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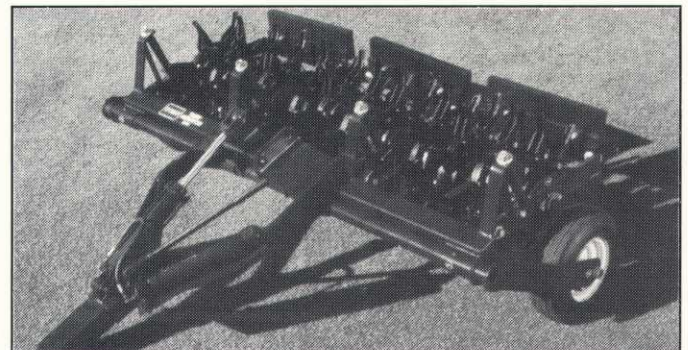
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Official Publication  
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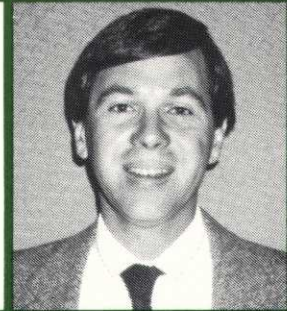
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Harold Stodola Inducted Into Hall of Fame



Great honor was bestowed upon the late Harold Stodola on July 16, 1991 when he was inducted into the Minnesota PGA/MGA Hall of Fame.

**Harold was one of Minnesota's finest greenkeepers.** He received the nickname "Hopkins Hurricane" because of his active status in the profession, serving on every committee and holding every office in the Minnesota Greenkeeper's Association between 1930 and 1942 while employed as head golf course superintendent (referred to as greenskeepers in those days) at Keller Golf Club.

Almost simultaneously from 1933 to 1940 Harold served at the national level on the Board of Directors for the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. He was ultimately elected vice-president in 1940 and president in 1941. Harold served one of the longest terms as president, holding the Association together through the war years.

In 1977 Harold was presented the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America Distinguished Service Award for his contributions during World War II to the Association and exceptional leadership qualities at the state and national levels.

Even after retiring from Mendakota Country Club, Harold still attended meetings. He spent his remaining years at Somerset Country Club, working for Garold Murphy.

**Accepting the award** for Harold were his daughter, Sally Schoettgen, and his son, Bruce Stodola. In her acceptance speech Sally said that as a little girl she remembered her dad always coming home tired, emptying the grass clippings out of his pants and never taking a summer vacation. This exemplifies the dedication Harold had for his occupation.

I am very proud to have known Harold and to have witnessed just a handful of his numerous accomplishments. Harold was a great inspiration to many young superintendents and was always willing to help someone begin the profession he truly believed in.

There are two other 1991 Hall of Fame inductees. Warren Rebholz, executive director of the Minnesota Golf Association, has done more for the game of golf than any other person in our state. Warren was instrumental in organizing the 1991 U.S. Open at Hazeltine. He also served as executive director of the MGCSA before our association established its own office.

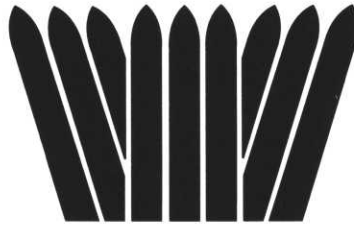
Bev (Gammon) Vanstrum is one of our state's best women amateur and professional golfers, climbing the ranks from caddy to golf champion to Hall of Famer.

\* \* \* \*

**Our next meeting** will be held on Monday, August 19, 1991 at New Richmond Golf Club, hosted by Tom Johnson.

— Tom Fischer  
President, MGCSA

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## Pinpointing Approaching Weather Can Be Most Helpful, Especially in Minnesota

Minnesota . . . land of 10,000 lakes, 50 kinds of mosquitos and some of the most intense weather anywhere.

Few places in the world can go from 110 degrees in summer to 40 below in winter and, aside from hurricanes, Minnesotans experience it all: sweltering heat to bitter cold, tornados to the Dog Days of August, floods to droughts.

"In the Twin Cities, for example, 50 days out of the year see weather which is more than just inconvenient, it's life-threatening," says Sheri Akemann, meteorologist for Total Weather, a private weather service based in Wayzata.

**The Midwest is where air masses converge.** Warm Pacific air collides with cold, Canadian air. Gulf of Mexico moisture collides with dry desert air from the west. These collisions create powerful weather systems that cover hundreds of thousands of square miles and have the potential of literally all types of weather.

