

HOLENOTES


The Official Publication of the MGCSA
V. 57, #6 July 2022



Representing
Women in Turf

Renovating
TPC Canyon's

MN's Changing
Winter Climate



On the Cover:
2022 US Womens Open

On this page:
The Wilderness at Fortune Bay

HOLE*NOTES*

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bimonthly in November/December, and January/February by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, PO Box 2028, Maple Grove, MN 55311. Chris Aumock Publisher. Please send any address changes, articles for submission, advertising and concerns to chris@mgcsa.org.

Board Members

President
Mike Sonnek

Vice President
Matt Cavanaugh

Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Michalski

Ex-Officio
Scott Thayer

Director
Joe Berggren

Director
Eric Counselman

Director
Nikk Dickerson

Director
Geoff Jordan

Director
Ryan VerNess

Executive Director
Chris Aumock

Editors

Joe Berggren
jberggren@golfthewilds.com

Matt Cavanaugh
mattc@umn.edu

Featured Articles

Representing Women in Turf

By: Sally Jones

Page 6-11

Renovating TPC Canyon's Course

By: Duininck Golf

Page 15-18

Roll it Forward

By: Jim Snell

Page 22-29

Get to Know 'Em: Ryan VerNess

By: Joe Berggren

Page 32-36

Minnesota's Changing Winter Climate

By: Tracy Twine, University of Minnesota

Page 38-40

Monthly Columns

Presidential Perspective P. 2-4

From the High Grass P. 42-43

Upcoming Events

Family Day @ the Saints- 7/31

NE Exposure- 8/3 Nemadji GC

UMN Field Day- 8/11 TROE

NW Exposure- 8/18 Lake Miltona

Presidential *Perspective*

Mike Sonnek, Royal Golf Club



“The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” No matter how carefully a project is planned, something may still go wrong with it. The saying is adapted from a line in “To a Mouse,” by Robert Burns.

As any golf course superintendent knows, no truer words were spoken. We have our daily plan, weekly plan, month by month plan. When it comes to equipment and major purchases, our plans can stretch out for a number of years. Between Mother Nature, pro shop needs, issues with staff, our plans can and do come crashing down around us. I recently had my own curveball come way way out of left field, turning my planning upside down.

On Monday, June 20th the metro area had a new high temperature of 100 degrees. What better way to spend the

day than sneaking out of the shop early for a round of golf with friends and colleagues? Plenty of responsible hydration took place with plenty of water and sports drinks. Adult refreshments waited til after.

At Royal Golf Club we were about a month out from 2 important golf events. My planning for the month leading up to these events was ambitious. We have had a number of large projects the past two years and I wanted to spend this time polishing up the property and getting to smaller projects that had been moved to the back of the line. My staff and I were ready to hit the ground running the following day after the heat settled down.

We survived the heat and had an enjoyable round of golf. Plans were made to meet at a local watering hole. Upon arriving to join the crew, I was in great spirits after playing well and looking forward to swapping stories. Upon joining them at the table a wave of abdominal pain overcame me. A different pain than I have ever felt before. I gritted my teeth and stayed at the table for a while partaking in snacks and beverages. My first thoughts were that I was suffering effects from the heat.

We were not far from my office so I bid farewell and headed there to cool off in the AC with some cool towels. After googling heat exhaustion and cooling down for a while, things were not improving so I headed home for a cool shower with the hope that the pain would pass.

I'll spare some details, but the



pain did not pass. I spent a very unpleasant night and luckily my wife, who thinks much more clearly than I in these situations, shuttled me over to urgent care in the morning. They promptly sent me down the road to the hospital ER. Before too long, I was given the good stuff to settle down the pain and wheeled off for an MRI. After some evaluation and discussion, I went

in for laparoscopic surgery on my small intestine later that day. I had a flashback to a Dr. Beeper line in Caddyshack: "Oh ... well just snake a tube down her nose and I'll be there if 4 of 5 hours". They inserted an NG tube through my nose to my stomach to clear out the backup before surgery. Less than pleasant.

I had texted my assistant Nick that I wouldn't be in that day so before heading off to surgery I called to see how the day was going and let him know I was out for the next day as well. Long story short, my doc shared after surgery that it ended up being a best-case scenario. My small intestine had gotten pinched and all they had to do was remove the tissue causing the pinch and everything was back to normal. All I got out of the deal is three 1 inch scars on my abdomen to show off. Luckily my hospital stay was only 22 hours and I was back at the office soon after, albeit on a casual pace.

Definitely an extreme scenario that led to the change in

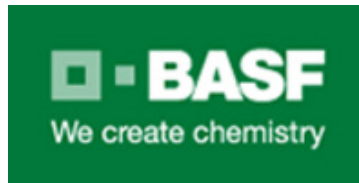
plans. Everything I wanted to accomplish at the office was pushed back a week with my absence and recovery, but I'm very grateful that I didn't have to worry about the day to day at the office. A big shout out to my assistants Nick Peterson and Shane Benson for doing a great job of covering for me. We can have our grandiose plans, but sometimes things are out of our control. You can only do what you can do, and we have to accept that and move on. We will be in great shape for our events. Not everything will be done that I had hoped, but that's life.

