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Drive**

Here's Why

VARIABLE REEL SPEED CONTROL matches reel speed to desired height of cut *and* mowing speed to accommodate varied turf conditions.

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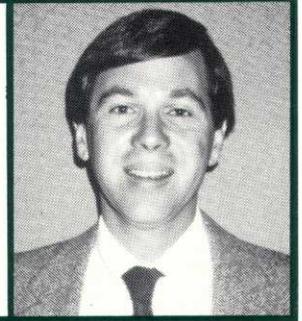
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's So Important To Keep Abreast Of All Developments



Our January meeting at Woodhill Country Club was a great time for everyone. I would like to thank Rick Fredericksen and his staff for providing food and entertainment. A special thank you to Joe Moris for setting up the ice fishing and for his successful effort in the golf club collection for our troops in Saudi Arabia.

* * * *

After attending the GCSAA International Conference and Trade Show for the past 12 years, one could ask what's new? Our industry is evolving so rapidly that a person truly cannot afford to miss attending on a yearly basis.

There are vast changes in the laws concerning right-to-know, the environment, underground and aboveground storage tanks and pesticide use and storage to name a few. I participated in a Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management seminar that was very informative. The seminar emphasized that ignorance is never an excuse for not complying with the law.

The conference talks and seminars play an important role for superintendents to keep abreast of what is happening throughout our profession. Attending the national convention is an asset to oneself.

The expense of the conference with its informative impact is minor compared to the cost of a lawsuit and/or court fees that could accompany a fine for not complying with the new laws and regulations. Our role of maintaining standards is an enormous responsibility. When it comes to protecting our environment, we need to be leaders, not followers.

* * * *

GCSAA and the USGA have helped to support numerous projects in determining if we are destroying the environment. Tests show that O₂ is created and released into the atmosphere. Soil and thatch layers filter out some of the chemicals as rain washes through the soil. These facts are good news, but more testing must be done so that this information can be applied throughout the entire U.S. and not be restricted to the Northeast.

* * * *

Please consider joining our organization at the state or national level if you are not already a member. The monies invested by membership dues reap many dividends by keeping us current with changes in the laws as well as technical data on growing turf.

* * * *

A note of thanks to Steve Garske, Dan Miller and other associate members for a fine evening of entertainment at the Las Vegas Country Club.

—Tom Fischer
MGCSA President

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Golf in the Gulf

* * * *

MGCSA 'Desert Shield' Campaign Gathers Loads of Golf Gear To Send to U.S. Troops Serving in the Middle East

It's heartwarming when a simple but thoughtful gesture can expand into a full-blown campaign to help others.

Consider the fact that the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association is now prepared to send nearly 2,000 golf balls, dozens of golf clubs and sand rakes and hundreds of cups, flags and poles to U.S. military personnel serving in the Middle East.

"And we expect even more as the spring season approaches," said Joe Moris, head superintendent at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo and chairman of what he describes as "the largest sand bunker committee in the world."

The idea for the MGCSA's version of "Operation Desert Shield" came to Moris last December when he was chatting with Joe Buege during the association's annual conference at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park.

Buege, a full-time maintenance employee at Pebble Creek Golf Course in

Becker, told Moris that he had sent a half-dozen clubs, about 50 balls and several cups and flags to Air Force Capt. James Fairbanks, an old golfing buddy. Fairbanks, an F-16 pilot, really appreciated receiving the surprise gift in the Persian Gulf theater of operations.

Moris and Cary Femrite, head superintendent at Pebble Creek, picked up on Joe's idea, thinking it would be an excellent plan to collect as much golf equipment as possible and ship it overseas.

MGCSA President Tom Fischer gave Moris the green light to chair "Operation Desert Shield" and the campaign was underway. In January the MGCSA circulated a request to its membership, requesting members to collect all the miscellaneous equipment they could locate. The initial contributions were gathered at the MGCSA's January meeting at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata.



*Cary Femrite, left, and Joe Buege
Pebble Creek Golf Course*



Joe Moris loads golf gear at Woodhill.

