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# Red River Flooding Changes Priorities

By MARK S. LANDA

Sometimes all that is needed to make a decision is a little extra push. That little extra push can come from an extreme condition such as the spring flooding of the Red River of the North. The flood set records for the Grand Forks, North Dakota area as it made its way north to Canada. The river crested at 54.3 feet above the river bottom. The normal river level is between 12 and 16 feet with flood stage in Grand Forks set at 28 feet. Serious problems start to develop when the river level hits about 40 feet. At the height of the flood, almost all of Grand Forks and its twin city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota were covered by flood water.

Also covered with floodwater was the Grand Forks Country Club, which lies along the Red River, just south of Grand Forks. Parts of the course are threatened by high water during normal spring flooding, but this year's water levels were unprecedented. The flood caused many problems for the country club, as it did for everyone in the region. Just getting to work was a chore. Staff members boated to work for 28 days as river water covered most of the course and all access roads. As dikes started to fail in the Grand Forks area several days before the river crested, Course Superintendent Mark Bergstrom and his staff moved equipment to the highest points on the course. This move proved necessary as the maintenance shop was covered with 17 inches of water. The clubhouse lower level filled with eight feet of water as the river flowed in through the windows.

Clean up started immediately. Mark and his crew washed the silt off the greens as the waters receded. Silt was a major problem for the entire course. More than 200 cubic yards of silt were removed from the 17th hole alone. It took 2½ weeks for trash pick up alone. And then the real work began. Six of the 18 holes received major damage. More than 100 acres needed repair with approximately half of those needing to be re-seeded. It wasn't until August that the entire course was open for play.

An important element in the repair of the course was the DAKOTA Turf Tender 440, a new piece of equipment the Country Club purchased after the flood. The Turf Tender was first introduced to the public at the 1997 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Trade Show in Las Vegas, but Mark had been familiar

with the machine earlier. Grand Forks is the headquarters for DAKOTA and several superintendents in the area, including Mark, had been consulted during the development of the machine. Mark provided input on marketplace needs and also critiqued the machine as it was being developed. He therefore knew how versatile the machine could be.

Originally, Mark had intended to wait and make a Turf Tender part of his 1998 budget. He realized it would be a valuable addition, but did not think it was critical for 1997. The flood of 1997 changed his thinking. Because of the variety of work required to repair the extensive damage, his existing machinery would be tested to its limits. Also causing problems was a labor shortage as the clean up and reconstruction around the two cities used every available person. Normally, Mark has 14 people working on the course during the summer months but this past summer he only managed to retain that many for about two weeks. For the majority of the summer Mark and eight staff members handled the grounds responsibilities. The staff worked as many hours as it could handle, six days per week. Each person was given one day off each week to rest up for the following week. When the golf course opened to play all 18 holes, it was time for some staff members to return to school. This forced other staff members to work seven days a week. A labor saving device was desperately needed.

The versatile Turf Tender proved to be indispensable in flood repair. Many different materials were hauled in the Turf Tender to repair damaged areas. Sand was hauled and unloaded into bunkers. Coarse aggregates were hauled to repair and replace destroyed cart paths. The Turf Tender's low impact footprint allowed Mark and his staff to haul full loads across the course without doing more damage. Topdressing was also made much easier. Instead of the five or six people normally used for topdressing, the Turf Tender allowed the entire process to be done with only three people. Of the three people, one person hauled material and filled the topdresser with the Turf Tender, a second person did the topdressing while the third person brushed the greens. Since the machine can be loaded with a tractor and loader instead of a shovel, labor time

*(Continued on Page 24)*

# MTGF UPDATE

By Patrick A. Walton, CGCS  
Rolling Green Country Club

The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Board of Directors met on September 18 at North Star Turf in St. Paul. The Rosemount Project is moving ahead slowly. The Governance Committee held its first meeting on September 19. The Governance Committee will be determining how the project is to be run.

The DNR is currently doing an environmental impact study on the Rosemount Project. The MTGF Research Committee will be bringing a motion to the MTGF Board of Directors to co-fund Dr. Ward Stienstra's Winter Disease Management Study and Brad Pedersen's Low Maintenance Turf Trials being done at the University of Minnesota.

The Long Range Planning Committee is in the process of developing a job description for an executive direc-

tor to be hired to run and promote the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation. If you have any questions about the MTGF, feel free to give me a call at (612) 478-2179.

