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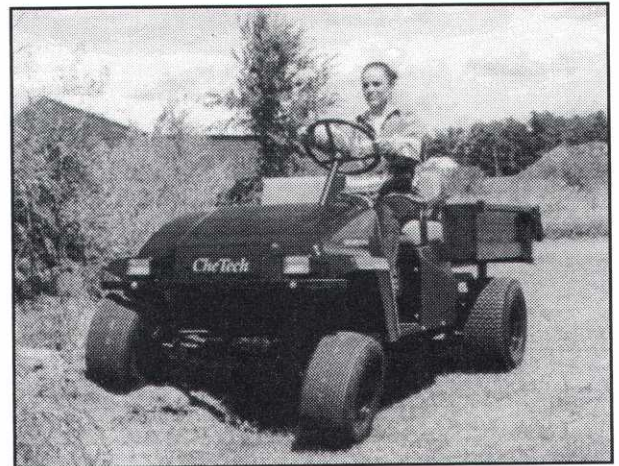
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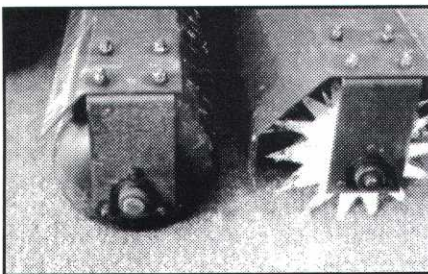
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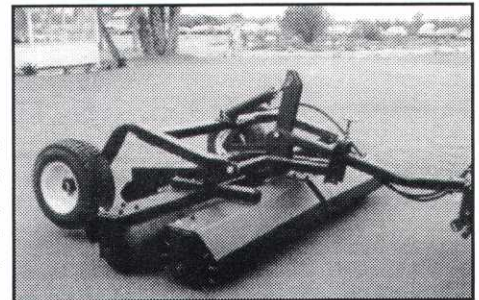


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HOLE NOTES

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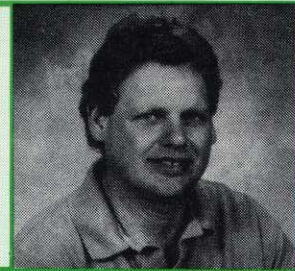
Editorial and Business Office

Scott Turtinen, Executive Director
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association
240 Minnetonka Avenue South/P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-1617
TEL: 612/473-0557 • FAX: 612/473-0576
TOLL FREE: 800-642-7227



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Supplying Knowledge



In an introductory marketing class in college, my instructor asked us what role retailers played in the economy. Not surprisingly, many students replied, "They just buy stuff, then mark it up about double, and sell it again. They're profiteers!" Good answer, Einstein. Your degree is in the mail. But, as we roll into the gut of the buying season, the role of our suppliers should not be overlooked or taken for granted.

Vendor, affiliate, associate, sales consultant, technical representative, sales representative, territory manager. . . the list of terms used to describe or identify the people and firms that golf course superintendents purchase equipment and supplies from is only as short as the imagination. Although sometimes maligned, these suppliers fill a service and distribution need, and, in a substantial way, educate and inform their customers. In addition, affiliate members of the MGCSA provide welcome support to our association.

Many of the functions that the vendors perform are quite obvious, such as providing technical product information, service information, usage guidelines, etc. There are, however, many other less obvious ways that many suppliers help superintendents do their jobs. One such way is their ability to disseminate information. For example, if course A is embarking on a tee construction project, the best help he could get is from another superintendent who has recently completed such a project. The salesperson (who sees every superintendent in the area) is likely to know of just such a person. He tells course A to talk to Hank, up the road, and just like that, valuable information has been shared. Hank lets course A in on a few secrets, warns them of some pitfalls, and in the end saves course A time and money. In another case, the sales person sees a superintendent who is perplexed over a broken zigzety shaft on a mower. He informs him or her that there was an update on that particular mower, and a call to the service department will provide all the new information. The superintendent is once again helped out of a jam. Think of how many times a supplier has put you in touch with the right resource at the right time. In most cases it probably didn't involve a commission, either.