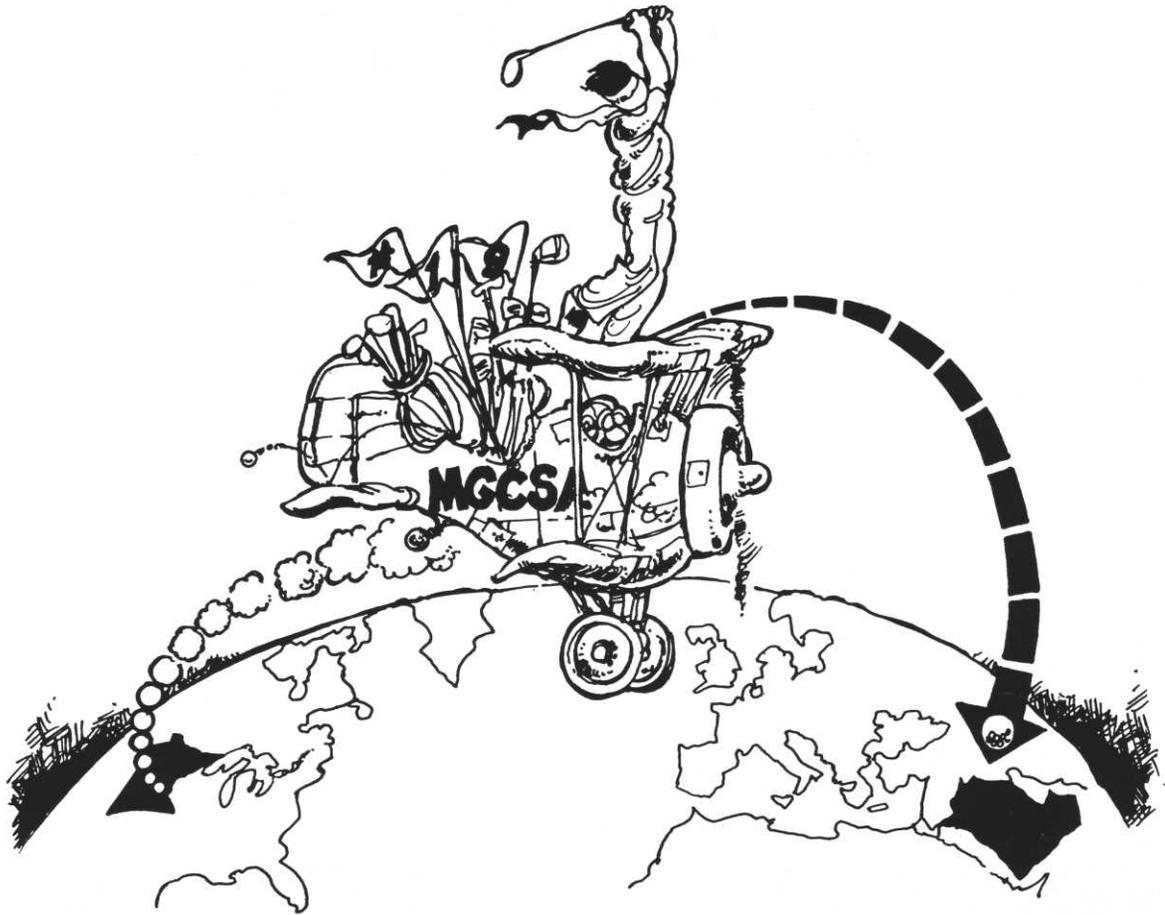
"I had no idea what to expect," Moris said. "To my surprise, the donations filled my pick-up truck. I really was excited to be a part of this operation."

The campaign gathered additional momentum when Ed Karow, KSTP-TV sportscaster, brought a film crew to Tartan Park, interviewed Moris, filmed the donations and described the unusual effort on the 11 o'clock news on January 27.

"After the broadcast I literally received dozens of calls as to where people could drop off old clubs and balls," Moris said. "I assume golf pro shops will get a good response out of this plan as well in the spring."

"We are ready to ship what we have at this time," the Tartan Park superintendent said, "but please don't quit bringing what you can to help the cause. Just call me at 612/261-4656 or Cary and Joe at 612/261-4656, and let us know what we can do, or bring what you gather to the April 22 MGCSA meeting at Owatonna Country Club."

The whole idea is to give U.S. troops some recreation. Like Joe Buege said: "Anything we can do is better than nothing."



