

HOLENOTES

The Official Publication of the MGCSA
V. 59, #5 October 2024



Stewardship Grant Program: Springfield GC	2025 MGCSA Board Candidates	Midland Hills CC: Bentgrass removal
--	--------------------------------	--

A close-up photograph showing the lower legs and feet of the man from the main image. He is wearing white socks and white sneakers, standing on a gravel or paved surface.



On the Cover:
MGCSA Champion, Marius Van Rensburg
Pine Island Golf Course Superintendent

On this page:
The Scramble at StoneRidge Golf Club

Board Members

President
Mark Michalski

Vice President
Nikk Dickerson

Secretary/Treasurer
John Cameron

Ex-Officio
Mike Sonnek

Director
Jacob Dixon

Director
JT Hauser

Director
Adam Lesmeister

Director
Jason Scharfencamp

Director
Kyle Stirn

Executive Director
Chris Aumock

HOLE*NOTES*

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published bi-monthly, 6 issues per year, 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.

Editor

Chris Aumock
chris@mgcsa.org



October 2024

Featured Articles

2025 MGCSA Board of Director Candidates

By: Candidates

Page 6-13

Stewardship Grant Program: Springfield Golf Course

By: Jennifer Schultz, Springfield GC

Page 18-22

Midland Hills CC: Bentgrass Removal

By: Tina Rosenow, Midland Hills Country Club

Page 26-27

Roll it Forward

By: Nikk Dickerson, Faribault Golf Club

Page 30-34

Get to Know 'Em

By: Ricky Plemel, New Hope Golf Course

Page 38-41

Understanding Cold-Season Environments with WinterTurf

By: Jennifer Tilly, UMN

Page 44-48

Monthly Columns

Presidential Perspective

By: Mark Michalski

P. 2-3

From the High Grass

By: Chris Aumock

P. 50-51

Upcoming Events

EM Workshop

11/6

MEGA Seminar

12/4-5

SE Winter Outreach

12/9

Presidential Perspective

By: Mark Michalski
Chisago Lakes Golf Course



2024 has flown by at a rather rapid pace. Doesn't seem very long ago that we were having the annual meeting and Matt was passing the presidential baton to me. It has been a real privilege to me to serve on this board and I hope you'd consider serving as well. Selfishly, the opportunities you are given to hear other folks perspective and grow yourself as a manager and grass grower seem to far outweigh what I am able to reciprocate to the group. I will miss being in those discussions and will treasure the friendships I've made and strengthened

by being on the board.

I'm an introvert by nature but the sooner I realized that I'm better as a superintendent, employee, co-worker by being apart of a community of peers who care about each other and are there for each other when you just need to get something off your chest or need to borrow a rough mower to cut some grass because all of yours are in the shop, the more successful I've been as a supe. God designed us as people to live in community together, to care about each other, to love our

neighbors as ourselves. Whether you believe that or not that's up to you but it is what I believe and how I try to live my life. Fight the urge to not go to meetings because you could just read an article on the information. I have to fight this same urge, turf lectures can honestly be pretty boring, I get it and I 100% agree with it, but go and talk to each other there. Hear about the vacation someone took last summer, or the trick they've learned for cutting down trees, or even what zero turn mower

they like best for going around trees. The conversations I've had out in the hall at these meetings have been some of the most encouraging to me in my career.

Hope to see you take that step and join the board someday, but most of all I hope to run into you at the Mega and hear about your kids baseball or soccer from this summer. Take care and I hope putting the course to bed goes well for you all.

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, there's a green fairway with a sand trap. In the background, there are trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves. A small wooden building is visible in the distance. The Hartman logo is overlaid on the image. It features a stylized green tree on the left, the word "HARTMAN" in large, bold, black letters in the center, and a red flag on a golf club shaft on the right. Below the name, it says "Golf Course Construction & Renovation". In the top right corner, it says "Quality since 1971...". At the bottom left, it says "Specializing in..." followed by a list of services: "Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades". At the bottom left, it provides the address "8099 Bavaria Rd. Victoria, MN 55386" and the phone number "952.443.2990". At the bottom right, it provides the email "info@hartmancompanies.com" and the website "www.hartmancompanies.com".

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

2024 Diamond Partners



2024 Platinum Partners



2024 Gold Partners



2024 Silver Partners



Thank you to our 2024 affiliate partners for your continued support of the MGCSA!



Turf & Golf Course Management at Anoka Technical College

Make a career out of your passion for golf and the outdoors with affordable options offered fully online.



Program offered completely online



Faculty experts with industry experience



Make the outdoors your office



Turf & Golf Course Management AAS degree

Designed for students looking to develop the technical skills needed to maintain turfgrass environments along with the management and organizational skills necessary to advance your career.



Turf & Golf Course Technician diploma

Prepares students with the technical skills to work in several different areas including, but not limited to athletic fields, golf courses and parks.

Learn More at [AnokaTech.edu/TurfandGolf](https://www.anokatech.edu/TurfandGolf)



ANOKA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



MINNESOTA STATE

©2023 Anoka Technical College, an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator and a member of Minnesota State. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Disclaimer, Non-Discrimination Statement, Student Consumer Information such as graduation rates and median debt, can be found here: [anokaramsey.edu/disclosures](https://www.anokaramsey.edu/disclosures). This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-627-3529. 230057AT

2025 MGCSA BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

FOR PRESIDENT: NIKK DICKERSON

Faribault Golf Club

Class A

Member Since 2006

Qualifications, Awards and other points of interest?

(2013) 18-Hole Superintendent of the Year - Iowa Golf Association

(2020-2022) Grassroots

Ambassador MN-01 - GCSAA

(2021-2022) Director - MGCSA Board

(2021) Melrose Leadership

Academy Recipient - GCSAA

(2022) First Green Task Group - GCSAA

(2023) Secretary/Treasurer - MGCSA

(2023-Present) First Green Liaison - GCSAA

(2024) Vice President - MGCSA

Why are you running for office?

I would like to see the MGCSA regain its allure of years past. Getting back to focusing on bringing people together for camaraderie vs. money making. With Chris's help I think we've been doing a great job of that over the past several years and we look to continue that approach in the future.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

Getting people to come into the industry is still a very large problem and one I believe we have only scratched the surface on. The MGCSA is going to be a shell of its former self if we don't find a way to get more young people engaged and entering the fold.

Additional comments:

I joined the board in 2020 as a Director after about a year of gentle nudging from then President Thayer and since joining I've helped with the Education, Environmental and Member Relations Committees. I've served at the GCSAA level as a Grassroots Ambassador of MN District 01 to help with Government Affairs as well as volunteering on the First Green



Nikk Dickerson Continued...