The importance of affiliate members in the MGCSA was underscored a few years ago when two director positions were opened to them. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to serve with some hard working, dedicated individuals who are truly interested in the betterment of our association. I believe that they have given of themselves not for financial gain or increased sales, but for the same reason superintendent directors give of themselves — to make our association stronger and more beneficial to its members, and to advance our profession. At the risk of sounding patronizing, I would like to publicly thank all of the MGCSA Affiliate members who have helped superintendents in a variety of ways, and worked to make our association better.

I would like to welcome Tom Fischer, CGCS to the Board of Directors of the MGCSA. Tom is a past president of our association, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. Mr. Fischer will succeed Tom Parent who resigned from the Board last month. Mr. Parent has embarked on a new career in the field of golf course agronomics, and I wish him all the best. So thank you Tom, and welcome Tom. — Fred Taylor, MGCSA President

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Inside This Issue of Hole Notes

Advertisers

- 1** **Widespread Winter Woes**
By Bob Vavrek
- 5** **Winter Disease of '97**
By Ward Stienstra
- 7** **GCSAA Website**
- 9** **Giants Ridge GC in Biwabik**
By Hal Phillips
- 11** **Resources for Prairie Establishment** By Mary Meyer
- 15** **Serve and Turf: Customer Service and Your Crew**
By Jack Mateffy
- 16** **GCSAA Board Approves '97 Legislative/Regulatory Agenda**
- 17** **MGCSA Affiliate News**
- 19** **MGCSA Scholarship Scramble**
- 21** **Hole-by-Hole at Hidden Creek**
By Marty Terveer
- 25** **GCSAA Service Center**
—GCSAA Newslines
- 31** **Where Should I Go To College?** — GCSAA
- 34** **Harris, Lafayette Club Host April 29 Meeting**

Century Rain Aid	Insert
Classifieds	23
Cushman Motor Co.	18
Double Eagle Golf Construction	4
Duinick Bros.	Back Cover
Glenn Rehbein Companies	28
Hartman	11
IMC Vigoro	31
Leitner Company	6
Lesco	31
MTI Distributing Co.	Inside Front Cover
MTI Distributing Co.	12
MTI Distributing Co.	33
MTI Distributing Co.	25
North Star Turf	27
North Star Turf	30
Par Aide Products Co.	16
Paskvan Consulting	27
P&H Warehouse	14
Peterson Seed Co.	5
Plaisted Companies	26
Polfus Implement	Inside Back Cover
Precision Turf & Chemical, Inc.	29
Prinsco	24
Professional Tree & Turf Equipment of Minnesota	32
Rhone-Poulenc AG Company	23
Rohling Green Corp.	25
Spectrum Research, Inc.	17
Superior Tech Products	20
Turf Supply Co.	8
Williams & Gill	24
Zeneca	10

Departments

- 3** **From Your President's Desk** By Fred Taylor
- 13** **MGCSA Board Minutes**
By Pat Walton
- 24** **Membership Report**
By Steve Shumansky
- 27** **Job Opening**
Spring Hill Golf Club
- 34** **Editor's Corner**
By Rob Panuska

1997 MGCSA Monthly Meeting Schedule

- June 16**
Cannon GC • Host: Jeff Backstrom
- July 14**
Scholarship Scramble
Hidden Creek GC • Host: Marty Terveer
- August 18**
MGCSA Amateur Championship
Rush Creek GC • Host: Tom Fuller
- September 14**
Stodola Research Scramble
The Preserve at Grand View Lodge • Host: Tom Kientzle
- October 6**
Les Bolstad University of Minn. GC • Host Charlie Pooch
- December 10, 11 & 12**
MGCSA Annual Meeting
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Winter Disease of '97

By **DR. WARD STIENSTRA**

*University of Minnesota
Department of Plant Pathology*

The fall and winter of '96 and spring of '97 was possibly the worst season I can remember. The dry fall left the turf in a weakened position, the snow cover did allow the soil surface to thaw under the snow and the rain in November was potentially very damaging. The extended snow cover, a slow melt in the spring and the spring that did not want to develop, including the cold snap in April has made growing turf very difficult. Springs just don't seem to change into summer as fast as I remembered.

