# **QUESTIONS** Asked of MGCSA Student Members

Editor's Note: There are approximately 80 student members in the MGCSA, many of whom we don't get a chance to hear from very often. I asked five questions to three Class C members about their ideas so far in the golf course industry. Those members are: John Lindman, currently working at Edinburgh USA; Christopher (Chip) Smith, New Richmond G.C., and Troy Elam, Les Bolstad University of Minnesota G.C.

#### 1. How did you become interested in turf management and what school are you attending?

Troy: I became interested in turf management because I've golfed since I was five. I also worked at a golf course and liked being outside dealing with nature. I enjoy the challenge that working on a golf course brings and the rewards that can be seen in the enjoyment and praise from golfers.

John: I became interested in turf management about 3 years ago. I work at Edinburgh USA in the summer doing maintenance. I enjoy working outside on the golf course and also playing golf. All of these factors were why I became interested in golf course management. I graduated from Anoka Technical College on June 8, 1995.

*Chip:* I became interested in turf management when I was younger and discovered the grass in my lawn was growing between sand particles. I am attending Anoka Hennepin Technical College.

#### 2. How do you view the MGCSA and to what extent will you become involved in an organization such as the MGCSA?

*Troy:* The MGCSA is a strong and committed organization which helps superintendents and golfers alike in the quest for understanding by the public. I hope to be active in the

MGCSA in the future. I agree and applaud what the MGCSA has done and continues to do.

John: I just joined the MGCSA and from what I have seen and heard, it's a positive in the turf industry. I will try to attend all of the meetings that I can and also help out in whatever way I can.

*Chip:* I believe it is a great organization to belong to. All the members I have met in the association have been a great bunch of people.

#### 3. Of all the qualifications which might make you a good superintendent, name two that you feel are most important.

Troy: Communication is a very important element from our everyday lives including work. Communication is the backbone for accomplishing the tasks we need to do. Without it, nothing gets done. Another qualification is being open-minded to new ways plus those which may be suggested by your staff. Change is good; we need to accept change and to think all options through.

John: Being organized ... being educated.

*Chip:* Two of the most important qualifications which help make a good superintendent are caring for the environment and being sincere towards your employees and golfers.

#### 4. Is there anything you would like to see in your education you are not currently getting which may be beneficial in golf course management?

Troy: I'd like to see a more "hands-on" oriented curriculum. You can learn a lot from books, but each experience you have will add to your knowledge and will be remembered for the rest of your life.

#### John: No.

Chip: I feel more 'trouble shooting' and 'problem solving' should be done in class with book study out of class.

#### 5. In what way can a superintendent be of help in your education?

*Troy:* A superintendent can help in sharing their experiences and letting us make mistakes, in order for us to learn from those mistakes. He can help us by exposing us to a variety of tasks during our years of work before we move up to a management position.

John: The superintendent can help us by giving the knowledge he has through his experience in the field.

Chip: Superintendents can be of help by coming into the school and talking about things going on in the field. While I am on supervised occupational experience, I think it is great to have my questions answered and explanations for everything we do.



HOSTS SUPERINTENDENT MARLIN MURPHY, Stillwater C.C., with three members of his fine crew.

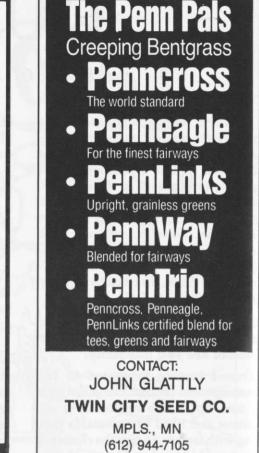
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### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