Task Group. In 2023 I was selected to be one of GCSAA's inaugural First Green Liaison with the goal of bringing more people to GCM. The past 2 years I've served as the Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President role and hopefully I've earned your trust to become your next President. Each year brings new challenges out on the course and it is no different as a board member. You get to see some of the challenges that our association deals with and you are part of the team that helps direct the solution and implement change. I hope to continue to serve the MGCSA for the next couple of years and look back on my time on the board and know that everything I helped do, was for the better. I hope to see everyone at the Annual meeting in December.

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

MGCSA
**Hole
Notes**
Podcast



FOR VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN CAMERON

North Oaks Golf Club

Class A

Member since 2015

Qualifications, Awards, and other points of interest?

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture -
University of Wisconsin-River Falls 2014

13 years of Private Country/Golf

Club management experience

5 additional years Grounds/Landscape
management experience



Why are you running for office?

I'm running for office with the intention of helping the MGCSA remain active, exciting, and successful. I participated on the Education Committee during the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Please reach out with any speakers, topics, or ideas that you may have for upcoming MGCSA educational events.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

Advocacy - Without continually advocating the "good story of golf" we are prone to be on the chopping block in regards to water usage, pesticide usage, labor shortages, etc. The MN golf industry generates 2.5+ billion dollars in economic output and provides 25,000+ jobs! We need to remain active in promoting the industry to our legislatures, communities, members, guests, employees, family, friends, and naysayers.

Water Usage - Several golf course utilizing surface water that reached "critical low" levels during the summer of 2023 received phone calls and/or letters from the MN DNR stating that it was time to implement the contingency plan stated on their current permit or they'd need to create and implement a contingency plan. Some areas received timely rains to return the water source levels above the "critical low" benchmark so these golf courses could return to normal operations without utilizing the contingency plan. Members of the MGCSA should remain proactive during these times by reaching out to local legislatures to build relationships and hopefully gain strong support from Golf Course Owners, Managers, Members, and Guests while doing so.

FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER:

JASON SCHARFENCAMP

Pebble Creek Golf Course

Class A

Member Since 2016

Qualifications, Awards and
other points of interest?

Class A Superintendent for 9 years.

The Broadmoor (CO) Asst. Superintendent

MN Valley Country Club 2nd Assistant.

Anoka Technical - AAS Degree



Why are you running for office?

After several years in my current position at Pebble Creek I started to look for ways to give back to our industry. At first this started by giving Jack feedback on the new website years ago. Last year I had offered to help again which resulted in me being part of the education committee. As we started working on some of the planning for the year Mark and the board had asked if I would be interested in filling Sally's position on the board. One of my goals while on the board would be to help develop and maintain a healthy association alliance with MGA and MPGA. Together these organizations represent a much larger population base that can work together to protect the sport and properties that we love.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

Many aspects of our careers are shaped by legislation that could affect the day to day operation of our facilities. While I am not inherently a politically driven person, I do have a strong drive to defend our industry and ensure that we are able to continue to do our jobs. Both political sides have stances that could negatively affect our industry, and we need to make sure we work as an industry to defend and educate in those areas. Staffing has been a major issue for many courses lately. Not only can it be more difficult to fill your full time positions with qualified individuals, it can even be a struggle to fill entry level seasonal positions. We have been exploring ways to expand our reach and I think our next step would be working with guidance counselors to let students know that they could have an enjoyable outdoor summer job that could turn into a career if they like it.

FOR DIRECTOR: WADE HUESMAN

River Oaks Golf Course

Class C

Member Since 2018

Qualifications, Awards and other points of interest?

I started working in the industry during high school and continued thru college while earning a Mechanical Engineering degree from Michigan Tech in 2006.

After learning to hate a desk job I quickly found myself back on the course and have been climbing the ladder ever since. I am experienced as both an equipment manager and assistant superintendent. I passed the GCSAA Equipment Management Certificate Program Levels 1 + 2 in 2024. I won the MGCSA Watson Award in 2023. I love the outdoors and am grateful my job gets me outside every morning.



Why are you running for office?

I have really valued the opportunities for networking, education, and career advancement thru the MGCSA. I hope to help the organization and its members continue to grow and flourish in this great industry.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

I think in this ever-evolving world the MGCSA staying relevant and valuable to members is very important to the life of the organization.

MGCSA NEW MEMBERS - Sep/Oct 2024

Spencer Tompkins

Jim Spreigl

Ian Naus

Ryan Fleisner

St. Croix National Golf Course

Brookview Golf Course

Spring Hills Golf Club

Hazeltine National GC

EM

EM

Class D

EM

FOR DIRECTOR: REED BOHM

Wildflower Golf Course

Class B

Member Since 2021

Qualifications, Awards and other points of interest?

I am interested in being a part of the MGCSA and what it stands for while also helping the industry at the state level.

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office to help the MGCSA in any way that I can. Having a person on the board with a perspective from the northern half of the state I think would be a benefit.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

I think the biggest issue at hand that we face is continuing to get outreach and teach the younger generation about the industry. The regulatory restrictions that Minnesota faces will also be a challenge in the coming years.

Additional comments:

Overall I love the industry and just want to help in any way that I can. The direction and the proactive approach that I see from the MGCSA is something that I would like to be a part of.





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.
- * Rollers for Cutting units





FOR DIRECTOR: JAMES WESTENDORF

Indian Hills Country Club

Class B

Member Since 2016

Qualifications, Awards and
other points of interest?

Golf Course Superintendent, Awarded
Toro's Assistant Superintendent
Experience 2021, Research Committee
Member 2016,2017, Northern
Green Planning Committee 2023



Why are you running for office?

I am excited to express my strong interest in the Board of Director opportunity at the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. With a track record of excellence in golf course management, a deep passion for maintaining world-class playing surfaces, and a proven ability to lead teams to success, I am eager to contribute to the rich legacy of the MGCSA. Over my 11-year career, I have honed my skills and expertise to deliver exceptional results. As the Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Hills Golf and Country Club, I have successfully directed all aspects of course operations, including conditioning, renovations, and tournament preparations. We have exceeded expectations by implementing operating standards that improved efficiency and plant health, ultimately enhancing green speed and consistency. In addition to my practical experience, I have actively pursued continuing education through the Golf Course Superintendents Association and Penn State University, enhancing my knowledge in agronomy and facilities management. My educational background including an A.A.S in Turf Management underscores my commitment to excellence in golf course management. Throughout my career, I have fostered a culture of dedication and excellence, leading teams to maintain superior conditions. I have interviewed, hired, and managed over 100 employees, implemented safety training programs, and maintained open communication with golf professionals, general managers, and members.

James Westendorf Continued...

I am confident that my dedication to communication and team leadership align perfectly with the Values of the MGCSA. I am excited about the opportunity to work closely with the other Board members and build on the historic legacy of the MGCSA and drive its future success.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the continued excellence of the MGCSA.

What are the biggest issues facing the MGCSA today?

This may be a question that I do not have an answer for. If the past is an indication of the future change is upon us.



JOHN DEERE

VanWall

**ST. PAUL LOCATION
NOW OPEN!**

1451 ENERGY PARK DR
ST. PAUL, MN 55108
612-217-7640

Superior products. Cutting edge technology.

