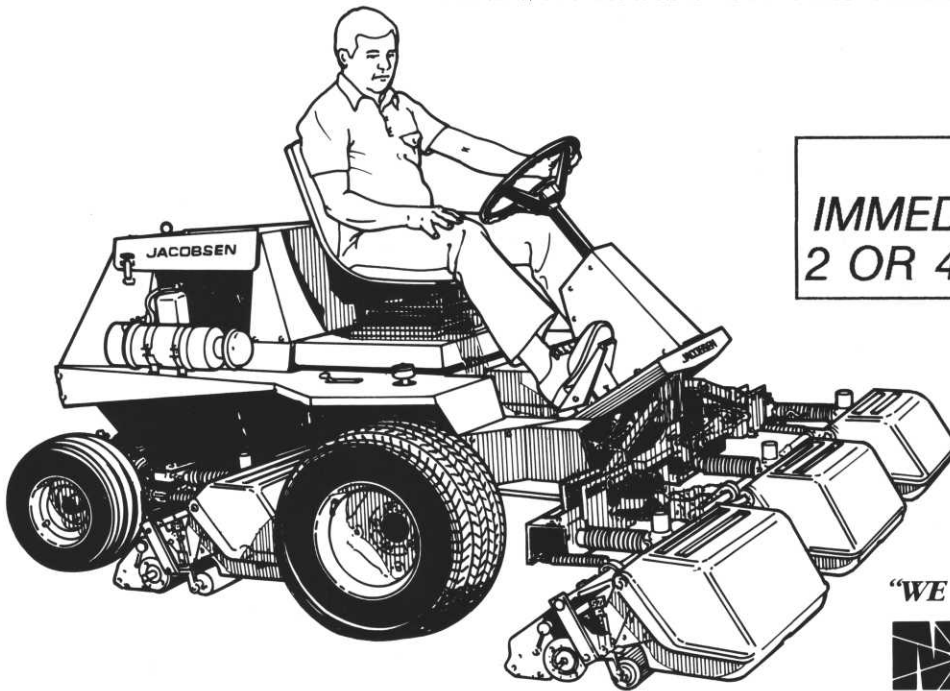


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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Documentation Will Be A Crucial Step



The cool spring that we just had was certainly not what many golf courses needed to recover from last winter's damage. Soil temperatures remained in the mid-fifties up until June 6th.

Periodic observation of the soil temperature would help to reinforce with your membership the problems associated with slow spring growth and the turf not filling in as well as normal. Another method of monitoring soil temperature would be to have a soil temperature monitor such as that of the Neougen Envirocaster.

This multi-functional micro-processor unit has improved greatly over the last couple of years. The disease forecasting information coupled with air-soil temperature, wind, solar radiation, humidity, dew point and leaf wetness information can assist with grounds maintenance decisions and document the historical data needed to reinforce your analysis when discussing course problems with club officials.

Documentation in the future will be a crucial step, especially with environmental issues determining what we may be able to do. Pesticide applications will need to be backed up with hard data to support the necessity of spraying.

The Envirocaster and the Agri-Diagnostics Reveal Disease Detection Test Kits can help support these requirements and assist you in your management decision making.

**The MGCSA Board of Directors approved the initiation of a new committee** of the Board at our most recent meeting. This new committee is to be officially named at a later date but will deal with environmental issues.

**The Minnesota Section of the Professional Golfers Association** has recently relocated to the Bunker Hills Golf Club. The headquarters and the newly established Hall of Fame Museum will be inaugurated at a dinner on Monday, July 2. The MGCSA has been invited to attend this dinner and to be a part of the museum. We welcome this opportunity to participate with the Minnesota PGA and other organizations involved in Minnesota golf.

\* \* \* \*

**I would like to thank our host at the June membership meeting, Tom Haugen,** and the wet welcome but warm hospitality we received. We hope that you will attend the July meeting at the Northfield Golf Club where host superintendent Bill Whitworth will do his best to keep our wet record intact.