"We're also a long way from oceans, which have a modifying influence, and mountains, which have a slowing-down effect," she notes. "A weather pattern, which could take 12 hours to develop along coastal regions, can spring up here in less than three hours. With the addition of tornados, hail, floods and lightning, the implications of life-threatening weather are strong."

Akemann says that "it can be essential to have good, detailed, pinpoint information for specific parts of the state or region. As a result, dozens of private weather services exist, but with surprisingly few in the Upper Midwest."

Total Weather, for example, provides tailored weather forecasts to a variety of outdoor industries, including golf courses. Among Minnesota courses using the service are Hazeltine National, Wayzata Country Club and Midland Hills.

**At Midland, Scott Austin**, head superintendent, likes the detailed, daily forecasts.

"It's another tool to use in management, especially for planning projects," he said. "The wind and rain forecasts help us determine when we should spray pesticides or fertilize. It seems fairly dependable. The severe weather notification also is important, either by phone or fax."

**At Wayzata, Head Superintendent Jim Lindblad** primarily uses the services for safety."

"I watch Channel 17, but it goes off the air at 4 p.m., and I'm not always in the office to monitor it," he said. "So I count on the service for that phone call. Earlier this summer it was sunny, and I had no idea anything was developing. They called us to let us know that heavy thunderstorms were coming so we could warn everyone."

During a typical severe weather afternoon, Akemann says that Total Weather may call a course with updates two to three times.

"We may call at noon and tell the superintendent to expect storms to hit around 5 p.m.," she said. "As the day progresses, we may call back and say to watch for storms in the next half-hour. Our service also offers two-way communication. A client may call us anytime and get specific information when he or she needs it."

A classic example was during the U.S. Open at Hazeltine in June.

**Head Superintendent Chris Hague** said he called the meteorologists at Total Weather 6-12 times a day.

"I'd start at 4:30 or 5 in the morning," Hague said. "They were very accurate with short-range weather and thunderstorms, although they couldn't necessarily tell us where lightning would strike."

"The USGA was using other sources, but by the third or fourth day they started asking me for information," Hague said. "They used what I had because it was more accurate."

Hague said the "best part of the service is the direct, one-on-one contact—right to my cellular phone. It's a great service to have, especially during critical times."

Forecasts generally are faxed twice daily to the clubhouse or superintendent's office and are site-specific in three-hour increments. Updates are faxed or phoned, as needed.

"We think the National Weather Service does an excellent job," Akemann said, "and in no way want to diminish that. However, they don't have the staff, time or incentive to personalize the information. We do and we hope that over the course of the season, we'll give our clients more accurate information that ultimately will save lives."

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Keith Faber

# Turf Tourney Nets \$3,926 for MGCSA Research Projects

Jim Jonza captained the winning team in the 5th annual MGCSA Turf Tourney conducted at 17 golf courses in the Twin Cities metropolitan area on June 21.

"The tournament had 135 players and netted approximately \$3,926 in proceeds," said chairman Rick Fr dericksen, superintendent at Woodhill Country Club.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### Southview

Jim Jonza, Ron Taber, Gene Janulis, Fred Roska . . . . . 117 (-25)

### Golden Valley

Bill Priebe, Jim Beyl, Mike Duffy, Tom Dorr . . . . . 125 (-21)  
Joel Weitz, Jon Christie, Scott Weatherby, Kevin Mather . . . . . 126 (-20)

### Woodhill

Jerry Portner, Rick Hailey, Bruce Share-it, Greg Hall . . . . . 122 (-20)

### Minikahda

Lou Berg, Jack Stassen, Scott Holgendorf, David Vogel . . . . . 126 (-20)

### Interlachen

Craig Hoff, Bob Edgar, Gary Aspenson, Pat McCarthy . . . . . 127 (-19)

### Minikahda

Butch Reber, Jim Kane, Jerry McKinney, Dennis Pille . . . . . 129 (-17)

### Oak Ridge

Gary Dunham, Marc Cabot, Donald Cox, Mike Robbins . . . . . 123 (-17)  
John Ashby, Ron Pierce, Al Werling, Mike Johnson . . . . . 125 (-15)

### Minikahda

Jim Nicol, Terry Moorehead, Rick Littlejohn, Dick Montague . . . . . 131 (-15)

### Southview

Patrick Kellington, Douglas Prodahl, Robert McDaniel, "Lou" Sutton . . . 127 (-15)

### Dellwood Hills

Perry Hanson, Terry Johnson, Randy Koenig, Tom Sokol . . . . . 129 (-15)

