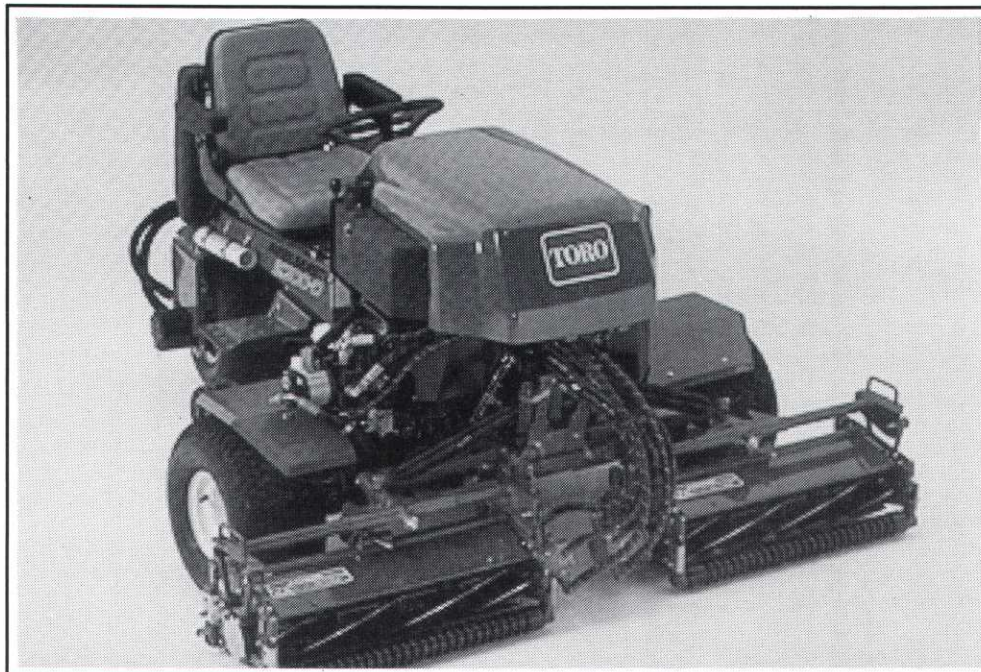


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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

It Truly Was A Classic At the Stodola Research Scramble at Madden's



What a great way to celebrate the 10th year of the Stodola Research Scramble Tournament! This vehicle to raise research dollars came to fruition when Scott Hoffmann was the chairman of the MGCSA Research Committee in 1986.

Not only did Scott's initial goal of \$100,000 become a reality but also that Madden's Resort would host the 10th Stodola at its new flagship course "The Classic."

A big northwoods thanks to Brian Thuringer, owner, and Scott Hoffmann, golf course superintendent, for their great hospitality and foresight.

Thanks also to E-Z-GO and Chris Crockett who donated \$1,200.00 to the Stodola Research Tournament on behalf of Madden's.

The next great golf destination . . . Brainerd!

* * * *

Just a reminder that the MTGF Conference and Trade Show will include the MGCSA Annual Meeting on Thursday afternoon followed by a MGCSA reception.

* * * *

Great job on "Par for the Course" by our own Bill Larson! I heard that he now has his own Hollywood agent . . . look out, Tin Cup!

* * * *

The MGCSA Board of Directors is well on its way to completing our chapter's administrative compliance to the GCSAA re-affiliation process. The GCSAA provides a multitude of benefits from professional publications . . . educational seminars both regional and national . . . supporting qualitative and quantitative turf research . . . personal and personell training and education . . . marketing and public relations for our profession on a national and international level. I look forward to continuing our great relationship with GCSAA as we move into the 21st century.

* * * *

See you at Fox Hollow in October!

—Respectfully,

James D. Gardner, CGCS
MGCSA President

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Your participation at the Stodola Research Scramble is much appreciated.

