Bridges Golf Course.

Dave McCarty: Hartman Golf Course Construction.

Mark Plombon: Assistant superintendent at Loggers Trail Golf Course.

John McCarthy: superintendent at Loggers Trail Golf Course.

James Westendorf: Assistant superintendent at Minnesota Valley Country Club.

Nick Mortor: Prescription Landscaping.



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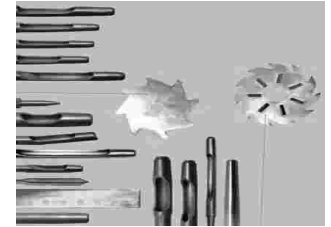
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Alex Ellram: PHD in Turfgrass Science and is currently teaching in New York.

Tony Rhode: Superintendent at Wekopa Golf Club, AZ.

Jeff Meredith: Assistant superintendent at Forest Hills and now owns and operates his own landscaping company.

I would like to thank my assistant superintendent Brad Marty for all of his hard work here at the White Bear Yacht Club. If it wasn't for Brad's dedication, I would likely not be receiving this award.

Challenges and Rewards

A couple of big challenges over the years would have been the hot, dry summer of 1988 with 44 days of 90 degrees or higher temperatures, and the winter kill event of 2019. Although we had winter kill widespread in 1976 and 2005, the 2019 event was especially difficult because it was followed by a very cold and wet spring. We managed to get through those challenges with extra time commitment and hard work. It was a demanding but equally rewarding career. Achieving certification was one of my proudest accomplishments, along with the restoration and drainage of the 14th hole.

I would like to end by saying my departure from the White Bear Yacht Club has yet to be determined, but when it happens, I just might go fishing. Many thanks to Jack MacKenzie and everyone else who was involved with this award. I will cherish it for the rest of my life.



***From left to right starting in the back row
John, Michele (partner), Nora (daughter), Sarah (daughter), Emily
(daughter), Mary (daughter),
Sloan (granddaughter), Huey (family dog), Lyla (granddaughter)***



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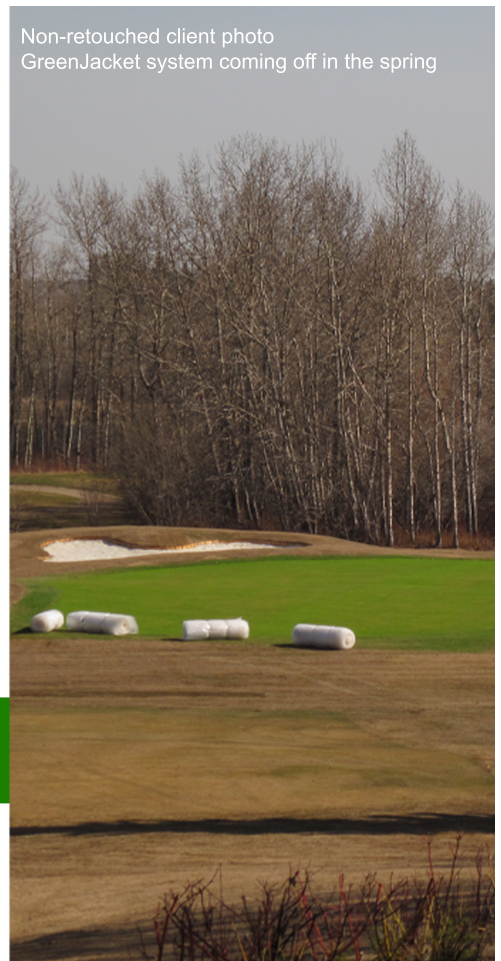
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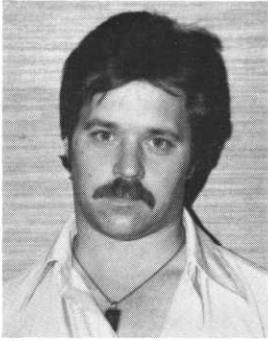
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YES! SAND TEES WITH A PURE PERENNIAL RYE GRASS SURFACE

by JOHN STEINER
Superintendent White Bear Yacht Club

The White Bear Yacht Club is a very old Donald Ross Golf Course with a lot of Scottish flare. Unfortunately, at the time it was constructed neither Scotland or the United States had the high traffic present day golf courses have; thus the tee boxes were small and built with the existing soil.