NEW MEMBERS-JULY 17, 1995	Class
Mark Bergstrom	Grand Forks CC
618 2nd St., Thompson, ND 58278	W: 701-775-7969
Richard Mevers	Farmers Golf & Health Club A
206 South Ray, Springfield, MN 56087	W: 507-648-3629
Fred Fabian, Jr. CGCS	Ross' Teal Wing Golf ClubA
Rt. 7, Ross Rd., Hayward, WI 54843	W: 507-648-3629 Ross' Teal Wing Golf ClubA W: 715-462-3422
Tom Notch	Bomme De Terre GCB
151 Sunnyslope Rd., Bldg. 324, Apt. 206	
Morris, MN 56267	W: 612-589-1009
Thomas Stout	Run River Hills GCB
11702 Brunswick Ave. N., Champlin, MN 5	55313W: 612-753-5520
Scott Melby	Borest Hills GCB
292 Laurel Ave., No. 3, St. Paul, MN 551	02 W: 612-464-4066
	BII
104 Arbor Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337	W: 612-445-3575
Matt Anderson	Rochester G&CCC
124 11½ St. SW, Rochester, MN 55904	W: 507-281-3241
Tim Morris	Bochester G&CCD
106 23rd St. NW, Stewartville, MN 5597	6 W: 507-281-3241
Tom Earley	Folfus ImplementF
775 Derrick Dr., New Richmond, WI 540	17 W: 715-246-6565
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George Gibbons	Jackson GC A to AA
	Springfield GC A to AA
Robert Atol	Braemar GC BII to B
	Rochester G&CC D to BII
Terry Young	D to BII
	Hudson CC C to BII

David Sime, Membership Chairman





#### Words of Wisdom

In my past fifteen years of grounds management I can honestly and thankfully say I've seen very few incidents that have jeopardized the safety of myself, staff and other co-workers. I credit that to proper instruction of safety operation and procedures, and always instilling the need for sound judgment, and common sense, while out performing the many tasks we so faithfully do.

At first the R.O.P.S., seat belt and hard hat issues left many of us up in arms due to the expense involved and their cumbersome nature. It left some of us believing that they were unnecessary.

Unnecessary no longer exists in my vocabulary. In mid-May one of my most experienced operators believed his quest was to climb the highest mountain on the course, one not normally maintained by our 322. He believed that if he could conquer what we know as Mr. Hill that he would be thought of as the bravest and fittest of all. And to that end he used poor judgment. Fortunately, he used good judgment when it came to the use of his seat belt. In the resulting rollover, his seatbelt confined him to the cockpit, thus allowing the rollover bar to do its job in stopping the unit from doing multiple flips to the bottom of the slope.

As I looked up the slope, my first reatcion was "CJ, are you okay? Were you wearing a seatbelt?" After getting yes to both questions, I looked at the 322 hanging on the edge. I noticed the roll bar imbedded into the hard-packed clay at least 12 inches. This is where I realized the great momentum of the unit as it rolled. If it had not been installed with R.O.P.S., the operator would most certainly have been crushed to death. If not for the seatbelt, he could just surely been thrown to the bottom of the slope causing extensive injury or death. After reassuring myself that CJ was okay, the next step was to see how mangled the 322 was. I was sure that thousands of dollars of damaged had occurred. But once again the roll bar gets credit for doing its job. It saved a valuable piece of equipment. The 322 didn't experience one scratch or bend and after changing the fluids, the unit was back in operation that same day.

In conclusion, the message I am trying to convey to you — the readers of *Hole Notes* — is that seatbelts, hard hats and roll bars do have their place in our facilities. Not only do they protect the valuable tools that allow us to perform our jobs, but most importantly they can save lives.

