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# Goose Patrol With The 'Geese Police'

**I** imagine a radio call comes in from your staff. "Those pesky geese are on the 18th hole again." Knowing very well that chasing them with the cart won't scare them away for long, you call for your Border Collie "Ladd" to load up into your golf cart and you head out for the 18th hole. There are the geese, with chunks of the green and droppings at their feet! You send Ladd with the command "away to me" and



Ladd leaps off the cart hitting the ground running and sweeps to the right in a wide arc behind the geese. At your command Ladd charges and the geese are airborne. With the command "that will do" Ladd returns and hops into the cart to the applause of the watching golfers.

This may seem like a dream come true but golf courses around the United States are realizing that the trained Border Collie is the answer to geese control. Unlike the use of loud noises, hunting or the application of chemicals, Border Collies are seen as an environmentally safe and humane method for controlling the geese population. The dogs herd the geese off the greens into the water, separating them from their food supply so the geese look elsewhere to dine. The geese view the dog as a predator so they go elsewhere to raise their family.

Jennifer Maginnis, owner of Geese-Away Academy, has trained Border Collies for the past ten years. Mrs. Maginnis states that one of the most important aspects of her job

is matching the dog's temperament to the handler's personality at the golf course. Only a small percentage of Border Collies makes the grade to become Geese-Away Academy graduates; the temperament of the dog and its ability to get along with the staff and golfing patrons is very important. Mrs. Maginnis has placed Border Collies at premier golf courses throughout the United States, at county recrea-

tional facilities and even on United States Air Force bases to control geese.

Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland purchased "Molly" a Geese-Away graduate, and Sam Green the assistant superintendent, says "We tried bird bangers, grape-scented spray, swans and air horns but nothing worked except for Molly." Sam says, "Molly has been good public relations, everybody loves her."

Todd Cochran the manager of Darlington Park and Golf Course, a 200-acre facility in Bergen County, New Jersey, obtained a Border Collie named "Jack" from Geese-Away Academy and says, "In the short month that we have had Jack, the flock has been reduced by over 50% from 125 birds down to 50 and so far a success. We applaud Geese-Away Academy for her excellent training." Jack has been well received by the community and has become a celebrity of sorts since he was featured on NBC Channel 4 New York nightly news chasing geese off the golf course.

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**REPRESENTING THE WILDS GOLF CLUB** and preparing to tee off on the 12th hole of The Classic are Jack Matteffy, left, James Gardner and Dan Simpson. This hole produced the only skin of the day. The Tartan Park group of Randy Allen, Steve Conway and Curt Pickar won the lone skin. They were missing their captain Joe Moris.