It became obvious to me in the spring of 1979 that with the higher maintenance levels and the ever increasing amount of play, it would be necessary to rebuild our tees in order to produce a high quality turf stand. With this criteria in mind as well as the basic Donald Ross design, I began to investigate my options. After considering a variety of soil mixes, I decided upon an 80% Fine Building Sand, 20% Northern Peat mix.

Using this media, I was able to curb compaction and increase water infiltration while still keeping the tee boxes consistent with the Scottish design. Besides a soil mix, I had to consider a seed mix that would stand up to heavy play, a short mowing height and a variety of climatic conditions. The seed mix decided on was a straight Perennial Ryegrass 40% Delray, 30% Pennfine, 30% NK 200. Manhattan II was incorporated into the mixture last year because of its Rhizome development. This mixture would give us a superior establishment rate which we also thought was quite important.

The tee building procedure is listed in chronological order:

1. Remove pop up irrigation head.
2. Plow existing tee under and increase size and/or shape slightly.

3. Set subgrade with 2% grade from front to back. Subsurface drainage lines were installed only on the practice tee.

4. Cover tee area with top mix to a depth of 8-12 inches.

5. Rough grade top mix with box blade and set 2% grade, (front to back) with engineer's level.

6. Hook up a sprinkler and hose system to a nearby quick coupler and water pack for 20 hours (10 hours per night).

7. Check for low spots and reset grade where necessary. Water pack tee one more night.

8. Set final grade with hand rakes, shovels, engineers level and sand traprake. Replace pop up irrigation head at this time.

9. Distribute Milorganite at a rate of 25 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Incorporate this into the tee with sand trap rake.

10. Seed the tee three different directions with rotary type spreader at a rate of 20-25 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Incorporate the seed into the tee with sand trap rake and roll it.

11. Keep the seed moist and when it begins to germinate, spray for damping off organisms.

12. This tee can be put into play about twenty-one days later.

We maintain our tees at 1/2 inch cut and mow three times a week. It was necessary to elevate our fertilizer levels on the sand tees. We irrigate when necessary but never have to syringe the sand tees. Diseases are controlled when active, usually Pythium or Rhizoctonia. Divots on the practice tee and the par 3 tees are seeded once a week with the same seed and top mix.

In four years since the start of the project, we have seen no winter injury to the ryegrass. The sand gives an excellent surface with firm footing and the rye gives us a dense cover with excellent wear tolerance.

Hole Notes July 1985



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Chloride pollution in Minnesota waters and connections to turfgrass fertilizer

By Maggie Reiter

University of Minnesota, Turfgrass Research Team

Chloride pollution in urban water bodies

Chloride (Cl) is a salt found in compounds like sodium chloride (NaCl). Excessive chloride in Minnesota waters can impair aquatic life, negatively affect infrastructure, and contaminate groundwater and associated drinking water supplies. Once in the water, chloride is difficult to remove and continues to build up over time. The only way to remove chloride from water is through reverse osmosis, which is expensive and hard to implement on a large scale.

The main sources of chloride across Minnesota are 1) de-icing salts applied to roads in winter and 2) water softeners and discharge from wastewater treatment facilities. Figure 1 shows the current conditions of chloride-impaired surface waters in Minnesota. Impaired waters are clearly focused in the metro area where we have high road density and a concentration of road salting. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) established a [Statewide Chloride Management Plan](#) to reduce chloride



