

# Long Term Sun Exposure Increases Risk of Skin Cancer

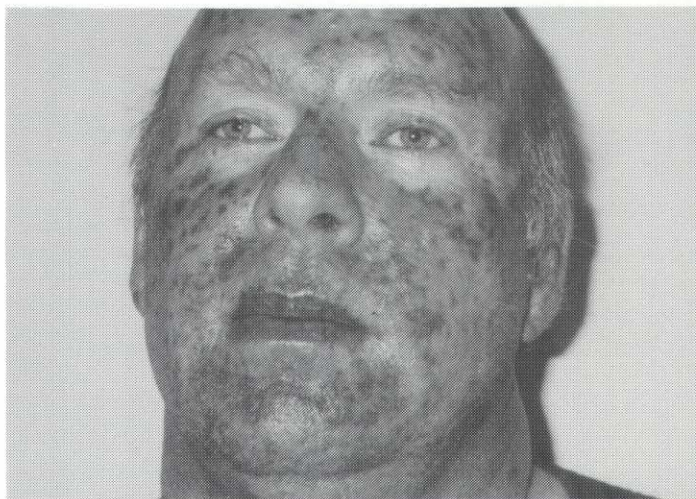
By GREG HUBBARD  
*Manitou Ridge Golf Course*

After 25 years in the golf business, I can appreciate its special charms. A life enjoying the outdoors, breathing fresh air and smelling freshly mown grass are the benefits of this special life. Days spent under the sun either working or playing on the course have become commonplace and necessary to do my job. My Scandinavian heritage of blond hair, fair skin and blue eyes predisposed me towards possible health problems like skin cancer, but these difficulties seemed a long ways away.

I wasn't aware of any problems until a recent visit to my physician. After an extensive physical, he asked about a pearly, waxy growth that appeared next to my right eye. This spot was often troublesome, a sore that never healed. Nothing to worry about, he said. A precautionary visit to a dermatologist would probably be in order for a person with my long term sun exposure.

As the dermatologist looked me over, a look of concern spread from his face to mine. That troublesome spot, along with others on my face and scalp, looked suspiciously like skin cancer and would require treatment. He would use cryosurgery or liquid nitrogen to freeze and kill these problem areas. With any luck, this would resolve my difficulties.

One month later, I returned back to the dermatologist. Many of the areas seemed better. Yet, even I could identify that same problem area next to my eye by this persistent scaly and flaky skin. The symptoms of skin cancer were evident and had not responded to the first treatment. A biopsy of this suspicious lesion would have to be taken and examined. Sur-



Topical cream's effect on pre-cancerous cells.

ely there couldn't be a problem. My apprehension increased as I waited for the results and one week later, they would confirm my fears. The most common form of skin cancer, basal carcinoma, was present and I would have to undergo further treatment to prevent its spread to other parts of my body. Another visit to the dermatologist would have to be made for more treatment.

With another visit, the cancer was successfully excised following a quick, painless procedure in my dermatologist's office. I was initially relieved to have this problem behind me, but was quickly informed that further treatment was necessary, not to remove more cancerous tissue, but to help prevent the spread of these lesions in the future.

Years of sun exposure had taken its toll and other damage was still present and needed to be treated. Scaly, small red spots, hardly noticeable except upon close inspection, were still present. These *actinic keratoses* or precancerous skin cells would need to be treated in order to prevent the occurrence of future skin problems. Upon review, the dermatologist

recommended the use of a topical, fluoride-based cream to be applied twice daily for three weeks. The fluorine in this cream would be quickly absorbed by the faster growing precancerous cells, causing them to explode like broadleaf weeds react to weedkiller. Though my face would be red and sore for this period, the upper epidermal layer and its troublesome spots would be removed and replaced by new skin, hopefully preventing further problems. My face would look bad for a

month, but winter was a good time to experience the effects of this treatment. At least I could hide indoors which I readily did, avoiding company and friends.

These procedures were successful in controlling my skin cancer problems. But like a fungus, control, not eradication, is the operative word. For years of abuse under the sun may take years to cure and I will live with the threat of these problems and perhaps some even worse in the future. Left unchecked, skin cancer can be the source for more serious, life threatening cancers as they move or metastasize throughout the body. If caught early, such as mine, the treatment success rate is over 95%. If ignored, the problem can be deadly.