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Inside This Issue of Hole Notes

Advertisers

Bio Pro	29
Classifieds	26
Cushman Motor Co.	16
Duininck Bros.	Back Cover
ECHO	4
Glenn Rehbein Companies	24
Leitner Company	10
MTI Distributing Co.	Inside Front Cover
MTI Distributing Co.	12
MTI Distributing Co.	21
MTI Distributing Co.	25
North Star Turf	8
North Star Turf	14
Par Ex	29
Paskvan Consulting	24
P&H Warehouse	20
Plaisted Companies	17
Polfus Implement	Inside Back Cover
Precision Turf & Chemical, Inc.	28
Prinsco	23
Rohling Green Corp.	25
Superior Tech Products	6
Turf Supply Co.	27
Twin City Seed	29
Williams & Gill	23

5 Scott Hoffmann, CGCS Designs 'The Classic'

By Ralph Turtinen

13 Golf Turf Snow Molds

By Dr. Ward Stienstra

18 GCSAA Letter Response To 'One Guy's Opinion'

By Paul McGinnis, CGCS

22 Goose Patrol With The 'Geese Police'

By Jennifer Maginnis

28 Home Team Captures 1996 Stodola Research Scramble

By Scott Turtinen

30 Winter Preparation Checklist

By GCSAA

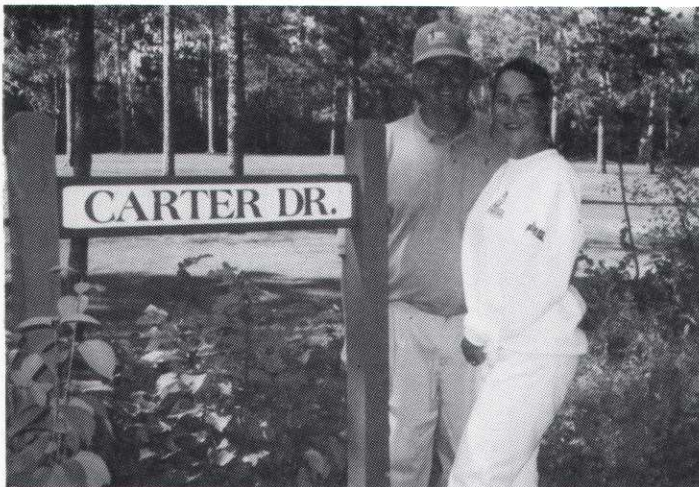
Departments

3 From Your President's Desk

By James Gardner, CGCS

34 Editor's Corner

By Dale Wysocki



CARTER DRIVE AT THE PINES — Tom Kientzle, CGCS; co-owner Fred Boos and assistant pro Chris Schall had an enjoyable time creating this sign on a recently blacktopped maintenance path at The Pines at Grand View Lodge. It marks the spot where Elk River Golf Professional Kevin Carter's drive went on the final hole of the 1995 PGA Championship at The Pines. Clearly in trouble, Carter punched his next shot out of the wooded area, later wound up in a sand bunker by the 18th green, then got up and down to win the 1995 PGA title. The sign was up and waiting for him when he returned to The Pines for the 1996 PGA competition, won this year by Jon Chaffee of Interlachen Country Club. Kevin, who appreciated the effort by The Pines' personnel, is pictured above with his wife, who also thought it was a clever idea.