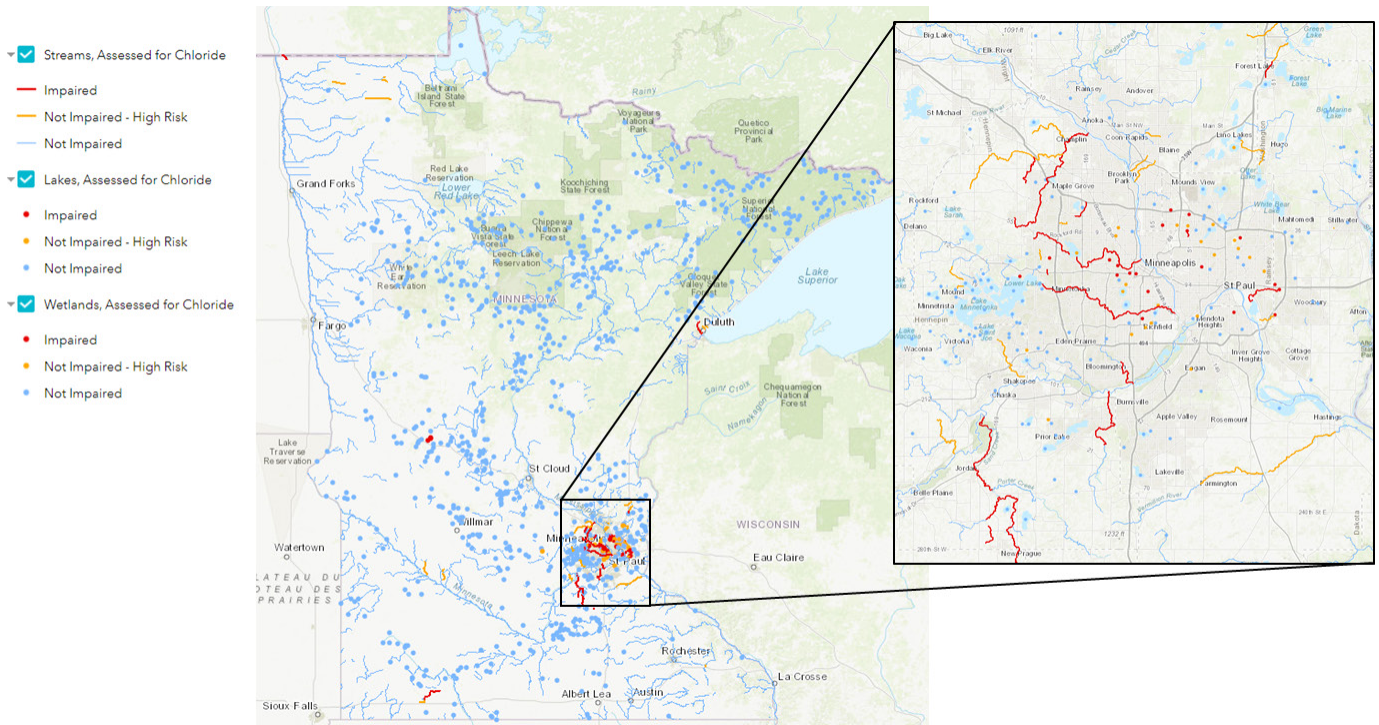


Figure 1. [MCPA map](#) of chloride-impaired streams, lakes, and wetlands in Minnesota. This map only shows waters that have been evaluated for chloride by MPCA. Water bodies without a colored label do not have chloride data available.



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Connections to turfgrass

When we think about salt and turfgrass, the first idea that comes to mind is roadsides and the challenges of growing healthy vegetation in salt-affected soils. For almost a decade now we've worked to study and optimize salt-tolerant roadside turf. Last fall our group published a paper reviewing all the research on turfgrasses for salt-affected roadsides in cold climates: Friell and Watkins, 2020.

The other connection between chloride and turfgrass is fertilizer. A common source of potassium (K) is potassium chloride (KCl). So, when we are applying potassium to turfgrass, we often apply chloride with it. Potassium chloride is used in agricultural fertilizers (potash) and other specialty fertilizer markets like gardens or nurseries. The Statewide Chloride Management Plan includes a summary of chloride contributions from major sources, including fertilizer. The data used to generate this were based on agricultural fertilizer sales only. How much potassium chloride (KCl) are we using in the turfgrass industry? This data is not included in Fertilizer Sales Reports from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, so we don't know.