— Respectfully,  
Patrick A. Walton, CGCS



## Cliff Reynolds Gets 3rd Ace

Cliff Reynolds, superintendent at Zumbrota Golf Club, scored a hole-in-one on the 4th hole at Lake City Country Club using a 7-iron. It was his third hole-in-one — all of them on the Lake City course. The others were in 1985 and 1994. Playing with Reynolds and witnessing this ace were Tom Harkins, Dean Sperling, both of Lake City, and Rhody Leonard of Red Wing.



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# Red River Flooding Changes Priorities—

(Continued from Page 22)

is saved and the chance of injuries can be reduced. This machine did the work of several people. As a result, those people were free to work on other projects.

Mark has been in the golf course industry for quite a while. His career started when he worked part time for the Owatonna Country Club in his hometown of Owatonna, Minnesota. Mark worked at Owatonna Country Club during the summers while in high school and also after he started college at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. He then moved to Grand Forks where he was employed at the University of North Dakota, first as the campus mowing supervisor and then as the assistant superintendent at the university-owned Ray Richards Golf Course. In May, 1995, Mark was hired as superintendent at the Grand Forks Country Club. At that time, he had no idea of the difficulties he would face less than two years later.

Even though the Red River flood of 1997 is little more than a memory for the Grand Forks Country Club, it has

had some lasting effects. The labor shortage continues. Most of the remaining maintenance staff is working seven days a week to keep the course in tip top condition until the end of the season. Hopefully this is just temporary.

More importantly, the way things are done have been changed forever. The new DAKOTA Turf Tender will help save time, labor and expense for years to come. Mark was impressed with the versatility of the machine. It is the perfect grow-in machine. It can be used for construction, repair work or regular maintenance, and it will spread almost any material including topdressing and fertilizer. The savings in time and labor Mark experienced with the Turf Tender made it a good purchase for this year even if it hadn't been needed for flood repair. The Turf Tender can pay for itself in saved labor costs and by eliminating other unneeded machinery. In the long run, the purchase of a Turf Tender that was forced by unusual circumstances will end up paying dividends for a long, long time.

To: Members/MGCSA

Applications are now being accepted at Mayflower Country Club in Fairfax, Minn. for the full-time position of GENERAL MANAGER for 1998. Salary is negotiable. Mayflower CC is a 9-hole course.

Inquiries should be directed to:

JIM POSS, secretary  
Mayflower Country Club  
Box 333  
Franklin, MN 55337

Phone: 507/557-2726

— CORRECTION —

## Lucas Mahal and Tamara Johnson Receive Garske Legacy Scholarships

Lucas Mahal, son of Doug Mahal, Head Golf Course Superintendent at The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, and Tamara Johnson, daughter of Bill Johnson, former Head Superintendent at Edina Country Club have been awarded \$1,250 Garske Legacy Scholarships.

Mahal is a student at Vermillion Community College in Ely. Johnson, who also received the scholarship last year, is a student at the University of Wisconsin/LaCrosse.

The Garske Legacy Scholarship program is designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, Associate and Affiliate members.