At this time, we are just over one week out from our events. My health is good and I'm pretty much back to normal. I'm not making this up, but my assistant just texted me to let me know he'll be missing work in the middle of July for jury duty. Such is life. Hopefully things are much more routine at your golf courses, but if not, find a way to go with the flow. You can only do what you can do.

Platinum Podium and Event Sponsor



Gold Tee Prize and Event Sponsors



Silver Tee Sign Event Sponsors



Bayer Environmental Science

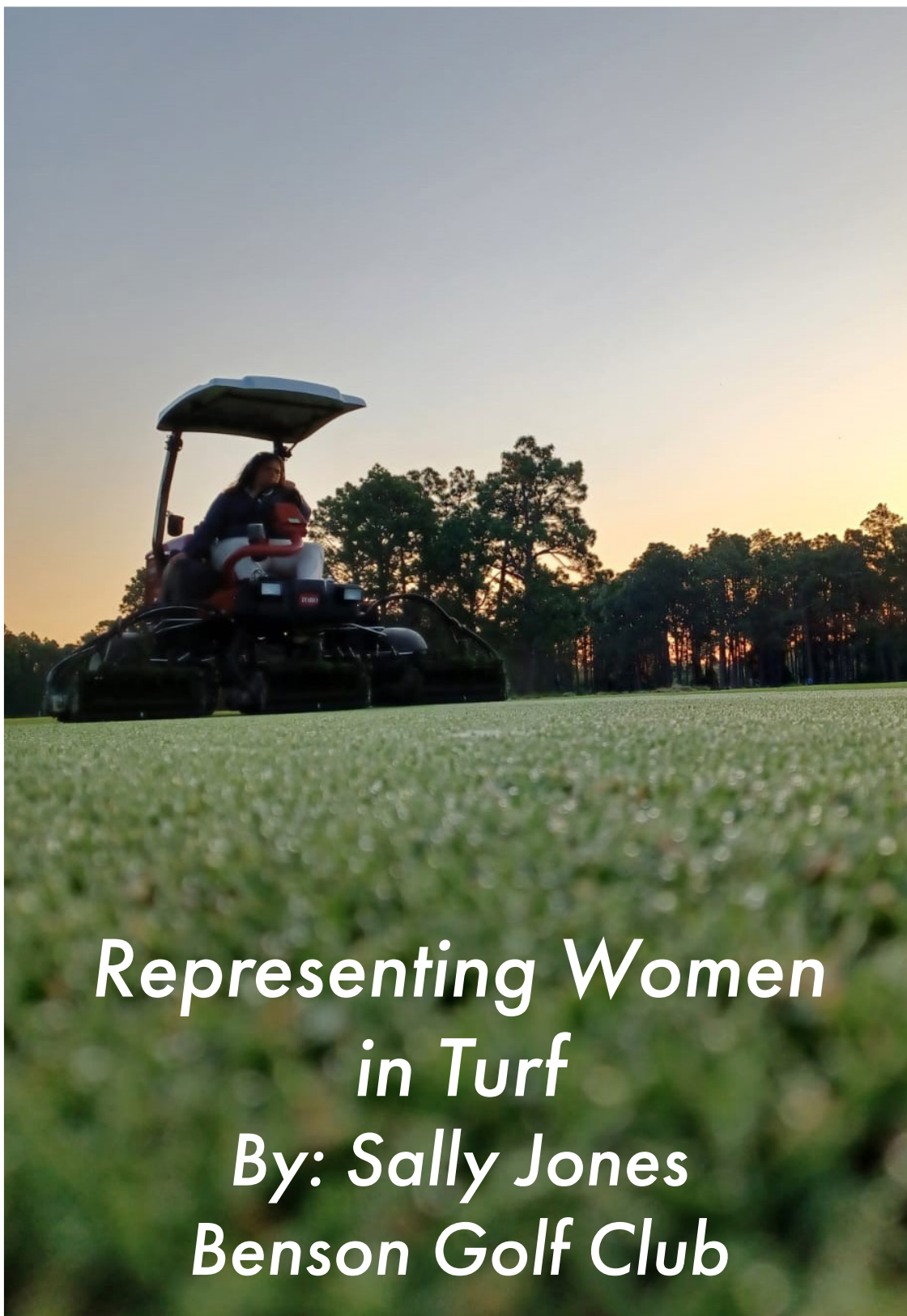


Superior Tech Products



For the Strongest Turf





*Representing Women
in Turf*

*By: Sally Jones
Benson Golf Club*

If you have a twitter account, you couldn't help but see the hype built up during the week of the US Women's Open at Pine Needles this past June. For the second time, a group of female turf professionals from all over the US gathered to help David Fruchte and his crew prepare for the championship. David, the Director of Agronomy of Pine Needles, Mid Pines, and Southern Pines Golf courses, knows a thing or two about how to hold a championship. This year marks the 4th championship he has hosted at Pine Needles Golf Course. It was an honor for me to be on property to assist David during the week.

We all know how hard it is to gather a great crew these days. The Pine Needles course has an

unconventionally small crew with Superintendent Chris Mintmier and Assistant Superintendent Tom Stier rounding out the crew as numbers 10 and 11. Upon early arrival, it was clear to see that despite these low numbers, this crew can produce



a phenomenal product. They admitted the long hours it took to get to that point and openly welcomed us Sunday night with their down-home Southern Hospitality.

