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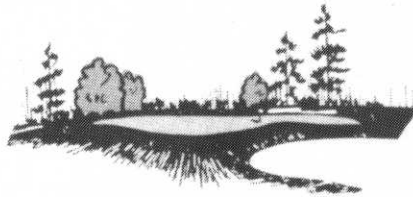
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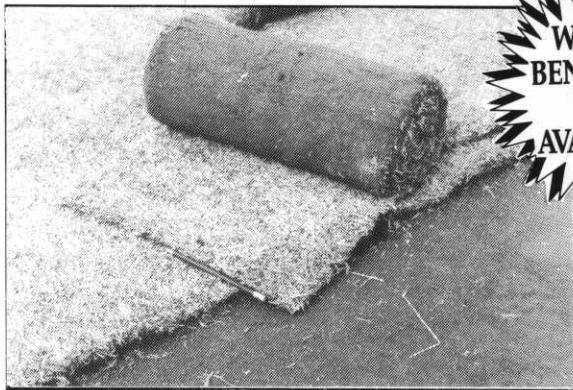
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MGCSA Visits the Land Of the Jolly Green

By Dale Wysocki, Editor

The forecast was for sunny conditions with winds out of the northwest. And yes, it came true — perfect conditions for the May monthly meeting at LeSueur Country Club. Host superintendent Rick Hoffman arranged for an immaculate golf course and a perfect day.

Eric Opsal, president of Mankato Golf Club, instructed 92 members on the timing of requesting items to make your golf course and facility better. Maybe the item will be an easier item to obtain.

Directly after Eric's informative talk, President Joe Moris informed the attending membership about the upcoming event at Camp Snoopy on November 12th to the purchasing of MGCSA's windshirts.

Check Signature's Joe Check donated three Turf Check Height of Cut measuring devices. Thanks, Joe!

Onward to that challenging game of golf. Precisely at 1:00 p.m., groups headed out to the assigned holes and teed it up. Once again during the round, the mysterious "Red Baron" did three circles around the golf course and headed northwest. While most golfers were observing the "Red Baron," a few golfers were getting ready to write their names on the skill posts.

Tom Lynne soon will be writing a book on "How to Sink the Long Putt." Cory Naumann will be challenging John Daly to a long drive contest while Todd Severud defines his perfect golf swing — showing us how accuracy counts!

The visit to the Land of the Jolly Green was a great time for all who attended!



MASTER OF THE LE SUEUR GREENS is host superintendent Rick Hoffman.



BUSINESS WAS BRISK
at the registration desk



GUEST SPEAKER
Eric Opsal

Tao of Turf —

(Continued from Page 17)

I made it through my formal education and became an assistant superintendent in Greenwich, Ct., at one of the original dozen golf courses in the USA, an old Seth Raynor design. There were over 70 golf courses in a 10-mile radius! I lived in a converted office trailer behind the maintenance shed and for two years ate, drank and slept that golf course. Our membership was paying between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year to play golf and they demanded championship conditions on a daily basis. Because I was a golfer, I lacked some general perspective to the job. My passion was the piece of land and all that made up the beauty of the course. I believe now that it was at this point in my career I knew I wanted to help golf course superintendents, who struggled with their love for the land and the needs of the golfer. Off to grad school I went, and I began to view this profession in a different light.

Northern Golf Courses and the Tao of Turf. I left the east coast three years ago and thoroughly enjoy being a Northern Midwesterner. The pace of life seems slower, and I think expectations on our golf courses are more realistic. Still, many superintendents are under pressure to provide championship conditions and experience many feelings I am familiar with. Yet, the Tao of turf management in the north seems more at peace than in other places I have visited. Many of you enjoy the great outdoors and understand the balance of things in nature. I find many people with healthy skepticism of management fads, relying on proven technology. I might call this a more conservative way, but I still see new technology experimented with, facts sought out investigating the technology and a clear goal in mind when integrating the technology into the management system. Reading over back issues of *Hole Notes*, speaking at the Turf Conference and knowing several of you, I think I've got a feel for the audience.

My colleagues and I at the UW-Madison are committed to providing the turfgrass industry in the Northern Midwest with the facts about new technology (grasses, fertilizers, chemicals, equipment, etc.) and their integration into existing management

systems. We operate as a team that relies on the expertise of each scientist to address specific aspects of a project.

My intention is to provide you with information regarding the work on-going at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility and throughout the region. For instance, my graduate student will be starting his Ph.D. research with winter injury this year. We hope to find some mechanisms of how the plants are killed and possible management systems to avoid injury. Still, specifics aside, my hope is to be an objective resource for turfgrass managers who care for the land. For me, the Tao of turf for golf course superintendents is a desire to maintain a balance among the environment, the people, and the game. Here we go. . .