WE WANT YOU TO HELP OPERATION DESERT SHIELD WITH GOLF EQUIPMENT

From the Midwest to the Mid-East, the MGCSA has begun an all-out effort to bring some smiles and fun to our troops in Saudi Arabia.

We want to collect as much golf equipment as we can — specifically used golf clubs, golf balls, flags, sticks, cups and tees — for use by our men and women in the world's largest sand bunker.

Please do all that you can. Ask your pro to help. Scour your shop. You'll really feel good doing it.



**THEN BRING THIS EQUIPMENT
TO OUR APRIL 22
MEETING
AT
OWATONNA COUNTRY CLUB**



The MGCSA will coordinate all that's necessary to ship the equipment to Saudi.
See you at Owatonna. . . and please come with all you can. Thank you.

—Joe Moris
Sand Bunker Chairman

If you can't make the Owatonna meeting, here are five drop-off locations.

Central

Joe Buege
Pebble Creek
Becker

North

Brad Klein
Detroit CC
Detroit Lakes

East

Joe Moris
Tartan Park
Lake Elmo

South

Boots Fuller
Mankato GC
Mankato

West

Tom Wodash
Willmar GC
Willmar

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For healthier, better-looking turf, **DEEP** aerify!

WHEN YOU NEED DEEP AERIFICATION

THINK FIVE STAR!

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Keith Faber

Making Turf Conditioning Work for You

The greens conditioner has helped superintendents worldwide develop faster, healthier putting surfaces. But those who haven't tried it may wonder what it does and what benefits it provides.

The Turf Groomer, the original greens conditioner, was developed and patented by superintendent Larry Lloyd to improve the playing surface of greens. Jacobsen Division of Textron later purchased exclusive rights to the patented device.

Regular use virtually eliminates grain, helps control thatch, smooths out irregularities on greens—ball marks, old hole placements, etc.—and makes grass plants stand up for more consistent putting. The greens conditioner also allows a higher height of cut. In some cases, superintendents have gone from below 1/8" without the conditioner to 3/16" with it and maintained the same ball speed.

The higher cut gives the plant more leaf surface allowing it to perform photosynthesis more easily and develop a deeper, stronger root system. In addition, the plant is more heat and disease resistant and stands up to traffic better.

The greens conditioner also allows the reduction or elimination of other potentially harmful methods used to increase greens speed. Besides lowering cutting heights, superintendents top dress, vertical mow, roll, and reduce water and nitrogen application to make greens faster. Some of these methods stress the grass, raising the potential for disease and plant death.

Many of the benefits once limited to greens are now possible on fairways with the introduction of the fairway conditioner. In addition to grain and thatch control, and deeper roots, fairway conditioning (used in conjunction with lightweight mowing) promotes a lush, dense growth of grass that gives the golfer a better lie.

In the South, the fairway conditioner controls Bermudagrass runners, making grass plants stand up for a more consistent surface. On bentgrass, the fairway conditioner controls grain and promotes dense growth.

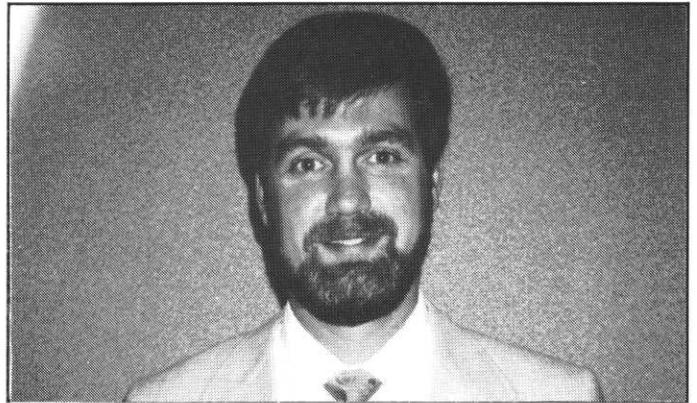
Since lightweight mowers can collect clippings, poa annua and other undesirable fairway grasses can be better controlled because many of their seedheads are removed before they can spread. The fairway conditioner continues that cleaning process, removing seedheads, worm castings, small leaves, twigs and other debris from below the cutting line for cleaner turf.