Our group was a huge help to the staff who knew they were getting 29 dedicated turf professionals

to work both morning and evening shifts for the entire week. All of which couldn't have been done without the help from the many, many sponsors who helped ease the financial burden to the host course.

The volunteers included 29 females, Mid Pines and Southern Pines golf course crew members, and employees from a few of the many neighboring golf courses. Besides myself, another Minnesota native in attendance was Golf Course Architect Kari Haug, owner of Kari Haug Golf Course Architecture. Kari and I are considered as “OG”, meaning we both volunteered at the 2021 USWO at The Olympic Club with Minnesota Native, Troy Flanagan. This year, 15 “OG’s” joined the remaining “NG’s” to make one powerful presence. The females in attendance represented all positions throughout a golf course and even sports field turf professionals. For many of these women, it was the first time they were able to work side-by-side with another woman. We all formed a strong bond immediately and brought a heightened spirit to our shifts each day despite the few hours of sleep. We kept the spirit up during the educational and health events that were sponsored by Syngenta, the USGA, and the GCSAA. We were starstruck when we were visited by LPGA players Gabby

Lopez and Annika to the industry and they were just as starstruck by us as we were by them. In the end, it was clear that the gathering of these women left a lasting impact on many of us, and some of the men as well.

For me, each time I am able to get together with a group of women within the turf field, I walk away with a renewed sense of excitement not only for myself professionally, but personally as well. I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. Being in the industry for over 25 years, I have had a few women work with me on different crews, but never more than one or two more at a time. My classes at Penn State University had a few other female students, but by this time, I had learned to accept the low female representation in the industry as it was. Never had I experienced any bias by my industry peers, it has always been the general public who seems to find my presence on a mower as a novelty. As a group, it has become our mission to continue to represent our industry in numbers with the hopes to make the public aware that this IS an



KEY FEATURES:

- 24.7 hp FT4 compliant liquid-cooled diesel engine
- 22" QA5 cutting units for a 100" total width of cut
- 3-wheel, smooth tire configuration with standard grip all-wheel drive
- Passcode-protected TechControl display

For more information visit mmcj.com to find a dealer near you.



JOHN DEERE



**MIDWEST
MACHINERY CO**





Sally and Kari Haug representing MN Turf Professionals.

industry both women and men are welcome in. We want, and need, more people to explore this as a career. We hope we are doing our industry proud.

This year was a huge milestone for us as a group. On our first trip, to The Olympic, we walked in thinking this was a once in a lifetime opportunity for us. A second trip to the USWO means more momentum to our cause. The support this year was double the amount of last year and completely overwhelming. Bubba

Wright from Pebble Beach has agreed to allow another group at the 2023 championship and we have more events we are working on attending. The growth of the group has indicated that we need to formalize our cause to some capacity and we are in the infancy stages of planning that. The GCSAA is working to help by forming a Women's Task Group. We couldn't have gotten this far without everyone's support.

So here's where I ask you, the membership of the MGCSA

for help. We can only be as successful as the support our industry gives us. We know you have women working on your staff or know where they are. Perhaps you know of someone who would be a phenomenal turf professional. We ask that you help get the word out to these women and share our contact information with them. Show them the twitter feeds or

one of the articles published. It doesn't matter what capacity they contribute to the industry, we want to know where they are. So please share my contact information with them. I can be found on twitter as @Sallym321 or by email at sallym321@yahoo.com. Together, we hope we can continue to build our industry to be the best it can be.





Photo courtesy of the Minneapolis Golf Club

CONSISTENT QUALITY RESPONSIVE DELIVERY

● ● ●
**PROUD TO BE A MINNESOTA
FAMILY BUSINESS**

PRECISELY BLENDED TOPDRESSINGS

As the Midwest's leading golf course supplier, Plaisted Companies has set the bar high. We carry a full line of topdressing sands and mixes containing Minnesota peat that meet USGA guidelines. For special needs such as increasing CEC ratio, we custom blend topdressing with fertilizer or humates using our *Computerized Accublender™*.

Call our technical service team for soil testing or soil mix recommendations. View our full product offering online.

QUALITY PRODUCTS

- Topdressing Sand
- Bunker Sands
- Green Colored Topdressing
- Horticultural Mixes
- Construction Sand
- Cart Path & Road Base
- Landscape Rock & Mulch
- Field Stone Boulders



SOIL EXPERTS

We custom blend mixes using a computerized Accublender™, controlling quality & consistency.



DELIVERY

Experienced drivers operate a fleet of more than 45 trucks. Our GPS locator helps us set the standard for the most responsive delivery in the 5-state area.

CONTACT US

Phone : 763.441.1100
Email : info@plaistedcompanies.com
Web : plaistedcompanies.com
Fax : 763.441.7782



**Plaisted
Companies**
INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 332 ● 11555 205th Avenue NW ● Elk River, MN 55330
Tel 763.441.1100 ● Fax 763.441.7782

**WE ARE
SOIL EXPERTS**

MGCSA FAMILY DAY

@ the St. Paul Saints

Sunday, July 31 st, 2022

Saints vs. Iowa Cubs

2:07 First Pitch

Join your fellow members and their families for a day at the ballpark!