Fungicide treatment for winter disease this past year was exposed to the most rigorous environment I can remember. Any weakness in your delivery system should have been exposed this year. I believe, I could see patterns of both liquid and granular products failing to provide the uniform level of disease management we've come to expect. Application rates at low dilution levels, 3/4 to 1 gallon liquid per thousand square feet and spreaders that may have been just a little too wide in the application pattern show streaks and gaps. The fact that some PCNB fungicide treatments were watered in could have contributed to the less than desired level of disease control. The performance of PCNB, mostly the 75% WP formulation over the past several years in my trials, has had some variability. The lack of consistent performance may have been due to the product not always mixing well in the spray tank and I believed that it was more prone to being susceptible to washing off the grass foliage. I also had observed that the flowable PCNB formulations had variability in performance. This tendency may be part of the reason some people saw failure this year.

Fungicide products perform best when applied to dry turf and are allowed to dry in place before being re-wet. Application to a wet target is not desired, as it results in a longer drying time. The application of all fungicides for winter disease management should be applied to dry turf in a minimum of two gallons of water per one thousand square feet.

In past years the need for a spring application to control winter disease was a minor concern, but over the last several years in north central Minnesota I've seen the need for applications following snow melt. This may be due to a longer spring season, slow growing turf or the use of products that do not have the staying power of products like Mercury. In years like this past season removal of fungicide products by water or weather may have increased the need for spring application.

In addition to disease this year direct damage from exposure was a problem and standing water increased crown hydration killing. Spring disease that I've seen this year

was due to Pink Patch or Pink Snow Molds. The damage first appeared as water-soaked spots, changing into bleached tan or white dead circles and with continuing favorable conditions — cool and wet — pink to salmon colored rings around the tan spots. A spring application of fungicides appeared to not stop this disease; however, one must remember that recovery is dependent on growth. Something that most did not have and any mowing of greens removed the few green leaves that did grow. The disease appeared to be worse. Greens that were Poa and now are more bent are expected to grow even less as the bents are more temperature sensitive. We clearly are ready for warm weather, but our expectations for growth this spring were very unrealistic. Soil temperatures were too low and sunlight was limited as was water. Growth levels expected were way beyond what could be achieved by bents and it therefore appeared that the disease was still active. Turf reserves were at a low level this spring and any growth from carbohydrates was very limited; the plant needed to be able to convert sunlight to energy and this spring season did not allow this to happen. I am collecting isolates of *Microdochium* or *Fusarium* to test for tolerance. At the

(Continued on Page 32)

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GCSAA Web Site Evolves To Meet Members' Needs

(Reprinted from Newsline with permission from the GCSAA)

Something's happening every day on GCSAA's Web site. From weekly updates of items such as the Employment Referral Service job listings, to monthly updates of the *Golf Course Management* magazine section, GCSAA programs and services are available at the click of your mouse.

GCSAA has also added several major features to the site — and more are planned in the year to come. Developed in response to committees' and users' feedback, these new features are designed to keep you better informed about your profession and the industry, help you stay in touch with your peers around the world and expand your educational horizons.

What's New

- **Research database:** This database of virtually all known turfgrass research currently taking place can be searched by investigator, institution or key words. You'll also find a list of the institutions submitting research information as well as year-end reports on all turfgrass research programs funded by The GCSAA Foundation.

- **Conference proceedings:** If you missed the Las Vegas conference and show or couldn't make it to some of the presentations, you can review all the proceedings from the more than 70 forums, sessions and workshops. The proceedings will remain posted until the Anaheim material is placed online.

- **Scholarship applications:** Student members can apply for the GCSAA Foundation scholarships through online applications.

- **"Par for the Course":** To accompany the fourth season of "Par for the Course," this section highlights each episode's featured course, offers an interactive presentation of the weekly rules question and provides links to other resources on the topic. In the future, short video and audio clips may be added.

- **Suggest-a-link campaign:** By completing an interactive form suggesting your favorite Web sites, you can help GCSAA Online create links to other sites and become a more comprehensive information resource. Dozens of members have made suggestions, which can be found in the link sections.

- **Discussion forums:** Because of the overwhelming popularity of the discussion forum, GCSAA Online has recently added an "equipment and product use" forum and an "agronomic practices" forum. The original forum is now the general forum, where you can find discussions ranging from professional issues, to recreational information, to GCSAA politics. And, in response to user suggestions, GCSAA has made the forums more user-friendly by

rewriting the instructions, making the input fields easier to use and taking advantage of new software add-ons.