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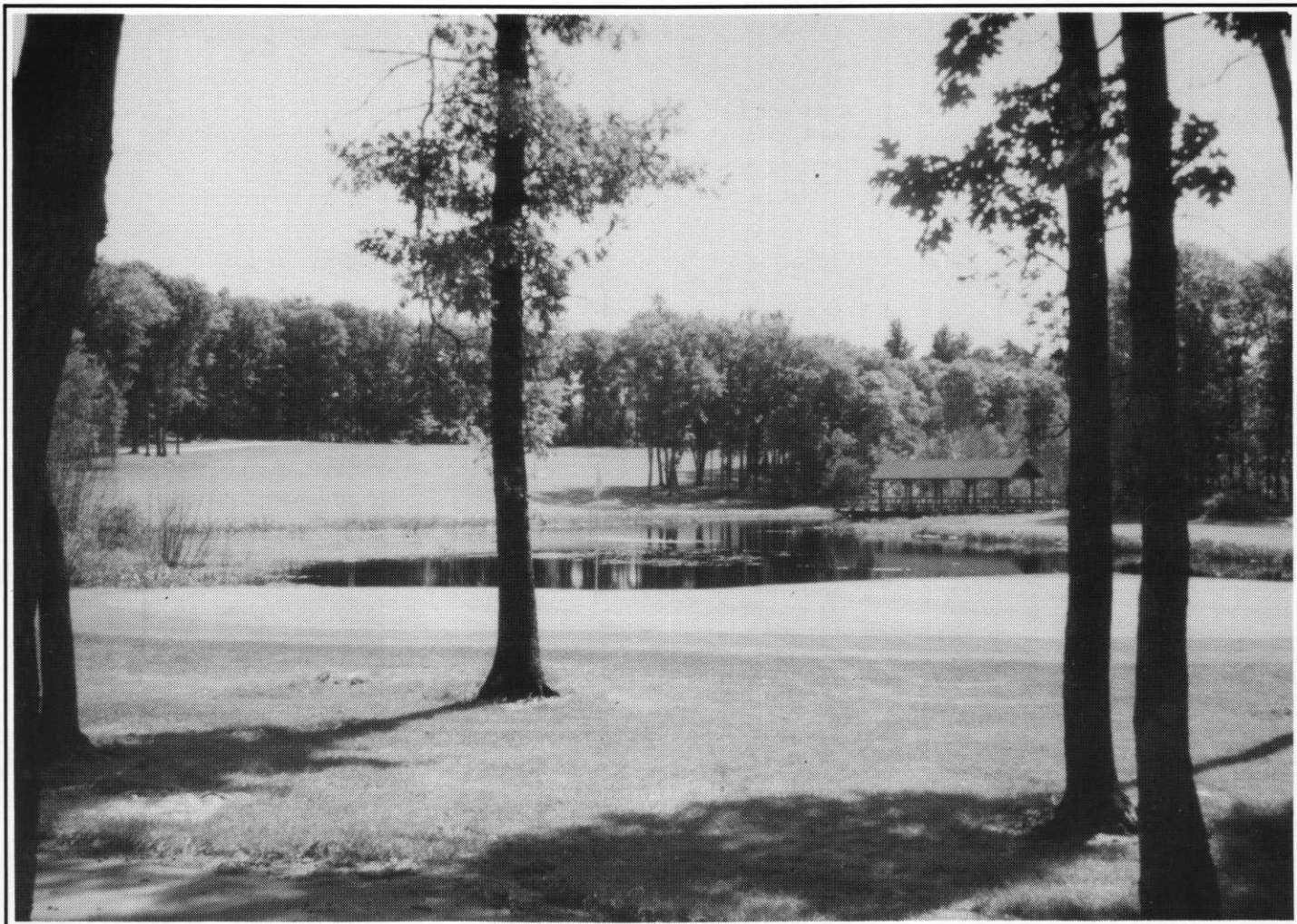
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14TH GREEN — Here's a view from behind the 14th green looking at the nearby pond and fairway, as well as the covered bridge at the right which is used for shelter and carrying cart traffic over the water.

Golf Course Superintendent Scott Hoffmann Designs 'The Classic' Course at Madden's

By Ralph Turtinen

Golf course superintendents often are hired after new courses have been designed and are well on their way toward being completed. Rarely does a superintendent have the opportunity to be the designer.