The purpose of this dialogue is to increase your awareness of skin cancer and its treatment. Our lifestyle and environment seem to be causing an increase in the incidence of skin cancer problems today. I was lucky and had two knowing doctors who quickly identified and treated these problems. If you have light hair, a fair complexion, blue eyes, or long term

*(Continued on Page 13)*



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# Hazeltine Member-Grounds Crew Event Raises Funds For Trans Turf Scholars

By **RALPH TURPINEN**  
*Trans-Mississippi Golf Association*

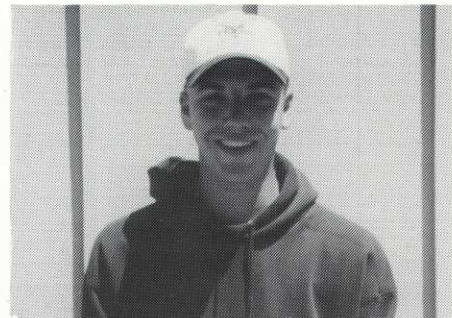
An unusual Memorial Day golf tournament involving members of Hazeltine National Golf Club and 14 grounds crew staff not only proved to be an enjoyable event for all concerned, but it also raised \$575 for the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund/Minnesota Project.

Created by Hazeltine members Tim Andersen and Mark Polich, both frequent participants in Trans-Mississippi competitions, the tournament successfully expanded communication between members and the

maintenance staff. All sorts of maintenance questions were asked and answered.

Grounds crew staffer Mark Semm further celebrated the day as one to remember by scoring a hole-in-one with an 8-iron on the 156-yard 17th.

Fourteen Hazeltine members joined the 14 staffers to compete in the best two out of four balls net event, with the title going to Head Golf Course Superintendent Jim Nicol, staffer Mark Storby and Hazeltine members Al Olson and Kent Molde with a daz-



**Mark Semm**  
*Aces the 17th hole at Hazeltine*

zling 14-under score in very windy weather. Low score was posted by Reed Mackenzie, who has chaired U.S. Open competition on this course, with a 75.

Seventy-five dollar gift certificates, donated by Andersen and Polich, were presented to Nicol and Storby and congratulations went to Olson and Molde at an enjoyable evening buffet.

Entry fee for members to participate in this "Old Tom Morris Keeper of the Greens Memorial Tournament" was a \$25 contribution to the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund/Minnesota Project, which works with the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association to raise scholarship funds.

**GROUND'S CREW:** Jim Nicol, CGCS, Mark Storby, Rick Hallman, Stan Giesen, Joe Maloney, Blair Hawkins, Chris Halvorson, Dave Nestberg, Jeff Schmidt, Mark Semm, Steve Frisch, Tim Taft, Keith Conway and Jim Hinton.

**MEMBER PLAYERS:** Al Olson, Kent Molde, Tim Andersen, Tim Rainey, Charlie Rooney, Cal Kuhlman, Bill Travis, Reed Mackenzie, Bob Fischer, Jack Meusey, Craig Hoff, Dick Putnam, Bob Leaf and James Meusey.

**ALSO CONTRIBUTING:** Charlie Rapp, John Ponterio, Jim Lieske, Matt Cookson, Tom Davis, Dave Dokmo, Mark Polich, John Brand and John Winberg.



**HAZELTINE WINNERS** from left, were members Kent Molde and Al Olson with Head Superintendent Jim Nicol and staff member Mark Storby.

## Long Term Sun Exposure Increases Risk of Skin Cancer—

*(Continued from Page 11)*

exposure to the sun, annual examinations by a dermatologist are prudent and necessary. Seek treatment and it can be easily defeated. In the meantime, sunscreen, wide brim hats, long sleeves and an increased awareness go a long way to preventing possible skin cancer problems.