Opportunities to reduce chloride use in turfgrass fertilizer programs

Despite the unknowns, it's a good exercise to take a look at our chloride inputs via turfgrass fertilizer, identify ways we can reduce chloride, and thus protect our water resources. A few ways we can reduce chloride use in turfgrass nutrient programs:

1. *Use less potassium (K)*

Apply potassium according to Minimum Level of Sustainable Nutrition (MLSN) guidelines. Doug Soldat at the University of Wisconsin has written extensively about potassium soil test calibration for bentgrass putting greens, tissue testing for potassium, and how to manage potassium for cool-season turfgrass.

2. *Use non-chloride sources of potassium, like potassium sulfate (K₂SO₄)*

Potassium chloride is the most popular K source because it is the cheapest. Consider using other K sources like potassium sulfate. However, know that we have problems with sulfate pollution in groundwater too, in southwest parts of Minnesota and other areas of the country.

3. *Examine your facility's use of de-icing salts during winter*

Many golf course superintendents are responsible for snow and ice removal on their properties. There may be opportunities to lower chloride use in salt applications to hardscape. The MPCA has a Smart Salting training for professionals and additional educational resources aggregated on their website.

2021 UMN Turfgrass Field Day for Golf

[Registration](#) is now open for our golf-specific field day on September 9th from 12-2pm. This event is designed for golf course superintendents and will feature golf course-related research and technologies. The field day will be 2 hours long and more casual than in the past. There is no fee but registration is required.



Highlights include:

- Emerging products / mycorrhizae
- Winter stress tolerance and recovery
- Shade impacts and techniques to measure light
- Variety trials for greens, fairways, rough, and minimal-to-no mow areas
- New turfgrass decision-making dashboard for Minnesota
- Soil moisture sensors and setting thresholds
- Turfgrass seed and sod production work

[Register here](#)

Peers Helping Peers, locally: Wee One Support Makes BIG Impact

By Jeff Schmidt, PBI/Gordon Minnesota Regional Sales Representative



My Career in a Nutshell

I started my turf career in 1991 at Island View Golf Club in Waconia, MN where I was part of the seasonal staff through 1996. While attending Iowa State University (ISU), I completed my summer internship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, MN for the 1997 and '98 seasons. After graduating from ISU in the fall of 1998, I accepted the Assistant Superintendent position at Merrill Hills Country Club in Waukesha, WI. After four



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years at Merrill Hills, I made the decision to move back to Minnesota to be closer to family and friends. When I moved back I had the privilege of working for two years as Tom Proshek's Assistant at Brackett's Crossing Country Club. My career then took a turn that I never saw coming - I transitioned into sales. I started my career in sales as an outside sales rep with ProSource One where I worked for four years. I worked in the same capacity for Reinders for six years calling on professionals from golf, sports turf, city municipalities, and lawn care. In 2014 I joined PBI-Gordon as one of their Regional Sales Representatives, calling on the states of MN, SD, ND, and WI.

The Wee One Mission

The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. Through the Foundation's work, Wayne's legacy will never be forgotten.



Jeff, second from left, surrounded by friends at the 2020 MGCSA National Hospitality event.



Peers Helping Peers
Please consider an annual
membership with the
[Wee One Foundation](#)

What the Wee One Foundation means to me

While I was working in Wisconsin, at Merrill Hills Country Club, I met Wayne Otto at a couple of offseason functions and enjoyed the time talking with him. After moving back to Minnesota, I heard of his passing and felt remorse for his family and friends. Years later, I played in the Wee One Foundation's golf event in Sheboygan, WI. If you every have the opportunity to attend this event, please do so. Rod Johnson, Superintendent at Pine Hills Country Club, provides an awesome day of golf that will definitely challenge you and it's always fun spending the day with good friends from the industry. I have also taken part in the Wee One golf events in Minnesota hosted by North Oaks Golf Club, Le Sueur Country Club and Brackett's Crossing Country Club. Both the Minnesota and Wisconsin golf fund raisers are not only great fun with tasty food, they also raise money for such a great cause. I have always been passionate about the Wee One's mission of assisting golf course management professionals who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship. I never imagined in a million years that I would be a recipient. Please consider being a member or enjoying a round of golf at one of their events.

