

TURFGRASS BENEFITS

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ECONOMIC BENEFITS

In addition to the benefits of above and below ground environmental modifications, turfgrasses and lawn areas also provide various forms of direct economic benefits to both the individual and community. One of the more important economic benefits is the added value to a business or residential site. It has been reported that a healthy, well-maintained lawn can add as much as 15% to a homesite's value. Or, another way of looking at it is that the recovery value for lawns and landscape investments is 100% to 200%. One report indicates that a well-maintained landscape adds 6% to commercial property, which also plays a role in helping sell the property.

As was mentioned earlier, controlling runoff into our lake systems helps slow down the process of eutrophication as well as decreasing the number and intensity of algal blooms. Turf plays a significant role in preventing run-off, consequently reducing clean-up costs which are often borne by the lake association residents and/or tax-payers generally. Thus, there are some indirect economic and improved water quality benefits associated with maintained lawn and turf areas.

Other turfgrass economic benefits include increased employment opportunities and creation of jobs, generation of tax revenue and generation of recreation revenue which may be used in the community or is donated to local and national charities. Well-maintained turf athletic fields provide a greater cushion effect for athletes, potentially reducing the number of injuries and costs associated with their recovery. The establishment of turfgrasses can be accomplished almost instantly through the use of sodding. Consequently, the environmental benefits and economic benefits begin almost immediately once the sod is installed. Once established, most lawn areas do not require intensive management to be healthy and competitive thus reducing resource inputs to that site.

63rd GCSAA Conference

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Collier Township, Pennsylvania, received the award. The next awards to be handed out were for the chapter publications produced by GCSAA-affiliated chapters. Also announced during the awards ceremony were winners of the GCSAA's second Turfgrass Students Essay Contest.

Now came the highlight of the evening, the keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw. Terry gave an inspirational, motivating, humorous and family-oriented talk. Listening to Terry and watching him act out the roles of being a quarterback, being a color analyst and, most of all, being a family man was inspiring. Terry suggested that the priorities we keep and how we keep them are important goals in our lives.

On Friday the concurrent sessions took place. Among the most widely-attended session was the session with Jay Feldman, coordinator of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Victor Kimm of the EPA and John Stossel of ABC-TV's 20/20. During the course of the debate, sounds of dissatisfaction were heard among the crowd of more than 1,000 who had gathered to hear these talks. After this spirited debate was another full afternoon to take in several topics

AESTHETIC BENEFITS

Aesthetic benefits are also important, not only to the community but the individual as well. It should not be considered some sort of misaligned desire on the part of an individual to establish and care for a nice lawn area on their property. After all, a person's gardening desire to grow a bountiful vegetable or flower garden is no more or less appropriate than an individual's desire to have a nice lawn.

Trees and shrubs provide the green vertical dimension in landscapes. Lawns provide the carpet on which these plantings lie. A well-maintained lawn creates an inviting view for passers-by and supplies the perfect backdrop for other landscape elements. The grassy areas confer coherence to the landscape by pulling the design together. Through mowing, lawns can be maintained at relatively uniform heights. This is often viewed as adding a sense of harmony to the landscape setting.

Lawns and landscapes also contribute to what might be termed therapeutic value to humans. That sense of having some nature around often has a somewhat settling effect on an individual's outlook and attitude. This may also contribute to physiological well-being through stress reduction and relaxation. In addition, lawn care practices help promote good health by providing opportunities for exercise such as walking, bending and lifting. The softer, resilient cushioning attributes of turf allows outside activities to be safer and more enjoyable. With the advent of various nature enhancement programs becoming available to golf courses, users of golf courses can enjoy an enriched natural environment while also enjoying their game of golf. This hopefully will involve even more people, young and old, who may use the opportunity to play a round of golf as an *excuse* to take a "nature retreat" at the same time.

As such, we have many things to be positive about our turfgrasses and turfgrass management practices to counter the many different "turf bashing" perceptions that are around us. Being responsible turf managers and sensitive to environmental concerns when caring for our turf areas will go a long way toward building a positive image for turf and the turf industry.

via the concurrent sessions.

With the opening of the trade show scheduled for Saturday morning — and remembering just how big it really is — a thought comes to mind — good walking shoes. Walking the entire trade show in one day probably will qualify as an Olympic event in the near future, but, for now, look at it as a chance to ask the serious questions to the manufacturer of either new equipment or to see what is on the horizon in the forms of new plant protectants. This year a lot of credit should go to Steve Garske, Dan Miller and John Wiley for organizing the hospitality night at the Hotel Royal Sonesta I even heard that they had ordered the weather for the evening. The food and the people in attendance at the open air courtyard lent to a very special evening. About 200 members attended this function.