—Kerry Glader  
MGCSA President

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*Par five 18th hole provides spectacular finish at Grand View's new course*

## **FOR SUPERINTENDENT TOM KIENTZLE**

# **Building 'The Pines' Was Like Going to the Super Bowl**

For course superintendent Tom Kientzle, being involved from Day One in the construction of The Pines—the attractive, new, 18-hole championship golf course at Grand View Lodge north of Brainerd—was like getting an opportunity to play in the Super Bowl.

Sure, there were hundreds of days of dawn-to-dusk labor, and certainly there were times when he rather would have been basking in a boat on nearby Gull Lake rather than slashing his way through dense woods.

**But Tom simply couldn't have been happier** when, in 1987, Grand View owners made the go-ahead decision to build the course, destined to become one of Minnesota's finest golf facilities.

"I knew that construction would entail 12 to 14-hour days seven days a week for at least six months a year for two years," Kientzle said, "but every golf course superintendent dreams about the opportunity to be involved right from the start in the building of a new course, especially one with the beauty and stature of The Pines.

From a professional standpoint, he said, it truly was a "rewarding experience."

**Now in his sixth season at Grand View**, Tom joined Grand View's staff following his graduation from Anoka Technical College in 1985. A native of Chicago, he first became involved in golf course operations when his father, Thomas G., purchased Birch Bay Golf Course & Resort, located about five miles from Grand View.

His initial responsibilities were to take care of Grand View's Garden Course, a 2,500-yard, nine-hole layout that was built in 1954, then remodeled in 1964 and again in 1969. To accomplish this task, he had four seasonal employees.

Now, to keep on top of "the challenge of The Pines," and to continue the necessary maintenance of the Garden Course, he has a full-time assistant, Kevin Rue; a full-time mechanic, Mike Kyar, and 17 additional staffpersons.

**Kientzle worked closely with architect Joel Goldstrand** right from the start. From aerial views of the 340-acre site set aside for The Pines, Goldstrand had made the preliminary layout of the 18 holes.

Survey stakes were set on centerlines, indeed a tough and time-consuming job that required cutting a path through the dense forest where one often couldn't see more than 20 feet ahead.

"We would ribbon the perimeters of the fairways, working off the center line using the architect's dimensions," Kientzle said. "After the tree cutters would drop trees inside the ribbons, we would observe the fairways, green surrounds and tee areas, then ribbon perimeter trees two more times to get the right width and save trees."

"After we tied ribbons on the trees we wanted to save, the tree cutters came in and made another lane," Kientzle said. "Naturally we wanted to save all key specimen trees, and we protected many of the perimeter trees like white pine, Norways and maples.

*(Continued on Page 10)*



*Immense practice range has tees at both ends*

# GREEN CLIPPINGS

The Minnesota PGA Hall of Fame Banquet will be held July 2 at Bunker Hills. Our President, Kerry Glader, CGCS has received an invitation and will attend. A section in the Hall of Fame will be set aside for Outstanding Superintendents.

Nominations for officers/directors are now being accepted by the GCSAA. If

you or any one you know would like to run for office on the national level, contact the GCSAA office for details.

Luck Golf Course, in Luck, Wis. has opened a new nine. The grapevine rates it as an A-1 layout. Congratulations go to Roger Nelson, golf course superintendent, and Gordon Emerson, course ar-

chitect, on a job well done.

Kevin Clunis has completed the slate of speakers for the November conference. It promises to be an excellent show. Make plans to attend.

Kevin has also offered his assistance in developing the Environmental Committee for the MGCSA.

