

HOLENOTES

The Official Publication of the MGCSA

V. 59, #3 June 2024



Stewardship Grant
Program: New Hope

2024 National
Golf Day

Volunteering at the
PGA Championship





On the Cover:
Eau Claire Golf & Country Club,
Border Battle Host Site

On this page:
Southview Country Club,
First Green Host Site

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HOLENOTES

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June 2024

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Presidential Perspective

By: Mark Michalski
Chisago Lakes Golf Course



June is upon us and I don't know about you but it has been a very busy golf season for us so far. The wetter weather has definitely made keeping the grass cut a bit more challenging but after the droughts of the previous few years I have vowed to not ever complain about moisture. Every year brings its own unique challenges to your life as a superintendent and the older I've gotten the more I've realized I need to roll with the punches and not worry about what I can't control. I most certainly can't control the

weather so try to play the cards you're dealt and work with that to the best of your ability.

Chris and I were able to attend a meeting in late May with other members of the MN Allied Golf Group. Reps from the CMAA, the MN section of the PGA, the MGA and the golf owners association were all there. We had some great dialogue focusing on the fact that we are all in this together. When water, pesticides, or small engines are in the legislative cross hairs, the ramifications of those bills

affects all of us within the golf business. Discussions were had about the importance of there being strong representation from each group when we are at the capital for the MN Golf Day on the Hill. The conversation can be so much smoother when PGA or MGA members can speak to their efforts to bring youth into the game or other demographics who have historically not played golf, the owners can speak to how decisions affect them as a business owner and then the supe can speak to the science of what we do and how the course is a benefit to the community

it resides. Discussions went well and hopefully we are able to keep momentum from this meeting rolling. More to come.

The Don White is up and running, don't forget to get your match scheduled and report your results to Chris. Thank you to the courses who applied for the Stewardship Grant, if you're thinking about any projects for next year at your course please apply for a grant next year. The board is excited to be able to offer this program to our members. Have a great day and hope your season runs smoothly!

Congratulations 2024 MGCSA Stewardship Grant Program Recipients!

Forest Hills Golf Club
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Minnewaska Golf Club
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Watch future Hole Notes issues for project reviews!

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Host: Brandon Popp

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Per Player

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The MGCSA Board of Directors is working hard to reduce limitations to participation. In-person events are essential to the growth of our industry and the professionals within it. MGCSA has the opportunity to support those engagement efforts by implementing a member rebate program this year for all class members. We are offering an event registration rebate of up to \$35 to all class members. This will allow for free or reduced entry into one of our association events!

Use Rules:

- Must be active MGCSA Class member. Use will be monitored and recorded. One time use only, regardless of event registration costs, no redeeming cash value.
 - If using credit, the individual must register separately by choosing that ticket option when signing up for an event and entering the promo code below. Member cannot use credit within a group registration.***
 - Credit use window has been extended through November 1, 2024.
 - Applicable to most MGCSA events, except Don White Match Play, The Wee One, and The Scramble.
-

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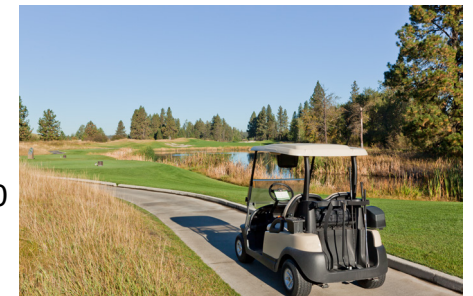
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- Construction Sand & Black Dirt Mixes - 50/50, 70/30, 80/20
- Construction Sand/Peat/Black Dirt Mixes - 1-1-1, 60/20/20, 70/20/10, 80/10/10



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- Dry 70/30 green divot mix



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**MGCSA STEWARDSHIP
GRANT PROGRAM
NEW HOPE GOLF COURSE
BY: RICKY PLEMEL**



New Hope Village Golf Course Putting Green Irrigation Install Overview: The existing putting green has never been irrigated but simply watered by hand watering or lawn sprinkler. By only using the hand watering approach it takes time away in our busy schedules daily, remembering to move the sprinkler or shut it off can be difficult when we get sidetracked with the other things going on daily in our operation. This also impedes on golfers using the parts of putting green while we are watering. By adding irrigation to this green we will not only be able to use less water but, we will be able to water at optimal times and not have to encroach on our customers experience.

