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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Stodola Scramble A "Soggy" Success At Hazeltine National



The 10th annual Harold Stodola Research Scramble has come and gone for another year. Kevin's preliminary results look very good for the research account.

As far as the weather goes I really had very little to do with it, but I am a somewhat traditional person, so I did accept the rain as we have had on eight of the 10 research scrambles to date.

Patty held us up until 1:30 due to lightning. By the way, it did strike a large oak tree early in the morning. The weather changed, and she turned us loose to a very beautiful, wet golf course. The carts were making tracks but I am sure the process of recovery will be fast. I hope!

* * * *

The president of your association has a line expense for the annual board appreciation party. This year however we are going to do things a little differently. We are still going to have a party, but all you members and families are invited. It is going to be held at the Mall of America in Camp Snoopy, Saturday, November 12th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served, picnic lunch that is. Ride tickets will also be issued for children.

There will also be an 18-hole mini-golf tourney. Please come to Camp Snoopy and celebrate a very successful year. This will also give you a chance to thank your board members for all their hard work in 1994. They will be easily identified with their green blazers and name tags.

All of this will be for the regular monthly cost of \$15.00 per family. Remember, this is the November meeting.

For anyone wishing to spend a night in the area, get your reservations very soon.

*Your President,
Joe Moris*

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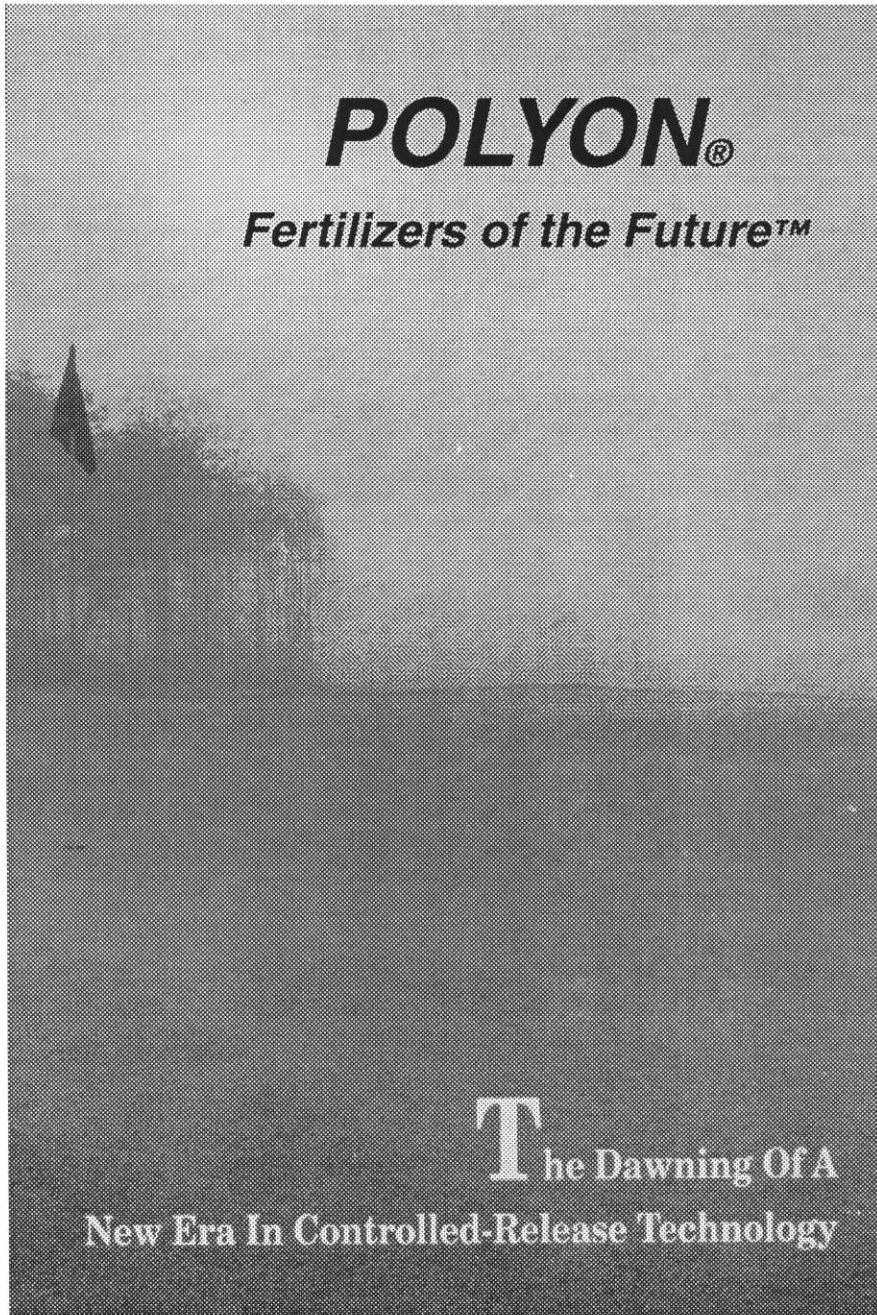
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Five Students Receive Stodola Scholarships

