

TEE TALK

By
Scott Turtinen
Executive Director, MGCSA



If you haven't paid them yet, your MGCSA Dues are past due.

* * * *

The Garske Scramble at Rochester Golf & Country Club went extremely well. Thanks to James Gardner for a great course to play.

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The Stodola Research Scramble flyers will be in the mail August 10th. This event will fill up quickly.

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Be sure to look for Susie Fobes' wildflower experiment between Wayzata Country Club's 15th and 16th holes while at the MGCSA Championship on August 8.

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Our condolences go out to Blair Hawkins whose mom passed away on June 10th.

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The 1994-95 Membership cards will be a little different this year. They will be a plastic card with embossed lettering. We ordered them from a company in Florida and hope to get them back by August 10th. We will mail them to the membership upon receipt.

* * * *

To help familiarize your way around Wayzata Country Club's course at the MGCSA Championship, I have jotted down a few thoughts about each hole.

No. 1, Par 4, 400 Yards — The fairway bunker on the left takes about 210 yards to carry. The fairway slopes left to right. Favor the left side and keep your second shot below the hole.

No. 2, Par 5, 483 Yards — Play your tee shot just left of the fairway bunkers unless you can carry the ball 245 yards over the middle of the traps. The second shot requires more placement than length. Play it short or right of the bunker short of the green. If you feel you can fly that trap, go for it.

No. 3, Par 4, 374 Yards — It takes 230 yards to fly the fairway bunker on the left. Any tee shot straying to the right will have tree trouble. It's best to stay below the hole on your approach.

No. 4, Par 3, 172 yards — Severe slopes on a large green. Long putts with a lot of break are common.

No. 5, Par 4, 425 Yards — The fairway bunker takes 240 yards to carry, but there is a small pond about 20 yards beyond. You're better off playing to the right of the bunker. Stay below the cup if the pin is back.

No. 6, Par 5, 499 Yards — The pond has a carry distance of 250 yards. Hit two good shots down the fairway and you'll have 120 yards to an elevated green.

No. 7, Par 4, 385 Yards — Tight driving hole with willow trees on both sides. The second shot is uphill and requires a little more distance than the yardage markers indicate. Big green.

No. 8, Par 3, 134 Yards — Large green with many greenside bunkers. Go for the pin.

No. 9, Par 4, 432 Yards — Sharp dogleg to the left. It's 235 to the top of the hill. You can hook your tee shot more than it looks. Second shot is downhill to a large green. Stay short of the pin and don't miss the green to the right or it will bounce out-of-bounds.

No. 10, Par 4, 418 Yards — Long, flat hole along Wayzata Boulevard. Stay in the fairway and knock it on the green and there should be no problem.

No. 11, Par 4, 382 Yards — Tight driving hole with out-of-bounds to the left. It takes 235 to carry both fairway bunkers. Elevated green that's faster than it looks.

No. 12, Par 5, 500 Yards — Dogleg left over a pond that takes 260 yards to carry. Small pond on right comes into play on second shot. Severe slope to the green. Stay below the cup.

No. 13, Par 3, 178 Yards — Large green with bunkers on both sides. Watch your alignment off the tee because it points you into the right bunker.

No. 14, Par 4, 361 Yards — Dogleg right with a tight driving alley. Fairway bunkers are 240 yards straight out. Big stickers can fly the trees. It takes 235 yards and a high tee ball.

No. 15, Par 5, 500 Yards — Long hole with a creek running up the right side. Fairway bunkers on the left come into play on the second shot and the fairway bunker on the right is 30 yards short of the green.

No. 16, Par 4, 394 Yards — Great driving hole from an elevated tee box. The creek on the right is 280 yards away. Out-of-bounds on the right and lots of trees on the left. Large green that breaks more than it looks.

No. 17, Par 3, 165 Yards — Tee shot is downhill and plays a half a club less. Difficult pitch if you fly the green. Out-of-bounds to the right.