Scope: Years ago, we pulled wire

from an existing satellite box and stubbed out an extension with a shut-off valve near the 9th green. For this project we cut 250 linear feet of sod starting at the shut-off valve and encircling the putting green before “T”ing back into the line near the shut-off valve. Once the sod was rolled up and moved out of the way we dug a trench roughly 18” deep by 12” wide in the entire loop using both a mini excavator and hand digging around buried communication lines for the clubhouse. After the digging was completed, it was time to lay in 250’ of 2” pvc pipe, irrigation wire and common wire for 4 Flex 800 Part circle heads, and 1 quick coupler. Once installed we buried the pipe and re-layed the sod and had the welcomed sight of an irrigated putting green!

Materials:

300' 2" Schedule 40 pvc - \$997

4 Flex 800 Part Circle

Heads - \$1,385

4 1" Swing Joints \$450

1 1" QC Swing Joint \$215

1 6" Valve Box - \$10

1 Quick Coupler - \$130

1 2x2x2 PVC Tee - \$6

5 2x2x1FPT PVC Tee \$50

3 2x2 PVC Elbow - \$15

5 2x2 PVC Couplings \$15

1 Pint Primer and Cement - \$60

10 DBY/R Wire connectors - \$50

Total: \$3,383

Labor:

Sod removal & reinstallation

- 5 man hours

Trench digging 8 man hours

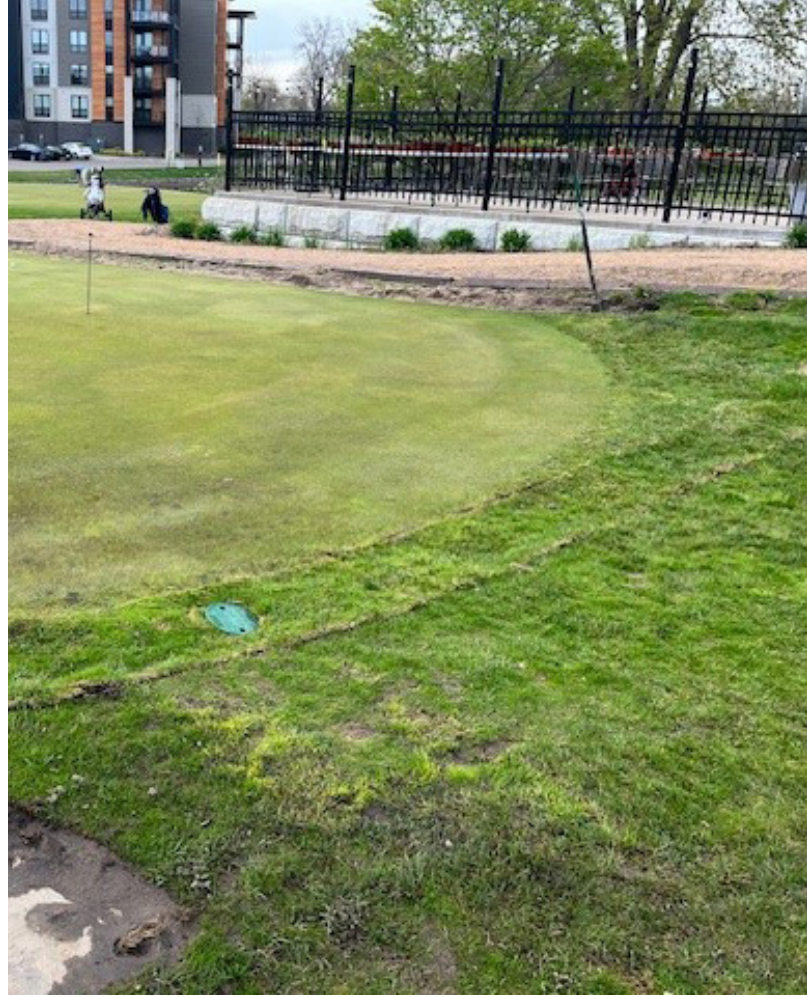
Pipe Laying - 3 man hours

Wiring & head install- 1 man hour

Work was completed over

3 days May 1-3rd 2024







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National Golf Day Review

By: Nikk Dickerson, Faribault Golf Club
& Brady Scott, Minnewaska Golf Club

Camaraderie and Brotherhood vs. Government Affairs and Policy Change!