- **Industry Links:** This section brings you closer to those who do business in the golf course management industry. Superintendents can link to company pages that may include distributor information, e-mail addresses, links to companies' own Web sites and even specific product pages.

In addition, last winter GCSAA Online included three short-term features that will be returning next year:

- **Exhibitor Locator:** By providing a list of selected companies' booth numbers in chronological order, the locator helped conference and show attendees make their routes of the trade show.

- **Golf Asia:** This section detailed GCSAA's Golf Asia educational program and offered links to seminar descriptions and instructors' biographies. Plans next year call for online registration for this event.

- **Program Call:** With this interactive form, you could submit ideas for GCSAA education programs or offer to be an educational program presenter.

What's Next

- **MSDS database:** This comprehensive electronic database will be available only to members and will be searchable by common name, brand name or any set of words you enter in the search engine.

- **Online bookstore ordering:** With a few clicks of your mouse, the new bookstore ordering system will allow you to choose items, add up your total and figure your shipping and handling fees. All transactions will be completed over a financial server, so credit card information will be secure. GCSAA is also exploring the feasibility of adding online merchandise ordering.

- **Committee communications:** This section will allow you to contact committee members directly with your suggestions or questions. Members will be listed by committees, and those with e-mail will have an automatic e-mail form linked to their names.

- **Correspondence course:** GCSAA will be formatting one of its correspondence courses for the Web site, where it can provide an interactive learning environment for members around the world.

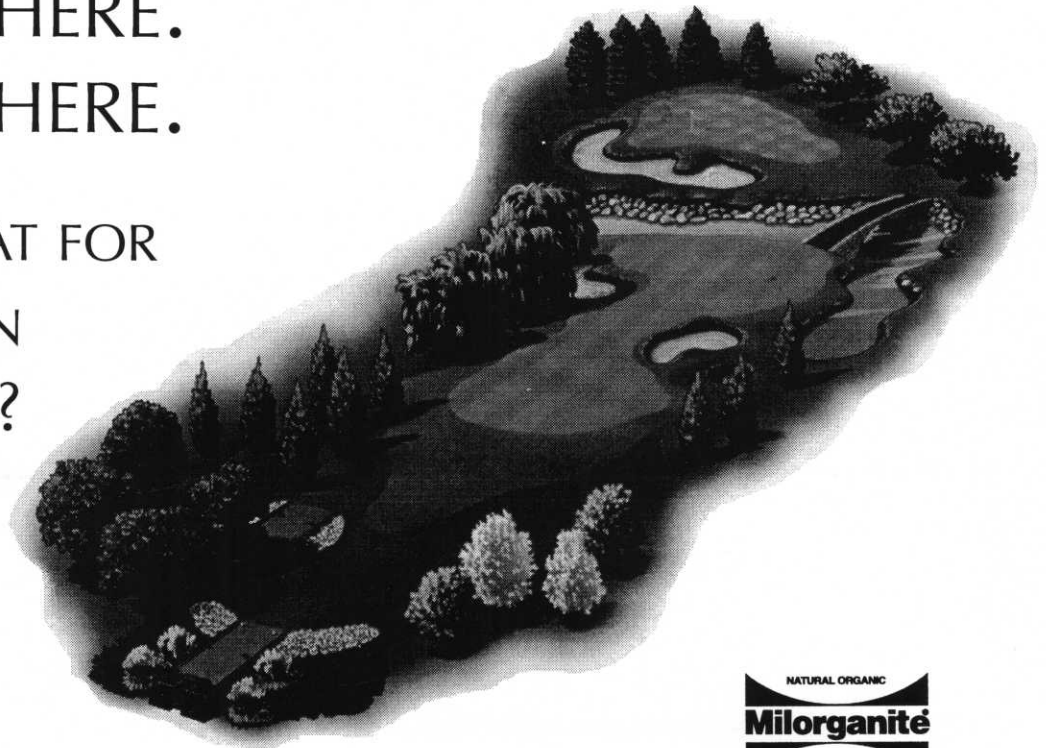
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If you have a question, or a suggestion on how GCSAA can make its Web site a more useful and user-friendly tool, contact the information services department at 800/472-7878.