No. 18, Par 4, 420 Yards — One of the best finishing holes in the state. Long dogleg right to an elevated green. The first set of fairway bunkers on the right takes 245 to carry. Trees line the right side. Stay left of the pin on your approach.



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The Northern Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Project

Serving the Needs of the North

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi

The Tao of Turf

UW-Madison; Horticulture

Perspective

As I mentioned in an earlier article, where I elaborated on the meaning of my by-line, I am a native New Yorker. I moved from the metropolitan New York area for college in 1980 and except for a few summers and my two years at the Greenwich Country Club in Connecticut (1984-86), I have been away for over 12 years. As I have traveled and lived in Rhode Island, Upstate New York, Michigan and now Wisconsin, I have always sensed a resentment of the east. For awhile this was puzzling to me; however, now I have an idea what it stems from.

This past winter as the north central U.S. was in the deep freeze, recording temperatures in the 20 to 50 below range, the New York metropolitan areas was getting about 12 to 20 inches of snow in several storms. Being confined to the house for a few days when my daughter was off from school due to the weather, I watched some of the national news programs on TV. It became obvious to me that the weather in the eastern U.S. took precedence over the rest of the country. The newscast spent about 20 minutes of a 25-minute newscast on the "terrible storms hitting the eastern U.S." What about the north Central U.S., I wondered? Is something only a news story when it happens in New York? I began to resent the notion that the east is where the news is at and I believe at that moment I became a Midwesterner (still a New York sports fan).

In the golf course management arena, the same story applies. The winter of 1992-93 was devastating to our region, yet, did *USA Today* do a feature story on it? No. Then, this past winter of 1993-94 major winter kill hit many golf courses up and down the east coast and as far west as Pittsburgh, Penn. It seemed that every week *USA Today* had a story in the sports section regarding the "great winter that struck golf courses." And as we might expect, it was almost exclusively the annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass that was killed. Thankfully, we recognize the importance of avoiding high populations of ryegrass on our golf courses.

As a result of the kill back east my phone rang for a while as I'm sure Dr. John Robert's did. I was happy to help in any way I could, especially since we have begun our research investigating the mechanisms of winter kill. to address the "forgotten needs" of our northern turfgrass managers, the UW-Turfgrass Group has begun a research project in the Northwoods (above 45° latitude). The Northern Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Project would be designed to serve the turfgrass managers in Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. And we don't need media attention to do it!

The Project

As a result of the location of the UW-Madison and the O.J. Noer Turfgrass facility, it is difficult to mimic conditions experienced in the Northwoods. Additionally, it is challenging to conduct research projects that require highly controlled conditions and regular environmental monitoring. Therefore, the first few studies in the Northern Project will include turfgrass species and cultivar evaluations and low-temperature disease management (specifically the snow molds). We have selected the Gateway Golf Course in Land 'O Lakes, Wis. (formerly Stateline, Wis.) on the Michigan-Wisconsin border. Todd Renck is the golf course superintendent and part owner. Gateway was selected for the location with the primary requirement being a commitment for 10 years to allow the plots to be maintained.

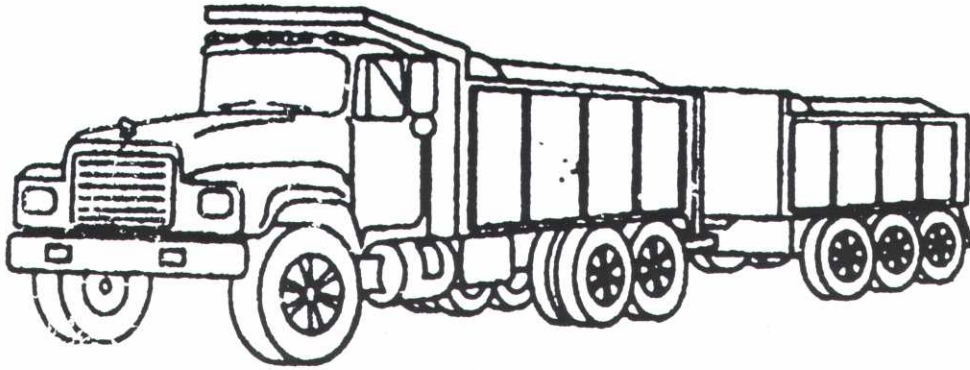
The other significant aspect in the planning of the Project was to garner support for the use of a putting surface for green research. Plans are underway to construct 5,000 to 10,000 ft² of additional putting green area at Gateway for projects such as the influence of traffic and management systems on putting green quality.