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to head out to Washington DC with a small contingent of Minnesota folks for National Golf Day. What an experience, getting to meet with peers from across the

country and talk about things that in all honesty are the same things we deal with on a daily basis. Guess what, we're all Supt's, we all do the same thing, might have different timings on applications or cultural practices because of where you live in the country but we pretty much do the same stuff and are struggling

with the same issues! I didn't mind walking around capitol hill wearing a suit and tie (I wore a golf polo under my jacket) . I was too hot in a white button down and tie so opted out and went with my backup plan. It was 89 out there on this day so I wasn't ready for the heat being it was 41 when I went to the airport here in Minneapolis. Plus it was funny seeing some of the southern boys, mainly Texas superintendents, that were in full coveralls on our service project day when it was 56 and cloudy and I was fine in a t-shirt. When you sign up to go out there you are committing to have some conversation and shake some hands of people that you may never meet again but at the end of the day you'll have a good feel about those conversations and you get to realize that all the people out in Washington are just people too. If you've participated in the state's Day on the Hill event, Washington is the same just on a bigger scale. Sure you have to sit through a few meetings and talk with people that you might not talk to normally, but

at the end of the day you are out there with 200-300 peers from across the country talking about policies that can make a difference for golf. I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and participate when you get the chance. Just think it could be you that is sitting on a brand new John Deere mower next year or helping out with a First Green Event in the future. - ND



This past May, I had the pleasure, from the MGCSA's generosity, to attend the National Golf Day in Washington, DC.

A few cliché phrases come to mind as I process my purpose for being there, and why it is so important to attend this, and other events like this. "Do something for the greater good." Attending this exposed me to topics that may not relate to me personally, or my present facility, but the topics do matter to someone personally, or their present facility. If you are in

the industry long enough, you, or a friend or family member may benefit from the continued advocacy for the golf industry.

"When I can, I will." This is the phrase I tend to use when confronted with anything that is presented to me that is a tangent from my general task list (you know, that list that you've formed that has your day, week, month work hours already accounted for). I, personally, need to add the "I will" part at the end to hold myself accountable. The National Golf Day finally fit my schedule this year, and I made it happen.

"Be part of the solution." Each of us has our own situations in our work and personal lives. There are challenges, and issues, but regardless, there is a proper way to deal with all of them. Our local Association (MGCSA), along with our National Association (GCSAA) really are here to help. The efforts at the State Capitol and National Capitol sets in motion the change that will benefit us all, in a way that is legally recognized, through the process of legislation. It is slow moving, but consistent



motion in the right direction will get us solutions, eventually, hopefully, definitely maybe.

So, my trip to the National Golf Day was a memorable one. I was able to gain some friendships. I got out my comfort zone by putting on a suit and talking with our political leaders. I got back into my comfort zone by putting on a tee shirt and shorts and grabbing a shovel to plant some yews during a volunteer project.

Thank you to Chris Aumock (and the MGCSA) for organizing this, and being the fearless leader while in DC. Thank you to Nikk Dickerson for your efforts while in DC, and it was great getting to know you. If any of you get the opportunity, and can clear three days of your calendar in early May, the experience is worth your time and effort. Maybe you'll even come up with a few cliché's of your own. - BS



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Over 70 students and teachers spent the morning at Southview CC learning about Turf Management. Thank you to our host Superintendent, Mike Paape, and the event organizer, Brad Smith, and all of our volunteers for taking the time to help educate these young, hopefully future turf professionals!







VOLUNTEERING AT THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BY: KURTIS KUNKEL
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OLYMPIC HILLS GOLF CLUB

Recently, I had the very fortunate opportunity to assist John Ballard and his staff to prepare and maintain Valhalla Golf Club for the PGA Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

To anyone that has or will have the opportunity to volunteer at a major championship, I will always recommend you take the opportunity. Turf enthusiasts from all over the world traveled to Valhalla all with one common goal, and that was to help in presenting the best possible conditions for golfs best players, and also the fans of the game.