Introducing: MGCSA Family Day!

\$15* - Member

\$14- Family (*kids under 2 do not need ticket*)

Register you & your family at mgcsa.org by July 1 st! Ticket quantities are limited, register early to reserve your spots! *At-cost event





MGCSA NE Exposure Golf Event
Nemadji Golf Course
Wednesday August 3rd, 2022
Host: Vince Dodge

Only \$30 for 18 holes of golf, cart, and lunch!
Register you and your staff for a casual round of golf
with a fun two-man team format.
Proximity prizes available. Tee Times from 10:00.



Non MGCSA members welcome

Register online at MGCSA.org

Improvements to TPC Network's Canyons Course

By: Duininck Golf



*Successful Renovations on the Oaks Course at TPC
San Antonio Leads to Another Significant Restoration
Opportunity on the Valero Open Host's Sister Course.*



(SAN ANTONIO, Texas)
Duinick Golf and the TPC Network pick up where they left off at TPC San Antonio, continuing a relationship on a spectacular project site.

As host to five PGA Tour Champions events in the past, as well as a 2020 Korn Ferry event, TPC Network's Canyons course is a proven test for the game's best players. Like its sister course, the Oaks Course which underwent a complete bunker renovation in 2021, the bunkers on the Canyon's course were in

need of an upgrade to maintain playing conditions to TPC Network standards. Restoring the bunkers on the Canyons course will restore strategy, playability and maintainability and elevate the course even more, as we look to provide optimal playing conditions for Tour players, our club members, and resort guests." Said Matt Flory, General Manager.

Duinick's Project Manager for the Oaks renovation and now the Canyons renovation, Chris Kleinsmith welcomes

the opportunity to return to San Antonio to work with Rich Brogan and the TPC Network. “Communication and continuity are key on these projects, and familiar faces create quick and open lines between the team, builder, superintendents, and various managers,” said Kleinsmith. Rich is always easy to work with and our collective cohesion makes progress easier and outcomes more predictable.”

While the Oaks project was more focused on overall infrastructure, the work on The Canyons is solely a bunker restoration project. The existing sand, drainage and surrounding turf will be removed with the faces and floors of the bunkers reshaped to match the original course design. “Most of the work on The Oaks was not visible,” Kleinsmith explains. “The overall functionality of the course was improved, but artistically our revisions were not nearly as visible as the enhancements on The Canyons will be.”

“Projects like this are all about creating consistently high-quality

conditions across all areas of the golf course. Golfers appreciate that consistency, and project managers like Chris are laser focused on the details that matter,” said Judd Duininck, General Manager of Duininck Golf. “Players notice and care about the subtleties. Whether it’s the speed of the greens, the lies in the fairway or the firmness of sand, we want all facets of the experience to be equally and noticeably great. The current conditions of the bunkers do not afford the maintenance staff the opportunity to provide that critical consistency, and that’s the change we need to make here.”

“This restoration project will provide the maintenance team with bunkers that are much easier to maintain, while also yielding more visually pleasing shapes and definitions to the sand features. Duininck Golf’s expectations are to leave every property better off than it was, whether visible or not.” says Sam Duininck, Director of Business Development.

About Duininck Golf

Duininck Golf is part of the Duininck Companies established in 1926 based in Prinsburg, MN. A member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA), Duininck Golf has completed new course, renovation and irrigation installation projects throughout the United States working alongside many well-known golf course architects, many who are members of the American

Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). With offices in Minnesota, Texas and Georgia, Duininck Golf has the resources and regional expertise to provide uncompromised service and attention to detail to its clients.

Media Contact:

Sam Duininck
Sam.duininck@duininck.com
404-895-6716





Z MASTER® 7500 SERIES

**STEP UP YOUR PRODUCTIVITY
WITH THE TORO Z MASTER®
7500-D.**

**The NEW 144-inch deck folds
up neatly to only 83" for fast
and easy transport up to 17
MPH, then folds down to handle
your biggest jobs in less time
than comparable mowers.**

**Powerful engines deliver all the
speed and maneuverability of a
zero-turn, along with the
superior cut quality you
expect from Toro.**



**MASSIVE 144-INCH
WINGSPAN REDEFINES
THE PRODUCTIVE WORKHORSE**

MTI Distributing is the Upper Midwest's leading supplier of products and services to the green industries. Since 1948 we have been committed to providing durable and reliable products and exceptional services to the green industries. Call us today to test-drive the Toro Z MASTER® 7500 SERIES and see for yourself!