* * * *

* * * *

Each Has Excellent Academic and Work Record

Five turfgrass students who have been working at Minnesota golf courses have been awarded the 1994 Harold Stodola Memorial Scholarships.

Two attend Penn State University and the others are at Michigan State, Iowa State and Riverland Tech in Rochester.

The recipients, home towns, courses at which they've most recently worked at and the schools they are attending are:

Mike Brower, Minneapolis, The Minikahda Club, Penn State;

Jeffrey Kolodjski, Wyoming, North Oaks Golf Club, Iowa State;

James Schmitz, Rochester, Rochester Golf & Country Club, Riverland Tech;

Eric Sundet, Eden Prairie, Interlachen Country Club, Michigan State;

Theresa Vyskocil, Shakopee, Hazeltine National Golf Club, Penn State.

"All of these students have excellent recommendations from their advisors and their superintendents," said Monty Montague, Turfco/National Mower, Scholarship Committee Chairman. "Moreover, each has better than a 3.0 GPA cumulative."

Other members of the MGCSA Scholarship Committee are Co-Chair Jeff Churchill, North Star Turf; Tom Johnson, New Richmond Golf Club; Dale Wysocki, Faribault Golf & Country Club; Mike Olson, Golden Valley Country Club, and Butch Greeninger, MTI Distributing Co.

Each of the students received \$1,000 grants.

Mike Brower, 35, was graduated from Worthington High School in 1974, attended the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse in 1981, has worked in golf course management for 20 years and, since 1983, has been an assistant golf course superintendent at Minikahda.

He has been an active member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association since 1987. Brower returned to college at Penn State last year "to increase my knowledge in turfgrass management, enabling me to be more successful in my profession and to enhance my opportunities for career advancement." He has a GPA of 3.91 at Penn State where he is scheduled to graduate next March.

Said Doug Mahal, head superintendent at Minikahda: "Mike is truly an outstanding assistant superintendent in whom I place large responsibility, trust and respect. I consider him top-notch superintendent material right now and admire his decision to enroll in the Penn State program to broaden his technical skills."

Brower's initial interest in golf came from his father "who

began teaching the game to me at the age of five."

"As a young golfer," he said, "I quickly developed an interest in the nature of work involved in maintaining a golf course."

He hopes "to become a superintendent in Minnesota, to continue to teach and lead others, to learn from others and to provide input to my professional associations."

Jeff Kolodjski, 22, was graduated from Forest Lake High School in 1992, attended Anoka Ramsey Community College for one year, then transferred to Iowa State where he plans to graduate in the Spring of 1996.

He worked at Viking Meadows in Cedar for three years, then at North Oaks for the past summer.

"At age 16, when I began my first job on a grounds crew, I soon realized that there is a definite science to be learned and applied to manage a golf course properly and ethically," Kolodjski said. "It was a lot more than just watering and mowing, so I felt challenged—challenged to learn this science, a science I learn more and more about day after day at the course and in the classroom."