Each morning, we arrived at the golf course at 4:30 in the morning. After some coffee and coffee cakes to provide some energy, it was time for morning tasks. I personally was tasked for the week in raking bunkers on the front 9 holes. A crew of 12 of us hopped in carts and headed out onto the course. Throughout the week we talked, laughed, shared stories of turf experiences past, and got to network with new friends we will have forever.

After morning tasks were over, the afternoon was free for whatever we wanted to do.



And it was a consensus that most people chose to take a nap. Those who were motivated, or big golf fans like myself, we hit the course to catch a glimpse and maybe a picture of our favorite golfers. Food was free at concessions for the volunteers, so lunches were easy.

Once the clock struck 4 pm it was back to the tent for an always very delicious dinner, and then back onto the course for evening tasks. Most people had the same job morning and night, all week long to get as much practice as possible for tourney days. Depending on daily delays, and how long golf took. Most nights we were off of

the course by 9pm and headed back to the hotels for a short nap before we started all over again.

Sleep nights were short, and we spent a lot of time at the golf course, but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. So I say again, to anyone that has or will have the opportunity to volunteer at a major championship, I will always recommend you take the opportunity. The connections you make, the networking and learning opportunity you have, and the experience itself is something you will never be able to recreate, and doesn't come around often.

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Nick White
Golf Course Superintendent



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Dollar Spot Brown Patch Anthracnose Gray Leaf Spot Snow Mold

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*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.

Roll It Forward

By: Reed Bohm



I was nominated by my good friend and former boss Jeff Fjosne, thanks Jeff you're the best. So here we go, my name is Reed Bohm and I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Wildflower Golf Course in Detroit Lakes Minnesota. I grew up in Thief River Falls/Warroad Minnesota. I fell in love with

the game of golf at about 12 years old and have been on the course ever since. I was a course rat growing up, often getting dropped off at 7:30 in the morning and picked up after work by my mother. I would play money games with a group of guys that played everyday and learned about the world



Wildflower

G O L F C O U R S E

Photos provided by Reed Bohm



and a little about gambling on golf. I found out a great way to get better is gamble money you don't have, then losing is truly no option. At age 15, my parents told me I needed to work at the golf course since I was there sun up to sun down playing, and free golf seemed appealing. My first boss was a man named

Brian Tangen. Brian had been the superintendent there over 10 years. He was my first boss and truly spurred my love for turf management. Brian had the biggest personality of anyone I've ever met and was the best boss I could have ever asked for. He gave me responsibility, purpose and introduced me to

anyone and everyone he could. Brian was my boss but also a father figure for me and someone I wanted to be like. He pushed me to go to college for turf and set me on the right path.

So after high school I was split between going to Iowa State or Minnesota Crookston. I wanted to play golf in college and didn't have the game for the Cyclones, so UMC it was. I loved my time at UMC, between playing golf with teammate Jesse Roscoe (Superintendent at Ortonville

Golf Course) or hanging out with other turf guys Matson Gravelle (Bemidji Town & CC), Tanner Walsh (Des Moines Country Club), and others while we made the best out of having to live in Crookston.

My second year at school I decided I needed to get out of Minnesota and see the country some. I did my internship at Wannamoisett Country Club in Rhode Island. It was an awesome old school Donald Ross course that hosts the Northeast Amateur



every summer. I learned what daily championship conditioning looked like and what goes into high end private golf. My boss Mark Daniels was smart and tough, he expected effort and demanded a lot which really instilled some hard work ethic.

The next summer my plan was to go to the west coast in hopes of nicer people than the east coast, and a cool mountain course in Colorado but unfortunately that plan changed. My first boss Brian had a heart attack and passed away that spring. The home town course was in a bind, so I stuck around home and helped run the course for that summer. It wasn't the internship I had envisioned but I know Brian would have been proud.

After graduation in 2017, I became the Assistant Superintendent at Wildflower for



2 years, but left there wanting to try something new. At that point, I had only worked at golf courses and needed to see if there was a different avenue of life. I did commercial irrigation and coached CrossFit in the lakes area for a few years, but eventually the golf course kept calling me back. That's when I reached out to Jeff at Perham



Lakeside and talked him into hiring me as his assistant. I can honestly say Jeff relit my love for turf and this industry. He was so laid back and fun to work for, but also taught me more in 1 year than the previous 8 years working. Working with and for Jeff was like getting my masters in turf along with how to be a good boss and someone people want to work for. To this day he remains my closest mentor and one of my best friends.