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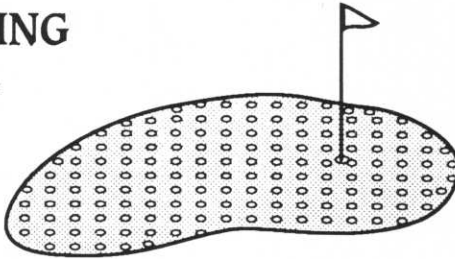
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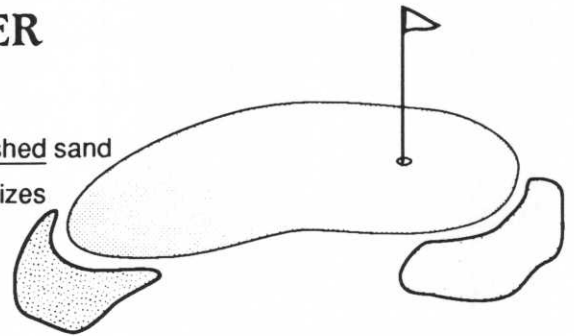
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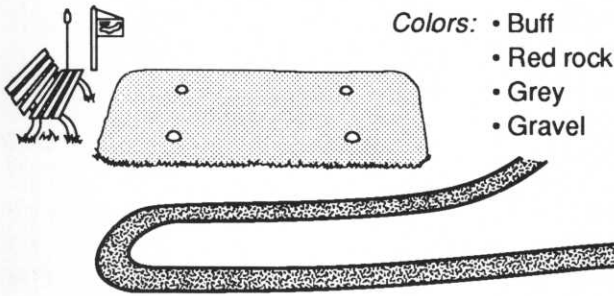


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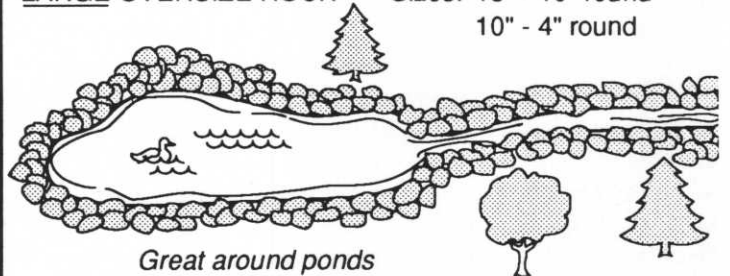
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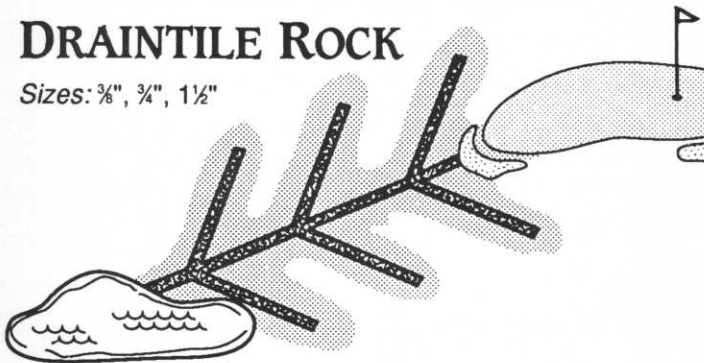
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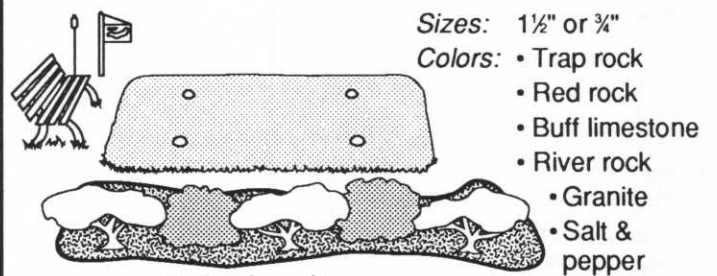


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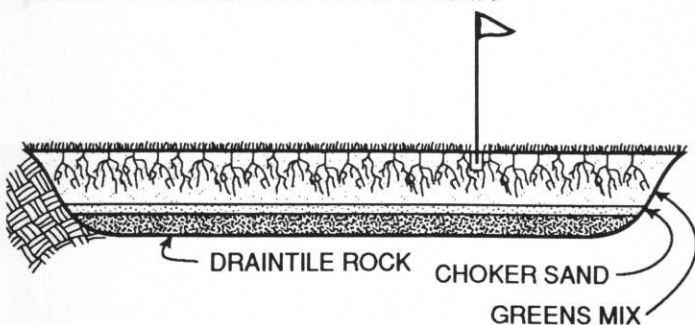
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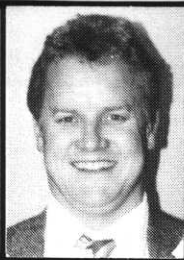
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TEE TALK

By
Scott Turtinen
Executive Director, MGCSA



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The MGCSA now is offering its members the opportunity to purchase these cards with the two-color MGCSA logo on them at a reasonable price.