The Studies

The first experiment installed was the Northern Fairway Turfgrass Evaluation. This study includes 75 species and cultivars of turfgrasses with potential for use as fairway turf. The majority of the species (60) are part of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Fine Leaf Fescue Trial. The NTEP trials are conducted throughout the United States and Canada and are funded through the USDA and seed companies. We have included nine selections from a turfgrass breeder in Sweden, as well as several other species including *Poa supina*, commercially available Kentucky bluegrass cultivars that have performed well in our fairway trial in Madison, and some experimental fine-leaf fescues from Medalist America and Dr. Eric Nelson's breeding program. The trial is part of No. 2 fairway at Gateway and will receive typical fairway maintenance practices including traffic and divots from golfers.

Our objective is to evaluate the use of fine-leaf fescues and other alternatives to bluegrass for fairway turf in the north. The motivation behind evaluating these grasses emanates from my interest in the use of the fine-leaf fescues on golf courses. These grasses are able to provide good quality under lower fertility than the bluegrasses (e.g. 2# N/M/year vs. 4# N/M/year) and usually tolerate poor growing conditions including dry or wet and shady. Additionally,

(Continued on Page 24)



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What It's Like to Grow Up On a Golf Course

By Jeff Johnson
New Richmond Golf Course

I started going to the New Richmond Golf Course with my dad, Tom Johnson, when I was three years old. I would ride around on his lap while he mowed greens. He would send me to go and carry the flag off the green so he could mow. I was so small that I wasn't strong enough to carry the flag off; I had to drag it. When he got done mowing, Dad would send me to put the flag in the cup. He would always tease me and say that it was crooked, so I would run back, take it out, and put it back in again. Dad would say, "that's better."

As I got older, I was too big to ride on his lap, so I would run along with him until he taught me how to drive a cart. He usually wouldn't let me drive it by myself though. I liked to help him change cups more than riding around on a greens mower. I could help him do more things that way. I would pull out the cup and set it in the new spot. As I got older, he would teach me how to change cups. It was only a couple of years ago that I was strong enough to do it myself.

Last year Dad taught me how to rake bunkers with the



Jeff Johnson

bunker rake. I like raking bunkers because I love the way the bunker looks when I'm done (I also like to drive machinery).

Through the years, Dad taught me how to drive pretty much every piece of machinery, even though I wasn't old enough to use them yet. I haven't learned how to mow greens even though I know how to drive the greens mower.

Other things my Dad taught me about the golf course are types of grass, diseases, minor work on machinery, a little programming on satellites and how to be kind to golfers and other workers. I really appreciate my dad teaching me all these things and making me feel like I'm a valuable employee!

This year since I'm 14, it's been different for me because I'm old enough to be on the payroll instead of working full-time for no pay.

If I wasn't working for my dad this summer, I would sure like to work for Joe Moris!

P.S., Thanks Dad!!

Watch your mail for more information or call Jim Vaughan (612) 924-2565 who is coordinator of this year's event you won't want to miss this Expo!

— Brad Pedersen

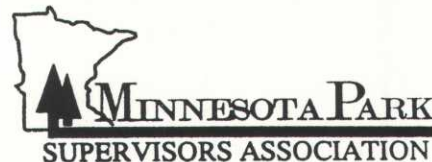
Grounds and Facility Training And Equipment/Product Expo '94

I would like to again remind you to mark your calendar for August 3rd and 4th. These are the dates of the **Grounds and Facility Training and Equipment/Product Expo '94**. Boy! what a mouthful, but what an event!