Then the opportunity came to

take the leap and become a superintendent. Jeff was the leading factor in telling me to take it and put my feet to the fire. I've been the head guy for 3 years now and couldn't be happier with what I get to do everyday. In a world where so many dread their jobs I feel blessed to truly love what I do and stay close to the game I love. I'm very fortunate to have a great crew that takes pride in the course and showing off their hard work. The industry and the guys in this niche group are great,

everyone is so willing to help and share knowledge with each other. I love the endless pursuit to learn more and get better everyday.

In my free time I enjoy golfing with my wife Emily, working out or hanging out on the lake with our two turf dogs, Toby and Arnie. Special shout out to my wife Emily for supporting me with my job and all the things

she does at home when I'm gone so much in the summer months. I truly couldn't do it without you babe!!

With that I would like to roll it forward and nominate my friend Matson Gravelle, Superintendent of Bemidji Town and Country Club. We have been friends since college and continue to keep in touch and talk turf when we can.



MA CAL GROVE GC 2024 EXPOSURE GOLF

Wednesday, August 7th
10:00 Shotgun
Host: Tyler Engen

\$25
Per Player

**INCLUDES GOLF, CART, LUNCH, DRINKS, AND PROXY PRIZES!
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GOLF COURSE MUSINGS

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Some members will park anywhere they want!

GET TO KNOW 'EM



Zachary
Foltz

*Detroit
Country Club*

FACILITY INFO

Public or Private: Public

Number of Holes: 36 Holes

Full time employees: 1

Seasonal employees (not including full time): 22

Types of Grass: Bent Greens, low mow blue is being incorporated elsewhere

Total Acreage: 85 acres managed turf on 2 courses

Greens Acreage: 4

Fairway Acreage: 20 & 18



PERSONAL TURF FACTS:

How many years have you been in your current position? 2nd season

How many years have you been in the turf industry? 8 years

Where else have you worked?
Osgood GC, Oakland Hills, Interlachen, Rose Creek, Edgewood.

Turf School Attended (if any)?
North Dakota State University

INDUSTRY THOUGHTS:

What is one “master plan” thing you would like to change at your shop?
Bunker renovation. Lot of the bunkers have too step faces, leading to washouts. They didn’t use bunker sand before, so bringing in actual bunker sand will help. But a full reno would help.

What concerns do you have the turf business and the future of golf? Continuing on educating golfers as the game expands, and grows, we need to keep educating newer golfers on etiquette, and the basic course needs like divots and ball marks. Teach people the proper way to help maintain the course.

What is needed to bring more young professional into the industry? On the job training and mentoring. I like to not necessarily just tell people what we’re doing, but also why we do it and the science behind it. I’ve been lucky to have 3 seasonals become professionals in the industry.





What piece of equipment do you want? Not a need, a want.

I would love a GPS sprayer, or just a second sprayer in general. Ours is very nice but it would be pretty nice for a second. It takes a long time to get all 36 holes sprayed. I've had to come in at night and spray until almost midnight.

Do you have any unique techniques or approaches you do at your course?

We do a blue line painted in the fairway, to manage cart traffic. We ask players to stay outside of that line to get on the cart paths. We move it periodically as spots get worn out, but members have adopted it well now. This eliminates signs and ropes, and

speeds up maintenance since mowers don't have to move the stuff back and forth.

FUN FACTS

Have you ever met a celebrity?

Who? I've seen some people out on the golf courses, but not necessarily met.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

We did a lot of camping as a family. We went on our honeymoon in Ireland. Got to see all the history and got out to the countryside.

What is your favorite memory of starting your turf career or a funny story?

Learning how to drive stick for the first time, I stepped off, and ran over my ankle. Had to jump up and chase down the Workman before it got into the pond.

What is your favorite job on the shop?

I like rolling greens. Its relaxing, the rate you go is nice, a little faster than the mower. You get to look at everything and can do some other tasks.

What is your least favorite job on the golf course? Not super

big on hand watering. We don't do a lot of it, but I don't love dragging hose everywhere. I did a lot of that at Oakland Hills watering bunker faces and stuff.

