

## Minnesota Valley —

(Continued from Page 30)

golf publications. Although we received minimal media attention, it was good to finally see some positive press about our industry. Hopefully as more and more courses join the A.C.S.P. or become certified, the media will give these efforts the attention they deserve.

A great deal of our success in becoming certified is due to the involvement of our crew members. They have enjoyed taking part in various projects, including an ongoing wildlife inventory list. Everyone was amazed at how many different species of wildlife we identified on the course — 50 different birds and nearly 15 mammals. Participation in this program has been fun and educational for all involved, and it has made us more aware of the environment around us. It has helped to make our jobs more enjoyable and has also given us an opportunity to stop and enjoy them once in a while. Participation has also generated quite an interest among our club members. Our certification has created a positive feeling about the golf course along with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Going through this certification process was a great exercise in evaluating our management program. Very few changes were required for us to become certified. In fact, it was just a matter of documenting what we were already doing. We see this certification as an endorsement of our program.

This winter as you sit down to make plans for the upcoming season, take the time to find out more about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Many of you are already making efforts to improve the environmental quality of your golf courses. It is time to start taking credit for them. Fortunately, golf courses here in Minnesota have received very little negative publicity. Now is the time to take a proactive approach to this situation. The A.C.S.P. is one way for us to do this.



## 1995 MGCSA MONTHLY MEETINGS

<b>April 10</b>	<b>Cannon Golf Club</b> Host Superintendent – Jeff Backstrom
<b>May 8</b>	<b>River Oaks Municipal G.C.</b> Host Superintendent – Thomas Parent
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Bemidji Town &amp; Country Club</b> Host Superintendent – Thomas Johanns
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Stillwater Country Club</b> Host Superintendent – Kevin Clunis and TBA (Garske Scramble)
<b>August 14</b>	<b>Baker National Golf Course</b> Host Superintendent – Keith Greeninger (MGCSA Amateur Championship)
<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>Minikahda Club &amp; Town &amp; Country Club</b> Host Superintendents – Douglas Mahal and Bill Larson (Stodola Scramble)
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Chisago Lakes Golf Estates</b> Host Superintendent – David Zimmer
<b>Dec. 6, 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>MTGF/MGCSA Conference and Trade Show</b> Minneapolis Convention Center

## The Minikahda Club Recognized For Environmental Excellence

The Minikahda Club has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York State and endorsed by the United States Golf Association.

The Minikahda Club is only the second in Minnesota and among the first 30 golf courses in the nation to receive the honor.

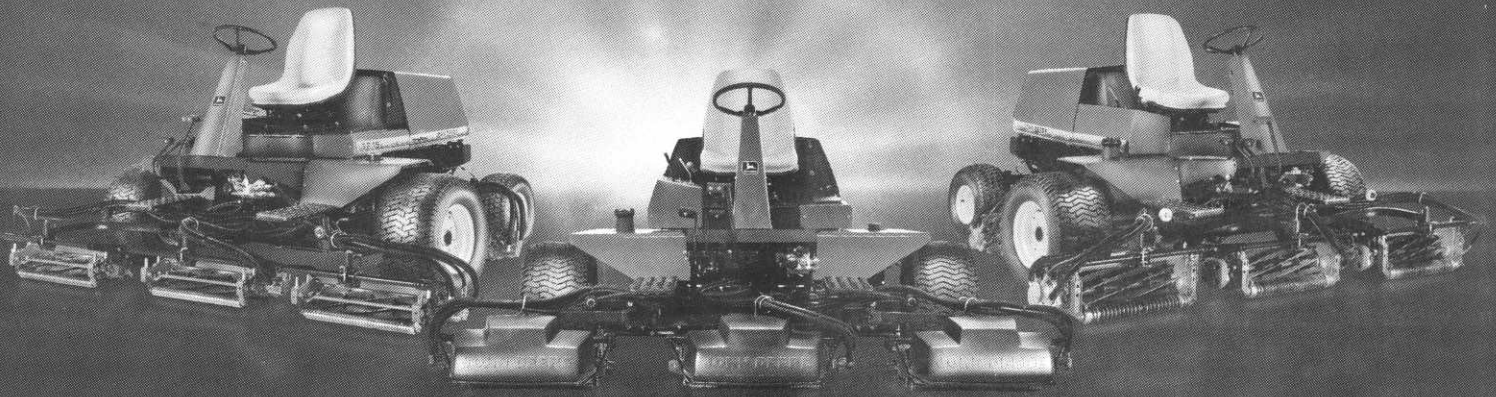
The Minikahda Club joined the program in 1991 which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

“The Minikahda Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” said Jean Mackay, Education Director for the Audubon Society of New York.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Mackay. These categories include Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation and Water Quality Management.