NOW BACKED BY THE LEGENDARY SUPPORT OF VAN WALL!

The Van Wall Golf & Sports Turf team is excited to announce that our St. Paul location is now open!

Your clear first choice in John Deere equipment, Van Wall provides the best in sales, parts, and service for courses and turf fields across the Midwest. Give us a call today to learn more about our available inventory and support services, or stop in to check out our new showroom!

YOUR CLEAR FIRST CHOICE SINCE 1944

(612) 217-7640 • VanWall.com

VISIT US TODAY!





**Plaisted
Companies**
INCORPORATED

Elk River, MN • 763.441.1100
www.plaistedcompanies.com



GOLF

Topdressing Sands & Mixes

Our Sands meet USGA guidelines and are available with green pigment. Custom mixes can be blended for your individual needs using our 4-bin computerized Accublender.

Bunker Sands

Our bunker sands are always washed and screened. Choose from:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| •Plaisted Bunker Sand | Natural Tan |
| •Plaisted Pro Bunker Sand Blend | Natural Tan |
| •700 Best Signature 100% Crushed | Off White |
| •900 Best Signature 100% Crushed | White |

Golf Construction Sand Mixes

Our mixes all use USGA sand and a combination of fine grade peat and screened black dirt. Choose one of our popular mixes or we can custom blend one.

- USGA Coarse Gravel - A great bridging rock used as a drainage layer.
- Construction Sand & Peat Mixes - 50/50, 60/40, 70/30, 80/20, 85/15, 90/10
- 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

Cart Path & Road Base

- 3/8" with fines river rock
- Class II buff limestone or red rock
- Class II, III, IV crushed granite
- Class 5 gravel
- Recycled concrete, crushed asphalt, conbit

Bagged Products

- Dry topdressing sand
- Dry tournament topdressing sand
- Dry green topdressing sand
- Dry early-green black topdressing sand
- Dry 70/30 green divot mix





**Plaisted
Companies**
INCORPORATED



Horticulture Products

Our mixes contain highly sought after ingredients like composted pine bark, peat and screened black dirt. They are ideal for flower beds, tree and shrub growth or whatever growing application you may have.

Our soil amendments are mixed with existing soils, and promote healthy root growth and water retention.



Landscape Materials

We offer 8 varieties of mulch and 11 varieties of landscape rock to add the pop and class your course deserves. We also carry quality hardscape brands and natural stone options that offer exceptional strength, durability and the kind of long lasting beauty that will make your clubhouse a coveted destination for golf and events.

- Mulch
- Decorative Rock
- Mason Sand
- Pavers
- Retaining Walls
- Firepits/Outdoor Fireplaces
- Boulders
- Monument Stones
- Water Features



Delivery Options

We own our own fleet of 50 GPS tracked trucks making delivery dependable, efficient, and timely. We have a truck for any job.

- Tandems
- Tri-Axles
- End Dumps
- Dump Trucks
- Truck & Pup
- Clam Trucks



From Order To Production To Delivery!
One Call Does It All!

MGCSA Championship

Thank you to our host Superintendent, Joel Hanson and the team at River Oaks!

This years winners were (Clockwise from top left):

Low Gross - Marius Van Rensburg

Low Net - Arik Hemquist

Team Low Gross - Matt Dahlke, Nate Mezera

Team Low Net - Joe Berggren, Wes Stoneback







MGCSA STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM:

*A RANGE OF CHANGE
AT THE SPRINGFIELD
GOLF COURSE*



Opposite Page: Springfield junior players. Above: Flood damaged range

In 1955, the Springfield Gun Club, started doing business as the Springfield Golf Course. After members consulted with the local Economic Development Association and research/developers with the U of M, they were inspired to initiate the project of a golf course. In the next year, several volunteers donated their physical strength and time, local farmers borrowed their equipment, and funds to work the ground and create a beautiful nine hole golf course on the Cottonwood river. What once was the city landfill, other parts of the land was previous farm

land. The members first teed off in the spring of 1957. To the local business person, community members, and golfers, this was an endeavor they were proud to produce and share.

Over the years, the course had minor flooding occurrences. So much so in the 1980s, the 9th green was relocated. In 1993, the course endured several major floods in one golf season. Flooding became more frequent in 2001, and again in the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011 - entering the clubhouse and preventing the

local golf team from hosting a spring golf meet. Then in 2018, the course took on 5 major floods, which impacted golf and cause for yet another remodel of the clubhouse as watered entered the building as well. The members rolled up their sleeves, donated their physical strength and time to help the staff and grounds crew to recover again.

In 2019, the Springfield Golf Course took a tremendous improvement project, following the devastating flooding in 2018 as it was a time for another change in order to sustain the golf course and move forward with a future. The renovation project has been a successful one by the increase of golf on the course. The Springfield Golf Course Board of directors, members, and our Golf Course Superintendent collaborated with one another, took action and reached out to the community for financial support. A local, MN company, Duininck, contributed to most of the renovation of our existing golf course. The Board of Directors, members and golfers of the Springfield Golf Course are most grateful

for the local support, the diligent work, and now are left with some minor projects to continue to restore our practice areas. It was the hope that there could be some recovery of some former greens as future practice areas, improve tree management, and the completion of some drainage needs along the course's new curves.

The Springfield Golf Course is very thankful to start on improvements and financial support that has contributed to an increased number of youth golfers. The Springfield Golf course board of directors, members and friends of the course, and our grounds superintendent would like to express our deepest gratitude to the MN Golf Course Superintendents Association for your financial support and motivation to improve the practice areas of the course to benefit all golfers for the love of the game.



PLANTING THE FUTURE.

Your partner for:

- Experienced, efficient project installation
 - Specializing in golf course tree installation
- Wholesale nursery stock
 - Shade, ornamental, and evergreens
 - Superior quality B&B packaging
 - Air pruning and traditional containers
 - Caliper sized bare root trees



**HOFFMAN &
MCNAMARA**

9045 180th St. East • Hastings, MN 55033
Phone: 651-437-9463 • Email: tom.hougnon@hoffmanandmcnamara.com

www.hoffmanandmcnamara.com

Top: Irrigation Improvements
Above: Old CH and flooded Range
Next Page: Improved Areas



Non-retouched client photo: GreenJacket System coming off in the spring!



20+ YEARS OF **SUPERINTENDENT SUCCESS**
PROVES THE GREENJACKET SYSTEM CAN MAKE
A **REMARKABLE** DIFFERENCE.

- Patented **IMPERMEABLE** Reinforced Winter Cover Turf Protection System shelters turf from cold-weather damage.
- **PERMEABLE** Reinforced Grow-in Covers dramatically increase the sun's ability to germinate and **GROW** healthier turf while allowing the underlying turf and soil to breathe.