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* * * *

At this writing, the usually popular Turf Tourney has less entrants than it did a year ago. Going into the final third of May, we had 28 groups involved, compared with 45 a year ago.

If you haven't got a group together yet, or can encourage others to participate, please do so now. There's still some time before the June 17 competition at several good courses.

* * * *

Wonder what happened to former Links of Northfork superintendent Paul Mayes? Well, he wrote us this short note from Japan.

"If anyone wondered what ever happened to me, I was hired by a company in San Francisco to be a consulting superintendent in Japan. My family and I plan to stay in Japan from two to five years. At that time we will decide if we will stay overseas or return to the states. It is very exciting here. This will open many doors of opportunity for my career in the future. We will return each year from mid-November to after the GCSAA national conference.

"We plan to spend much of the time in Minnesota. I wish to continue to be associated with the M.G.C.S.A. If the education committee would like, I would be happy to discuss my experience in Japan at the state conference. If anyone is interested, there are many opportunities for golf course superintendents in the Far East. This is not goodbye, but a short interruption with my fellow members in Minnesota. I have enjoyed my experience and contact with all the members of the M.G.C.S.A. Hope to see you at the state

or national conference."

* * * *

Research donation invoices have been sent to all members and to clubs which presently don't have superintendent members. Any help you can give the clubs and our association in raising money would be greatly appreciated.

* * * *

The 1994-95 dues statements have been mailed. Don't forget they are due by June 30th

* * * *

Tianna Country Club is in Walker, the site of our next MGCSA meeting on June 13. Leech Lake is nearby. Might be a good time to try and net some muskies or walleye or whatever. Have a great summer season.



JOE MORIS
Superintendent

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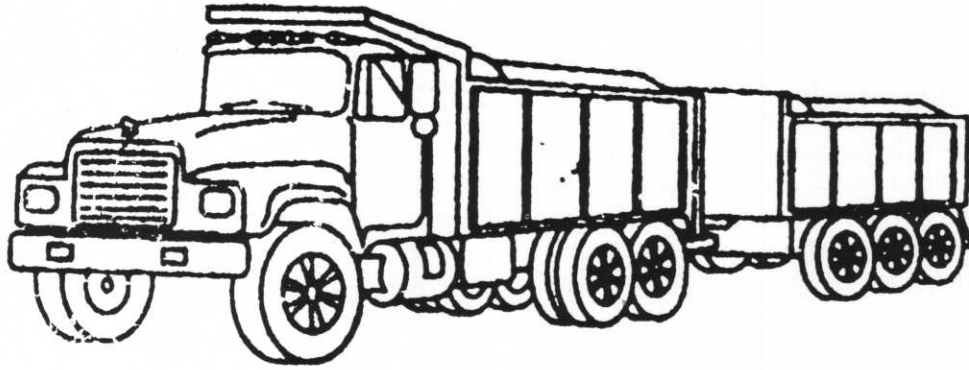
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Thunderstorms/Lightning

Did you know that the average annual death toll for lightning is higher than for tornados or hurricanes? The Environmental Science Administration estimates that there are some 1,800 thunderstorms over the earth's surface at a given time and that lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second. Voltages required to jump the gap between the earth's surface and a cloud formation can be upwards of 100 million volts. A lightning strike may have peaks of current exceeding 200,000 amperes. Persons struck by lightning can receive both severe electrical shock and burns. Generally lightning will strike the tallest objects in the vicinity first. Therefore, it is important, if caught outside in an electrical storm, to avoid being next to tall poles or trees or making oneself the tallest object, such as is the case when in a boat on a lake or out on a golf course.



MGCSA PRESIDENT JOE MORIS shows good form chipping onto the green.