> - Greg Iden Course Superintendent Shoreland Country Club



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Athletic Pro Mix and Athletic Pro II Mix 50% Kentucky bluegrasses 50% perennial ryegrasses	Establishment and interseeding of athletic turf, tees, fairways and roughs, landscapes.	Quick establishment, wear tolerant, shear resistant, good recuperative ability.	
Renovator Pro or Medalist Gold perennial rye blends	Renovation and overseeding of tees, fairways, athletic fields, landscapes.	Endophyte enhanced. Wear tolerant. Combats <i>Poa annua</i> , summer patch and necrotic ringspot.	
Scottish Links 4-way fine fescue mixture	Establishment of golf course roughs and bunkers, roadsides, landscapes.	Aesthetic, low-growing grasses. Tolerant of drought, shade, low pH, low nitrogen.	
Shady Turf Mix 60% fine fescues 40% Kentucky bluegrasses	Landscape turf, golf course roughs, sod production.	Tolerates shade or sun. Excellent cold hardiness and snow mold resistance.	
Landscape Pro Mix 45% Kentucky bluegrasses 30% red fescues 25% perennial ryegrass	Golf and landscape turf where environment and future management are unknown.	Adaptable, persistent. Drought tolerant, shade tolerant, quick establishment.	
Boulevard Mix 40% Fults alkaligrass 30% Slender red fescue 20% Kentucky bluegrass 10% perennial ryegrass	Golf course or landscape turf stressed by saline or alkali soils or irrigation water.	Salt, high pH and alkali tolerant mix. Very persistent above 5/8".	

# **PROFILE OF A SUPERINTENDENT**

By Robert Panuska Waseca Lakeside Club



Hello, MGCSA members. My name is Rob Panuska, the superintendent from Waseca Lakeside Club in Waseca, Minn. My goal with this article is to give some background about myself, a brief history of my club and my thoughts regarding management.

#### Background

Let me begin by introducing my family: My wife Sherry has put up with me for 15 years, we have a daughter Brittania, nine, and a son Ryan, four. We live on a rural acreage west of New Richland, just south of Waseca. Sherry operates a commercial dairy and milks 30-40 dairy goats. So when I'm not working at the course you can usually find me doing farm chores of some kind. When I can make the time, I enjoy landscaping, building, hiking, bowling in the "off" season and golf. I would characterize myself as a workaholic and generally don't "make" enough time for myself.

#### Work and Education

My entry into the golf course superintendent's profession was actually unplanned and somewhat by accident. I have been superintendent at Waseca Lakeside since the fall of 1990. Prior to this I was the assistant and worked on the crew. I "fell" into this opportunity while I was attending the former University of Minnesota/Waseca campus completing a second major in turf and grounds management. I owe a great debt to Ray Bloemke, the superintendent at Lakeside who "took a chance" and hired this novice who had never worked on a golf course before. He gave me the opportunity to learn and make mistakes as I gathered experience and "got my feet wet" in this profession. The other individual that opened those first doors of opportunity for me was Brad Pedersen, who at that time was the turf and landscape professor at the Waseca campus. Brad has that amazing ability to see people "fit" into a job and encouraged me to visit with Ray at Lakeside and redirect my coursework into the turf management area. I would not be where I am today without these two people.

What brought me to the Waseca campus in the first place started when I was growing up in Long Lake, Minn. My parents had a small farm, and after graduating from Orono High School in 1977, I first attended the U of M — Waseca and majored in production agriculture. From there I purchased a farm in central Minnesota. From 1980 to 1985 we tried to "make a go of it" farming but the farm crisis was more than Sherry and I could cope with. The physical and emotional toll was something I would not wish on my worst enemy. However, life went on and after a few brief jobs at selling farm equipment, real estate and even recruiting for the Waseca campus, I enrolled for the second time with a major in the horticulture program.