Find out how the GreenJacket System can make a difference for you and your turf.
888-786-2683 • info@greenjacket.com • GreenJacket.com

READ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH in the GJ Research Tab at GreenJacket.com

MGCSA EM Workshop

Wednesday
November 6, 2024
8:00 - 3:00 PM
7:30 Coffee/Reg



Join your peers for a new EM focused workshop featuring hands-on electrical training and troubleshooting. Lunch included!!
**Event intended for EM's and Mechanic Supers/Assts.*

Members
\$15

New EM Member
\$60 (DISCOUNTED 2025 DUES)

MTI Distributing

4830 AZELIA AVE. NORTH SUITE 100
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429



Register at mgcsa.org or via QR above



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



Wednesday December 4th

Thursday December 5th

MGCSA

MEGA Seminar

Featured Speakers:



Dr. Bill Krueser



Thomas Bastis



Chris Tritabaugh

BRAEMAR GOLF COURSE
Host: Jeff Mold

MGCSA Annual Meeting - Wednesday 12/4, 1:30 PM
Pinstripes Edina Social Event 12/4: Hosted by Duininck
Affiliate Appreciation Happy Hour 12/5

You can't help them win skins
but you can help them clean up.



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



ParAide.com



MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB: Bentgrass removal

Tina Rosenow
Assistant Superintendent
Midland Hills Country Club

It's hard to believe it's already September! Fall in Minnesota for golf courses means catching up on larger scale projects to improve the golf course for the next season. We always seem to have a never ending list of projects at Midland Hills.

Recently we've implemented a bentgrass removal program for our roughs. Decades ago, Midland used to core aerify all the shortgrass areas. The easiest

solution to cleaning up thousands of cores was to blow them into the rough. Unfortunately, the long term effects of that decision was not considered, leading to bentgrass establishing in our bluegrass rough. The result of bentgrass growing at rough height is not positive. It leads to difficulty playing out of thick, thatchy patches, increased risk of disease, and potentially loss of turf in the rough. It creates inconsistent conditions

and difficulty managing multiple stands of grass.

In 2023, we did a trial run last year on a heavily infested area of our golf course and had successful results. Our first course of action, this fall, is to treat our green complexes and bunker surrounds. Our program consists of three applications of mesotrione starting in September at two week intervals. After the second application, we will seed the treated areas. Our method of seeding is using a TriWave overseeder as well as a broadcast spreader. The treated areas will be irrigated accordingly and hopefully we'll have established, healthy seedlings heading into winter. Our test plots had shown that some bluegrass in the treated areas did experience some leaf whitening, but they'll grow out of it. It will take multiple

years to successfully remove all the bentgrass from our roughs, and full eradication is more than likely not attainable, but significant reduction would be considered successful.

This program will help reach our goal of consistency throughout the golf course in terms of maintenance and playability.



MGCSA Scramble

Thank you to our host superintendent Dan Kampa, and the team at StoneRidge for a great day of golf and hospitality!

Congratulations to our winning teams: (Bottom right, next page)

1st Place: Kris Johannsen, Jack Koenig, Jason Lloyd, Dusty Lane

2nd Place: Dave Kazmierczak, Alejandro Leon, Jason Hasselman, Jacob Kotiranta

3rd Place: Mason Drabant, Mark Michalski, Brian Brown, Cameron Brown





Roll It *Forward*

By: Nikk Dickerson



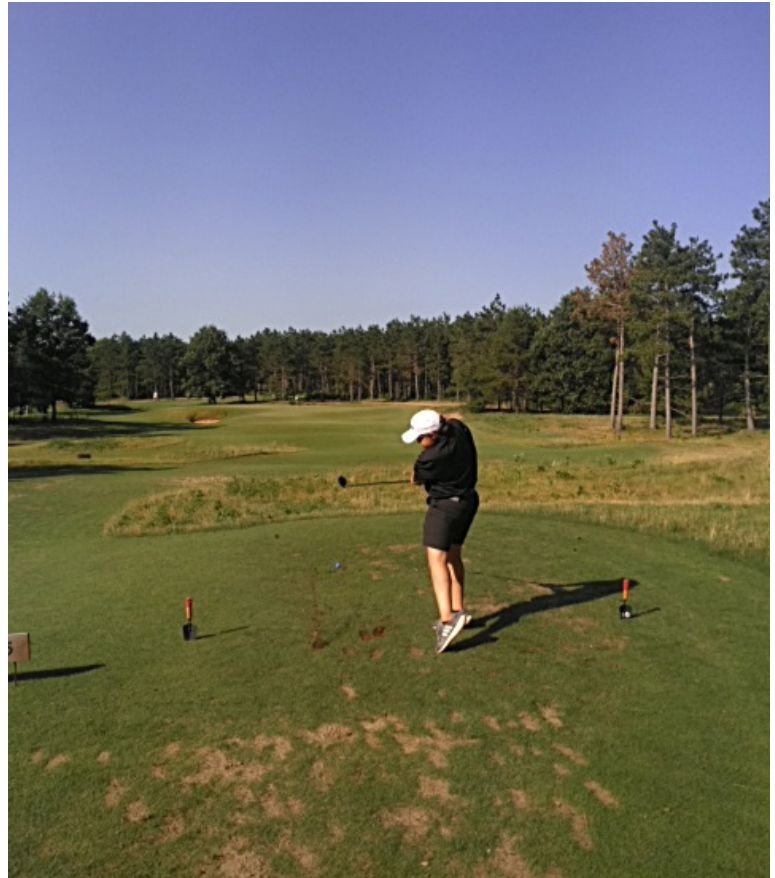
I was born in Bethesda, MD, to military parents—my dad served in the Marines and my mom in the Navy. Growing up, we moved constantly, spending just four of my first sixteen years in the U.S. I became accustomed to change early, adjusting to a new home and school every few years. Golf wasn't something I

grew up with; in fact, I never understood the appeal of chasing a small white ball around.

When my mom retired, we settled in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, near her home town in her home state. Our house was next to a driving range, Dick's Divots. With not much else to do, my



Photos provided by Nikk Dickerson



brother and I spent hours hitting balls, completely clueless about what we were doing. It wasn't until I started football practice later that summer that I met some teammates who worked for John Granholt at Eau Claire Golf & Country Club. That connection led to my first job there for the next four summers.

My first summer at the club came right after a major irrigation renovation. I spent my days walk mowing greens and digging up old sprinkler heads—over 300 holes that first year. The next summer, I got to witness the start of a course rerouting project for a new clubhouse and driving range and I was hooked.

Watching the transformation of the land through tree clearing, shaping and hydroseeding was incredible, Granholt even heard me comment on how slow we were moving one day clearing trees so he handed me an ax and told me that I could work at my own pace now. I don't think my shoulders have ever been so sore.