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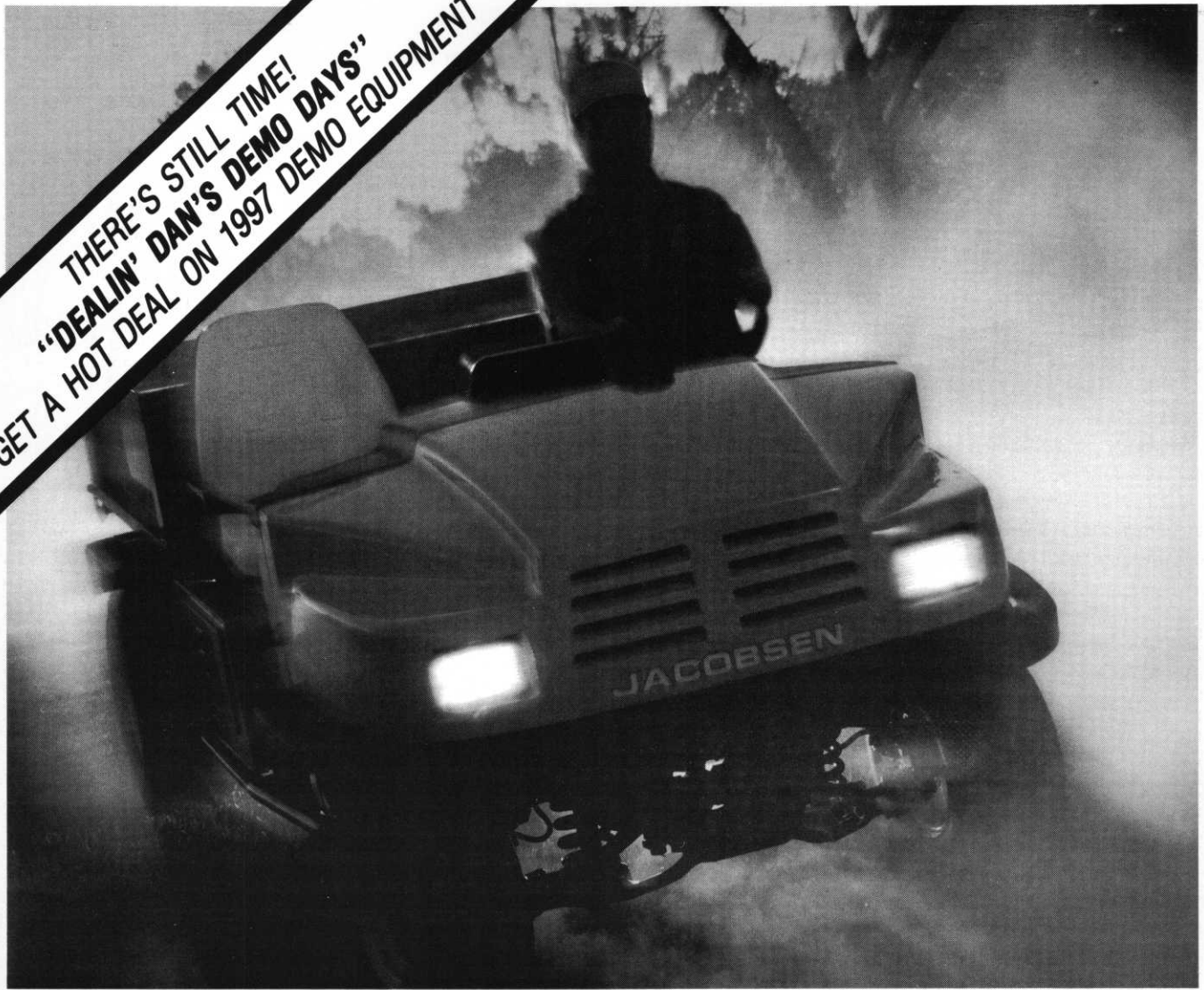
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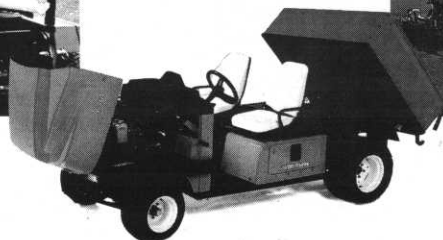
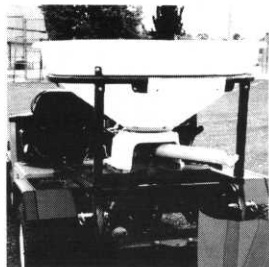
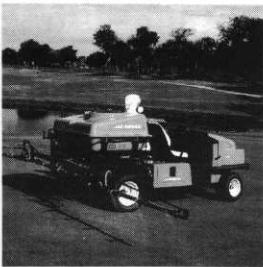
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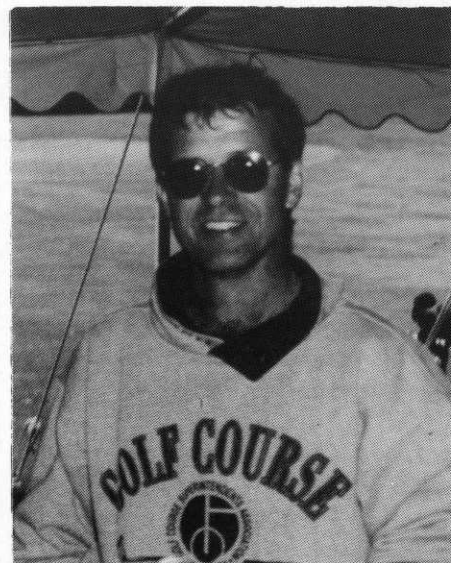
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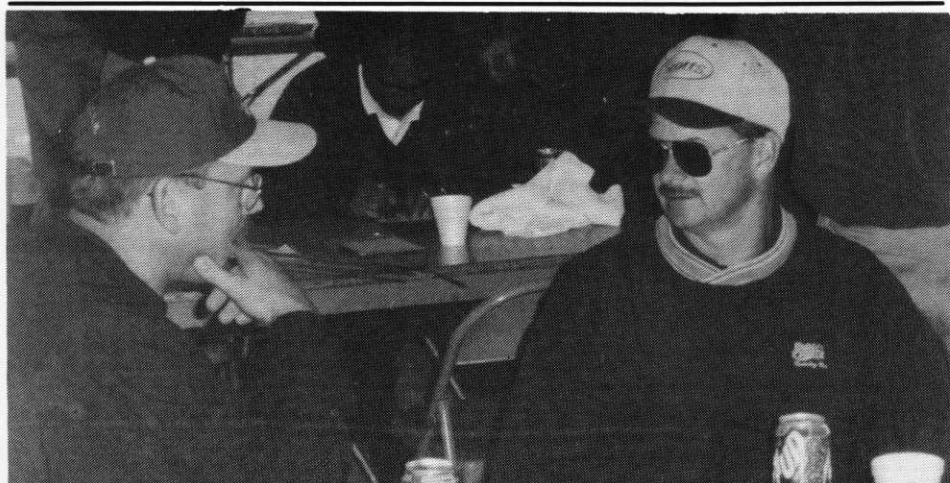
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# MGCSA October Mixer Results At The Les Bolstad U of M Golf Course