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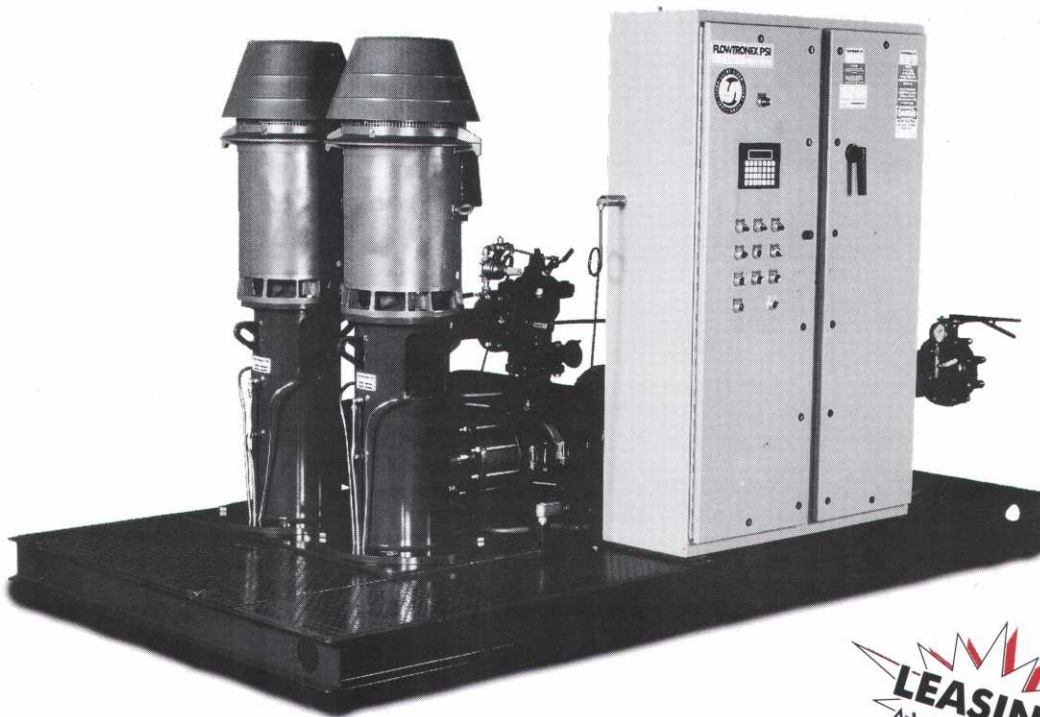
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# Ol' Keller Makes Big Comeback

By GARY OLSON  
*St. Paul Pioneer Press*

About two years ago, golfers from Keller Golf Course suggested a review of their course might be helpful. No praise was necessary, or expected.

The once-proud golf scene no longer lived up to its reputation. Not even close. Too many summers of good intentions hadn't kept pace with the quality daily-fee courses that had sprung up around the Ramsey County course in Maplewood.

If the weary, frustrated and just plain angry golfers had been a lynch mob, they would have failed miserably. They had way too much rope from too many years of the give-'em-enough-and-they'll-hang-themselves approach.

Before Keller could be revisited to judge the depth of the despair, the county bosses stepped outside their promote-from-within policy and hired Paul Diegnau, an honest-to-goodness greens superintendent, a guy with nearly a decade of experience growing great grass at the River Falls (Wis.) Country Club.

Even the most impatient among the unhappy golfers begged to give him a chance.

Now, these same golfers are inviting their friends to come back. Keller is back on its feet, perhaps still not as proud as it once was, but better than it has been in a long, long time and moving steadily toward the golf course it used to be.

"It's a treat to play," Rod Magnuson, a regular among the state's top senior golfers, said. "It's not a secret



Keller GC's superintendent Paul Diegnau.

that we had a lot of problems. Now, we're in good shape. Excellent. Amazing.

"To me, the best sign is that the good golfers are coming back on weekends. They stay here to play when there are a lot of options."

George Kappas, another of Keller's better golfers and a member of its men's club for 34 years, said the course is in the best shape it has been in 20 years.

"All of the good players used to look for somewhere else to play," he said. "Now, hardly any of us do. There's grass on the tees, the ball sits up in the fairways and the greens are so good..."

No golf course in Minnesota can brag of its history the way Keller can.