Sunday morning at the Hilton, the delegates' caucus took place to decide who the MGCSA would support for the upcoming GCSAA election. Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, of Woodhill C.C., and Jim Nicol, CGCS, of Bunker Hills G.C. were the representatives sent to the election. Adding input to the meeting were Bill Johnson of Edina C.C. and Tom Fischer, CGCS, of Edinburgh G.C.. Joining the meeting was Paul McGinnis, CGCS, of Union Hills C.C., Sun City, Ariz. —Dale Wysocki, Editor

ELM CREEK—

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All the seeding was done between August 15th and September 5th. We seeded the fairways with a mixture of 25% Touchdown and 25% Banff Bluegrasses along with 25% Fiesta II, 12½% Dasher II and 12½% Blazer II Perennial Ryegrasses. This blend was chosen because of its rapid development, aggressiveness, dark green color and ability for low mowing heights and wear resistance. We dragged the fairways first with a harrow and chain link fence weighted down with logs. I seeded with a Lily Cyclone spreader attached to a Ford 2000 model tractor with PTO. We were seeding at 150 pounds per acre.

Next we used a 3½ x 10-foot roller to smooth and cover the seed. We contracted with a mulching company to throw straw over all the seeded fairways and roughs. The roughs were seeded with a 35% Common Kentucky Bluegrass, 15% Park Kentucky Bluegrass, 40% Creeping Red Fescue and 10% Perennial Ryegrass. All the tees were seeded with the same mixture as the fairways.

October brought more construction work to the project. Four holes from the

existing land had to be altered or changed. The second green was taken out and remade next to an existing pond. This made room for a new par 4 third hole which had been a par 3. Twelve large Spruce, Arbor Vitae and Pines were transplanted from our nursery area into or along this third hole to protect the golfer. The 12th hole was changed by placing a new tee on top of a hill overlooking the 12th green. The 18th hole was the most difficult to reconstruct. We took out a number of large deciduous trees and leveled the banks along Elm Creek to create a most spectacular hole.

The great Halloween blizzard in late October really helped insulate the newly germinated fairways and greens. Over 10,000 sq. yards of Baron Kentucky bluegrass sod was laid in October on numbers 3, 12 and 18 fairways, and around the second green because of change and re-routing. The snow will help compact the sod, and the seeded areas will have a tremendous head start for spring growth.

These new additions and changes will be a great boost to our business. The 23 acres of new land expansion has three of the four new greens. The new 13th

hole which is a 630-yard, par 5 and the longest par 5 in the state has a rather small green of 3,200 sq. ft. Next comes number 14 which doglegs left around the new 5-acre pond to a double-tier green 4,500 sq. ft. An elevated tee is featured on the next hole, where the golfer can see a beautiful view of water and fairway all the way to the 15th green which measures 5,400 sq. ft., snugly bordering the pond. These are magnificent holes and should challenge even the best of golfers.

We are anxiously awaiting the upcoming season and look forward to seeing the results of our work.

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THE TALE OF A WANDERING MALLEHEAD ... and why to use over-sized ones

By Thomas M. Kientzle, CGCS, Superintendent of The Pines, Grand View Lodge, Nisswa

An unusual story developed on The Pines in 1991.

A 4" main broke on June 18th by our second tee, and because the pipe wasn't lined up right during installation we dug to shut off five valves to isolate the break. Then we glued on the coupling and were in the process of putting approximately 8' of pipe and a compression coupling.

I wanted to hit the 4" into the coupling with a block of wood and a hammer when I noticed there were some burrs on the pipe. I sent Jay Chaney back to get a block of wood, a hammer and some sandpaper. Well, he came back with those items, but the sandpaper was around a small block of wood to use to hold the sandpaper and a rubber mallet hammer.

It wasn't exactly what I wanted, however, we were in a hurry and didn't want to go back to the shop. Jay and I prepped and glued the 4" line to go into the coupling, and we had Jeff Warrick with the rubber mallet going to beat the 4" into the coupler.

We got everything lined up and pushed the 4" into the coupler and had about 1/2" to go, so we told Jeff to hit the 4" with the hammer until it was on all the way. He hit the pipe three times and on his fourth swing I heard a "Oh, _____!"