More In Need

Since its inception in 2004, membership within the Wee One Foundation has grown to over 350 in 27 states. More importantly, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$1,500,000 to families in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin - As the Wee One grows more people are helped and more funds are needed to distribute. Please consider contributing today.

[Minnesota Chapter Wee One Tournament at Brackett's Crossing on October 4th](#)

The SURPRISE Diagnosis: How I was diagnosed with a brain tumor

Going back to late 2020 I was having headaches everyday (a 2 on the pain scale of 10), bad headaches (10 on the pain scale) were occurring occasionally in early 2021 and becoming more frequent as the months moved forward. My family, friends and coworkers were noticing a change in how I was acting: short tempered, no drive to do anything when I was at home including working out and chores around the house. All I wanted to do was sleep. In mid-April, I was getting ready to pick our son up from school and take him to hockey, I went upstairs to grab a sweatshirt and dropped to my knees. It was a bad headache and when I looked up at my wife she said half of my face was red and the other white.

I went to urgent care that afternoon, the doctor treated me for migraines and cluster headaches, but with no CT or MRI machines he couldn't get a picture of what was going on in my brain. I met with my primary doctor shortly after and she ordered an MRI. I went for the MRI on May 3. I was terrified to learn at the appointment that I had a ping pong-sized tumor on my right frontal lobe. Things moved rapidly after that. On



Post-surgery humor courtesy of Keith Conway

The Wee One Foundation: Peers Helping Peers

May 10, I had a craniotomy where they removed a grade 2 meningioma. I spent three nights in the ICU and have been recovering at home ever since. It's been, and will continue to be, a long road of recovery. I have found that the brain healing is very different than say, a shoulder healing. With that said, I feel so fortunate that we found it before something tragic happened. It could've been much worse. I encourage everyone to listen to their body, if something doesn't feel right – get it checked out.

My family and I appreciate all of the support we have received from so many friends in the industry and the Wee One Foundation. We will definitely pay it forward.



Jeff and his wife Sam and son Evan doing what they love to do together, spend time at the lake, any lake, as they did in the fall of 2019.

More In Need

Since its inception in 2004, membership within the Wee One Foundation has grown to over 350 in 27 states. More importantly, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$1,500,000 to families in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

- As the Wee One grows more people are helped and more funds are needed to distribute. Please consider contributing today.

Endowment Campaign

At the 9th Annual Pine Hills Golf Outing, the Wee One Foundation kicked off a new fund raising campaign. The Cause: to help golf course management professionals and their dependents that are having trouble paying medical bills due to the lack of comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

The Goal

Raise \$10 million in 10 years to help support families in need forever. The One Percent Endowment Fund will provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for Wee One mission and new endeavors to benefit individuals and families in the golf course industry. 100% of funds generated through this campaign will be placed in a permanent endowment fund.

One Percent Endowment Fund

One Cause: Help golf course management professionals and their dependents that are having trouble paying medical bills due to the lack of comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

The Benefits of Having a Long-Term Tree Management Plan for Your Course

By Renee Crawford and Julie Gann, Rainbow Treecare

Trees provide tremendous value and are utilized in many ways to enhance the design and beauty of a golf course. They are an integral part of a course's visual interest, whether creating separation between fairways, providing a backdrop to greens, or privacy to adjacent properties. In addition to aesthetics, trees are accompanied by numerous environmental benefits and give courses character that connects them with their surroundings.

When the right trees are in the right places on a golf course, they add value to the golfers' overall satisfaction. The sudden loss of one (or many) trees can have a negative impact on both your maintenance budget and course aesthetics. Conversely, having the wrong trees, having trees in the wrong location, or even having too many trees can become a management nightmare for decades.

With all of this to consider, it's not surprising that tree management is both a sensitive subject and a significant maintenance cost at any golf course. Having a thorough tree inventory and tree management plan will create a long-term strategy to improve the health of your high-value trees and help you determine the best way to address any trees that need to be removed. Additionally, a tree management plan can help avoid unexpected costs due to disease, invasive pests, and poor planting issues.

Do you have a tree inventory?