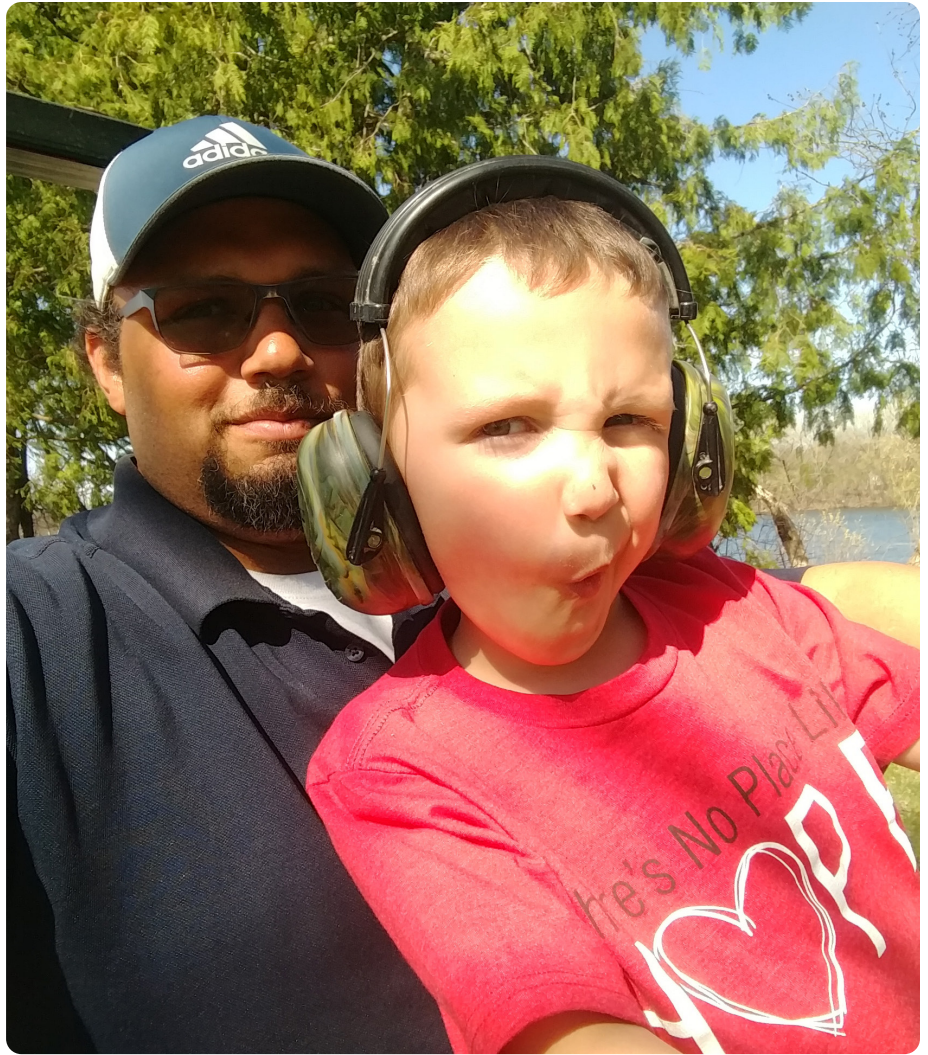
Though I initially went to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville as an Education major with a minor in Horticulture because I had found the best summer job that I could do when I would have my summers off

from teaching. The summer after my sophomore year I switched to part-time on the course and my full-time job was running summer camp programs for the local park & rec. I soon realized my heart was in golf course management so the next semester I switched to Horticulture and Agronomy, and from then on, golf became not just a job but a passion. I worked in the mornings and played whenever I could. The more I learned about course management, the more I wanted to understand the game itself. As graduation approached, I thought I had landed a great job



as a 2nd Assistant at Erin Hills. But three months before graduation, I received a letter saying this new golf course being built in Wisconsin was on hold, (I later found out that the project had run out of money) and the position wasn't needed anymore. I started panicking, unsure of what was next.

Fortunately, a connection at Wayzata Country Club led to an internship opportunity with Bob Distel and his Assistant at the time Jesse Tricka, but just weeks before I was set to start, I got a call from Steven VanNatta at Owatonna Country Club. A job I had shown interest in 3 months earlier opened up, and it was everything I could have hoped for. I had to turn down the Wayzata opportunity, but they were incredibly understanding and supportive of my decision and to this day if I ever have something floating around in my head that I can't seem to



make sense of I find myself wondering what Jesse would think, so I pick up the phone. That May, I packed up and headed to Owatonna. Over the next five years, I gained invaluable experience as an Assistant Superintendent. One of the most challenging times came during the fall of 2010 when the club suffered severe flood damage. Amid the chaos, my boss handed me a sticky note with the name Scott Thayer and a phone number. A few



days later, I called Scott and got introduced to the Tournament Club of Iowa (TCI), a stunning 600-acre golf community next to a wildlife sanctuary. I was blown away by the opportunity.

My wife Molly and I had started our family by then, and being over seven hours from our families made us rethink our long-term plans. In 2013, the chance to return to Owatonna came up, and we couldn't pass it up. In 2014, I became Superintendent at Owatonna Country Club, a place that already felt like home because

of my years as the Assistant. Since then, we've put down roots in Owatonna, and I can't imagine being anywhere else. In 2023, I joined the team at Faribault Golf Club, a role that allows me more flexibility and time with my family. My wife of 16 years, Molly, and I are always on the go, following our kids to Boy Scouts, mountain biking races, softball games, and wrestling matches. Life is busy, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Thank you for taking the time to get to know me. Now, I'd like to pass the torch to Jesse Tricka at Wayzata Country Club.

LEADING AMINO ACID FERTILIZER IN TURF

Tested up to 34% better among all organics at ISU*

AMINORGANIX

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR GROWTH

9-3-7

Organic Fertilizer

No manures, made to FDA feed grade standards

- Continuous feeding for 115-150 days
- Uniform color from tee to green
- 27 amino acids safe for animals and wildlife
- 7 organic nitrogen, 7 phosphorus, and 7 potassium sources
- Calcium, magnesium, sulfur, carbon, and all essential micronutrients
- Proprietary formulation keep nutrients in the root zone longer
- Organic nutrients control leaching even in extreme weather
- Greens and Fairway Grade
- FDA feed ingredients ensure safety in application and play

www.aminorganix.com



Distributors of
AminOrganix products
for Turf and Ornamentals
863-825-4494

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

AminOrganix® Inc.

3800 American Blvd W Ste 1500

Bloomington, MN 55431

www.aminorganix.com

*Up to 34% growth per unit N than all organics tested at Iowa State University

GOLF COURSE MUSINGS

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



Drone application demo for MDA and UMN staff at
Oneka Ridge GC. Another tool in the Super's toolbox,
but be aware, it requires significant initial planning!



The Don White has been completed for 2024. Thank you to all of our participants for another successful year!