We looked back, and here is Jeff with the double-ended rubber mallet hammer missing one of the mallets. We weren't sure where the mallethead went, so while the glue was drying, we

dug in the mud hoping to find it. We turned every bit of dirt from the trench inside out looking for it...but to no avail.

Then we started searching below the pipe in the trench, sifting through the mud. We couldn't find it there either. Then we got a mirror and a light run by a generator to try and look back up the pipe, but we couldn't see anything. So we let the glue dry and then went to open a valve to try and flush the 1 1/2" mallet head out of the pipe.

We opened valves on either side of where we were going to put the compression coupling to try and flush the mallet head out. Neither direction worked, so we put the compression coupling together and buried the trench. That was June 18th.

On August 10th I noticed the aprons of #14 green were starting to purple. All the other aprons looked fine, and, on inspection, we found we had no water to the green. The quick coupler in front of the green worked fine.

We dug up the valve, turned the water off and cut the pipe between the quick coupler and the valve, and, yep, you guessed it, the rubber mallethead fit snug in the 1 1/2" gate for the green.

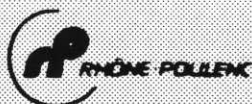
Well, for you who have played The Pines, you know how far it is from #2 tee to #14 green—probably 1/2-mile by pipe. And why did it show up 54 days later on a Saturday?

Superintendents' tip of the month: Use oversized mallet heads.

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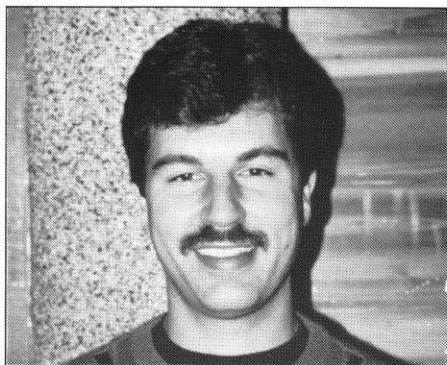
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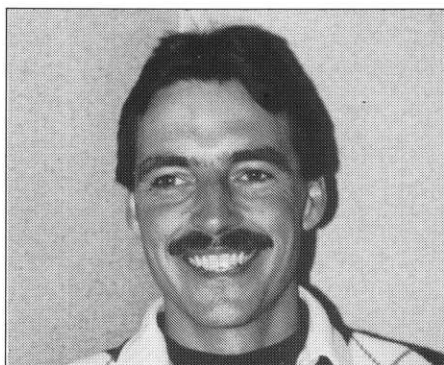
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Who Has Influenced Your Career the Most and Why?



KELLY JOHNSON
River Oaks Golf Club
Cottage Grove

"Dr. James Love, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. Dr. Love was my soils professor and academic advisor at Madison. Dr. Love's interest and care for each of his students was invaluable. His advice kept me focused on my turf degree and my career. He influenced many of his students this way."



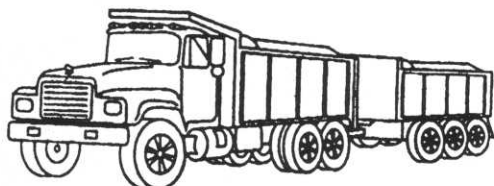
JOHN KATTERHEINRICH
Interlachen Country Club
Edina

"A greens chairman in Florida named Jim Pangburn. He took a chance on me at Lost Tree where I was assistant at age 23."



STEVE HAMELAU
Alexandria Golf Club
Alexandria

"My first step onto a golf course was in 1971 when Gerald Ross, superintendent of a municipal 9-hole course hired me as his assistant during my last summer at Iowa State University. He instilled in me the love and dedication for this type of work and helped me get a job as superintendent of a nearby 9-hole country club the following year. Gerald died two years later from a heart attack while mowing greens but I've never forgotten him nor the real reasons, after 21 years, that I'm still stepping onto a golf course each day."



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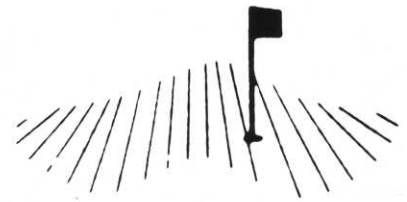
Steve CadenelliPast President
 Gary Grigg, CGCSDirector
 Charles Passios, CGCSDirector

Environment and Government

(Continued from page 4)

in Minnesota, but it will be soon. The reasoning behind this move is that it is a positive outlook to our association. By complying before the law tells us to is a good public relations move. There currently are some generic signs that are made up to use, or there are signs on which you can write daily messages concerning pesticide applications. The choice is yours, but do it so it makes all of us in the golf business proud.