**SALES 888-537-2484
PARTS 888-537-2485
SERVICE 888-537-2486**



**SALES@MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM
PARTS@MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM
SERVICE@MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM
PREOWNED@MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM**



WWW.MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM



**BROOKLYN CENTER, MINNESOTA
BERKELEY, MISSOURI
GRIMES, IOWA**

UMN Golf Focused Field Day

August 11, 2022

1:00-3:00 PM

The University of Minnesota Turfgrass Team will be hosting a field day for golf course superintendents on Thursday August 11 from 1-3 at the Turfgrass Research, Outreach, and Education Center on the St. Paul campus. Topics will include:

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass mixtures for golf course roughs

Precision irrigation using plant available water thresholds

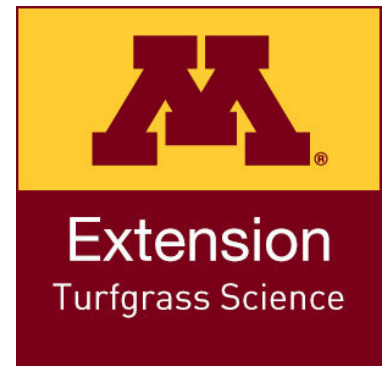
Mapping as a turf management tool

Biological control of Japanese beetle grubs

Effect of rolling on fungicide efficacy

NTEP creeping bentgrass greens trial

Communicating golf course ecosystem services



[UMN Golf Field Day Registration](#)





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



NORTHERN GREEN

Jan. 10-12, 2023

Minneapolis Convention Center

NorthernGreen.org

info@NorthernGreen.org

651-633-4987

EXPAND KNOWLEDGE

Roll It *Forward*

By: Jim Snell



At the age of 7, my dad introduced me to this wonderful, fulfilling, and prestigious game of golf. I vividly remember heading to the driving range, now properly called the practice facility a couple times a week, eager to practice my swing. I also spent hours on chipping and competitive putting contests, with a clear focus on

the importance of my short game at a very young age. I then had the opportunity to join a newly formed golf league, organized by my parents, along with others from neighboring middle schools. It was great to play golf at such a young age and cultivate the dynamics of an individual and competitive



sport with other kids who became lifelong friends of mine, still to this day.

Through play and practice, my curiosity got the best of me as I noticed intricate operational systems that made the golf course “work”. From course maintenance,



tee time flow, to the cost of play, I soaked in the experience at each course with heightened awareness and interest in not only the game, but the operational logistics of the industry.

I always enjoyed the outdoors and reaped the benefits of earning extra cash during my teenage

years while I built my clientele of yards to maintain through mowing, string trimming, weeding and mulching. After high school, I studied business at a local college, attempted to get my real estate license and through my lack of direction and vision in life settled on a job at a steel tubing factory located right off of 35W bridge. The compensation was great, the hours were not, and most importantly it did not come close to fulfilling my “why”. I remember like it was yesterday, my wife Shannon, then girlfriend had a conversation about my future as she embarked on her first of many entrepreneur business adventures. That was the moment that I realized it was

time to get moving on a career that I was passionate about, instead of clocking in and out at a “job”. So, I reached out to my high school advisor and asked the question that I wanted to ask back in middle school, but deep-down thought was kind of silly, “Is there a school around the Twin Cities that could get me into golf?” They pointed me in direction of Anoka Technical College for the Golf Course Management program, where I wasted no time in enrolling to back in 2009.

My first internship was at Westchester Country Club in Westchester, New York. I arrived on the property soaking in the views of gorgeous greens and a club house that was enormous,



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

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















fancy, and quite intimidating. To say I was nervous was an understatement. I was in shock and admittedly had no idea what I was getting into, but with my positive attitude, good work ethic, and willingness to learn, I was ready to take on the challenge. After one month of early mornings, fresh smells of cut grass, and attending morning meetings to strategize championship course conditions, I knew this industry was for me and was ready for whatever was in store next.

Then, Superintendent Jeff Johnson graciously welcomed me at The Minikiahda Club in Minnesota for my second internship. Through this experience I was able to continue learning about what it takes to create championship work conditions, and also experienced a different work culture in not only embracing the position at the golf course, but also setting work/life boundaries.

In 2011, I moved out to Denver, Colorado, and lead a phenomenal crew and was quickly promoted

to the project manager role for Denver Country Club's major bunker renovation. I returned "home" to Minnesota in the fall of 2011 after I accepted a Spray Technician position at Spring Hill Golf Club. Throughout my 8 years at Spring Hill learning all aspects of providing championship golf conditions on a daily basis, communicating with members, learning the financials of the operations, and project management, provided me with the skillset ready to become a superintendent. The 8 years at Spring Hill not only provided

me with an excellent career experience, but also gifted me many life experiences such as tying the knot with my wife Shannon in Riviera Maya, Mexico, purchasing our first home, welcoming our first puppy Pablo in addition to the birth of 3 beautiful children, Franklin, Millie, and Frederick.

In the fall of 2020, I accepted my current position as Golf Course Superintendent at Bearpath Golf and Country Club. Within the first year of employment, we jumped right in with a golf course



What if a Pythium Product Did More?

Union® Fungicide SC:

Dual mode-of-action control of all Pythium diseases and 17 other diseases in a single product.

Union® Eliminates:

- All Pythium Diseases
- Summer Patch
- Brown Patch
- 15 More Turf Diseases

► For more information contact Jeff Schmidt at jschmidt@pbigordon.com.

PBIGordonTurf.com/Union

Always read and follow label directions. Union® is a registered trademark of PBI-Gordon Corp. 2/22 06242

pbi/gordon
corporation
Employee-Owned

renovation in the fall of 2021. My wife continued to have conversations with me about adding a 4th child to our family. You know...to round it out at an even number of 4 versus 3. Right when our fall project was finishing up, we were blessed to find out the exciting news, she was expecting. However much to our surprise, our dream of having an even number of children came to an end when we found out there was not just one baby, but two...TWINS! Faye and Vera, our healthy twin baby girls were born at the end of April 2022, and

we are over the moon. While we continue to count our blessings, having five children under 7 can pose its challenges. This is one of the many reasons I have created a family first culture with our crew at Bearpath. This unique management style has allowed me to attract and retain some of the best golf course maintenance team members in the state, execute a major golf course renovation and also be there for my family when needed most.