Have you played any famous golf courses? Which ones?

Oakland Hills South, I did par the first hole, then went downhill from there.

Who is your dream foursome?

Wyatt, Donald Ross, I'm very

interested in golf course architecture, Justin Jefferson.

What is one piece of advice that you've received in your career that still resonates today?

Probably that it's just grass and it's going to grow back. I don't get too animated. What can we do to make it grow back as quickly as possible. I try not to stress out too much, but when something goes wrong, work patiently to fix it.



Don't miss the extended conversation with Austin on this month's Hole Notes Podcast!

If you would like to participate in a future Get to Know 'Em, please reach out to chris@mgcsa.org.

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Creating Thriving Bee Lawns: The Next Research Steps

By: Kristine Moncada & Andrew Hollman
University of Minnesota



Here at the University of Minnesota, the Turfgrass Science group is constantly conducting research in many different areas. Some of which regular Hole Notes readers and listeners will be familiar with, such as our WinterTurf project that aims to mitigate turfgrass winter injuries on golf courses. Other areas, such as our research in bee lawns, you may not know as well.

One thing you are probably aware of, however, is the popularity of pollinators. Whether you are a homeowner responsible for your own

yard or a superintendent responsible for an entire golf course, people everywhere are interested in taking measures to support pollinators. Bee lawns in Minnesota have played a prominent role as an accessible option to add pollinator habitat to the home landscape (Figure 1). You may think of bee lawns as just for homeowners, but as Dr. Jon Trappe discussed in the April 2023 edition of Hole Notes, pollinator habitat that includes typical bee lawn plant species can be for out-of-play areas on golf courses as well.

Why is our group of turfgrass researchers such a supporter of bee lawns? It comes down to the work that has been done at the University of Minnesota in the past several years. As former graduate students with our Turfgrass Science group and with the University of Minnesota Entomology Department, Ian Lane and James Wolfin laid the groundwork for determining what bee lawns in Minnesota

should be. Ian Lane examined several promising bee lawn flowers, but found three that work particularly well. When added to turfgrass, white clover, creeping thyme and lance-leaf self-heal tolerated mowing and at the same time produced flowers that provided food - high quality pollen and nectar - that bees and other pollinators need. James Wolfin's research found that this mix of species supports a wide diversity of native bees, with over 56 species of bees documented. James's research didn't even examine other pollinators besides bees. When you consider that there are many other pollinating native insects other than bees, like butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles and flies, the number of insect species that benefit from a bee lawn is likely much larger (Figure 2).

That is the background that led us to where we are today

Figure 1. A newly established bee lawn at the University of Minnesota consisting of fine fescues, white clover, self-heal and creeping thyme. Photo by Andrew Hollman.



in continuing work on bee lawns. You can find the standard bag of bee lawn seed mix that includes white clover, creeping thyme and self-heal, along with a mix of fine fescue turfgrasses, at many garden centers and hardware stores across the state. Having established which species make for an effective and reliable bee lawn, our latest research has turned to refining the bee lawn establishment process. In our outreach with Minnesota residents, we have found that this can be a challenge.

Historically, the optimal time to establish a turfgrass lawn is the fall, but it's not the best time to establish a bee lawn. The flowers generally won't have enough time to establish before winter if they are planted too late in the season. The flowers do great when established in spring, but that brings up a different problem. Lawn weeds are also germinating at the same time, while herbicide options are limited for bee lawns due to the fact that many herbicides will kill the broadleaf flowers we are trying to establish.



Figure 2. Eastern tailed-blue butterfly on white clover. Photo by Kristine Moncada.



Figure 3. Turfgrass dormant seeding under germination blankets (A), in bare soil (B), and into perennial ryegrass that was sprayed after seeding (C) at the Turfgrass Research Outreach and Education Center (TROE) on the University of Minnesota on 4/12/23. Photo by Andrew Hollman.

The best way to establish a bee lawn happens to be dormant seeding, which means seeding in late fall or early winter after the growing season is over with the intent of promoting germination in the very early spring before weeds have started germinating. It is effective for both the turfgrasses and flowers, with the added bonus of being less work than establishing during the growing season.