It was host to the St. Paul Open from 1930 to '68, the PGA Championship in '32 and '54, the LPGA Patty Berg Classic from '73 to '80, the Western Open in '49 and the 1931 National Public Links.

It would seem simple to heap all the praise for Keller's recovery on the broad shoulders of Diegnau but he's the first to say that would be too simple.

"A lot of work was done before I came here that we're getting credit for now," said Diegnau, well into his second golf season.

"I decided to come to work here because of Keller's history and its great layout. It's neat when you see the pictures from the past in the clubhouse. Keller has had a special place in Minnesota's

golf history; we want it to be again.

"We're not where we want to be, but we've made progress."

One of the problems Keller has had to deal with is the changing expectations of today's golfers. After they play Willingers, Bunker Hills, The Wilds, Rush Creek and Edinburgh USA, among several quality daily-fee courses in the area, they expect more at their home course.

"We have the history, we have the layout and now we have a product we can be excited about again," said pro Tom Purcell, in his 19th summer at Keller. "You could have Dale Carnegie in the pro shop and a great chef in the clubhouse, but what will bring people back to Keller is the golf course."



# P & H



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# Survey Reinforces GCSAA's Stance on Alternative Spikes

(Reprinted with permission from GCSAA's June 1997 issue *Newsline* magazine)

A survey of GCSAA members indicates that 94% of superintendents support the use of alternative spikes, and that within two years, nearly half of all courses will ban metal spikes.

The survey, distributed to 1,085 attendees of an educational seminar luncheon at the 1997 conference and show in Las Vegas, collected data on a variety of issues, including existing alternative-spike policies, factors relating to the development of a policy, effective sources of information on the issue and the effects of a spikeless policy on maintenance areas.

GCSAA's alternative-spike position, which was announced at the Las Vegas conference and show, is that "... facilities should consider requiring the use of these alternatives."

The position also states that "while it is the responsibility of each golf course to determine what policy is best for their facility, GCSAA is committed to facilitating the development of these policies through the accumulation and dissemination of information. As a result, it is in the best interest of facilities to consult with the golf course superintendent before making a decision..."

Survey results provide useful information about existing attitudes on alternative spikes and the establishment of alternative-spike policies. For example, findings show it may be easier to implement policies at private facilities. Forty-five percent of respondents from private clubs have an alternative-spikes policy, and 30% encourage alternative spikes. Only 13% of other respondents (from daily-fee, municipal and resort facilities) have an alternative-spikes policy, and 39% encourage alternative spikes.

Superintendents also rated the positions of others at their facilities, and they indicate many are "strongly for"

alternative spikes: 70% of owners/leadership groups, 65% of professionals, 65% of green committees, 52% of club managers and 43% of memberships.

In addition, the survey showed:

- The playability of the putting surface and the quality of the turf are the most important reasons for switching to alternative spikes.

- GCSAA and the USGA are the primary sources of information on this issue. Thirty-eight percent of respondents cite *Golf Course Management* magazine as the most effective GCSAA source.

- Superintendents rated themselves and golf professionals as the most influential in establishing a

policy.

- Nearly half of respondents indicate a belief that the brand of alternative spike makes a difference to turf quality.

- The responsibility for changeover costs rests with either golfers (40%) or facilities (35%).

GCSAA has prepared an information packet on this issue, as well as a "white paper" that provides background information and examines agronomic issues, golfer issues, current trends and GCSAA's policy. This information will also be available on GCSAA's Web site. To request a packet, contact the information services department at 800/472-7878, ext. 600.

## Effects of Alternative Spikes On Maintenance Areas

	Greatly Decreased	Greatly Increased
Greens playability.....	1%	74%
Beauty/condition of greens.....	1%	62%
Tee playability .....	1%	16%
Practices to avoid slipping .....	1%	12%
Need for special signage.....	1%	12%
Greens mowing schedule.....	4%	3%
Fertilizer application to greens .....	1%	3%
Greens maintenance costs.....	0%	3%
Tees maintenance costs .....	2%	2%
Tees mowing schedule .....	1%	2%
Fertilizer application to tees.....	2%	2%

Note: Percentages may total slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding of individual components.