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Giants Ridge Golf Club In Biwabik Opens Despite Obstacles

By HAL PHILLIPS

(Reprinted with permission from Golf Course News Magazine)

Three years ago, a turf war between bickering governmental factions nearly scuttled an 18-hole course project in Minnesota's Iron Range region. But architect Jeff Brauer stuck to his environmental guns, patiently assuring opponents that a golf course would not tamper with the ecosystem.

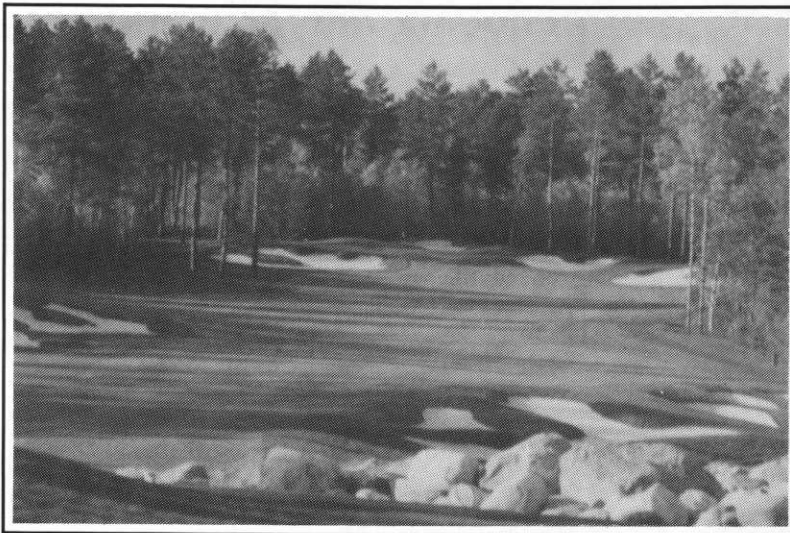
Brauer's perseverance paid off as Giants Ridge Golf Club opened for play in Biwabik. The Arlington, Texas-based

architect has made full use of a spectacular north woods setting, routing the course over and around natural boulder fields, wetlands and ancient pines. Designed with help from touring pro Lanny Wadkins, Giants Ridge stands to be Brauer's most high-profile project to date.

"Well, it's actually the lowest profile project we've done, in terms of mounding," Brauer said. "We didn't have to manufacture much because the site is so special. I think because of the site, this is definitely my best work. But the best one is always the next one."

A former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Brauer can list several acclaimed projects in his portfolio, among them are Wild Wing Plantation near Myrtle Beach and TangleRidge Golf Club in Grand Prairie, Texas. Yet Brauer believes Giants Ridge should surpass them both.

The irony? The project nearly fell apart in 1994 when state and county environmental organizations disagreed on project approval. The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), administered by St. Louis County, okayed the project while the Minnesota Depart-



ment of Natural Resources (DNR) disagreed. Seems the DNR didn't think the county had the technical knowledge to decide one way or the other.

In response, the DNR asked for a full-blown Environmental Impact Study, the first ever requested for a golf project in Minnesota — indeed, the less stringent Environmental Assessment Worksheet had never been requested for golf project in the state.

After the state's Environmental Quality Board ruled in favor of St. Louis County, two citizens groups immediately filed suit to stop the work. The suit named some 120 environmental reasons to halt the project — many lifted directly from the DNR's motion for EIS.

Sherry Enzler, Minnesota's deputy attorney general at the time, summed up the situation: "It appears the DNR has been in close contact with the citizens group."

Eventually, the suit was thrown out. Indeed, further studies conducted by Rockwell, Md.-based Environmental & Turf Services (ETS) showed that Brauer and his team had already gone to extraordinary lengths to protect wetlands and preserve endangered species like the Barren Strawberry and March Marigold.

"I have never worked on a project where the golf course architect has gone to such great lengths to prevent surface drainage," said ETS President Stuart Cohen at the time.

The IRRB approved the project in early November 1994.

"Two full construction seasons later, here we are," said Brauer, weary from the process but well pleased with the results.



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