MTGF-

(Continued from Page 9)

the value of helping the people from other turf and grounds areas is difficult, if not impossible to calculate. The hope though, is that we will all have a better world to live in because of it.

The Cost To Our Members

The cost of the MGCSA's support for the MTGF is limited to the lost revenue from the annual conference. In the years prior to the MTGF's participation, the conference was usually budgeted to break even. In reality however, it garnered a profit for our association. The funds were either put into the scholarship fund or put into the general fund, where they were usually banked because they were not budgeted for. Our last year at the Northland garnered about \$8,000.00 profit for our association. At the time, this amount of "extra money" was considered a huge bonus for our bottom line.

Since the development of the MTGF however, there has been an emphasis put on increasing the size, scope and profitability of the conference. Through economies of scale, the operating cost per attendee has been reduced, resulting in increased profit margins. Simply put, the more people, the more money that can be made. In addition, the cost for vendor booths has increased. From their point of view, the vendors are able to gain more exposure to their products with the increased attendance. For this increased exposure they are willing to pay more per booth. In my opinion, the vendors who participate in the MTGF are the big contributors to the funds that are so controversial.

The argument that the MGCSA is solely responsible for half of any profits from the conference is clouded by the fact that if there weren't other participants in the conference, there wouldn't be the level of vendor support or the economies of scale that lead to the profits. We would probably be making \$8,000.00 and be happy about it. Unfortunately, we would have half the education, and half the trade show, also. Most importantly, attendance has increased each year. Speakers associated with similar foundations from other states are overwhelmed by the growth in both the size and quality of our conference and show. Total headcount for this year was almost 1,500.

Where Is The Money Going?

The 1996 version of the conference netted about \$56,000.00. The board of directors has allocated these funds as follows:

\$13,000 for research, education and outreach;

\$4,000 for scholarships;

\$25,000 for 1997 conference seed money;

\$10,000 for administration, and

\$10,000 for future use and contingency.

MGCSA's representative on the foundation board, Pat Walton, has been appointed to head the Research and Scholarship Committee of the MTGF. It is a good bet that some of these funds will be used to initiate research that will directly benefit golf courses or to help a turf student interested in golf course management. Does this support our industry? I think it does.

Conclusions

The MTGF was formed to "promote and support the turf and grounds industry in Minnesota; to encourage and support research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere, and to represent allied associations in matters regarding the turf and grounds industry." We must remember that this organization has only existed three years, and to expect mountains of accomplishments is unfair. Afer all, it took the MGCSA seventy years to progress to where we are today.

The investment of the MGCSA has been substantial, but to say that we have given up the farm or squandered resources is also unreasonable. This is the first year that we have not profited from the conference, but financial projections for our current fiscal year still show a profit. Incidentally, if the \$8,000.00 of lost revenue were divided among the MGCSA membership, it would work out to about ten dollars each. From an individual member's standpoint then, you have indirectly paid ten dollars more for a conference that is world class, and contributed to all the other functions that the MTGF performs, including research, scholarship, outreach and networking opportunities.

It should also be noted that the member services provided by the MGCSA has not faltered or diminished in the last three years. On the contrary, through the efforts of your Board of Directors and the business office, we have been able to keep expenses in check and exceed profit projections. It is possible to improve our association and still support the MTGF.

There is little doubt that the relationship of the MGCSA and the MTGF will need continued sculpting and nurturing. But to expect too much of the infant before he is able to walk is unfair. Our efforts should instead be focused on helping him to walk, picking him up when he falls, and reaping the rewards when he wins the marathon.



Charlie Pooch, Les Bolstad U of M Golf Course, was busy signing up for all that "free" info on the Trade Show floor.

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1996 Legislative and Regulatory Issues Summary

A Year-End Review of Government Actions Affecting Golf Course Maintenance

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act received much attention in both Congress and state legislatures. There were at least three major versions of ESA reform bills. Compensation for property "takings" and enforcement authority were hot subjects of debate; however, no ESA legislation was passed. State legislation focused on the cost of administering ESA at the state level and the economic impact of protecting threatened and endangered species.