I am forever grateful for the support from my partner in crime, Shannon. Being a superintendents wife during the season is no easy feat, especially with 5 kids and managing her two successful businesses in the dental industry.

My past experiences working at prestigious clubs, managing projects, and curating great working relationships with contractors has allowed me to quickly gain trust and confidence from ownership at

Bearpath that we can provide our members with top-notch championship conditions. Words cannot describe the gratitude I have for the team at Bearpath that is involved in creating an exceptional experience for our members, on a soon to be beautifully renovated Jack Nicklaus course. The relationship I have with owner Jim Senske, and my direct report Director of Golf Kevin Cashman, as well as my exceptional team of full time and seasonal rock stars, makes waking up in the early



AM more enjoyable. Our team is eager to reach the project completion date and celebrate all of our hard work, long hours, upmost attention to detail that went into this renovation.

To this day, I speak with those friends I met on that middle school golf league on a daily basis, through a ridiculous group text thread that could make for an interesting podcast someday! While we are all successful in our careers, there is always subtle displays of envy for my career path in the wonderful industry of golf. We can all agree that this is one of the best jobs out there, although mother nature can throw you for a loop at times. The smell of fresh-cut grass, the birds chirping, the vision of our team on mowers working in unison to prepare the course for the day is what gets me in an immediate positive mindset.

I want to thank Adam Lesmeister for kind words and the relationship we have created throughout the years, discussing not only “golf stuff,” but also “kid stuff” as we have littles around

the same age. One year I will come through for us and contend for a Don White Championship. I am nominating Tim Johnson from Spring Hill Golf Club in Wayzata to roll it forward. When Tim hired me back in 2011, I knew something special was going to come out of my career. I cannot thank Tim enough for the mentorship he provided me. Tim had the passion of golf course management that I aspired to acquire throughout my career. In addition, his management style of providing full autonomy as well as stressing the importance of attention to detail, every detail was one of the main reasons I was selected for my position at Bearpath. Most importantly Tim Johnson was and is a family man. In 2011 I quickly learned that this did not have to be an all or nothing industry in terms of commitment to the course. With the right team, rowing in the same direction in a goal-oriented work environment, we can truly have it all, health, commitment to work, professional growth, and most importantly, family time.



Making the cut was never so easy.

See our ever-growing line of tools and accessories to enhance your course including Accuform™, HiO®, FusionCast® and Miltona.



ParAide.com



MGCSA NW Exposure Golf Event
Lake Miltona Golf Club
Thursday August 18th, 2022
Host: Tom Blank

Only \$30 for 18 holes of golf, cart, and lunch!
Register you and your staff for a casual round of golf
with a fun two-man team format.
Proximity prizes available. Tee Times from 10:00.



Non MGCSA members welcome
Register online at MGCSA.org

Partners in Turf:



Get to Know 'em: *Ryan VerNess*

By: Joe Berggren, Hole Notes Editor

FACILITY INFO

Golf Course: The Wilderness @ Fortune Bay

Public or Private: Public (Resort)

Number of Holes: 18

Fulltime employees: 4

Seasonal employees (not including full time): 12-18

Types of grass: Bentgrass Greens, Tees,
& Fairways. Blue/Rye Roughs

Total course acreage: 145

Greens acreage: 4

Tee acreage: 3.25

Fairway acreage: 35

Rough acreage: 50

Driving range acreage: 9

Range tee acreage: 1



Ryan's first ever fish!!

Personal Turf Facts:

How many years have you been in your current position? This is my 3rd season

How many years have you been in the turf industry? 21 years

Where else have you worked? Kansas City Chiefs, Spyglass Hill GC, Bayonet & Blackhorse GC, San Francisco 49ers

Turf School Attended (if any)? N/A

Industry thoughts

What is one “master plan” thing you would like to change at your golf course? Rebuild, reshape, and remove Bunkers...renovate the 7th green...add drainage.



What concerns do you have the turf business and the future of golf? I think the “Turf Industry” puts way, WAY too much emphasis on Top 100 or high dollar properties. I think we need to showcase the benefits, quality of life, and community aspects of “smaller” courses. I also think we need to be knocked down a few pegs...we aren’t saving any lives. Work harder at being more inclusive to all aspects of people and stop blaming “generations” for all the problems.

What is needed to bring more young professionals into the industry? Higher pay!...better understanding of work/life balance. The elimination of the “I suffered as an intern/assistant, so my interns and assistant should too” mindset.

What piece of equipment do you want? Not a need, a want. Oh boy...we need so much, but as a pure want, the Toro 1800 drop topdresser for Tees and Approaches

In terms of industry costs (equipment, pesticides, labor, etc.) are they too low, too high or just right? Cost are cost, no good comes from screaming at the clouds.