As you probably know, this is the first major event co-sponsored by the *Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF)* and *Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA)*. We need your participation to make this first event a success and get the MTGF off to a good start. Participation is the key word. Bring your assistants, mechanics and technicians. Consider bringing other commercial and recreational turf people from your area.

This professional gathering will include a variety of educational, training and demonstration opportunities as well as equipment and products common to parks, cemeteries, universities, public school systems, lawn care companies, turf producers, forestry departments, public works and golf courses.

The site of the Expo, Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, is beautiful, spacious and centrally located, with easy access to major freeways (Hwy. 110 and Interstate 35E). Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.



MPSA / MTGF EXPO

EXHIBITOR SETUP

Tuesday, Aug. 2
11:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.

EXPO OPEN

Wed., Aug. 3 and Thurs., Aug. 4
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Forest Ridges 18-Hole Championship Golf Course Now is Open at Lakewoods Resort & Conference Center in Northwestern Wisconsin

The "North Nine" of the Forest Ridges 18-hole, championship Golf Course opened July 23, according to Phil and Kathy Rasmussen, co-owners of Lakewoods Resort, Lodge & Conference Center on Lake Namakagon in northwestern Wisconsin near Cable.

"We started in 1989 and now it's a reality," notes Phil Rasmussen.

"The golf course was designed, not only for unusual natural challenges and pleasure on all golfing levels," the Rasmussens note, "but for the opportunities to experience the expansive natural beauty and wildlife for which our area is famous—deer, eagles, wildflowers, sparkling water, wetlands, birds, Lake Namakagon and, of course, the forest itself."

Because of its adherence to environmental and wildlife preservation standards, Lakewoods' Forest Ridges has been approved for membership in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The 18-hole course comprises 6100 yards, with 4 tee positions, 3 water holes, 11 carries, 30-foot cleared roughs, and has a separate teaching center and pro shop, as well as driving range, putting green and bar and food service facilities. Golf pro on the premises is Ken Ellsworth. Tee times and other reservations are recommended, by calling 715-794-2561.

GCSAA Makes Donation To USGA Research Program

During one of golf's most important events, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) made an important contribution to the game of golf.

At a VIP reception during the 1994 U.S. Open, GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, donated \$25,000 on behalf of the association to the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Environmental Research Program.

During the donation presentation, Baidy said, "As we all know, golf is facing heightened environmental awareness from the media and the public. This awareness is creating concerns that influence the management of our existing courses and the development of new ones. The issue of golf and the environment is extremely vital to the future of the game. The results from the USGA's Environmental Research program should provide a better understanding of how golf courses can minimize their effects on the environment, as well as give golf a solid foundation for future research. Through this donation, GCSAA is proud to be a part of these efforts."

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The "South Nine" will open in late September, say the Rasmussens. For further information on the new Lakewoods Forest Ridges Golf Course, contact Lakewoods Resort & Conference Center, phone 715-794-2561.

Accepting the donation for the USGA was Thomas W. Chisholm, member of the USGA Executive Committee and Chairman of the USGA Green Section. "The work being done through the USGA's Environmental Research program will go a long way to ensuring the environmental safety of our golf courses. The generous donation from GCSAA will go a long way to seeing that the work gets done," he said.

The reception, attended by GCSAA members, allied golf association officials and media representatives, was held Friday, June 17 at Oakmont Country Club, site of the 94th U.S. Open. Oakmont's golf course superintendent, Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, and his staff were the guests of honor at the reception.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 13,700 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to advance the profession, promote the image of its members and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

Nine More Holes Added to The Pines

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Course Superintendent Tom Kientzle, Staff Had a Busy Year

One would think that building an additional nine holes after you've gone through construction of the original 18 should be a lot easier for a golf course superintendent.