The first step in developing a tree management plan is creating a comprehensive tree inventory. This inventory includes identifying everything you need to know about your trees, such as identifying the exact species,

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Ash trees can provide shade, aesthetics, design features and privacy. But they won't last forever. A inventory plan is important to replace or simply remove trees.

measuring their size as the DBH (diameter at breast height), recording the exact location, and rating the health of every tree. Ideally, this information would be captured in electronic mapping with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

Inventory data is essential for assessing the health and diversity of your tree population and allows you to prioritize projects and actions effectively. Having this inventory data on a map that overlays your course design can also help identify the importance of each tree relative to course play.

Having an accurate tree inventory that allows you to plan for the treatment or removal of any trees impacted by an insect or disease is essential to effectively managing your maintenance budget. This is particularly important in Minnesota, where we are dealing with the deadly threat of emerald ash borer. An inventory will provide you with a list of ash trees that require immediate attention.

Building a long term strategy for your trees

Once a tree inventory is completed, the next step is using the information to create a long-term tree management plan. In addition to inventory information, additional considerations for a golf course tree management plan include budget, overall goals for the course (such as expansion or re-design), and any current concerns about trees that negatively impact the greens or play.

A comprehensive tree management plan will include recommendations and the projected budget needed for all trees on your course. A management plan addresses factors such as:

- Removal of any trees due to condition, poor location, or overall course plan
- Pruning of trees as needed to promote health and reduce any crowding
- Insect or disease control to retain or improve tree health
- Planting recommendations based on removals and property goals