#### Waseca Lakeside History

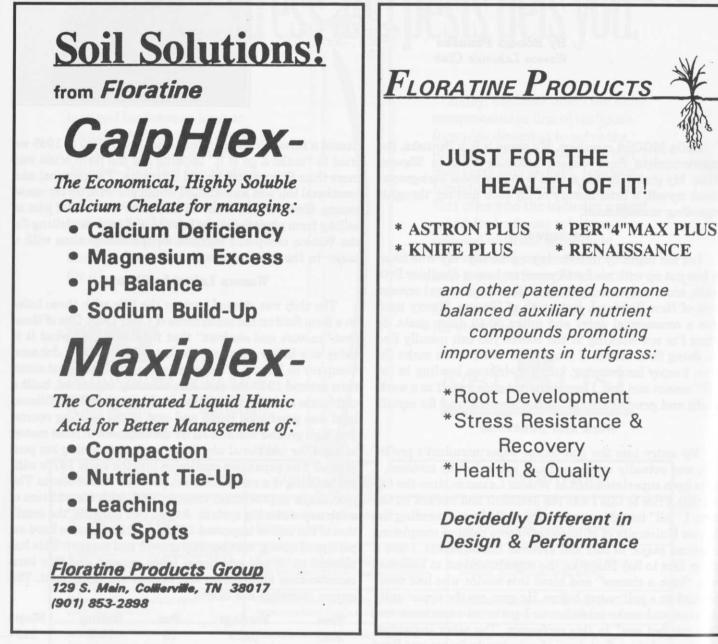
The club was started back in the '20s with three holes on a farm field on the north shore of Clear Lake. One of those first "movers and shakers" that made the club what it is today was Edgar Johnson, the founder of the E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca. The details are a bit sketchy but sometime around 1940 the club was officially organized, built a clubhouse and had nine holes. In the late 1960s additional land was purchased north and east of the existing course. The high ground was sold off for development to raise money to build the additional nine holes on the remaining low peat ground. The expansion continued into the early 1970s with the building of a new clubhouse, pool and tennis courts. The next major improvement came in 1989 with the addition of a fairway watering system. As you can imagine, the condition of the course improved 100 fold. Since then we have experienced strong membership growth and support. This has allowed us to add additional labor, expand and fine tune maintenance and replace and expand our equipment. The course statistics are below:

Tees	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Red	5273	73	70.3	115
White	5822	71	67.6	115
Blue	6025	71	68.6	116

The club continues to improve every year because of the strong support from the membership. Last fall we began implementing a master plan for course improvement completed for us by Joel Goldstrand. This includes bunker renovations and additions, tee rebuilding, addition of several forward tees, rebuilding some greens and complete reconstruction of a few holes. I am looking forward to the challenges this will bring over the next five or so years.

(Continued on Page 27)

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#### Panuska –

(Continued from Page 25)

#### **Management Philosophies**

I have been very fortunate in my short career as a superintendent to have had the opportunities to grow with the position. The most difficult task I have had to learn as a superintendent is people management. I was raised to be a "get out and do it" person. To be effective as a superintendent, I had to train myself to give others the same opportunity that Ray gave me, the opportunity to learn by doing and making some mistakes. The most important aspect of my job is people - general members, board members, the public but, most important, the people that make our course what it is, my staff.

Their commitment and dedication to their jobs makes the difference at our course. It doesn't matter how much or how little budget you have to work with, the people make the difference. As I bring this to a close I want to leave you with a few thoughts that I try to live by:

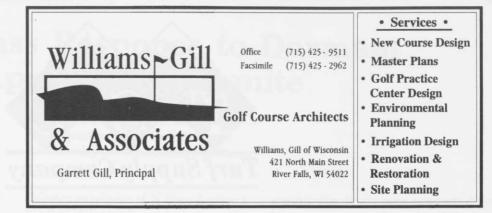
• Don't take yourself so seriously and enjoy what you do.

• Do unto others as you would have then do unto you.

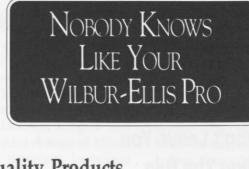
• Learn to laugh at yourself.