If you've never tried dormant seeding at your golf course, it's

something you might want to consider! Dormant seeding is not just for bee lawns as it works perfectly well with turfgrass-only seeding, too. It's a great option for establishing out-of-play or low-traffic areas or spots that don't have irrigation. An additional benefit is that dormant seeding is done after the golf course has been prepared for winter, and can be much less work overall than establishing in the spring or fall because less time for irrigation is needed.

Here at the University of Minnesota, we have been doing work on dormant seeding bee lawn seed mix as well as turfgrass-only seed. One of our demonstration projects was started in 2022 and looked at three different techniques that can be used in dormant seeding. The first method was seeding onto bare soil, then covering with a germination blanket. The second method was seeding on soil left uncovered over the winter. The last method was seeding into turfgrass that had

been killed with an herbicide after dormant seeding, which in essence creates a mulch. Within the three establishment methods, we examined 15 different seeds and seed mixtures that included several fine fescue species, fine fescues mixtures, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, 2 native grass species, and lastly the bee lawn seed mix. See Figure 3 for what the plots looked like in the early spring after a late fall dormant seeding.

We had a somewhat unusual



Figure 4. Dormant-seeded plots on 5/8/23 (A=blanket, B=bare soil, C=dead grass). Note the lack of seedlings in the bare soil plots. Photo by Andrew Hollman.

spring with an early warm and windy dry spell in late April 2023. Under these particular conditions, we found that the germination blanket plots did the best for establishment and the mulch plots established decently as well, although more slowly (Figure 4). However, the bare soil plots with their lack of protection did not have good seedling survival, likely due to the early dry conditions without irrigation. In the end, this demonstration showed that all the cool-season turfgrasses are adapted to dormant seeding. Another interesting thing that we observed was the Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass plots needed extra fertilizer and irrigation to fill in during the dry summer of 2023 compared to the other species. Pertinent to establishing bee lawns was that creeping thyme with its tiny seed did not establish under either the germination blankets or the bare soil. We have noted in the past that this species is more difficult to get going in bee lawns compared to the other species. A new dormant-seeded demonstration garden on the grounds of the

Minnesota State Fair is showing promise of over-seeding the thyme in spring when the other species start germinating.

With this demonstration, you can see that both the weather and the technique (and likely the interaction between the two) can affect the success of dormant seeding. As we mentioned before, many people do in fact struggle with bee lawn establishment for these reasons and others. We believe that additional field research is needed to develop new guidance and refined techniques to establish a bee lawn so the process can be more consistently effective. This is the rationale behind a new project, funded by the UMN's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, on bee lawn establishment that we began recently.

So far, we have started the first phase, which was developing a survey for households that have planted bee lawns to document their experiences in establishment. We have distributed this survey and



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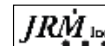
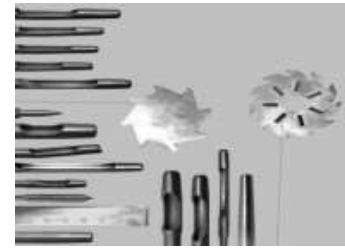
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are waiting to receive final responses. The results of this survey will show us how people have succeeded or failed with their own bee lawn establishment. We will use this information to inform a field research experiment we will be conducting later this year. We will incorporate new techniques that we have conceptualized ourselves, including the ones used in the dormant-seeding demonstration trial, and new things we learn from the survey

respondents. We will repeat this experiment next year. Once our project is completed, we look forward to sharing our results with Minnesota residents and turfgrass managers including golf course superintendents so that everyone can learn what options are best for establishing a bee lawn. Ultimately, we hope to promote easy ways for people to incorporate more habitat that is beneficial to pollinators in their landscapes.

Follow the UMN Turf Blog
for project updates!

This issue is also available in audio format!! Suscribe to the MGCSA Hole Notes Podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, or find it online at Buzzsprout.



The advertisement for Hartman Golf Course Construction & Renovation features a scenic background of a golf course with green fairways, sand traps, and trees. The company name "HARTMAN" is prominently displayed in a large, serif font, with a stylized green tree logo to its left. Below the name, the text "Golf Course Construction & Renovation" is written in a smaller font. A red flag on a golf club shaft is positioned behind the name. In the top right corner, the slogan "Quality since 1971..." is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom left, the text "Specializing in..." is followed by a list of services: "Bunkers Tees Laser Leveling Green Drainage Irrigation Design Pump Station Upgrades". The contact information at the bottom left includes the address "8099 Bavaria Rd. Victoria, MN 55386" and the phone number "952.443.2990". The bottom right corner contains the email "info@hartmancompanies.com" and the website "www.hartmancompanies.com".