But such was the case with Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, head golf course superintendent at Madden's at Gull Lake for more than 20 years and designer of The Classic, a new championship par 72 layout that can play anywhere from 4,800 to 7,107 yards from its five tees at the Brainerd Lakes area resort. With this new addition, Madden's now has 63 holes with its two other 18-hole courses and executive nine.

The Classic, which opened for limited play in late August and was the site of the MGCSA's Stodola Research

Scramble on September 15 (*see story on Page 20*), already has drawn such praiseworthy comments as "outstanding, challenging, picturesque, sure-to-win-an-award."

With its well-groomed fairways weaving their way through colorful woodlands, primarily northern red oak but also presenting some pines and other deciduous trees, the Classic is accentuated with sand bunkers that not only serve their green-guarding purposes but also are designed (thank you, golf course superintendent) for easier, more suitable maintenance. These flash-type bunkers expose the Ohio Best sand in an attractive fashion (*see photograph on Page 8*), but also are designed so that rainwater coming

(Continued on Page 7)

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The Classic—

(Continued from Page 5)

toward a bunker is re-directed around it, rather than through it.

That's just one example of the value of having a golf course superintendent participate in the design, but there are others.

In advance of completing the fairways and greens, roughs at the Classic were groomed first, primarily to obtain an "English park look" and make certain they were not a "last-minute deal to complete before the opening" but also to make them much easier to maintain. Naturally, golfers will find it easier to locate their errant shots.

Hoffmann also took advantage of the natural land which offered "a sweeping type of hills" that allowed for nice golf holes, but, since the course was built in the woods, he also made certain the greens received plenty of southeast morning sun which he says is "the key to growing grass."

What came to be is a challenging but fair course, one that will appeal to beginners as well as professionals.

It obviously was a pleasure to have the course built in such a fashion that helped maintenance crews in several ways, but designing a course was something Hoffmann wanted to do for a long time.



MADDEN'S OWNER and general manager Brian Thuringer, right, reviews progress on The Classic, with Scott Hoffmann, left, designer and head superintendent at the resort, and Pat Morstad, head superintendent for The Classic.

He had put in long hours of studying golf courses and attending seminars to expand his knowledge.

He believes that the design of a golf course should be one-third strategy, one-third agronomic and one-third

(Continued on Page 9)



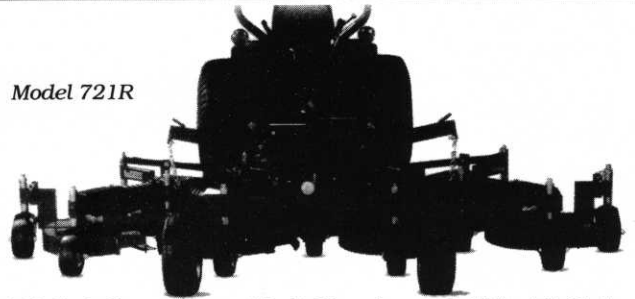
HERE'S THE CLASSIC'S 17th GREEN with Bass Lake, one of the state's best facilities for rearing walleyes, in the background.