Not necessarily.

Six years ago Tom Kientzle, head superintendent at The Pines at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, was involved right when construction started on this championship layout.

"It was a tremendous experience and one that all golf course superintendents should have at some stage of their careers," Kientzle said, "and what I learned as far as working with the architect and contractors, reasonable timelines for various segments of construction and being familiar with the countless details that had to be pursued was of considerable help."

But, on the other hand for Kientzle and his staff, there still were all of the responsibilities of making certain the original 18 was maintained properly. That, in itself, was a challenge, primarily because of the heavy demand for tee times as well as several special competitions like a Minnesota Golf Association tournament, the Camp Confidence Classic, special media events, junior college tournaments and others.

This heavy use was what led to Grand View Lodge's decision to build the additional nine holes (now known as the Marsh Nine) two years earlier than planned.

"Fortunately, I had a lot of good help from our capable crew," Kientzle said. "So many of them were familiar with what we went through with the earlier construction and, of course, they were very knowledgeable about how to maintain the original 18."

Construction of the Marsh Nine—which weaves around an attractive but challenging marsh on a couple of holes—began early last year with clearing and grubbing. During the summer, greens and fairways were shaped, and seed was planted.

"By and large the weather cooperated splendidly, and the new greens and fairways came through the winter in good shape," Kientzle said. "This Spring we completed the final touches, then had a couple of trial weekends of actual play to see where any changes might be made. Overall, everything went smoothly."

Designed by Joel Goldstrand, the St. Louis Park, Minn., golf architect who did the creative work on the original 18 holes, the Marsh Nine resembles its forerunners (now called the Lakes and Woods Nines) in several respects. But it also has some distinct differences.

Built on similar rolling terrain through a forest of pines, birch and maples, the Marsh Nine also has four tees on each hole.



Signature Hole
Par 3 Fifth on Marsh Nine

Yardages range from 2594 yards (red tees) to 3073 (white), 3230 (blue) and 3423 (championship) for a par 36, generally the same distances as the Lakes and Woods Nines.

"The overall atmosphere is much the same, and that's what we wanted to accomplish," said Kientzle. "There are some broader vistas, some of the greens are more undulating and some of the hills are a tad steeper.

"It will take a couple of years, like the original course, to obtain desired maturity, but we're most pleased with what we've accomplished thus far," he said.

Now it remains to be seen if the Marsh Nine will gather the acclaim that the first 18 did. And that's quite a challenge.

After all, The Pines has captured several honors:
1991—Named one of the top five new resort courses built in the United States;
1993—Rated the No. 1 public golf course in Minnesota;
1994—Ranked as Minnesota's fourth best course;



New Pines Clubhouse

1994—Captured a 4½-star rating in the 1994-95 edition of *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" and selected in the top 35 courses in the United States and Canada. Only six other courses received 5-star ratings.

But early reports on the Marsh Nine are favorable: Conversations with several persons who participated in the "trial events" indicate that it's probably the toughest of the three nines, has several challenging holes and an attractive signature hole (the par 3 fifth) and, in several instances, more trees come into play.

Another new feature at The Pines is its two-story, three-winged clubhouse, which has an unusually attractive new pro shop, a bar and grill, a dining room, men's and women's lockers and a huge deck that overlooks a continually running waterfall alongside the ninth hole of the Woods Nine (formerly the 18th hole of the old course).

"More and more people are now recognizing that our new clubhouse is open to the public to purchase golf equipment and apparel in the pro shop," said Mark Ronnei, Grand View's general manager. "In addition the public can come for breakfast, lunch and dinner and can schedule meetings or weddings or other social events."

With approximately 6,000 square feet of space on two floors, the building also has a huge storage area for carts on the lower level.

Among those particularly pleased with the new clubhouse is Kevin Cashman, head professional: "Our new pro shop not only allows us to order and display much more merchandise, but now it's easier to register golfers and direct them to our three nines as well as other clubhouse facilities."



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