FUN FACTS

Have you ever met a celebrity? Who? Yes...quite a few

What is your favorite vacation spot? I love road trips, watching baseball and playing courses across the country.

What is your favorite memory of starting your turf career? When I worked for Chris Dalhamer at SpyGlass Hill, he would grab me and Travis Hogan go play the front 9 in the early evening...I learned more about the job during those moments than any book I have ever read.

What is your favorite job on the golf course? I love spraying, especially greens.

What is your least favorite job on the golf course? I despise cutting cups

Have you played any famous golf courses? Which ones?
I've played quite a few courses in my life, especially younger. I've had a few epic 36 holes days...Cypress Point/Pebble Beach, Shinnecock Hills/National Golf Links, San Francisco Golf Club/Olympic Club, Troon CC/Desert Highlands. My Top 5 favorite courses ever...

SF Club
Sleepy Hollow GC
Cypress Point
Troon CC
Siwanoy CC

Ryan was recently appointed to the MGCSA Board of Directors.



MGCSA NEW MEMBERS - *July 2022*

Duane Augustson

C

Tianna Country Club

Who is your dream foursome? Just a group of friends Aaron, Steven, Austin

2020- What a year! Would you like to comment on how it affected you, and how it has changed your management approach now? 2020 was CRAZY!! In February I was helping sod the U of Miami practice field in preparation for the Super Bowl. I accepted the job for The Wilderness five days before the Super Bowl. A few weeks later, I left San Jose for Tower...a week before San Jose would shut down. Moved to a new town and job, then the world stopped. But Covid, really didn't have that much of an effect on me, I think I manage people the same way.



*If you would like to participate in a future
Get to Know 'Em, please reach out to Editor
Joe Berggren at jberggren@golfthewilds.com*



Tetrino™

Set a new benchmark in white grub and ABW control.

Introducing the unrivaled insect control of Tetrino™, the one insecticide solution that does the work of many by controlling not only white grub and annual bluegrass weevil but also a wide range of other turf-damaging pests. With flexible application timing, it even allows you to take a preventive or early curative approach to your pest management. Up your game with the new broad-spectrum control and fast-acting flexibility of Tetrino.

Learn how Tetrino can up your game against white grub and ABW at es.bayer.us/Tetrino.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. Bayer Environmental Science, a Division of Bayer CropScience LP, 5000 CentreGreen Way, Suite 400, Cary, NC 27513. For additional product information, call toll-free 1-800-331-2867. www.environmentalscience.bayer.us. Not all products are registered in all states. Bayer, the Bayer Cross and Tetrino are trademarks of Bayer. ©2021 Bayer CropScience LP.



Two major pests.
One complete solution.

Take a stand against *the Frightful Five.*

Nick White
Golf Course Superintendent



Densicor®

Densicor® controls the fear of turf disease.

Introducing your new advantage against the top five most notorious turf diseases.*

Densicor® is the ultimate defense against dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot, snow mold and other harmful diseases. Its ultra-low use rate, affordability and strong turf safety profile allow you to spray less while protecting more acres in any climate. Stand up to the Frightful Five with Densicor for exceptional disease control and excellent turf safety across greens, fairways and tees.

Start protecting your turf against the Frightful Five and visit es.bayer.us/Densicor.



Dollar Spot

Brown Patch

Anthracnose

Gray Leaf Spot

Snow Mold

*Dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot and snow mold were the five most common diseases according to a national survey among golf course superintendents.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. Bayer Environmental Science, a Division of Bayer CropScience LP, 5000 CentreGreen Way, Suite 400, Cary, NC 27513. For additional product information, call toll-free 1-800-331-2867. www.environmentalscience.bayer.us. Not all products are registered in all states. Bayer, the Bayer Cross and Densicor are registered trademarks of Bayer. ©2021 Bayer CropScience LP.

Minnesota's Changing Winter Climate

*By: Tracy Twine, Professor,
Department of Soil,
Water, and Climate,
University of Minnesota*



Minnesota has warmed 2.5 °F since 1970. While this puts us in the middle of the pack of state rankings of warming across the country, we are one of the fastest warming states in winter. In fact, our winter low temperatures are warming more than 15 times faster than our summer high temperatures. More time with temperatures fluctuating above and below freezing, and more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow and freezing on impact with the ground, means more ice-covered turf surfaces and the possibility for more ice-related damage.

The WinterTurf project, led by the University of Minnesota, with partners at six other U.S.-based universities, the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy

Research, and hundreds of golf course superintendents across North America and Europe, has the goal of better understanding and identifying solutions to turfgrass winter stresses. While turfgrass specialists are performing experiments to understand plant responses to these stresses, climate scientists are monitoring weather conditions currently experienced by plants and soils and making projections to help prepare for our changing climate. The idea here being that if we have more confidence in what to expect in winter for the next several decades, our WinterTurf research team can provide golf course superintendents with the tools to adapt to and potentially mitigate stresses.

One of the exciting parts about Minnesota winters is that they are so variable. Some winters are cold, some are warm, some are wetter than others; however, a single winter season can have record-breaking warmth one week, and later a week of frigid air delivered to us from a polar vortex. While we will never be able to forecast these events before a particular winter season arrives, we can study observed trends over the nearly 120-year record of weather measurements and use computer models to predict whether

these trends will continue, change, or be altered entirely.