PROPER CONDITIONER USE

Before using it regularly on greens, try the conditioner in an inconspicuous area. Set the blades at bedknife level (referred to as the zero setting) and make a few passes. Note the results and gradually lower the conditioner's blades until you reach a height of cut satisfactory to you.

After careful testing, you'll be ready to use the greens conditioner on a regular basis. Use it three times a week if you plan to use an aggressive (lower) setting (more often if you use a less aggressive (higher) setting). It is recommended that you don't go more than 1/16" below your height of cut. In most cases, the height setting should be between zero and 1/16".

For fairway conditioning, start with the conditioner set at about 50 percent of your cutting height. If your cutting height is a 1/2",



Dan Miller

then set the conditioner a 1/4" below the bedknife and work down from there. Because the grass on a fairway is less dense than on a green, you need a lower setting to get results.

Keep in mind the conditioner will send more material through the reel and bedknife when you first start using it. But, as the turf becomes conditioned, the need to sharpen reels and bedknives will decrease.

FINDING THE RIGHT CONDITIONER

Important features to get when buying a conditioner include:

- **Roller/knife design:** the roller should stand grass blades up and support them. The knives should then rotate through the roller slots to cut them, the basic premise of conditioning. A roller and blade design that doesn't do this is of little value.

- **Durability:** fairway and greens conditioning units see some demanding use. Look for a conditioner with solid, well-constructed parts—a substantial front roller, strong cutting blades, and a sturdy metal frame to join the attachment to the mowing unit.

- **Strong, protected belt drive system:** the drive system should have a strong belt, protected by a sealed housing.

- **Protected bearings:** roller and blade shaft bearings should be protected by reliable seals with grease fittings for lubrication.

- **Compact rollerbase (distance from the center of the conditioner's front roller to the center of the cutting unit's rear roller):** the closer the conditioner is to the cutting reel, the better it will follow the contour of your turf and give a consistent cut.

- **Easy cutting height adjustment:** a way to easily raise or lower the conditioner is important. You should be able to lift the blades completely out of the way so grooming can be skipped when so desired. A method to "fine tune" cutting height, preferably without tools, is also desirable.

Greens and fairway conditioners deliver healthier turf and a better playing surface. They've become important tools for superintendents.

—Dan Miller
North Star Turf, Inc.

MGCSA Mini-Seminar, Pesticide Applicator Training Scheduled at Northland Inn March 20-21

A pair of two-day seminars—the first sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the second by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association—will be held Monday through Thursday, March 18-21, at the Northland Inn and Executive Conference Center in Brooklyn Park.

Leading off is the GCSAA Seminar, which will focus on "Public Relations and Public Speaking" on March 18-19.

Heading the program, which is one of CGSAA's newest and most popular management seminars, is Dr. Bree Hayes, a counseling psychologist and organizational consultant at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Hayes says that "it's critical for superintendents to present the best possible image." She teaches practical skills in public relations, emphasizing the art of public speaking, addressing the media through news releases and public presentations, and the principles of crisis management.

Interpersonal relations skills and creative ways to promote your club also will be discussed.

Take-home reference material and luncheons on both days are included in the registration fee of \$180 for GCSAA members and \$210 for non-members. GCSAA also will award 1.4 Continuing Education Units and a certificate of achievement to seminar participants passing the examination at the conclusion of the seminar.

Seminar registrants are eligible for the special \$80 single or double room rates at the Northland. For additional information call 1-800-472-7878 or fax 913/841-2407.

On Wednesday and Thursday the MGCSA will present its two special programs, according to Shane Andrews, Hudson Country Club, chairman of the Education Committee.

The Wednesday session will feature five top-flight speakers, led by keynote speaker Dr. Clinton Hodges, who will present a "Micro-Biological Update" and discuss "Root Disfunction and Root Born Pythium."

(See complete program below.)

On Thursday the Pesticide Applicator Training will be held for the only time

during 1991. Previously this program was held in conjunction with the MGCSA's annual conference. Now it will be held in March in succeeding years as well.

"Getting certified this year on March 21 will certify participants for the year 1992," Andrews said. "In effect, we will be nine months ahead in each session."

Pre-registration fee for each of the sessions is \$35. Persons may register for either or both. The cost will be \$45 per session for registering at the Northland.