## 12 Important Soil and Garden Benefits From the Use of Compost and Mulches Derived from Organic Yard Residues

By Robert J. Mugaas  
Hennepin County Extension Agent

### Compost as a Soil Amendment:

1. Over time, yearly additions of 1 to 3 inches of well-decomposed compost incorporated into the top 6 to 8 inches of the garden soil will create desirable soil structure, making the soil much easier to work.
2. Adding compost will increase the moisture holding capacity of sandy soils, thereby reducing possible drought damage to plants grown in these soils.
3. Compost added to heavy clay soils will improve drainage and aeration, thereby reducing potential waterlogging damage to plants.
4. Compost will increase the ability of the soil to hold and release essential nutrients.
5. The activity of earthworms and soil microorganisms beneficial to plant growth will be promoted with compost additions to the soil.
6. Adding compost will often improve seedling emergence and water infiltration due to a reduction in soil surface crusting.

### Compost as a Mulch Applied and Maintained at a Depth of 3 to 6 Inches:

7. Mulches can be used in the garden to suppress weeds by blocking out light to the soil surface where weed seeds normally germinate.
8. Mulches help reduce soil erosion by protecting the surface from wind and the impact of rain falling on the soil.
9. Soil temperatures are modified through the use of mulches by keeping the soil cooler in the summer and potentially warmer during the winter.
10. One of the biggest benefits of mulches is to significantly slow down the evaporation of moisture from the soil surface. This can be a most important function during dry periods of the year.
11. The soil environment beneath the mulch is favorable for promoting earthworm and other microbial activity which in turn helps improve soil, air and water penetration characteristics.
12. In the long run, mulches eventually rot away and, as a result, add valuable organic matter to the soil. During the summer, compost may have to be added over the original compost mulch layer to maintain the benefits of the mulch.

*For further information or questions about composting, contact your local county extension service.*



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3. **It's a Work Saver!** No more worries about wet Spring seasons and lack of Spring labor. November through January applications are made on dormant turf with no golfer interference and when the work load is light.
4. **Delivery is Prompt With Nitrogen at its Highest!** October through December are slow shipping months. Thus, rail cars and trucks can deliver promptly. The same months find production of Milorganite with nitrogen at its highest. It is not unusual to get a half percent nitrogen bonus over the guarantee of six per cent.
5. **Storage is no problem!** Unlike chemicals and some synthetic organics, Milorganite is non-leachable. Its weight and adherence qualities also make it stay in place even on severe slopes. Store your spring fertilizer on the ground.
6. **Earlier greening than with spring chemical application!** Plot work in Minnesota proves this. In one series of tests conventional applications of other nitrogen fertilizers failed to catch up with early winter applied Milorganite throughout the entire growing season!
7. **It will not increase snowmold!** In plot work, we have purposely applied the excessive rate of 200 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. with no snowmold observed. Putting greens **should** be protected with the fungicide applied dry using Milorganite at 30 to 50 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. as the carrier. This has been standard practice for many years in the north country.

### **CAUTION**

The above statements apply only to  
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excessive early growth or induce unwanted  
growth during winter thaws.



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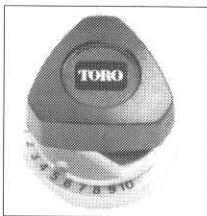


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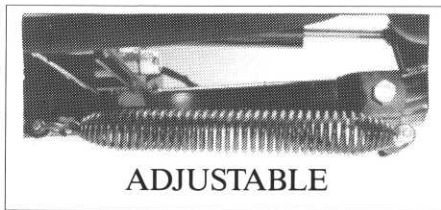
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To keep the reels down for better ground contour following, better penetration and thatch control, Toro gives you a geometrically equal cutting unit suspension design. And, a spring loaded, **Positive Down Pressure System**, adjustable at 4 positions in 8 lb. increments, helps to maintain the reels in position over varying contours. This enables you to productively mow at a faster rate, beyond traditional mowing speeds, and maintain a consistent height of cut.