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# Bentgrass Response to Dormant Applied Milorganite

By Dr. Wayne R. Kussow Department of Soil Science University of Wisconsin-Madison

The primary benefits of dormant application of Milorganite in Wisconsin are hastening of the breaking of dormancy by turfgrass and earlier spring greenup. Experience has shown that the effectiveness of the practice varies from season-to-season and site-to-site, even within the confines of a given golf course. One reason is varying viewpoints on what constitutes a dormant fertilization and, therefore, the time of fertilizer application.

One definition of dormant fertilization is application of fertilizer after turf shoot growth has ceased. This occurs when the turf is subjected to several consecutive days whose mean daily temperatures are 50 degrees F or less. In southern Wisconsin, this often occurs around October 15 to 20. Fertilization at this time is what I call late fall fertilization. I view dormant fertilization as fertilizer application that does not take place until the turfgrass has truly gone dormant; the turfgrass shoots turn brown and dry due to nighttime temperatures well below freezing and the soil surface temperature is below 32 degrees F. This often does not occur in Wisconsin before the advent of permanent snow cover. Thus, I also include in my definition of dormant fertilizer that which is applied when the weather forecast leads one to believe that permanent snow cover is imminent.

With my definitions of late fall and dormant fertilization, the distinguishing feature is when fertilizer N uptake occurs. With late fall fertilization N uptake occurs yet that season. In dormant application of a SRN such as Milorganite, fertilizer N uptake most likely does not take place until the following spring. The purpose of the present study was to determine what influences release of N from dormant applied Milorganite and what are the spring responses of creeping bentgrass response to these influences.

The study was established in the fall of 1993 in an effort to define the factors that regulate bentgrass response to a dormant Milorganite application. One assumption made in designing the study was that turfgrass uptake of N from Milorganite must be preceded by microbial release of organic N. This assumption leads to the hypothesis that whatever enhances springtime warming of turf will favor microbial release of Milorganite N and, therefore, bentgrass response.

Absorption of radiant energy from the sun is what causes soil to warm in spring. Sunny days contribute more energy than do cloudy days and favor the warming process. But how rapidly soil temperature rises also depends on the nature of the surface that the solar radiation strikes and the heat capacity of the soil. Light-colored surfaces reflect more of the solar radiation than do dark surfaces and slow soil warming. Once the radiant energy is absorbed at the turf surface, the rate of soil warming is determined primarily by its moisture content. It takes much more energy to warm a wet soil than a dry soil because water has a very high heat capacity.

In the present study, I varied the color of the turf surface in two ways. One was as simple as mowing the bentgrass at two different heights in the fall. The more light, tan-colored grass on the surface after snowmelt, the greater the amount of radiant energy that is reflected. I also varied soil surface color by topdressing in the fall with sand, soil or charcoal. To create a difference in soil moisture in the spring, the study was conducted on two sites approximately 200 feet apart. One site was on a uniform 5% slope and the other on an area with virtually no slope. During snowmelt, water ponded to a depth of more than 6 inches on the flat site but quickly ran off the sloping site. Hence, while it was not measured, one can assume that a moisture differential existed between the two sites in early spring.

Ask any Soil Scientist and they'll tell you that for all practical purposes soil microbial activity virtually ceases when soil temperature drops below 50 degrees. If this were entirely true, then why snowmold? This line of reasoning led to the hypothesis that there is measurable microbial release of Milorganite under snow cover. To gain evidence for this, Milorganite was sealed in porous polyethylene packets that were placed on the turf surface at the time of dormant fertilization and again immediately after snowmelt. Several packets were placed in the plots to allow for removal at different times and analysis for the amount of organic N remaining in them. This technique allowed me to verify whether or not mineralization of organic N occurred prior to snowmelt and to track mineralization until such time that clipping N content could served that function.

To help explain the effects of surface drainage, turfgrass clipping height and color of topdressing material on spring response to dormant applied Milorganite, plot temperatures were measured at a ½-inch soil depth. This was accomplished with the thermocouples connected to dataloggers that recorded soil minimum, maximum and mean temperature on a daily basis.

(Continued on Page 31)



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