Announcements and pre-registration forms for the two events were mailed to MGCSAA members in mid-February. If you have any questions or you desire a pre-registration form, call Andrews at Hudson Country Club (715/386-9262) or the MGCSA office at 612/473-0557.

Deadline for pre-registration is March 11, 1991.

MGCSA MINI-SEMINAR

MARCH 20, 1991

- 7:30 - 8:55 - Registration
- 8:55 - 9:00 - **Tom Fischer**, CGCS, President MGCSA - Welcome
- 9:00 - 10:00 - **Dean Herzfeld**, Asst. Ag. Extension Agriculturalist, MN Extension Service
"Risk Perspective and Education"
- 10:00 - 10:15 - Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 - **Dr. Clinton Hodges**, Iowa State University
"Micro-Biological Update"
- 11:00 - 12:00 - **Dr. Don Taylor**, University of Wisconsin at River Falls
"Soil Water and Golf Green Construction"
- 12:00 - 1:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:45 - **Dr. Clinton Hodges**, Iowa State University
"Root Disfunction and Root-Born Pythium"
- 1:45 - 2:00 - Break
- 2:00 - 3:00 - **John Hester**, Marketing Manager Wilbur-Ellis
"Storage Rules and Regulations"
- 3:00 - 4:00 - **Robert Warwick**, Consultant, Cottage Grove, Minn.
"Wetland Plants"

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

MARCH 21, 1991

- 7:30 - 9:00 - Registration
- 9:00 - 9:05 - **Tom Fischer**, CGCS, President MGCSA - Welcome
- 9:05 - 10:00 - **Wayne Dally**, MN Dept. of Ag.: "Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Storage and Transportation, Decontamination, Disposal, Record Keeping, People and Public Relations, Special Concerns."
- 10:00 - 10:15 - Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 - **Dean Herzfeld**, Asst. Ag. Extension Agriculturalist, MN Extension Service: "Label and Label Comprehension, Protective Clothing, Hygiene, Poisoning and First Aid."
- 11:00 - 12:00 - **Craig Sallstrom**, MN Plant Food and Chemicals Assn.: "Employee Rights"
- 12:00 - 1:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:45 - **Jack True**, University of Minnesota: "Pesticide Safety, Environmental Considerations, Equipment and Calibrations, Calculations and Application Techniques"
- 1:45 - 2:30 - **Harvey Buchite**, Anoka County Extension Service: "Weeds and Weed Control"
- 2:30 - 2:45 - Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 - **Phil Larsen**, Dept. of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota: "Turf Diseases and Control"
- 3:30 - 4:15 - **John Barten**, Water Quality Manager, Hennepin Park District: "Aquatic Weeds and Control Methods"

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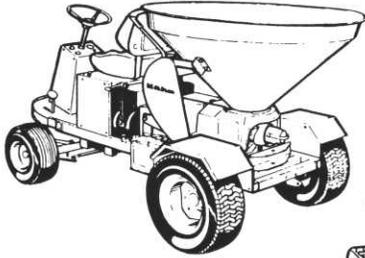


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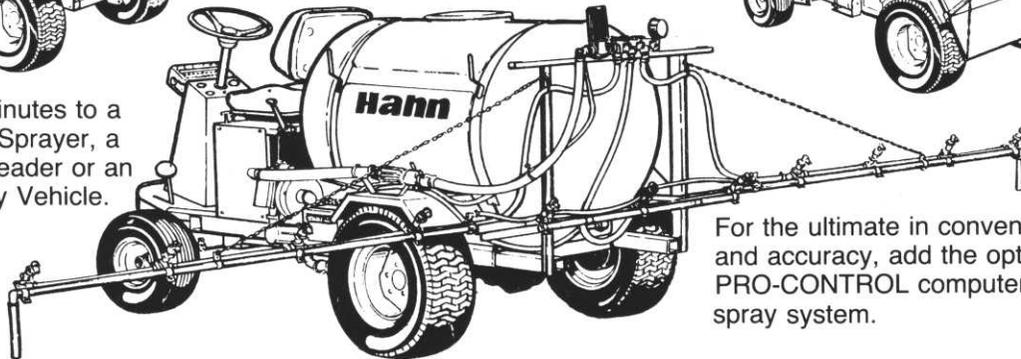
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