He chose turf management as his major because "I enjoy aiding my superintendent in tackling the daily challenges—from analyzing turf diseases to delegating jobs to other crew members. I really enjoy working and interacting with people."

From his college education he expects "to acquire the knowledge to back up hands-on experience I am currently gaining on the job." He has a GPA of 3.03 at Iowa State.

"Since I plan to remain in Minnesota after graduation, I will continue to participate in the MGCSA for the betterment of the golf course industry," he said.

Jack Mackenzie, head superintendent at North Oaks, said that "without a doubt, Jeff has the potential to become an excellent professional in our industry."

James Schmitz, 27, was graduated from Brainerd High School in 1985 and now is majoring in golf course management at Riverland Tech where he intends to graduate next spring. A grounds crew member on the staff of James Gardner, head golf course superintendent at Rochester Golf & Country Club, since 1992, Schmitz would like to become a golf course superintendent and possibly some day get involved in golf course design.

"I've always loved the game of golf and working on a golf course," Schmitz said. "I couldn't imagine wanting to do anything else. I like the hands-on work, the sense of accomplishment when I look at the golf course after it has been freshly mowed and the many possibilities in this profession."

(Continued on Page 36)

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Make Plans For The Turf And Grounds Conference

Everyone, in their own time, comes across an opportunity that they just *have* to take advantage of. For the disgruntled Cuban, it's a raft ride from Havana to Key West. For aspiring trial lawyers, it's witnessing the most publicized murder trial of modern times—the O.J. Simpson trial. For turf and grounds professionals, it is without question attendance at The Greater Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show, in conjunctions with the 67th M.G.C.S.A. Annual Meeting.

This premier educational event will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on December 7, 8 and 9, 1994. It will feature some of the leading turf and grounds authorities in the country. In addition, the trade show will contain over 150 booths, with vendors from all areas of related equipment and supplies.

The educational portion of the conference will cover a widely diverse array of topics ranging from basic soil science, to tree pruning and care, to advancing professionalism in our industry.

On Wednesday, the focus will be on pests, their control and the environment. This full day of sessions will qualify attendees for their pesticide recertification for 1995. Rest assured that this will *not* be a typical recertification seminar! Featured speakers include Dr. Rod Ferrantino of Cornell University, Dr. Pat Vittum, of the University of Massachusetts and Dr. Clark Throssel of Purdue Univer-

sity. The day's format will allow participants to hear the speakers and topics that are of interest to them.

Thursday's program will start out with two outstanding speakers: Dr. Frank Rossi from the University of Wisconsin and Dr. James Beard of the Sports Turf Institute. Dr. Rossi's topic is "You Can Be A Professional Without Wearing A Tie". Dr. Beard will expound on "Why You Wish You Knew More About Soils". There will be four different sessions to choose from on Thursday afternoon: Turfgrass Management, Native Plant Materials, Business/Professional and The Workplace.

Friday's schedule will start out with Jim Latham, Director of the Great Lakes Region of the U.S.G.A. Greens Section. His talk will recall "What It Took Forty Years To Learn In The Green Industry". Following Mr. Latham, three different sessions will be available: Arboriculture Symposium, presented by Dr. John Ball of South Dakota State University; The Innovative Superintendent and News Of The Nineties, a look at new practices and developments in turf management.

The trade show will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and from 10:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. The size and scope of this show are impressive—over 150 booths covering nearly 30,000 square feet! There will be so much to see

(Continued on Page 33)

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Spin Grinding — So What!

By Tim Neary
Neary Manufacturing, Inc.

“You want more money for shop tools? Look, we don’t want a fancy shop, we want a good-looking course. Buy another mower and get to work.” Or how about this one from your mechanic: “So why the heck do I have to spin grind when I have always single blade ground my reels and my turf looks just fine...?”

I am sure each of you has run into these kinds of questions, or at least something similar from your greens committee members, golfers or employees. There have been major changes in mowing equipment and the expectations of how a course should be maintained. This puts pressures on the Superintendents and Equipment Managers to make sure that their equipment is performing optimally. Spin grinding is becoming more of a necessity than you may think.