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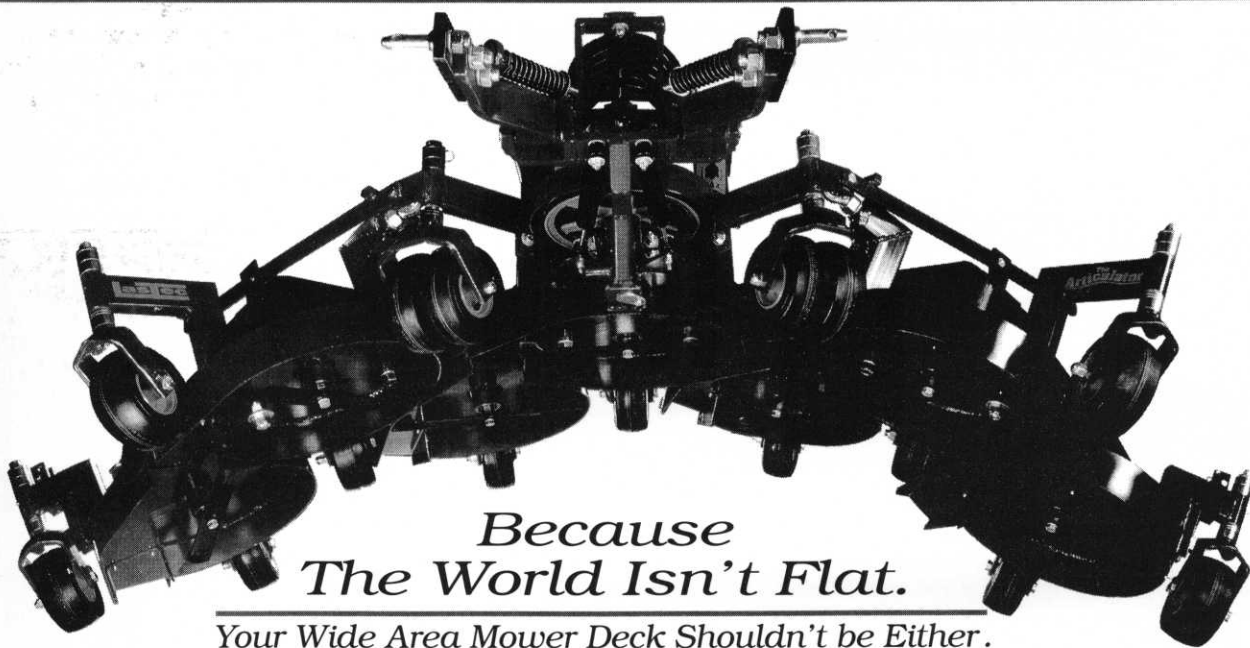
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The Classic—

(Continued from Page 7)

aesthetic, in this way producing something that not only appeals to golfers but also has the owner's interests very much in mind.

Brian Thuringer, owner of Madden's, gave Hoffmann the go-ahead to design and build the Classic course.

To be sure, Hoffmann valued the input of three well-known names in golf during their spring and fall trips to analyze the course. Offering a variety of suggestions were former National Amateur champion John Harris, the Edina player who has won several state amateurs and other major Minnesota titles; Warren Rebolz, former executive director of the Minnesota Golf Association, and Geoffrey Cornish, a golf course designer from Amherst, Mass.

"All three provided good input and were of great help," said Hoffmann.



TOUGH WORK — These two able-bodied men, Scott Listul in the foreground, and Riley Kiefer utilize a Wacky Packer and rake to firm up the Ohio Best sand.