We used output from these global climate models to evaluate what future Minnesota climate might look like for all seasons up until the year 2100 and with two scenarios of human emissions of greenhouse gases. While all of these models are based on fundamental physics, they differ a bit in their structure and therefore differ a bit in their output, so climate modelers like to use what is known as an ‘ensemble’—the more models we average together, the closer we get to the actual recorded temperature. For our study, we selected eight models that performed well in simulating Minnesota’s past climate.

We found that the trend in warming winters that we are currently experiencing is expected to continue, with winter temperatures rising by as much as 11 °F between the end of the 20th century and end of the 21st century (generally from 1990 to 2090). Average snow depth is projected to decrease—in central



eastern Minnesota models showed a decrease of more than 5 inches. And the number of days per year with snow on the ground measuring at least one inch may decrease by up to 55, again particularly in central Minnesota. Changes were found in other seasons as well that may impact turfgrass management. For example, spring precipitation is expected to increase by more than half an inch per day across northern Minnesota. If this falls in early spring, when temperatures are hovering around freezing, this would lead to increased ice cover on surfaces. Summer temperatures, which have not shown much of a warming trend up until now, are expected to increase by nearly 7 °F. These 'average increases' mask the fact that much of the warming occurs in brief periods where warm, dry air masses dominate the weather. This warming could therefore lead to more frequent drought conditions, requiring more water management for both golf

supervisors as well as personnel in recreation and safety sectors.

Historic and projected future climate data for Minnesota are managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP), respectively, and are freely available on their websites. MCAP scientists are updating these climate projections with the latest available model information and engage with diverse stakeholders to access these data as part of the mission of the University of Minnesota Extension. My team's role on the WinterTurf project is to provide collaborators with climate information and other historic land surface data that connects to both (1) the scientific objectives to adapt to and mitigate winter stresses, and (2) the outreach program aimed at multiple stakeholder audiences to disseminate tools and resources, and facilitate shared knowledge.

*Follow the UMN Turf Blog
for project updates!*

GOLF COURSE MUSINGS

Share your strange, funny, and unique
photos from your time on a golf course?
Send your images to chris@mgcsa.org.

The night shift at the US Womens Open



From the *High Grass*

By: Chris Aumock



Why did I call this column, “From the High Grass?” It could be because I spend a lot of time playing from there, but it is because I actually enjoy playing those shots! Typically, most of us do not want to play from those positions, but I get excited. Its fun to try and play a creative shot or try something stupid! Does it work? I would say it is not even 50/50. Sometimes it feels epic, other times is as disastrous as you can all suspect. That still never brings down the excitement of trying to make something happen from a new lie or position.

There is a particular memory that I come back to. For my family golf tournament, we have played a small par 3 course outside of Cloquet for years now, Big Lake Golf Club. The ninth hole there is right along the highway with a short, steep slope from the road to the playing area. The green is small, with a challenging, steep ridge right through the middle from left to right. Back right, a small little

wetland area, which shouldn’t come into play, but for this particular memory it unfortunately does! I sliced an iron to the right, put it on that slope next to the road and right of the wetland. Which left a need for a large flop shot over the wetland to a short-sided pin just above that ridge, from a downhill lie. Maybe it was because that was the first time it worked, but I still remember that ball stopping a few feet from the cup, leaving a simple par putt. That was fun, and it’s a memory that always kept me engaged with golf.

These are the moments that make golf so engaging. You could play terrible for 18 holes, then drain a 20-footer on eighteen and the round is instantly more enjoyable. It’s that moment that keeps bringing people back to the game.

Just like being a superintendent, there are those challenges that keep pushing our buttons, yet there continue to be, for most of us, those moments that continue to make it all worthwhile. As frustrating as these “new” challenges are, it is also so rewarding when we can overcome and find new or creative solutions to problems. That is our daily assignment, being ready to adapt to what breaks today, what project is heading south, or what staff issues arise. Or maybe even, what actually went right today!

What is important is we keep demonstrating to our staff, and especially our educated turf staff, that although this is difficult now, it is still exciting to find a solution in the end. This one moment will not define our golf course or our maintenance practices, or even our career, but it will teach us something regardless of the outcome! Will everything work? Of course not, but maybe its at least 50/50.

What is the point. Do not be afraid of something new, engaging differently, or changing perspectives completely. Those are the moments when we truly assess ourselves. I still enjoy

playing golf, yet mostly just for fun now. So, when that ball slices way right, if I can find it, I’m not too worried. Wherever it ended up, there’s a new opportunity to look fairly competent at this sport in front of your group, but also that chance to look like a fool. Let us always remember to not shy away from that awkward position and embrace the opportunity to try things differently or from a new perspective.

Think about the opportunities within our association. If you are reading this, you are at least somewhat engaged. Consider the other opportunities we provide. Could those offerings and resources provide you with a new or differing perspective? That event you didn’t attend, what could you have learned from that, or from playing more golf with other superintendents? It is often the small moments that can have the larger impact. I have said it before, and I will continue to say it, there is someone out there among us who has a small tidbit of knowledge or experience that could be exponentially valuable to you. Let us reconsider our own perspectives, and not be afraid of that challenging flop shot. There could be a valuable reward after you take that swing.