“We are delighted with our ‘certified’ status and what we’ve been able to accomplish since 1991 toward our environmental enhancement efforts,” reported Doug Mahal, Course Superintendent at Minikahda. Mahal said that since beginning the program, many previously unrepresented wildlife species have begun residing on the property.

Minikahda’s water quality management work has included renovation of a Hennepin County drainage creek that traverses the property. Early water quality studies of this new creek now indicate that water leaving the golf course on its way to nearby Lake Calhoun is cleaner exiting the golf course than when it enters. Over 25% of all surface runoff entering Lake Calhoun is from this drainage creek.



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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### NEW MEMBERS—MARCH 13, 1995

	Class
Frank Postic . . . . . J P Golf Management, Inc. . . . .	E
6016 Blue Circle Dr. Minnetonka, MN 55343-9104	
Frank Baden . . . . . Lebanon Turf Products . . . . .	F
3247 Sunburst Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722-2839	
Vern Bushlack . . . . . MN Riverland Tech. College . . . . .	E
1926 College View Rd. SE, Rochester, MN 55904	
David Kirscht . . . . . David Kirscht Associates . . . . .	F
5500 Lincoln Dr., Edina, MN 55436	
Tim Alber . . . . . Alber Asphalt Co. . . . .	F
P.O. Box 399, Rogers, MN 55374	
Donald Mortenson . . . . . Interlaken GC . . . . .	A
28 Cottage St., Fairmont, MN 56031	
Mike Knodel . . . . . Moorhead CC . . . . .	BII
904 18th St. S. #1, Moorhead, MN 56560	
Michael Teske . . . . . Prairie Ridge GC . . . . .	BII
718 3rd St. N.W., Waseca, MN 56093	
Kenneth Otto . . . . . Valleywood GC . . . . .	BII
233 West Curtice, W. St. Paul, MN 55118	
Michael Kosmak . . . . . UW Madison . . . . .	C
124 Landgon St., Apt. 20, Madison, WI 53703	
Mark Ness . . . . . Dwan GC . . . . .	D
10142 Oakland Rd., Bloomington, MN 55420	

### RECLASSIFICATIONS—MARCH 13, 1995

Alex Ellram . . . . . River Oaks GC . . . . .	C to BII
Dave Solga . . . . . North Links GC . . . . .	BII to A
Brian Deyak . . . . . St. Cloud Veterans GC . . . . .	B to A
Roger Hanson . . . . . Green Lea GC . . . . .	B to A
Harley Flor . . . . . Kate Haven GC . . . . .	A to AA

*David Sime, Membership Chairman*

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson  
New Richmond Golf Club



About 257 superintendents in the MGCSA belong to the GCSAA. For those who attended the Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco, it proved to be an interesting and worthwhile week. If it's education you're after, this certainly is the premier event in our industry. This education comes not only from the structured classroom situation, but the exchange of information between superintendents from all over the world.

**The cable cars are fun to ride**, but some of the operators need to brush up on public relations. I can't imagine talking to golfers in the manner which some of them talked to riders. It reinforces the idea of good public relations in any business, especially when serving the public.

There were several reported cases of shin splints even *before* the trade show started. That city makes you feel like your leaning all the time, and it's always uphill!

**All of the Associate Members of our organization** who are locally based in Minnesota and participated in the trade show in San Francisco are pictured in this issue of *Hole Notes*. They not only support the MGCSA but the GCSAA as well. We are fortunate in this area of the country to have the good relationship most superintendents have with all the Associate Members. It just isn't so in many other areas of the U.S. Hats off to these members for the support they give the MGCSA!