**Golf Course
Trees by
Condition**

Good	●	3
Fair	●	2
Poor	●	1
Dead	●	0

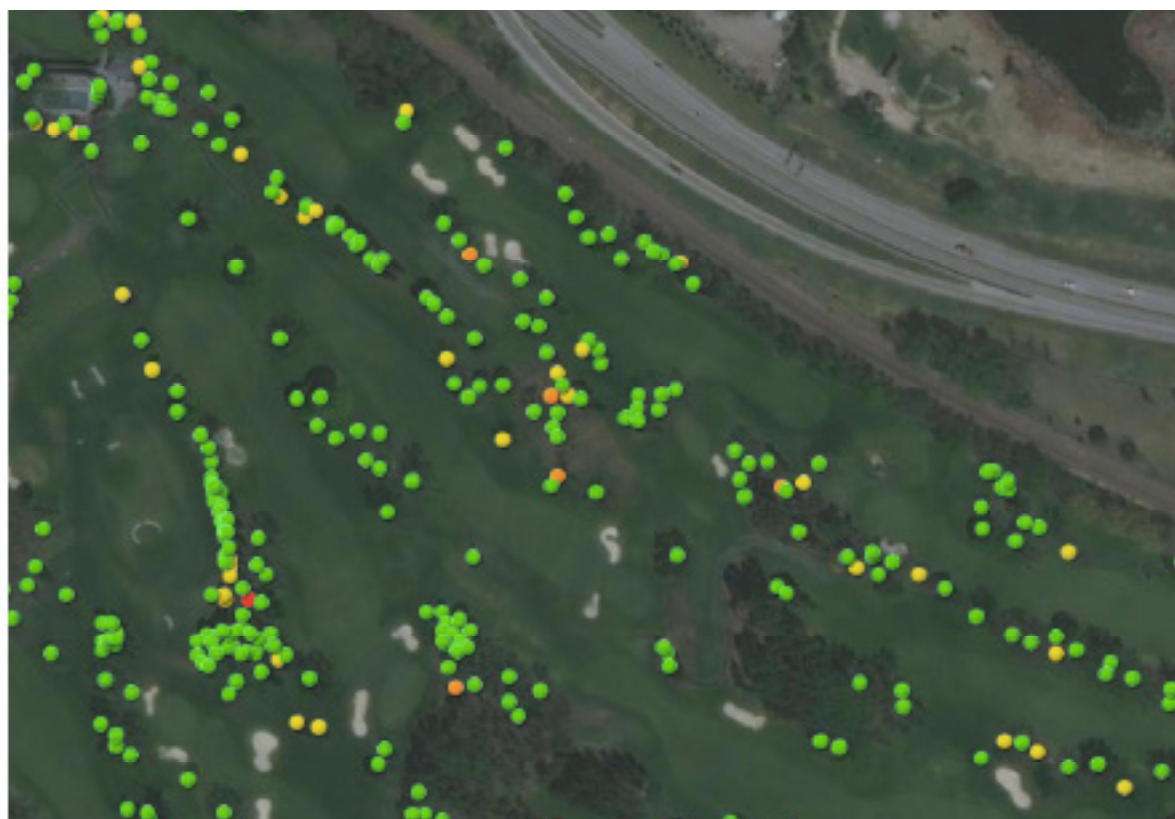




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Golf Course Tree Inventory Table

Tree Number	COMMON	DBH	CLUMP	Notes
10	Oak, White	30		minor tip dieback
11	Oak, Northern Red	32.5		deadwood 9", chlorotic
12	Oak, White	33		deadwood 4"
13	Oak, Bur	36.5		deadwood 8"
14	Oak, Northern Red	29		deadwood 6"
15	Oak, Bur	34		deadwood 5"
16	Oak, Northern Red	20		chlorotic
17	Oak, Bur	30.5		
18	Oak, Northern Red	26.5		deadwood 4"
19	Oak, Northern Red	26		chlorotic, tip dieback, deadwood 8"
20	Oak, Northern Red	21		
21	Oak, Bur	32		deadwood 6"
22	Oak, White	29.5		tip dieback, thin canopy
23	Oak, Northern Red	38		cavity on stem
24	Oak, Bur	25.5		
25	Oak, Bur	23		thin canopy
26	Oak, Northern Red	39		co-dominant with included bark
27	Maple, Sugar	31		co-dominant with included bark
28	Linden, Littleleaf	28		



The benefit to long-range planning is that costly removals can be performed in phases over several years based on tree health and safety considerations. For trees showing a slight decline, or that may be impeding on the overall course aesthetics, time may be on your side. In the case of emerald ash borer, where all ash trees are already under threat, a strategy that incorporates timely treatment or removal and possible replacement on a per tree basis is critical to avoiding a large-scale removal project in the near future.

A bit more about emerald ash borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia, first found in the United States during the summer of 2002 near Detroit, Michigan. It has since been located in almost every state across the country where ash trees are prevalent. EAB populations can grow exponentially each year because the beetle has few natural predators, and ash trees have limited natural defenses.

In Minnesota, EAB was first discovered in St. Paul in 2009, and infestations have now been located in 27 counties across the state. More than one

in five metro area trees is an ash tree, as they were commonly planted in the 1970s as a replacement to American elms being lost to Dutch elm disease. The fact that ash trees make up a sizeable portion of an inventory and have a quick mortality rate once infested makes managing EAB an extremely time-sensitive and budget-sensitive issue.

A tree inventory will provide you with the information needed to manage the ash trees on your course effectively. Proactively planning for treating healthy trees and removing those in decline allows for accurate budgeting. It also allows for long-range planning to ensure any replacement trees are budgeted for and integrated within the overall course design.

Don't have the in-house expertise to create a management plan?

Ideally, you will want a tree inventory completed by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist. While you may be utilizing other professionals to care for landscape components of a golf course, arborists are specifically trained and equipped to manage trees. They are uniquely qualified to identify tree issues while there is still time to correct them. Arborists are highly knowledgeable about tree pruning and removal practices and stay current on emerging trends and tree threats impacting specific regions. This level of expertise is essential to both properly inventorying all trees and developing a comprehensive management plan.

At Rainbow Treecare, our team of ISA-certified arborists dedicated to commercial properties is uniquely qualified to offer a full spectrum of tree care services. Our management plans can be specifically tailored to any golf course. We deliver detailed recommendations while taking into consideration potential safety risks, downtime, goals, and environmental regulations. Additionally, our arborists will work within your budget to create a cost-effective tree management plan that can help you meet your aesthetic and budgetary goals.