### Wayzata

Dave Wilson, Paul Peterson, Pat McGlune, Scott Bauer . . . . . 129 (-15)

### Oak Ridge

Russ Adams, Brad Berberick, John Vosejpk, Rich Bergwall . . . . . 126 (-14)

### Interlachen

Bob Anderson, Bill Anderson, Bill Crawford, Jeff Dobbs . . . . . 133 (-13)

### Town & Country

Bob Gerding, Bob Putnam, Bob Kroiss, Curt Cargill . . . . . 131 (-13)  
Robert Perfetti, Don Stewart, Dave Strafaccia, George Fowderulia . . . 131 (-13)

### Wayzata

Douglas Mahal, James Jennings, John Otterlei, Jeff Arnold . . . . . 128 (-12)

### Golden Valley

Scott Weltzin, Steve Fessler, Ted Weltzin, Bob Gardner . . . . . 134 (-12)

### Town & Country

Steve Wood, George Owen, Mavis Roelofs, Bernetta Huber . . . . . 133 (-11)

### Wayzata

Mike Kelly, Ted Pearson, Bill Monson, Byron Panushka . . . . . 134 (-10)

### Oak Ridge

Dave Greve, Bucky Greve, Art Dingman, John Bishop . . . . . 134 (-6)

### Woodhill

Mike Modano, Jack Rankin, Mike Monson, Dave McCarthy . . . . . 141 (-1)

### Southview

Robert Karlstrand, Mike Vacca . . . . . 148 (6)

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# Golf Course Superintendents' 10 Deadly Problems

Inability to communicate is the major sin committed by those involved in golf course maintenance, according to United States Golf Association agronomists.

Agronomist James Connolly of Wilimantic, Conn., gave a talk entitled The Top 10 Sins of Golf Course Maintenance during the recent Maine Golf Turfgrass Conference and Show in Portland.

The Top 10 list resulted from a survey of USGA agronomists conducted last year at the request of a group of golf course owners. Twelve of the 14 USGA Green Section agronomists responded. Architectural comments were eliminated from the survey. But Connolly conceded architectural shortcomings—both outright architectural errors and outdated features like too small greens or tees—were among the major problems superintendents face daily. Architectural errors would have ranked somewhere in the middle if they had been included.

The responses were regional. Western agronomists sometimes saw problems where their Eastern counterparts said none existed and vice-versa.

Just three of the top 10 sins were agronomic. Of the remaining seven, some are within the superintendent's control and others are not.

Following are the Top 10 sins with the number of votes each received in parentheses.

**1. Communications and public relations (10).** "Poor communications is probably the No. 1 fault in every industry," Connolly said.

For the superintendent it involves daily communication with staff, newsletters, playing golf with members, personal image, keeping informed on issues, handling the media and attending meetings.

It also involves communication by others, for instance club officials who may have trouble communicating their wishes to the superintendent.

"You have to listen," Connolly said, "Too often we're thinking about what we're going to ask next rather than listening to the other person."

**2. Overwatering (9).** Overwatering can result from a poor irrigation system, insufficient drainage, lack of knowledge, outdated equipment and pressure problems.

Compaction, impeded root growth, moss and algae, oxygen reductions, disease, erosion, maintenance changes, lost revenue, green speed and course closures are among the problems that can result.

"When you pump and you have that diesel engine fired up, you want to put out as much water as you can. So I can understand some of the problems in the past, but not today," said Connolly, adding that new systems help eliminate the water-while-you-can philosophy.

**3. Fast green speeds (8).** "Some of you probably immediately think USGA, USGA, Stimpmeter," Connolly said "You're right. The USGA did promote use of the Stimpmeter. Whether or not it was used properly depended on whose hands it fell into.

"The philosophy behind the Stimpmeter is sound. But we all know we all got a little crazy trying to deliver 10½- or 11-foot green speeds because of the perception that all courses had to be like those we saw on television. I can tell you that we (USGA) are more interested in environmental issues and maintaining healthy turfgrass than maintaining fast green speeds."

With environmental issues and the problems of maintaining healthy turfgrass looming, "that means only one thing, higher cutter heights," Connolly said.

The Stimpmeter was invented to check green speeds and keep them consistent throughout a course, the USGA agronomist said. The USGA recommends it be used only by the superintendent. Green chairmen shouldn't be allowed to use one without the superintendent's supervision, he said.

When the Stimpmeter was first invented in 1976, the fastest green speeds were 7½ feet, with an average range of 6 to 7½. Competition among courses and conditions at major tournament sites have fueled the engine for faster green speeds.