To realize the significance of spin grinding, we must remind ourselves of the basic principles that let reel mowers produce a superior cut. When sharpened blades and bed knife are properly aligned, the shearing action creates a clean, even quality cut.

When manufactured, mower reels are ground to be perfect cylinders. The diameter at all points is equal. The bed knife is mounted so it is perfectly parallel to the blade surface across the full width of the mower. When the blades and knife are properly aligned, the best cut is obtained.

Usually two things happen to cause a reel to lose its shape and become tapered.

First, most cutting units require that field adjustments be made to keep reel and bed knife in the best cutting proximity. Excessive adjustment on one side causes the reel blades on that side to wear faster. Repetition of the over adjustment actually compounds the problem. The reel loses its cylindrical shape and becomes tapered.

The second reason reels lose their cylindrical shape is

traced to the very nature of the reels themselves. The natural helix, or twist, in the reel blades causes the “lead in” end of the reel to wear faster. The diameter at the end becomes smaller. Each time you adjust the mower, the accelerated wear continues and the “lead in” diameter becomes even smaller.

If you use the simple “touch method” of alignment for sharpening, where you contact each of the reels with the grinding wheel, the reel’s conical or tapered condition is not corrected and the reel is not restored to a true cylinder. The difference between the two ends continues to increase, and eventually the taper exceeds the mower’s range of adjustment. (See Fig. 1)

Spin grinding removes the conical shape and restores the reel back to a sharp cylindrical shape with all blade cutting edges ground to the same distance from the reel shaft. (See Fig. 2)

Technology is changing rapidly as evidenced by the influx of new high tech mowers, lower and lower heights of cut and the requirement for increased green speeds. That is why it is time to consider the use of higher performance sharpening equipment to help you get and maintain optimum performance out of your mowing equipment.

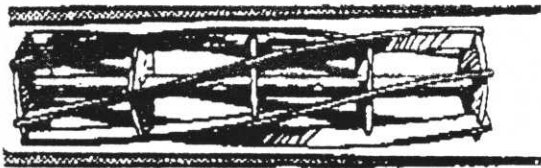


Figure 1

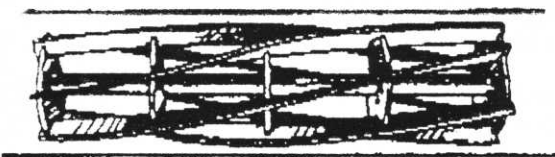


Figure 2

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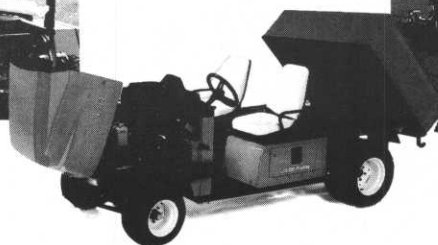
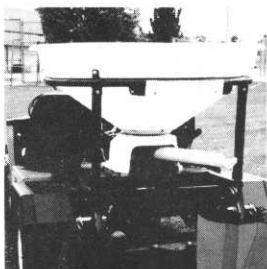
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TGIF has four primary functions:

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3. Service users' needs and requests
4. Heighten awareness of literature

TGIF has done over 29,000 searches to date. It has compiled data from trade publications, journals, research reports and the lifelong work from O.J. Roer, pioneer turf agronomist (1890-1966).

You as a member will have access to this vast library of information through two means of access. You can call Scott Turtinen at the MGCSA business office to request a search on your desired topic and the business office will bill your club. Or you yourself can join if you have a computer with modem and a dedicated line to hook up on-line to TGIF. You can also get printed copies of items from TGIF for a minimal charge up to 20 pages.

Our MGCSA business office is putting together a fee structure that is affordable to our members and meets expenses that we incur from joining TGIF. Our goal is to be on-line and fully operational by mid-October.

TGIF is sending our business office 65 of 100 top requests that superintendents ask for. These will be on file at our MGCSA office in Wayzata.

This feature will serve our members faster and require less time to respond at a minimal cost. If you have any questions, please contact Scott at 800-642-7227.



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