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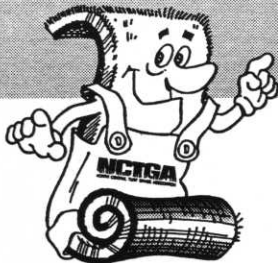
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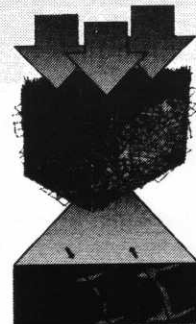
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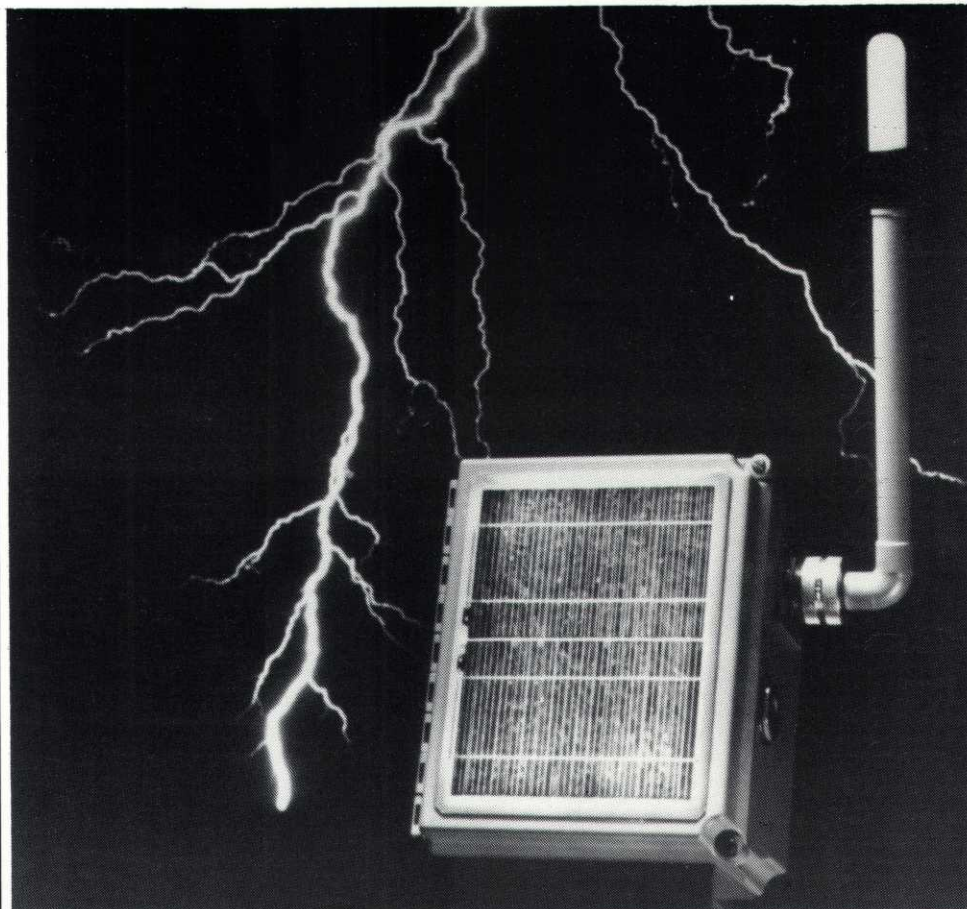
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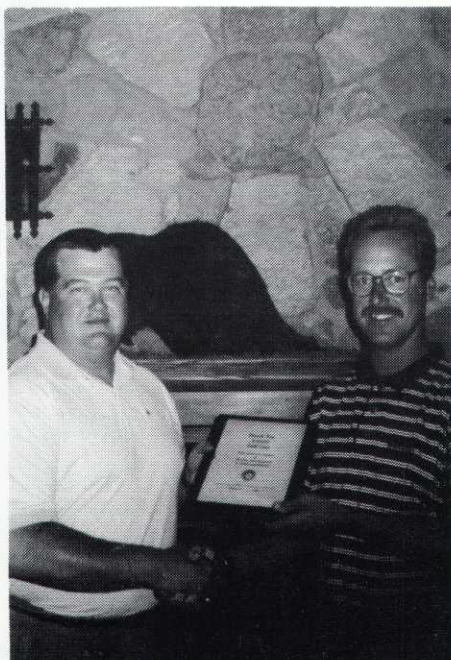
**Renowned organizations such as NASA, Seaworld, the National Weather Service, the U.S. Military, American Airlines, MCI** and hundreds of customers in over 30 countries worldwide have chosen **Global Atmospheric** to meet their lightning warning, detection and information needs. This depth of experience is just one of the reasons that led **TORO**, the leading turf management organization in the world and **QPS**, manufacturer of the #1 golf course siren system, **COURSE ALERT**, to select **Global Atmospheric** to co-develop a product to meet the unique needs of their golfing customers, friends and associates.

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**E-Z-GO TEXTRON** and Chris Crockett contributed \$1,200.00 for the MGCSA Research Fund. MGCSA president James Gardner, CGCS, presents Chris with a plaque recognizing the gracious gift.

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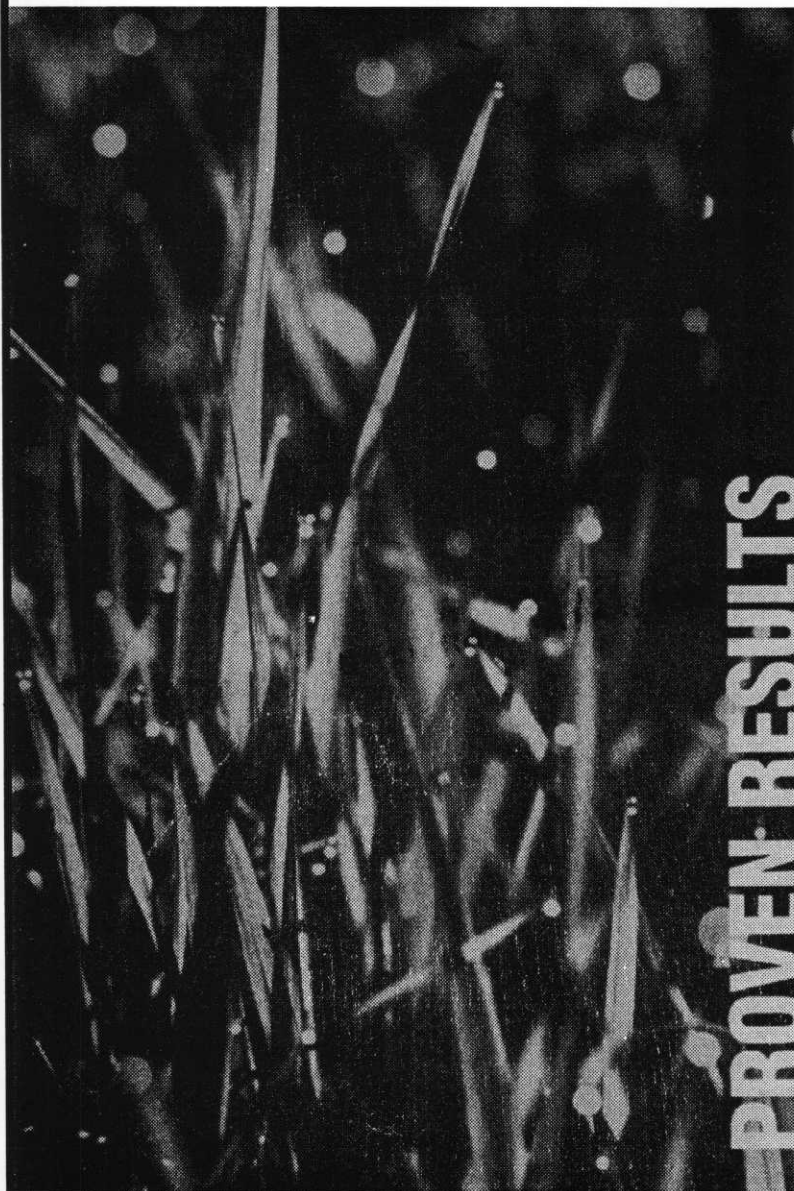
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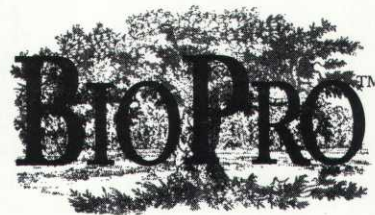
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# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki  
Minnesota Vikings Football Organization