Source: GCSAA's "Alternative Spike Policies: A Membership Survey"



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# Metro Area Golf Courses Springing Back to Life

By GARY OLSON  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Mother Nature must not be a golfer. Winter was brutal on the grass that carpets area golf courses, and spring was certainly no picnic for the guys who care for it. Until recently, there was barely enough warm weather to grow the grass that survived.

Jack MacKenzie, the greens superintendent at North Oaks Golf Club, began preparing his members last November for what they should expect when the snow finally melted. It seemed inevitable.

"Nearly all the problems you've heard about his spring can be traced back to that rainstorm in mid-November," MacKenzie said. "On Nov. 15, the temperature was about 50 degrees and we got 3 to 3½ inches of rain. By Nov. 18, it had turned to ice, and the temperature had dropped to 18 degrees."

It created a problem, called crown hydration, with which many golfers have become familiar this spring. It caused the saturated plant cells to burst.

"Where there was standing water, the chances were pretty good that you'd find a problem in the spring," MacKenzie said. "We had a fair amount of damage, but the level of acceptance today is considerably different from what it was in the 1960s and '70s. Our golfers have come to expect nearly perfect conditions, and for a few, their tolerance has dropped.

"When everything goes good, Mother Nature and I work in tandem. But when a few things go wrong, there are some golfers who think Mother Nature still does her job but that I've botched mine.

"Superintendents have become smarter — you need to know more than water runs downhill — because

our golfers expect more. Mother Nature continues to be the limiting element."

The degrees of higher learning that greenskeepers hang on the walls of what used to be called the equipment shacks didn't impress Mother Nature. Brown splotches dotted fairways and greens with varying degrees of seriousness at North Oaks, White Bear Yacht Club, Dellwood and Stillwater.

"We could have removed the snow from our greens earlier in the winter, but that would have exposed them to the cold," said Marlin Murphy, the grounds superintendent at Stillwater Country Club, relieved that golfers finally have resumed play on the 12 damaged greens.

"I think about half of our problems came from that early rain and quick freeze and about half came from a mid-February thaw that was followed by another freeze.

"We're fortunate that our members are the type of golfers who voted to

close our greens to give 'em a chance to recover.

St. Cloud Country Club had extensive damage to 17 of its 18 greens, and members there are still putting on temporary greens. The spring thaw-freeze is believed to be the cause.

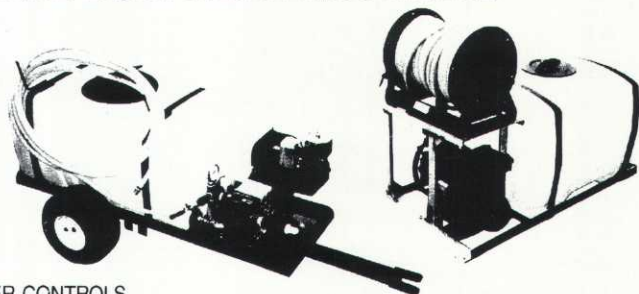
Hastings Country Club escaped nearly all the damage many area courses suffered, but greens superintendent Tom Feriancek isn't crowing.

"I've been where some of these guys are, and it's no fun," he said. "When you escape a winter like the one we just had, there's a good feeling about the condition of the course that you're able to provide for your members. But there's also a sense of relief. There's a feeling you may have dodged a bullet.

"Everybody does the right things to prepare their courses for winter — blanket their greens, spray to guard against snow mold — but no matter what you do, you're still vulnerable."

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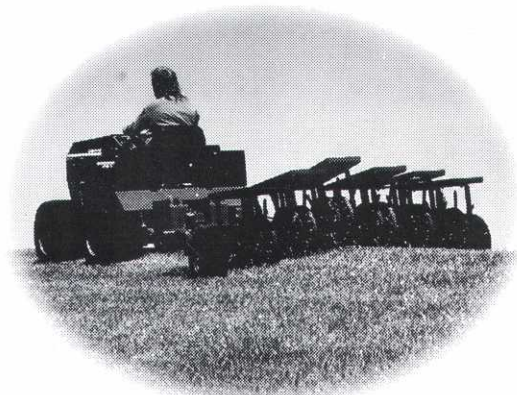
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