New equipment allows cutting heights of 1/8-inch and lower for faster green speeds. Lower fertilizer rates also lend added zip to putts.

Cutting heights are coming back up to 5/32 and even 3/16 of an inch, Connolly

said. USGA agronomists don't recommend mowing heights below 5/32-of-an-inch.

"Here's my recommendation. We change to metric and just confuse the hell out of everyone," Connolly cracked.

**4. Pesticide use (7).** A regional response. Eastern agronomists didn't see it as a problem. Westerners and Midwesterners did.

"That's a great example of how superintendents on the East Coast are more aware of the pesticide issue," Connolly said. "They take more precautions when applying pesticides and are more educated in the application of these products."

Misidentifying a disease and then applying pesticides on a panic basis was one of the concerns mentioned. Also listed were haphazard and broad-spectrum application without regard for integrated pest management as well as overmanaging with too much product to achieve superior conditions.

"I know several guys who left their jobs because they disagreed with applying pesticides at seven-day intervals regardless of what was out there. I commend those superintendents for taking a stand like that. And they've gone on to other excellent jobs," Connolly said.

**5. Continuity of club officials (6).** This included everything from being ignorant of maintenance techniques to being a constant headache.

"I know of a course where an official visited the superintendent every morning at 6 a.m. He would even come to the superintendent's house and sit there while his family was eating dinner," Connolly said.

He recommended officials spend at least three straight years on the board. Three years can be a long time with a difficult board member, the agronomist conceded. But perhaps he or she can be educated.

"It's an advantage in the long run to have people involved with what you're doing for more than one season. It's chaotic and self-destructive to have a quick change-over in these people," he said.

(Continued on Page 9)

# 10 Deadly Problems

(Continued from Page 8)

Only one agronomist said all club departments should be controlled by a general manager.

"There are very few qualified general managers who know your business and view their job as the monitoring of expenses. There are some clubs where the general manager is excellent. The Country Club of Brookline (Mass.) is an excellent example," Connolly said.

**6. Pesticide storage and maintenance bunking (5).** "Improper storage facilities are a big problem," Connolly said. "I've visited courses that have had pesticides stored in a wooden building by a stream. I said to the superintendent, 'You've got to do something about this.' He told me club officials told him to just wait until we get caught and then we'll do something."

"The mentality is just ridiculous. If you don't do something, you could be facing a stiff fine, and besides, it's just good stewardship."

**7. Tree management (5).** "Not cutting down enough trees is one of my main complaints," Connolly said.

Proper thinning, air movement and

keeping roots from competing with the turfgrass for space, nutrients and water were also noted.

All five tree management votes came from Eastern agronomists. It wasn't listed at all by those in the Midwest or West.

"They don't have as many (trees), I guess," Connolly said. "Although in the Northwest I know they have a tremendous amount."

Trees left in the wrong place, memorial trees planted here and there and trees located in the middle of a fairway affecting maintenance and playability were also mentioned.

**8. Amount of play (5).** This primarily involved too much play. Tee times from dawn to dusk simply leaves too little time for maintenance, Connolly said.

Other complaints included play beginning too early in the day, continuing during inclement weather, or lasting too late into the season. Holding too many outings for the course to handle was another concern.

**9. Labor (4).** Labor problems included too little help, lack of quality workers and management decisions to spend money elsewhere, even when the money for labor was available.

"A couple of years ago in the New York-New Jersey area you just couldn't get labor. First, we weren't offering enough money, and second, you couldn't find people who wanted to work on the golf course," Connolly remembered.

**10. Equipment (4).** This is frequently out of the superintendent's control. Some said they saw courses without enough equipment. At others the equipment was outdated. Still others had insufficient capital budgets for new equipment and lack of knowledge regarding the use or availability of new equipment.

"Of all the industries out there, golf course maintenance has to have some of the most innovative people for making do with what they have. Some of these guys take the junkiest piece of equipment and make it work. It's a compliment to the industry," Connolly said.

Sins coming up just short of the votes needed to make the Top 10 list included superintendents not spending enough time on activities other than course maintenance; inability to read soil tests; poor record keeping; inappropriately timed maintenance, and taking advice from the wrong people. —Peter Blais,

*Golf Course News, May 1991.*

## Cut Off Office Complainers

We've all worked—or perhaps still do—with people who are constantly negative about their work and their life in general. They're the employees who always see the worst side of things, who complain about how badly things are going.

They're the official pessimists, and their unhappiness can, unfortunately, spread. When it does, morale gets murdered, productivity is undermined and the ranks will start to grumble.