DID I CALL THE RIGHT NUMBER?

Many years ago, my sister-in-law used to call me a curmudgeon. Offense was briefly taken, but she was probably right about me at the time. I thought I had moved past that perception many years ago. Writing this article though, I worry now that it may be coming true again! This month discusses my current displeasure with professionalism in communication efforts.

Is your voicemail message set up on your phone? Or is your voicemail even set up? If it isn't, it should be. Communication preferences have changed over the years, and generations view it differently, but one thing that remains is phone calls are still necessary for

business and our industry. As professionals, whether you're new or a seasoned vet, even the simple things like setting up your voicemail greeting is important.

There are so many times when we call a number; it heads to voicemail (not everyone picks up anymore), and there is no message, no name, just the automated phone number. I'm left wondering, did I call the right number? Is this the best number, or even the correct person I am trying to reach? For all the phone calls I make throughout the week, this one often gets me riled up. Some member contacts in my phone have multiple numbers, so trying to narrow down to the current or correct

one can be quite a process.

Related to this, there are also many times where someone's voicemail is full, and we are unable to leave messages, even though I know I called the right person this time. This one may be more difficult to monitor, as you typically don't think about those voicemails adding up in your inbox. It would be a good habit to address your voicemail folder occasionally, maybe set reminders, to make sure messages can come through.

On the other end, when you call somebody, please leave a message. Just yesterday, I missed a call 3 times from a number that was listed as a spam risk. Now, I get so many calls in a day, most of them are just that, spam. So, I am very hesitant to answer all those "spam risk" calls. Now, if this person had left a message on the first, or even second call, I would have known that it was a city accounts payable department looking to pay a bill, and I could have called back. I eventually googled the phone-number and answered when I finally caught the 4th call coming

through. Now, this is another reality of our current age. Many people don't answer the phone and they just wait for a message or text follow-up. I am clearly guilty of this in that situation.

It's not just voicemails either, but other communication formats such as website and online contact forms. Over the last few months, I have been working to gather more accurate golf course contact information. During this process, it has been difficult confirming basic things such as phone numbers. Many online contact forms are also inconsistent. Most websites use them to avoid posting direct staff emails and phone numbers. I completely understand the desire for this approach. The problem has been that the online form they prefer often also goes unanswered. I have had very limited success in responses with these such forms. If you use them, make sure somebody is monitoring these accounts.

Contact information is always vital, especially to a membership organization like MGCSA. With that being said, please review your

membership profile for accuracy sometime soon! Be considerate of the information you make available, and make sure your prepared to utilize the tools we have. If you are applying for a job, make sure you use your most active forms of communication, like your primary email address, not a secondary one, and take a second to record a voicemail message, or at least say your name! Some people are hesitant to leave messages if they aren't sure they called the right number. Who knows what important call

you may be missing out on.

As you can likely see, I am falling back into that old curmudgeon again, yelling at the sky, or telling the kids to get off my lawn! But as I view our industry, and the people in it, we must continue to represent ourselves as professionals. That means we need to be paying attention to the little details. This is a little detail that can be very simply addressed. Next time someone calls your phone, I want them to know it's your correct number they dialed.

MGCSA NEW MEMBERS - *May/June 2024*

Scott Schornack	Thumper Pond Resort	Class B
David Schmidt	Lake Pepin Golf Course	Class B
Samuel Mahto	Olympic Hills CC	Student
John Campbell	Chomonix GC	Class C
Nicholas Schmidt	Bent Creek GC	Class C
Caden Holt	Maddens	Class C
Tom Hougnon	Hoffman & Mcnamara	Affiliate
Jason Lloyd	Minn Iowa Golf Club	Class B
Michael Burke	Heart of the Valley Golf Club	Class A
Isaac Pladsen	St. Cloud Country Club	Class C
Shea Lambert	Owatonna Country Club	Student
Ian Baribeau	White Eagle Golf Club	Student
Sonja Wixom	TIGRIS Aquatic Services	Affiliate