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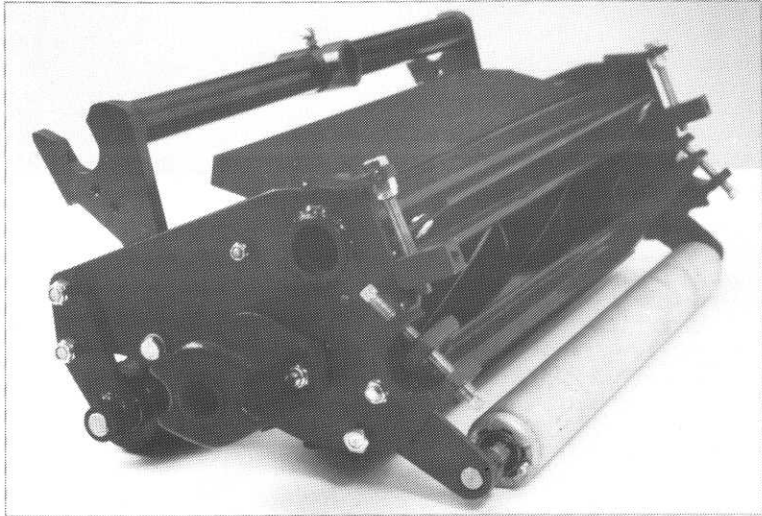
Patterned after Toro's proven Greensmaster® cutting units, these reels were redesigned to be more responsive to the specifics of fairway cutting to provide a superior quality of cut.

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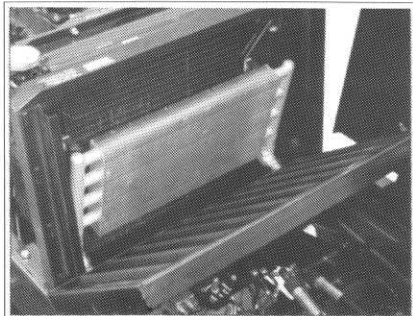
Choose either **5 or 8 Bladed Floating Cutting Units** to meet your desired height of cut range and mowing speed.

Toro recommends the 8 blade reel for heights of cut below 5/8" and the 5 blade reel for heights of cut above 5/8".

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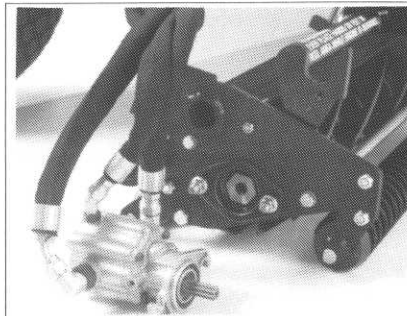


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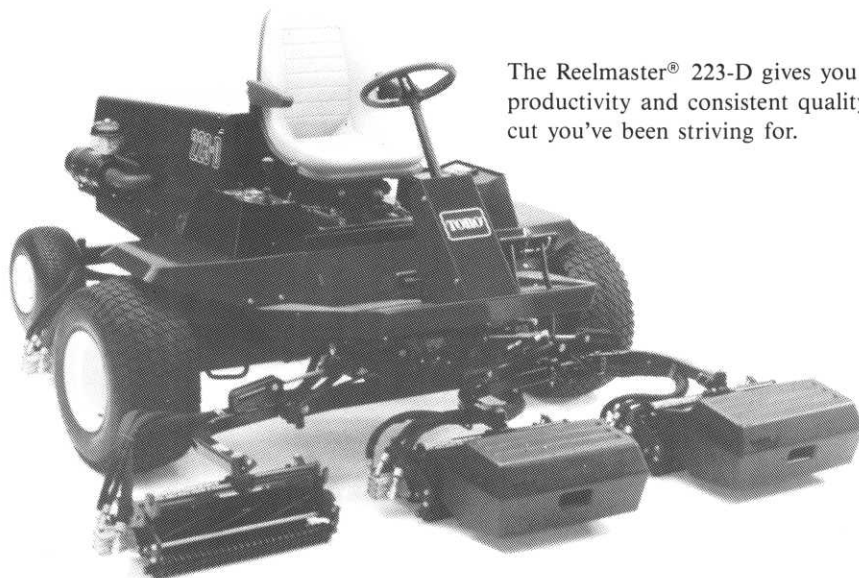
All cutting units are interchangeable, too. Just loosen two fasteners, and the hydraulic motors are quick to release.