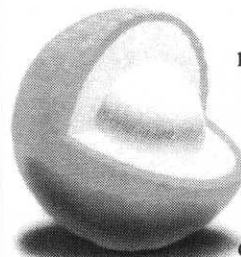
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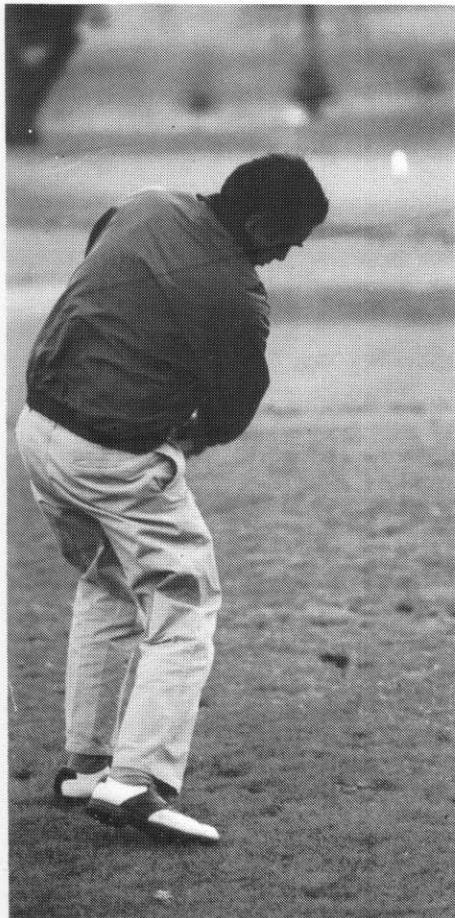
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U of M Update

By
Bradley Pedersen
University of Minnesota



1994 MTGF/MPSA Grounds and Facility Training & Education Expo

Please mark your calendars for either Wednesday, August 3rd or Thursday, August 4th, 1994. These are the dates for the 1994 MTGF (Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation) and MPSA (Minnesota Park Supervisors Association) cosponsored Ground and Facility Training and Education Expo. This year's event will be held at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights. The Expo will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and feature dozens of exhibits, as well as educational sessions and demonstrations. This year's event has been planned with all commercial and recreational turf, grounds and facility management in mind. Additional information will follow in next month's *Hole Notes*.

Spring Plant Problems

As usual, for a wet and cold spring, we have been hearing from you about other-than-turf related plant problems. Cindy Ash, extension educator and associate professor, is one of the University of Minnesota's resident plant disease experts. She has the following information and suggestions to share with you.

Evergreen Problems

Evergreen trees and shrubs in Minnesota have experienced several problems this spring. One of the problems, winter injury, has been showing up since January. The tips and most exposed portions of the needles turn a dull green to yellow, then brown or reddish. Damage may be worst on the south to southwest side if the sun is the principal incitant or on the north to northwest side if wind desiccation is involved. If the tree went into the winter season stressed for moisture the discoloration may be occurring around the entire plant.

If you noticed that pine shoots, especially on Austrian pine, were turning brown and dying last year before the needles fully elongated, then you may have Sphaeropsis (Diplodia) shoot blight. Tiny black fungal fruiting bodies on the base of the needles and on the two-year old cones will confirm this diagnosis. Two applications of Bordeaux mixture should be applied this spring to protect the new succulent needles.

Cystospora canker is caused by a fungus which invades and kills weakened branches on spruce trees, primarily blue spruces. At first the needles on infected branches turn rust or purple in color all the way to the tip of the branch. Then they drop off. Excessive amounts of bluish-white resin is eas-

ily seen dripping from the bare branches. Fungicides are not effective or necessary as this fungus is a very weak pathogen attacking only declining trees. Remove infected branches during dry weather.

Rhizosphaera needlecast is another fungal disease which attacks stressed spruce trees at any age, especially those receiving insufficient water. However, this fungus infects only the needles, not the branches, resulting in needle discoloration and loss when 2-3 years old. The overall pattern on the tree is one of excessive discoloration and loss of the inner needles, especially towards the bottom of the tree. Inspection of the needles with a magnifying glass reveals tiny black fruiting bodies on green and brown needles. This disease can be brought under control by applying a fungicide containing the active ingredient chlorothalonil in the spring according to label directions AND by reducing stress, especially drought stress.

Wet Springs Favor Anthracnose

Extended periods of cool, wet weather favor a group of leaf spotting fungi which cause anthracnose on ash, maple, sycamore, walnut, burl and white oak. Leaves can become infected anytime after budbreak if moisture is present. Infected tissue develops spots the size of a pin head to large blotches an inch or more in diameter. Infected leaves may be shed from the tree rather suddenly or shrivel up and remain on the tree.

If anthracnose is present for several seasons, it can weaken a healthy tree, making it vulnerable to insects and other diseases. Defoliation of an already weakened tree can further reduce plant vigor.

Generally, fungicides are NOT necessary to control anthracnose, but may be applied to prevent further damage to stressed trees. Bordeaux mixture, mancozeb and chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787) are labeled for certain tree species. Check product labels to see which are labeled for the tree species you need to treat. To be effective, fungicides must be applied in the spring before infection occurs.

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