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie

At first, in the dawn's early murk, I thought I was riding my bike through a mass of insects as I trav-

eled the back roads, pursuing my daily opportunity for reflection and cardio workout. Shortly, I realized that the tap tap tap upon my head was, in truth, small raindrops, a minor blessing during this lengthy drought. Soon the asphalt gave off that familiar smell of warm, moist macadam. Mystery solved, my mind drifted back to this column; a tribute to one of the finest turf agronomists I know. My mentor, my hero, my friend, John Steiner.

Instead of directly building his pedestal higher with bricks of common cliches and truisms, as that foundation has been constructed, I choose to go on a different tangent and wish for you that which impressed

me about outstanding turf professionals throughout my career.

For the new employee, I wish a boss who is consistent, reliable, pensive, considerate, patient, and forgiving as newbies (and even experienced crew!) often have a bit of a learning curve to overcome. An employer with the knowledge of what it was like to be new on the job at a golf course. Through "hand's on" management, John Steiner taught hundreds of individuals how to do the job, any job, because he knew how to do the specific task.

For the golf professional, I wish an understanding superintendent who appreciates the pressures you are under, often due, in part, to the impacts of course maintenance that serves to make a better playing surface, a superintendent who maintains an open line of communication about agronomics, the weather, cultural practices and

what can and cannot be done. I wish for you a superintendent who makes you look good through their pride in an exceptional product, somebody like John Steiner.

For the General Manager, Owner, or players, I wish for you a superintendent who anticipates what is necessary to keep a golf course operational through every challenge: budget cuts, weather anomalies, turfgrass mortality, lack of employees, vandalism, disease pressure, politics and all the unexpected issues that elude prediction. And yet, those problems will never become insurmountable because that special superintendent, like John Steiner, has looked into the future and has a contingency plan in place to keep the course playable and meet or exceed everyone's expectations.

For the vender who works hard satisfying the superintendent client without getting in the way, I wish for you a buyer like John Steiner. Direct, inquisitive, supportive, skeptical, talented, dedicated, humorous

and the best turfgrass agronomist you will likely ever meet. To quote John, as he has said in jest, "I have forgotten more about turfgrass and agronomic practices than most people will ever learn in a lifetime". Truth. Always willing to 'scope' a disease and make a diagnosis, John is the guy you want in your back pocket because if John made an agronomic decision, it would be accurate 99 percent of the time.

For the superintendent peer or any turfgrass manager down the street, out state or across the country, I wish for you a dependable, confident, empathetic, professional, succinct, and brutally honest individual whom you can call, the first time or one-hundredth, for that second opinion. It is my hope that an individual like John is "your guy", either to support your conjecture or bring you to reality with blunt honesty, then set your thoughts straight and offer continued support until your issue has been remedied. To mention to anyone that John Steiner is in your corner is a testament to

his professionalism and your good sense.

For the intern or turf student, I hope you pursue support from an individual such as John Steiner because selfishly, we need many more like him in the industry. For you specifically, an instructor and one who has been in “your shoes” and pushes you to succeed without being overbearing. A leader who spends the time necessary to instill agronomic and management integrity. One who cajoles, reprimands, teaches, develops and most importantly, appreciates that there are times when the intern must learn, either success or failure, on their own to become a better turfgrass manager. The appreciative intern will understand that it is much more important to have a name like John Steiner upon their resume than a mention of the White Bear Yacht Club.

Before he retires, my wish for those who don't know him yet, is that you make the effort to reach out and introduce yourself. John is a classic individual and likely the best

golf course superintendent you will ever have the chance to meet. Who knows, maybe some of his “magic” will rub off on you!

The spritz of rain was just brief enough to tantalize my sinuses, leaving me wanting more. Although drought isn't fun, soon it will be a memory, almost forgotten. Unlike the 2021 Distinguished Service Award recipient John Steiner, who will always be remembered as the superintendent's superintendent and one recognized for his advancement of the profession through perseverance and dedication to his course and the industry.

Congratulations to my very good friend, John Steiner CGCS, for all of your accomplishments. It is an honor to recognize you as one of the “best of the best”. Thank you for taking me under your wing 45 years ago and helping to make me the individual I am today. As one voice of many, please appreciate that you are respected and loved for all that you have brought to the golf course superintendent profession.