Environmental Audits

The 104th Congress failed to pass legisltion that would protect environmental audit reports from discovery in legal actions, opting instead to wait and evaluate the effectiveness of state environmental audit privilege plants. To date twenty states have adopted laws allowing immunity or privilege for environmental audits. The EPA opposes granting of privilege, although it expanded its policy on immunity from fines when violations are discovered in audits and corrected.

Health Care

Beginning July 1, 1997 workers who lose or change jobs will be able to continue to purchase health insurance for themselves and their families under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The bill will also limit the ability of insurance companies to deny insurance for pre-existing conditions.

Immigration

"Pink cards" replaced the old green cards as a new method of employment verification for immigrants, making it more difficult for employment documents to be falsified. In Congress, bill language that would have reduced legal immigration levels was not included in the broad illegal immigration reform measure passed by Congress as a rider to the omnibus appropriations bill.

Methyl Bromide

The Methyl Bromide Working Group, which lobbies for the continued use of methyl bromide, abandoned its efforts to get a federal amendment on the phaseout in 1996, but says it will try again in the 105th Congress. In California, legislative efforts to extend the 2001 deadline on the ban on methyl bromide failed.

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance

Environmental activists chose New Mexico as the testing ground to further the acceptance of multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), also known as idiopathic environmental intolerance (IEI), in public policy. Actions resulted in the establishment of a governor's task force that will study the syndrome and make recommendations regarding public safety.

NTEP

GCSAA and others successfully lobbied to restore National Turfgrass Evaluation Program funding that had been cut from President Clinton's FY 1997 budget. Efforts resulted in \$55,000 being allocated to the program, a ten percent increase over the previous budget.

Posting/Notification

Posting and notification bills were considered in several state legislatures last year with measures ranging from posting of lawn care applications to notification periods of up to 72 hours for all pesticide applications. The Georgia legislature enacted legislation requiring notification and posting of pesticide applications in all public-owned buildings, which is becoming a common way for environmentalists to introduce the issue to the public.

Regulatory Reform

Congress passed the Congressional Review Act (CRA) establishing a 60-day waiting period following agency publication of final rules, giving Congress an opportunity to pass a joint resolution of disapproval. The CRA requires a twothirds majority vote for Congress to kill mandates it deems unnecessary or overly burdensome. The Food Quality Protection Act also became law, repealing the 1950's era "Delaney Clause" and opening doors to future risk-benefit analysis of regulatory proposals. A regulatory reform bill that would have scaled back OSHA's inspection power and would have decreased EPA's enforcement authority lacked momentum and was subsequently abandoned. Regulatory reform efforts are expected to resurface in the 105th Congress.

Retirement Plans - 401(k)

In the last week of the 104th Congress, legislation was (Continued on Page 15)

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Government Actions-

(Continued from Page 13)

passed reinstating 401(k) retirement plans for all 501(c) taxexempt organizations, including 501(c)(7) private clubs. Effective January 1, 1997, non-profit employers can now offer the 401(k) plans enabling employees to put pre-tax dollars towards retirement and allowing employers to make matching contributions.

Safe Drinking Water Act

Congress passed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, refocusing the government's policy and giving more attention to contaminants that pose the greatest risk to groundwater. The newly reauthorized SDWA requires EPA to develop a list of drinking water contaminants that raise public health concerns and may be considered for future regulation. EPA plans to develop a long-term, risk-based approach for identifying which contaminants need to be regulated. EPA must also evaluate state groundwater protection plans and report back to Congress its findings.

State Management Plans

EPA issued a regulation on State Management Plans (SMPs) designed to manage pesticide contamination of groundwater from five specific pesticides: alachlor, atrazine, cyanazine, metolachlor and simazine. States must submit SMPs for approval by EPA for users in the state to be able to continue to buy and use the pesticides, which have been identified as probable or possible human carcinogens. If the pesticides are still found in unacceptable levels in groundwater after an SMP is implemented and evaluated, reregistration of the pesticides could be denied in the state. The decision not to develop an SMP or failure to get EPA approval could result in the pesticides being completely prohibited in that state. EPA is also able to add other pesticides to the list.