\* \* \* \*

**After turning down the opportunity to attend the Masters Golf Tournament** the last few years, I'm finally going to go. The timing isn't the best, what with the normal opening of our courses in the Midwest, but no more excuses. I accepted the invite with the intention of making it an enjoyable learning experience. It's been suggested that some superintendents and others in the golf industry charter a bus some year from here to Augusta. I will be writing about my experience in the next issue of *Hole Notes*.

\* \* \* \*

A thank you to **Dennis Hendrickson** for volunteering to help take photos for *Hole Notes*.

\* \* \* \*

**Did you see the article** in the February 27th issue of *USA TODAY* about old-fashioned alternatives to pesticides? Mike McGrath of *Organic Gardening* magazine and Debra Lynn Dadd, author of *Nontoxi, Natural & Earthwise*, suggested some solutions: **Ants** - boric acid. **Roaches** - dry things out with a hair dryer and mix equal parts of oatmeal and Plaster of Paris and spread around infested area. **Fleas** - for one month put a shallow pan of soapy water

with a light bulb over it each night and turn off all the other lights. **Garden pests** - suck them up with a hand-held vacuum cleaner. (I'm trying to adapt some of the attachments for the Kirby now). **Flies & mosquitos** - fix screens and vacuum them up. **Lawn weeds** - raise the cutting level on your lawn mower (very practical). But here's the good one: douse with fresh human urine to burn the weeds. No, that's not a Wisconsin herbicide.

\* \* \* \*

**With some exceptions**, we should be embarrassed to live here after having such a mild winter. Admittedly, one tends to think in terms of a winter that's good for turf. A few inches of frozen ground in the fall, good snow cover all winter and a slow thaw with none of that freeze-thaw business towards spring. Selfish, isn't it?

Reports from around the state on the first week of March vary on snow cover, frost depth and ice. **Todd Carlson**, assistant at the Northland Country Club, reports snow cover all winter, presently with 2½ feet on the ground. They have four to five feet of frost and very little ice on greens. Depending on this month's weather, Northland could open anytime from mid-April to the first week in May. Springfield Golf Club's long time superintendent, **Richard Loomis**, reports very little snow cover and no problems with ice on the course. Richard said golfers were actually hitting balls on some holes recently. Incidentally, Mr. Loomis is recouping from an illness but says he'll be ready to play golf this spring. He will be retiring this spring so should have more time to look at courses through the eyes of a golfer! A mild winter so far at Somerset Country Club. **Jerry Murphy** tells me he has had 4-6" of snow all winter, and although there are pockets of ice, it isn't solid and has only been on the turf three weeks. He feels the fall topdressing and continual snow cover has offered good protection on his greens.

Like most of the northwest area of Wisconsin, **John Ganske**, from the Spooner G.C., has had 3"4" of snow cover throughout the winter. John is trying covers on four greens and reports no ice with 3½ feet of frost. It will be a busy summer at Spooner where they will be adding to 10 tees and planning an additional nine holes.

The western part of the gopher state and the Benson G.C. recently had 19" of snow but **Dave Sime** said there's been 2"3" of cover on most of his course this winter. No ice out there but Dave expects the frost depths to be way down.

Mankato G.C. has had some ice problems on a few greens. **Scott Ness**, said they have applied milorganite to help break up the 1" layer of solid ice. Recent snows covered the course but they have had bare areas.

Good Luck to everyone this spring!

**Is it me or does anyone else feel overwhelmed** with all that is offered each day of the National Conference? There is just so much you can absorb and so much you can get to in one day.

See you at the Cannon Golf Club April 10th, where **Jeff Backstrom** will host the monthly meeting.

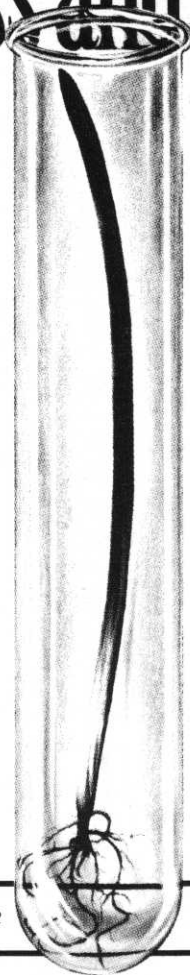
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