This years winners are:
1st: Maxton Kelly & Riley Soderstrom
2nd: Scott Thayer & Mike Paape
Cons: Tom Proshek & Joe Berggren



GET TO KNOW 'EM



Ricky
Plemel

*New Hope
Village Golf
Course*

FACILITY INFO

Public or Private: Public

Number of Holes: 9 Hole, par 3

Full time employees: 2

Seasonal employees (not including full time): 5

Total Acreage: 24

Greens & Tees Acreage: 2.75

Turf Types: Bentgrass, poa, low mow blue, mix

Fairway Acreage: 7-8

Rounds/Year: 26,000



PERSONAL TURF FACTS:

How many years have you been in your current position?

Year and a half. I've really enjoyed running both sides, grounds and pro shop.

How many years have you been in the turf industry? 18-20

Where else have you worked?

Mississippi Dunes, Oak Tree National, Edina Country Club

Turf School Attended (if any)? Rutgers

INDUSTRY THOUGHTS:

What is one "master plan" thing you would like to change at your shop?

The irrigation system. I think the pipe is probably from the 60's. There is pvc, but its old center row. #1 thing on my priority list. No single head

control on greens. Isolation valves may not be working.

What concerns do you have the turf business and the future of golf? I'd say equipment repair costs and the advancement of electronic repair training.

#2 would be pesticide use restrictions. We can't lose these options, shrinking the tool box, and then obviously labor costs.

What is needed to bring more young professional into the industry? I think wages would be a huge step. They are climbing, but when you bring someone in and they can go down the road to any big box store, they're gonna make more money and don't have to work in the





FUN FACTS

Have you ever met a celebrity?

Who? I met Blake Anderson, at Ian's Pizza in Madison. He bought everyone a slice of pizza after the bar closed.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

I haven't traveled much in my life. I'm getting married in Hawaii in a couple months, thinking that will be my favorite vacation spot. Ice fishing on Red Lake maybe here.

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

When I first started walk mowing greens. Throwing in the tunes and competing for straight lines, just watching the sunrise, mowing grass, it was great.

What is your favorite job on the shop? Walk mowing greens, don't get to do it anymore but triplexing greens is just as nice.

What is your least favorite job on the golf course? It's gotta be irrigation breaks, and the puzzle of electrical. I despise digging through the

morning. If they show a passion, and you can compete with the wages, then we'd be in better shape. Make sure we get people out of here when the course is full, enjoy your afternoons.

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

I would love a bobcat, we have an old tractor right now, its showing its life and not very versatile. Just the ability to move things around the course and shop would be nice.

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

Not really, I'm just kind of doing the same things others are doing. Haven't really seen anything that may work here.

clay finding that leaky pipe.
Have you played any famous golf courses? Which ones? Oak Tree National

Who is your dream foursome?
Gotta be prime Tiger, Arnie, Jack.

What is one piece of advise that you've received in your career that still resonates today? Plan the work, then work the plan.

That always stuck with me. If you can plan out ahead of time what and why we're gonna do things, then you start biting off chunks, it helps the day go smoother, rather than just jumping in and wondering what to do next. Planning the work first, has been invaluable for any kind of golf course work, given the 700 different things you do each day.



Don't miss the extended conversation with Ricky 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.

2024 WEE ONE

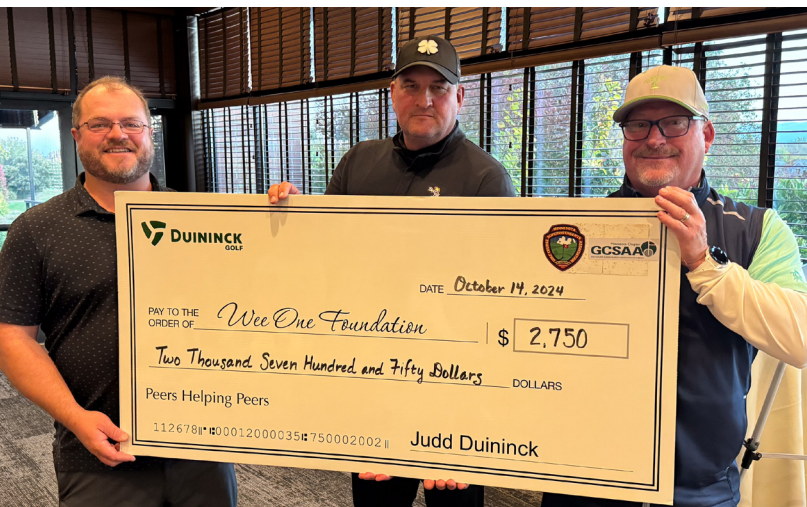
Thank you to our host Superintendent, Tom Proshek, our sponsors, and all of our participants! Winners were:

1st Place: Scott Thayer, Tim Flegel, Josh Ess, Greg Ess

2nd PLace: Mike Mohn, Keith Peterson, Elliot Rudd, Matt Olson

3rd Place: Pete Mogren, Corey Mogren, Kyle Mogren, Dan Leopold





Understanding Cold-Season Environments with WinterTurf

By: Jessica Till, UMN



Maintaining turfgrass involves unique challenges compared with other landscapes, chief among which is trying to keep it alive over winter. The WinterTurf team is working to discover which sets of environmental conditions provide the best and worst chances of survival for golf course greens. Many of the critical changes that lead to winterkill, such as crown stresses and reduced oxygen levels, occur underground, making them difficult to observe directly. Our network of in-ground sensors has provided

several years of valuable data to monitor changes in the soil on individual courses throughout the winter season. Combined with frequent site observations from course superintendents (Fig. 1), these data are helping us to understand the critical processes that cause turf damage during the coldest months.

In cold climates, soil experiences fluctuations in temperature, moisture, and snow cover in winter, which can occur rapidly and vary widely even within a golf course. These

changes can produce complex reactions and processes that are not completely understood, partly due to the difficulty of making measurements with sensitive instruments in harsh environments. One thing we are learning is that even when the ground seems frozen and inert, there is still a great deal of activity taking place below the surface.

We are currently analyzing the sensor data collected so far to classify different types of winter environments (this process is known as envirotyping) by identifying patterns in key variables such as soil temperature, moisture, and soil gas concentrations. By analyzing these patterns across multiple winters, we can group different courses and regions