Wage and Hour

A bill that would have allowed employers to offer employees compensatory time off instead of overtime was abandoned after labor groups strongly opposed it and President Clinton threatened a veto. Congressional Republicans have said that the measure will be introduced again in 1997. Congress raised the national minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$4.75 in October, 1996 and it will go up to \$5.15 in September 1997. Several states also passed minimum wage hikes.

Wetlands

Congress avoided taking any action on controversial wetlands issues in the 1996 election year. Under pressure from environmentalists, the Army Corps of Engineers revised its nationwide permits system in December. A nationwide permit that previously covered projects affecting one to ten acres of wetlands now only covers less than three acres. The exemption from permits that allowed developers to impact as much as one acre of wetlands is now limited to one-third of an acre. Opponents question whether the Corps can manage the larger responsibility. State legislation varied from easing restrictions on wetlands use to making permitting more onerous. At issue in some states was the definition of what constitutes a wetlands area. Several states considered legislation that would create mitigation banks to compensate for wetlands destruction resulting from heavy industry and land development.

Worker Protection Standard

The golf industry continues to anticipate EPA action confirming the exemption of golf courses from application of the worker protection standard to golf course replacement turf plots and nurseries. GCSAA has been told that a policy statement is being circulated.

JOB OPENING

Madden's Resort is now accepting applications for the 12-month position of ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT at its Pine Beach East, Pine Beach West and Social Nine courses.

Applicant should have a formal turf education, be experienced and qualified in all aspects of golf course management and be career oriented.

Salary up to \$30,000 with benefits including health and dental insurance as well as state and national dues paid.

Application deadline: March 15, 1997.

Send resume to Scott Hoffmann, 8001 Pine Beach Peninsula, Brainerd, MN 56401. Phone: (218) 829-2811.





Rolling Green Country Club

As the MGCSA representative on the MTGF Board of Directors, I will be writing a monthly article in *Hole Notes* to update you on what is happening with the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation.

The MTGF Board of Directors met on January 7th to review the 1996 Conference and set goals for the coming year. It was announced at the meeting that the 1996 MTGF Conference was an overall success with only a few minor changes to be made for 1997. The 1996 conference profited about \$56,000 for the MTGF. The Board of Directors then discussed the pricing of the conference and decided to raise the individual fee for 1997 to \$95.00 for a full three-day pass. The vendor booth fee will also be increased 5% in 1997 to offset increased convention center costs. An additional \$50.00 will be added to late fees. The votes on raising the pricing of the conference were not unanimous. MTGF president John Hopko set the goals of the MTGF for 1997: Deliver a top quality educational conference; communicate to the membership more completely about what the MTGF is and can offer in the future; establish what the ultimate goals for the foundation should be; support activities to further the education of our members...education, scholarship, research, etc., and maximize efforts for co-sponsored events with our allied associations.

After setting the goals for the foundation for the coming year with the following budget for 1997.

Total funds available to the MTGF in 1997\$72,000
Existing savings and CD\$10,000
Operating expenses\$35,000
Scholarship\$4,000
Research and Outreach\$13,000
Long-term savings\$10,000

If at any time you have any questions or comments regarding the MTGF or would be interested in serving on the MTGF Scholarship & Research Committee, feel free to give me a call at (612) 478-2179. I will return your call the same day. I would like to thank Joe Moris for serving as the MGCSA alternate on the MTGF Board of Directors.



JOB OPENINGS

Koronis Hills Golf Club in Paynesville, Minn. is now accepting applications for the position of ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. Koronis Hills Golf Club is currently a 9-hole public daily fee golf course. In June of 1997 Koronis Hills will become an 18-hole course measuring 6,136 yards with bent/poa greens and bluegrass tees and fairways. The new course was designed by Joel Goldstrand and it also has a new automated Toro Network LTC Irrigation System designed by Leroy Young.

Responsibilities:

- Preventative equipment maintenance
- Pesticide and fertilizer applications and associated recordkeeping
- Irrigation repair and maintenance
- Training, scheduling and supervising staff
- Assist in overall golf course maintenance
- In charge in absence of course superintendent

We would expect this individual to assist the course superintendent in all aspects of golf course maintenance. Previous golf course maintenance experience is preferred. This is a new position which will run from April 1st to October 31. The starting hourly wage range would be \$8.00 to \$10.00 an hour or a salary/benefit package may be negotiated depending on experience.