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**Easy to handle, high capacity baskets** are mounted to the carrier frame, not the cutting units, ensuring cutting unit stability.

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**CLEARING AND GRUBBING** a year ago on the fifth hole.



Superintendent Tom Kientzle

## Roughs Seeded and Trimmed 30-40 Feet on Each Side of Fairways

(Continued from Page 5)

**By June 15, 1989, most of the clearing and grubbing had been accomplished**, and Ron Bloom, president of Fairway Architects, Inc., began directing the movement of dirt to shape the course according to Goldstrand's design.

"We grubbed out about 40 acres with the contractor's dozers and my crew working with axes and brush rakes," Kientzle said, "Obviously, it was a lot of tough work, taking about five months to complete."

Day-by-day, Kientzle said, it didn't seem as though much was being accomplished, "but, by August 1, we began getting an excellent perception of what the course would look like, and we gained a lot of satisfaction as well as pride over what we had accomplished. Reaching this point spurs one on to keep plugging away towards completion."

During the principal two years of construction and early this spring, excellent weather prevailed.

**"Because of the drought years of 1988 and 1989, we got a lot more accomplished than we anticipated,"** he said. "There were a few rainfalls that set us back a bit, particularly when we had about one inch of water in an hour this spring. Periodically, we had to do some re-seeding, and this year we had to bring in some additional sod, but, overall, the weather was much more plus than minus."

All the seeding of the rough had been completed by July, and all the greens were seeded by September, 1989.

"We had very little winter kill, and 13 greens came through exceptionally well," Kientzle said. "But we were able to take care of the other five this spring. It is remarkable to look at the greens. They look a lot more mature than one year."

Because of the dense woods and Grand View's desire to keep play moving, roughs have been trimmed and seeded 30-40 feet on each side of the fairways.

**Rather than rush into an early 1990 opening**, Grand View management chose to wait until July to open nine holes (the back nine), so that it would present a desirable appearance right from the start, and to give Kientzle and his crew the proper time to plan and prepare for course maintenance.

"I set a personal goal of having everything ready by June 15," Kientzle said. "Then we could begin developing our mow-

ing patterns and develop the correct coordination of mowing fairways, intermediate rough, the rough and greens. This is so necessary to get the job done efficiently."

He also has a similar July 15 target for the anticipated August 1 opening of the full course.

**Does Tom have advice for other course superintendents who get involved in new course construction?**

"First of all, make the most of this opportunity, often a once-in-a-lifetime situation," he said. "Then establish excellent communication with the architect and contractor, and obviously with the owner.

"Be patient, because very little is accomplished overnight.

"Be careful, because accidents can happen. We almost lost two men, one when a five-wheeler ran into the back of a D-8 dozer, and another when a tree was dropped on a power line.

"Have an excellent crew that knows full well the job ahead. I really had excellent men, who took a lot of pride in what they did!"

"And have a very understanding wife. My wife, Joyce, was most supportive." (They met when she was working on Grand View's extensive flower program and are the parents of two children.)

And now that the construction aspect of the course is virtually done, what do you think of it?

"Naturally, I'm somewhat biased," Kientzle said, "but I honestly can say there isn't a bad hole on the course. Particularly appealing to me are 12, 15, 16 and 18, but every hole stands on its own."

**Is it a tough course?**

"From the back tees, which play to 6,832 yards, it's as tough as any course in the state," Kientzle said. "But with our multiple tee arrangement, it can be interesting and challenging for golfers of any handicap.

"In addition, with the variety of trees like birch, oak, maple, Norway pines, jack pines and poplar, and with four holes having water come into play, it's really a thing of beauty. Furthermore, along the way you may see some deer walking on the fairway or some beavers and ducks in the pond on 12. Golfing here can be a very pleasing experience."