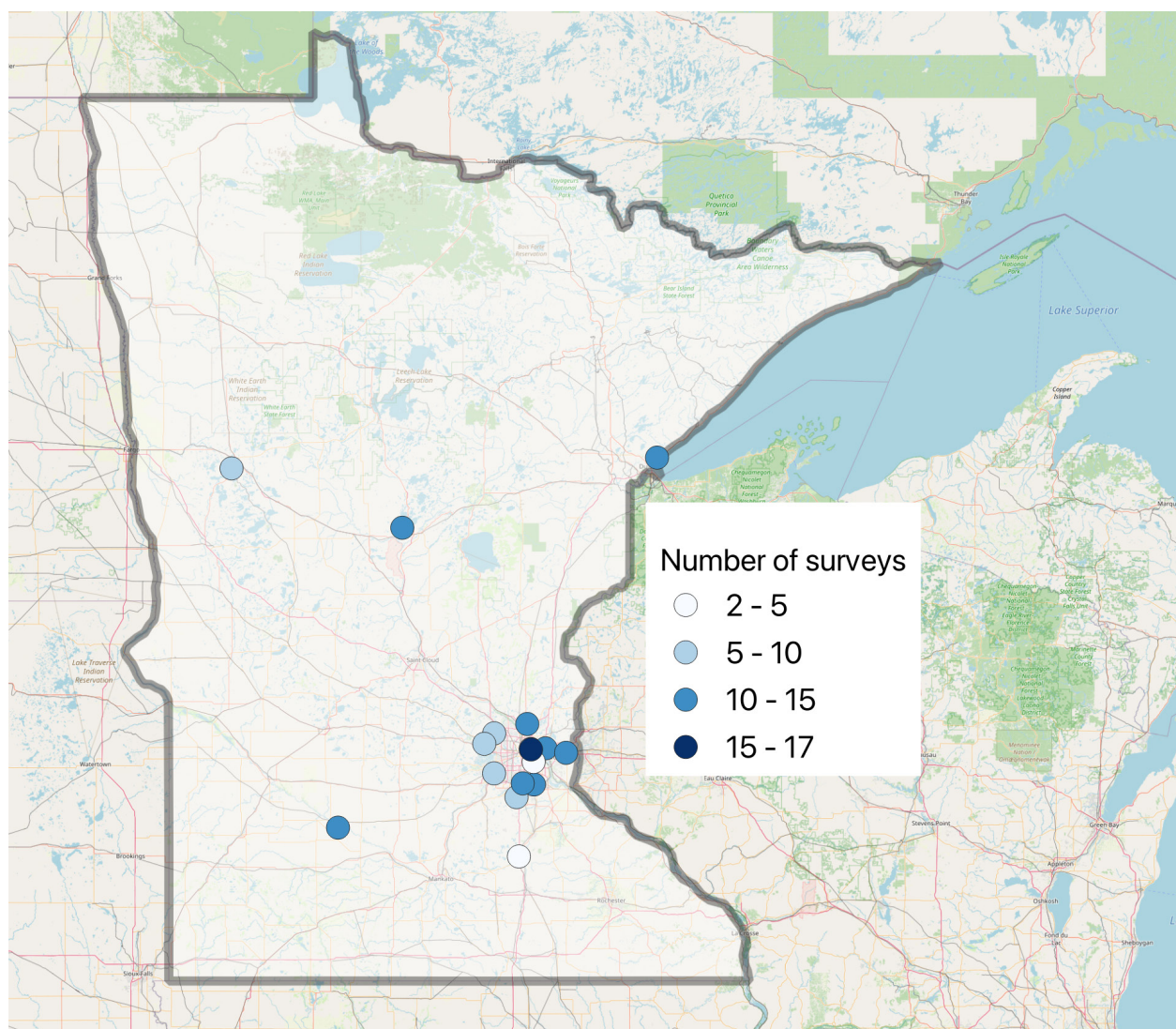


Fig. 1: Locations of Minnesota golf courses that contributed weekly survey data over the 2023-2024 season.

likely to experience similar risks to turfgrass health in a given year. When we have enough information about actual turf outcomes, we can start to make interpretations about the environmental conditions linked to specific mechanisms of

winterkill. For example, we can compare the rates of damage on courses with prolonged periods of frozen soil versus those that experience repeated freeze-thaw events. Pinpointing the timing of winterkill is an added challenge – we are tackling

Soil temperature time series groups

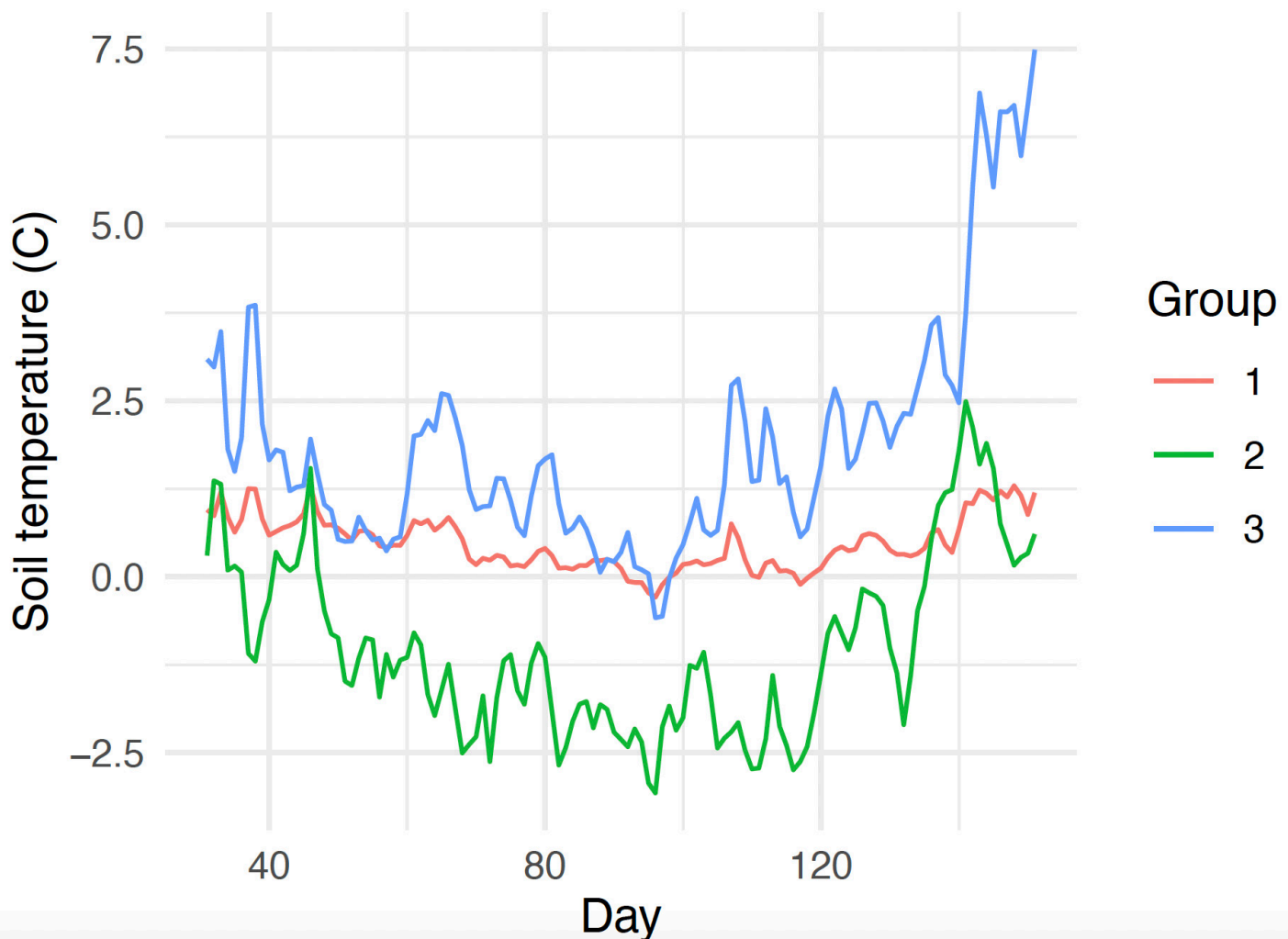


Fig. 2: Mean soil temperature trajectories from December to March for 3 groups of winter envirotypes experienced by golf greens.

this by comparing the patterns of changes in soil conditions, such as temperature, over the season to predict the potential for turfgrass de-acclimation at various times (Fig. 2).