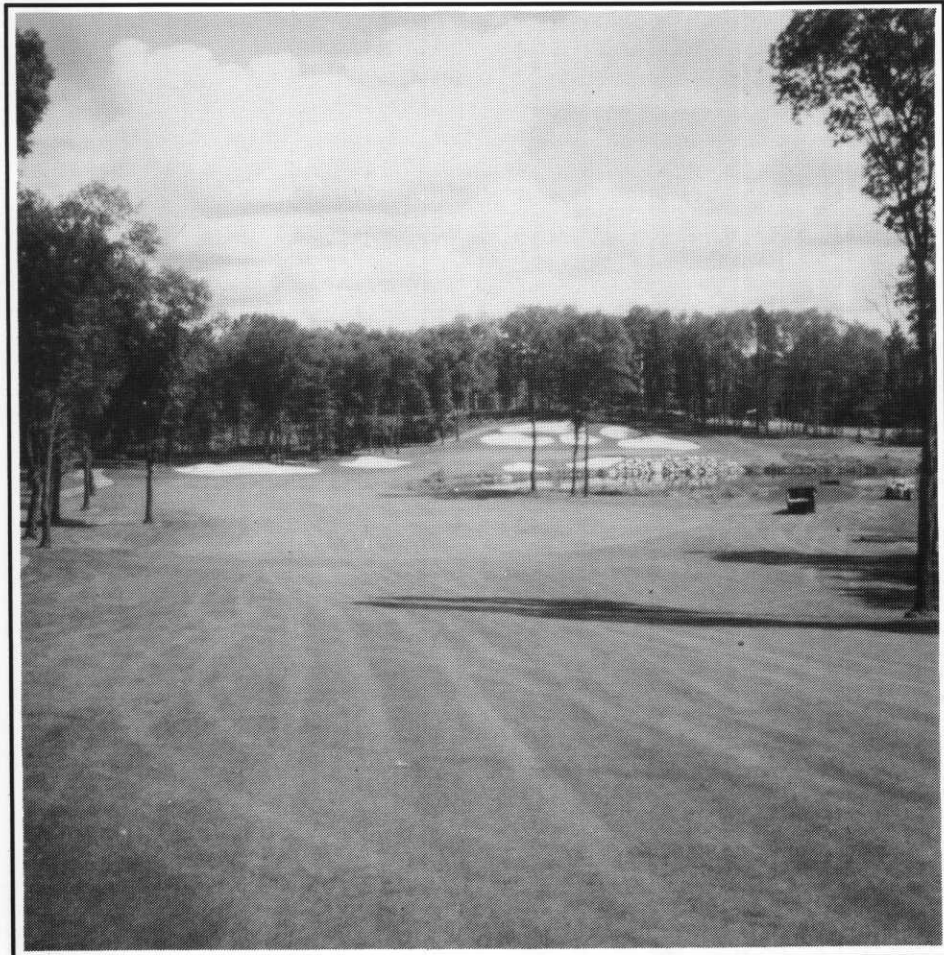
After route plans were laid out and green plans were drawn, general clearing began in 1994, with the focus then being to give the rough Cornish's suggestion for the "English park look." Earthmoving and shaping was the primary work accomplished in 1995 with John Rarden Construc-

tion, Brainerd, doing the dirt work. Seeding was done in the late summer and early fall. This past season the final grooming took center stage.

Built on 212 acres, the course also offers interesting treatment of water near Bass Lake, which is recognized as an outstanding spot for rearing walleyes, and other spots on the course. Water also is recirculated from wetlands, which have been preserved to help waterfowl.

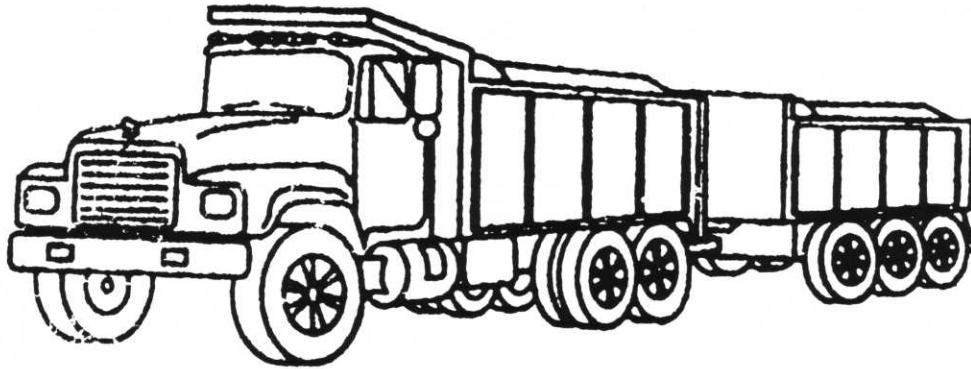
With Providence creeping bent grass tees, fairways and greens, the Classic can stretch out to 7,107 yards from the tour tees, which Hoffmann expects to be used only at major competitions. From the black tees the course is 6,600 yards; the blues, 6,250; the whites, 5,700, and the forward tees

(Continued on Page 11)



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