Inquiries should be directed to: RUSSELL OLSON 1521 7th St. So. — Bldg. H106 Waite Park, MN 56387

Wendell Pittenger Golf Operations is now accepting applications for the position of ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/PROJECT MANAGER. Presently Wendell Pittenger Golf Operations is managing courses in a two-hour radius of Mississippi National in Red Wing.

Requirements: Turf/Landscape education a plus. Team worker with good driving record. Knowledge of running a large variety of equipment.

Responsibilities include learning the operations of the courses. Do a variety of projects at the courses. Gain experience of the irrigation system at our new course. Strong advancement possibilities with the company.

Salary: \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Position is available on March 1, 1997.

Send resumes to: RANDY JULIAR, Superintendent Wendell Pittenger Golf Operations 409 Golf Links Drive Red Wing, MN 55066

Minnesota Valley Country Club is accepting applications for the position of IRRIGATION/SPRAY TECHNICIAN. This is a full-time, 12-month position.

Minnesota Valley C.C. is a private, 18-hole facility with bent/poa greens and tees with rye, poa, bent fairways and utilizes a Toro VT4 Hydraulic Irrigation system. MVCC is planning to construct a new clubhouse in the fall of 1997 and install a new irrigation system in 1998.

Responsibilities:

- Pesticide and Fertilizer Applications and recordkeeping
- Irrigation repairs and maintenance
- Assist in overall golf course operations

Requirements:

- Completion of formal turf education or equivalent experience
- Minnesota Pesticide Applicator's License

Compensation:

- Hourly wage commensurate with experience
- Health, dental and life insurance
- Vacation
- 401K
- MGCSA Dues
- Playing privileges

Candidates must be highly motivated with a strong attention to quality and detail.

Send resume to:	MINNESOTA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
	c/o Larry Mueller
	6300 Auto Club Road
Ph: (612) 884-8733	Bloomington, MN 55438

The Minikahda Club is now accepting applications for the seasonal (9 months) position of ASSISTANT GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Minikahda is an 18-hole, private golf course located in Minneapolis.

Job description: Maintenance of course equipment.

Wages: \$8.00-\$9.00 per hour.

Personal requirements include some education and/or experience in small engine mechanics on equipment repair/maintenance. Must have or be willing to purchase a set of his/her own mechanic tools.

Application deadline: March 1, 1997

Inquiries should be directed to: DOUG MAHAL

The Minikahda Club 3205 Excelsior Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55416

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Somerset's Jerry Murphy Cited at National Meeting of GCSAA

Jerry Murphy, CGCS, of Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights, was one of 15 members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to be recognized on February 10 for 25 years of excellence in the GCSAA certification program.

Designation as a certified golf course superintendent indicates achievement of high standards of professional excellence and carries with it the prestige of a proud profession.

Since 1971, GCSAA has bestowed the coveted designation of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) upon those who qualify with professional experience and education, and successfully complete a rigorous six-hour examination and on-site inspection of their golf course operation. To ensure this level of excellence is maintained, certified superintendents must renew their CGCS status every five years through continuing education requirements or reexamination. More than 1,600 superintendents currently hold "CGCS" status.

"Over the years, the term CGCS has taken on worldwide

importance for superintendents and their employers," says GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS. "It truly is a measure of professional excellence in our industry."

The GCSAA Certification Program and the 15 GCSAA members celebrating their 25th anniversary of certification were recognized with "A Silver Celebration in the Silver State," a certification luncheon at GCSAA's 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show, in Las Vegas. Newly certified golf course superintendents in 1996 and those celebrating 15-, 20- and 25-year certification anniversaries were recognized. The luncheon was presentd in partnership with Novartis.

The GCSAA members who celebrate theier 25th anniversary as a certified golf course superintendent are from the inaugural class of 47 who were first recognized at GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show in 1972 by Paul M. Alexander, Ph.D. Alexander was GCSAA's (Staff) Director of Education in 1971 and was instrumental in developing the CGCS program.





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