One aspect of our project is focused on understanding damage that occurs below ice cover, which is capable of producing significant winterkill. Ice can create an impermeable surface that restricts the flow of oxygen to plant roots and allows buildup of toxic gases. While snow can provide helpful insulation from cold temperatures, it also can also mask certain features such as ice layers under the snow, making it difficult to gauge how long ice is present at a certain site. Using the sensor data, we are working to identify the soil signals that are characteristic of ice cover and combining that with satellite data to pinpoint the climate conditions that lead to ice formation.

One of the next steps in the project will be to request soil samples from golf greens to

understand how soil properties might contribute to turfgrass resilience. Factors such as soil composition, moisture-holding capacity, and nutrient availability influence how well turfgrass withstands freezing temperatures, ice encasement, and other winter stressors. The data from these samples, combined with environmental sensor data and management practices, will help us to develop models and best practices for reducing winterkill.

Our ongoing research efforts are beginning to identify patterns in the data that reveal how different environmental conditions can affect winter stress outcomes on greens. However, this knowledge is still limited by the number of winter stress events we can observe and study. For us to build predictive models and develop better management strategies, we need to capture more winter events—both where damage occurs and, just as importantly, where it does not. Every course that has successfully avoided winterkill or experienced less

severe outcomes holds insights that help us understand how to better manage risk.

The data we collect tells an important story, and the more courses that contribute, the

clearer that story becomes. Your course can be a part of this narrative, contributing valuable data that helps all superintendents stay ahead of the next winter.

JOIN WINTERTURF!

The WinterTurf team is gearing up for winter: environmental sensing nodes are being packaged up and shipped out around the globe, research plans for winter field experiments are being finalized, large datasets are being analyzed, and new ideas are being tested out. To aid in these efforts, and help identify solutions for winter stress damage on golf courses, we are asking superintendents throughout the world to help us collect data this coming winter. Thank you to those who have helped in previous years-we are glad you are part of this effort! If you haven't joined in yet, we hope you will consider signing up for this coming winter. You can add to the WinterTurf project by simply taking a few pictures of one of your greens, and sending in regular observations throughout the winter. You can sign up by going to z.umn.edu/interest-survey.

Follow the UMN Turf Blog
for project updates!



MAXIMIZE THE BEAUTY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF YOUR GROUNDS WITH MTI'S TURF SOLUTIONS.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF RELIABLE EQUIPMENT, BACKED BY MORE THAN 70 YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT, HELPS YOU MAINTAIN PRISTINE LANDSCAPES. OFFERING THE TOP BRANDS IN THE INDUSTRY, WE PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND SUPPORT YOU NEED TO CREATE SAFE, INVITING, AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR SPACES.

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR AN ON-SITE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
OR TO LEARN MORE.**



VENTRAC MJ840 CONTOUR MOWER

VENTRAC'S CONTOUR MOWER FEATURES A 83 INCH WORKING WIDTH MAKING QUICK WORK OF PRECISION MOWING ON HIGH END PROPERTIES. THREE DECKS FLOAT INDEPENDENTLY AND FOLLOW THE CONTOUR OF THE TERRAIN WITH UP TO 40 DEGREES OF MOTION FOR EACH SIDE DECK. THE MJ840 ALSO FEATURES FULL REAR ROLLERS FOR EVEN CUTTING AND STRIPING, REAR DISCHARGE, AND A FLIP-UP DECK DESIGN.



MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM | INFO@MTIDISTRIBUTING.COM | 888.537.2484

GOLF, SPORTS FIELDS & GROUNDS EQUIPMENT & IRRIGATION | LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT

From the High Grass

By: Chris Aumock



A few months ago, my wife took the kids up north to see her parents, leaving me at home with my work and my thoughts. Naturally that led me to buying new golf clubs, finally purchasing new irons and a driver after 22 years! I had been playing with the clubs I bought in high school, a set of Nike Slingshots with graphite shafts, accompanied by an original Nike Sasquatch driver. Man were these cool at the time, less so as I have aged, as they began to weaken my game.

The problem though was, I never credited it to the clubs, that technology in my hands. I just assumed, rightly so often, that

it was not the clubs, it was my mental game. For the record, I'm around a 10 handicap, and have been there for about 15 years, playing only a handful of times a year. Nowadays, that is mostly in our MGCSA events, which are some of the few chances I get to play. So, for years, I assumed the clubs wouldn't help me too much and kept pushing it off further due to my personal frugality. However, with my wife gone and me home alone, along with more and more comments from my recent playing partners, I thought this would be the perfect time to get fitted for some new clubs. After my first swing, my fitter saw instantly what I needed, and

it was definitely an upgrade in technology to the current decade. I have played with the clubs a few times since then, still adjusting to them, and it is still a weird feeling, but they have improved my game enough to give me some distance back and helped me clinch my family golf tournament for the first time in several years!

What's my point here? I was hesitant to adapt to the new technology mostly based on the cost, and the thinking that it really wouldn't make that much of a difference. I see now the advancement of golf club technology, and how they absolutely have changed my current game. This thinking will need to apply to our turf management tools as well. As we begin to see new technologies, such as autonomous mowers, drone sprayers, and simply electric equipment, any hesitation shouldn't come without experience. What's the old adage, "don't knock it till you try it."

These pieces will continue to evolve and improve, and in 20 years from now, they will be the standard for many. There are

obviously other factors in the adoption of new technologies, specifically cost, but it's important we weigh out the return on those investments.

I recently heard that one course is purchasing an autonomous 46-inch mower to mow the range and maybe a fairway or two overnight. That unit is approx. \$34k to purchase, and figures to save approx. \$12k in labor cost per year. Meaning the ROI is only 3 years. Now, there are several other factors to consider and course solutions vary, but those figures seem rather attainable.

I hope the growth and advancement of technology doesn't scare most of you, and that we can embrace these changes as they become feasible. I'm disappointed in myself for not buying new clubs sooner, as maybe I could have more bragging rights in the family tournament, or just won a few more holes in a Don White match! I must remember better that these new technologies can be worth the cost or investment, and many new technologies will indeed improve our work and or play.