The sounds of clanging aerifiers have ceased; thoughts turn towards leaf removal, budgets and winter disease applications. It's becoming to be the time of year that the grass slows its growing, your seasonal staff has left for school, with the exception of a few dedicated souls. Sooner than you know, the grounds will be covered with a blanket of white slow release water. But first, let's make sure we make it through October first. Then take it one day at a time.

\* \* \* \*

**Kudo's to Mary Burg(o)**, Superintendent at Brightwood Hills Golf Course, for the outstanding job that she did on designing the MTGF brochure. The brochure outlined the upcoming meetings for the Allied Associations and the Big MTGF Conference that will be held in December.

\* \* \* \*

**Mother Nature has not treated the Mankato and St. Peter area well this year**, with at least two, five hundred year return storms within three months of each other. My how time flies when you're having fun. For some reason that does not seem normal, but nothing is the norm when you're a Golf Course Superintendent.

\* \* \* \*

**What constitutes a job? What is a career? Are these two the same? Or is a job the same as a career? We all need jobs, the mortgage has to be paid, you need to eat, but when does it become a career? How often do you see the word "professional" associated with anything? It seems that anyone can be a "professional" in today's world.**

\* \* \* \*

**Upon further review, the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement is in the hands of the MGCSA membership.** It (the agreement) is in your hands for you to review, form ideas and to question. The agreement is a very powerful document, and it will affect your professional career as a Golf Course Superintendent.

This document will forever affect the MGCSA and the GCSAA. Now the Board of the MGCSA was elected by the membership, and they have your best interests at heart. Whenever a subject comes up as critical as this, it is up to the MGCSA membership to let their elected officials know the membership's opinion, or to ask questions so that the MGCSA Board can ask questions to find the answer. During anytime of year it is important that you, the member, let your elected officials know how you feel about a specific piece of legislation.

\* \* \* \*

**The point after, is this:** Should you feel the need to further investigate the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement, do it! However, I think you will find that the MGCSA Board did do its job. The play stands as called.

## Winter Preparation Checklist

The cultural maintenance practices implemented to prepare for winter vary greatly by climate and turf-grass variety. Following is a general checklist of activities, programs and policies superintendents use to get ready for cold weather.

### Cool Season

- Tees, greens, collars and fairways** — Aerify, seed, fertilize and topdress to insure turf is as healthy as possible to survive the winter.
- Irrigate** — As late in the fall/early winter as possible to prevent winter desiccation and to reduce mites which can cause winterkill.
- Green covers/topdress** — Place prior to first snowfall.
- Divots** — Seed all on the range, in the fairways and on the tees for better turf condition in spring.
- Equipment** — Overhaul.

### Cool and Transition

- Snow mold control** — Apply prior to the first snowfall.
- Irrigation system** — Winterize by draining and using an air compressor to blow out.
- Golf car traffic policy** — Develop one in cooperation with the golf professional, facility manager and green committee, then communicate the policy to golfers early.
- Winter spikeless policy** — Consider instituting "no-spike" or "soft-spike" policies for winter play.
- Temporary tees** — Reseed and begin mowing. Locate in sunny areas where snow won't accumulate.
- Storage** — Separate materials that must be kept from freezing and store away from those that can tolerate freezing.
- Education** — Plan to attend regional and national conferences.
- Soil tests** — Sample and have analyzed in the fall to have the results over the winter to plan next year's fertilization program.

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