— Kevin Clunis



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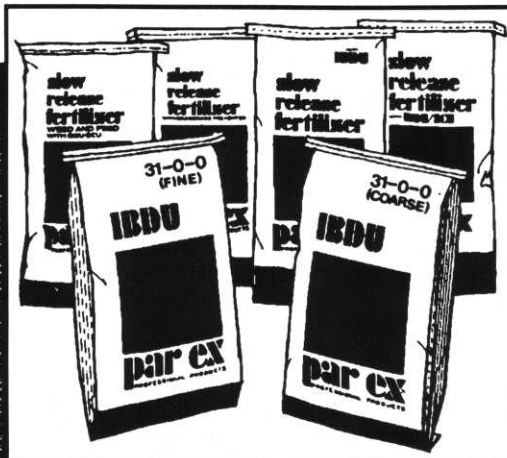
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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



The Izaty's meeting held on January 13th was a great success. Fifty-four comrades in turfgrass management attended to swap stories about the quickly approaching golf season, what the family did over the holiday season and the most famous story about the monster walleye that got away. Many thanks to the fine staff at Izaty's for letting us use their fine facility.

* * * * *

With spring just around the corner and with our thoughts turning towards staffing our maintenance crews and setting attainable goals for ourselves and our golf courses, have we thought of how we communicate our ideas to our staff or of the policies that are set forth by our individual golf courses? It may be late winter, however, and as we know that we are also personnel managers as well as turfgrass managers, maybe it is a good idea to put together a book of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for our staffs. If our staffs know what is expected of them and know how to do a task properly, it could lead to a smoother running season.

* * * * *

With thoughts of spring also come thoughts of MGCSA monthly meetings. Our monthly meetings are an important part of our association. We get together to listen to an educational speaker, get a chance to view and operate equipment and see what's on the forefront regarding safe pesticide handling or storage. We get to talk to the superintendent just down the highway, and maybe you will just pick up a new idea for your golf course or how you maintain your equipment.

When you decide that you are going to attend one of the MGCSA monthly meetings **PLEASE** pre-register. Pre-registration assists the Arrangements Chairman (Bill Whitworth) in ordering the correct amount of meals and setting up golf events. It helps him stay organized.

When pre-registering, please fill out the form correctly, enclose a type of payment (check) and send the form to the MGCSA office. A form sent without a check will not be considered proper pre-registration nor will calling in your pre-registration. Now to make sure that you get your pre-registration well enough in advance, Bill Whitworth has said that the pre-registration forms will be mailed out from the MGCSA office at least 30 days prior to the event. Together we can make our monthly meetings a stellar success.

* * * * *

The distribution of the December-January issue of *Hole Notes* was not acceptable to the membership. Members residing on the East Side of St. Paul did not receive their copy of *Hole Notes* on time.

In most cases it was 10 to 14 days late, and in some cases it did not arrive with the inserts that were put into it. This was not the case of *Hole Notes* being mailed out in shifts. The

newsletters are mailed out together. The publication will be bundled differently with a second-class mailing permit affixed to it. The tardiness of *Hole Notes* should not happen again.

* * * * *

One thousand pardons to James Gardner of Rochester Golf & Country Club for omitting his name off the Board of Director roster on page 3 of *Hole Notes*. Jim was elected to the Board during the November Annual Meeting.

* * * * *

Esther Senneseth, spouse of Herman Senneseth, passed away in January. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Herman in this very difficult time.

* * * * *

Christmas was very special for Scott and Lisa Ann Austin. William Eli Austin became a special gift, with his delivery on Christmas Day at 5:18 a.m. Congratulations!

* * * * *

Turf Supply Company welcomes Dale Parske to its staff as a sales representative.

* * * * *

Lapel Pins may be purchased by contacting Mike Olson at Golden Valley Country Club.

* * * * *

Final thoughts: There are times when the day looks bleak. It could be brought on by how we look at things. Do we look at everything with a negative "down in the dump" syndrome or do we pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and accept the challenge before us? Remember that how we act under stress affects those around us, and frankly there isn't a challenge that a golf course superintendent can't defeat. Let's make 1992 the best year ever.

* * * * *

On behalf of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Hockey Club, we would like to thank the following Associate members who made it possible for us to get together during the winter. Thanks to Tom Haberman and Butch Greeninger of MTI Distributing; Dale Parske and Tom McCann of Turf Supply Company and Steve Garske of Par Aide Golf Products. Thank you, gentlemen.

—Dale Wysocki

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