One way to prevent the pessimists from doing too much damage is to give them as little to work with as possible. Don't allow griping sessions to get too long, or to happen too regularly (but don't stifle them completely, either).

If you're the one being griped about, double-check to be sure you're not at fault.

And, if you're irritated about the complainers, take a quick inventory to make sure you're not leading the way.

## 1991 MGCSA Monthly Meeting Sites

Date	Location	Sponsor
Aug. 19	New Richmond, Wis. MGCSA Championship (dinner)	Polfus Implement
Sept. 16	Golden Valley/Oak Ridge Research Tournament (Dinner at Oak Ridge)	
Oct. 7	Hastings (lunch)	R & W Golf Cars
November (first wk.)	Weather permitting, golf at Mankato	
November 20-21-22	Annual Conference Northland Inn	



# Some Facts About Golf Course Impact On Water Quality

**FINDING:** Golf courses do not pose a significant pollution threat to the nation's water supplies. This conclusion is based on a review of the scientific evidence that is currently available. Neither groundwater nor surface water is threatened by golf course runoff. Further, studies show that stormwater runoff is near zero from golf courses.

**GROUNDWATER:** About half of all people in the United States depend on groundwater for their drinking water, and the figure is 90% in rural areas. Results from ongoing scientific studies show that the use of pesticides on golf courses does not threaten public drinking water. Because of the low mobility and quick biodegradation of most golf course pesticides, they simply do not reach groundwater in significant quantities.

One Environmental Protection Agency-funded study being undertaken on Cape Cod in Massachusetts provides for a "worst-case" estimate of groundwater contamination. To date, test results have been encouraging, demonstrating that golf courses and clean groundwater do co-exist.

Some experts argue that golf turf offers uniquely favorable control mechanisms to prevent groundwater contamination. Dr. Stuart Z. Cohen, a former Ground Water Team Leader for the EPA in Washington, notes that "the use of pesticides on golf courses poses less of a threat to the nation's groundwater than does the agricultural use of pesticides."

Additionally, turfgrass provides a "thatch layer" not found in row crop situations. Thatch binds up pesticide residues and increases degradation of some chemicals. Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk of Ohio State University has found that as much as 99% of recovered pesticides are found in turfgrass thatch.

In some areas, golf courses are also helping to mitigate the groundwater pollution effects of hazardous waste sites. Many of the nation's golf courses fertilize soil using sludge compost mixes prepared by urban waste recycling programs. These sludges might otherwise be disposed of in municipal landfills. Thus, potential groundwater leaching from dump sites is averted by careful community planning and recycling.

**STORMWATER RUNOFF:** Stormwater runoff from golf courses is not a significant environmental hazard. Research conducted by Dr. Thomas Watschke, a turfgrass specialist at the Pennsylvania State University, indicates that thick, healthy turf reduces runoff "to next to nothing."

An average golf course of 150 acres effortlessly absorbs 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall. Dr. Watschke finds that thick, carefully managed turfgrass has 15 times less runoff than does a lower quality lawn. As a result, almost all of the pesticides applied to the grass remain in place after peak rainfall.

Dr. Richard J. Cooper of the University of Massachusetts argues that turfgrass cover "reduces soil erosion and prevents soil and chemical runoff into water sources."

By comparison, parking lots, streets and even residential areas load nearby waters with hazardous pollutants carried in runoff from road surfaces, gutters and catch basins.

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**SURFACE WATER:** Golf courses help decrease sedimentation pollution of rivers, streams and lakes by preventing topsoil erosion. The major polluter of U.S. surface water is sedimentation from soil erosion. However, turfgrass reduces erosion, as compared to alternative land uses.

For instance, studies show that grassland experiences 84 to 668 times less erosion than areas planted with wheat or corn. Construction has an even more devastating impact on topsoil, so golf courses can greatly reduce erosion effects as compared to other land users, like shopping malls or housing developments.

Sedimentation pollution from soil erosion costs society billions of dollars in increased transportation, shipping and cleaning costs. Thus, by preventing soil erosion, golf courses serve a very beneficial societal purpose.

**CONCLUSION:** Golf courses do not threaten the nation's water supplies. Scientific studies show that pesticides used on golf courses do not seep into neighboring groundwater sources. Other studies demonstrate that stormwater runoff is greatly reduced by turfgrass. Finally, still more studies show that grassy areas reduce soil erosion, which is a major cause of sedimentation pollution in that nation's rivers, lakes and streams.

On the whole, a golf course makes an environmentally sound contribution to any community.

—CREDIT: *The Mountain State Greenletter*

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