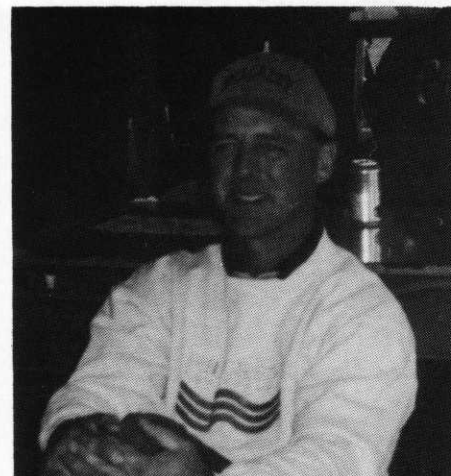
Team	Par 144
Dan Evavold, Scot Ender, Jon Almquist & Sean McDonagh .....	113
Mike Kelly, Rob Panuska, Troy Carson & Scott Turtinen .....	118
Jon Pulju, Mike Nelson, Kevin Norby & Scott Ness .....	126
Walt Braunig, Joel Metz, Tim Berquam & Alex Ellram .....	125
Charlie Pooch, Fred Taylor, Tom Meier & Mike Olson .....	130
Jim Terry, Don Goon, John Glattly & Greg Fruetel .....	130
Steve Busch, Steve Garske, Phil Larsen & Steve Hamelau .....	131
Bruce Leland, Jason Yonak, John Queensland & Allen Starke .....	132
Cary Femrite, Jeff Johnson, Bob Fredericks & Kurt Knox .....	133
Cliff Reynolds, Jason Spitzner, Dean Sperling & Ron Bloom .....	135
Myron Lahr, Tom Schmidt, Edwin Lahr, Leroy Taber .....	139
Richard Kolter, John Jarosz & Benjamin Ratzlaff] .....	139
Scott Austin, Jeff McDowell, Gary Rohling & Tim Rasmussen .....	144
Mike Brower, Kevin Clunis, Mark Sullivan & Daryl Scheerhoorn .....	146



**HOST SUPERINTENDENT CHARLIE POOCH**



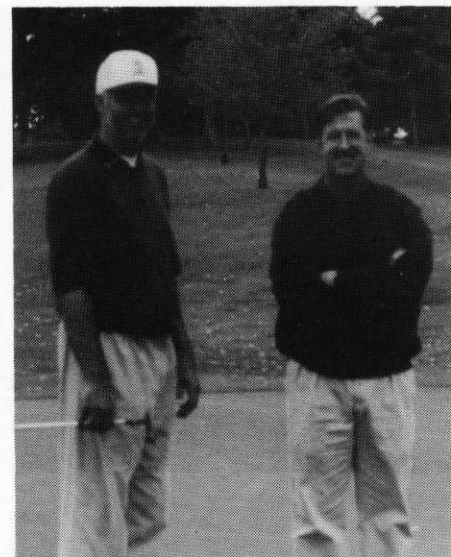
**BRUCE LELAND OF BRIDGE AMERICA** talks with Mike Redmond of The Scotts Company.



**CO-MEDALIST MIKE BROWER** of Hillcrest CC shot a 74 to tie Jim Terry of Livin' Green.

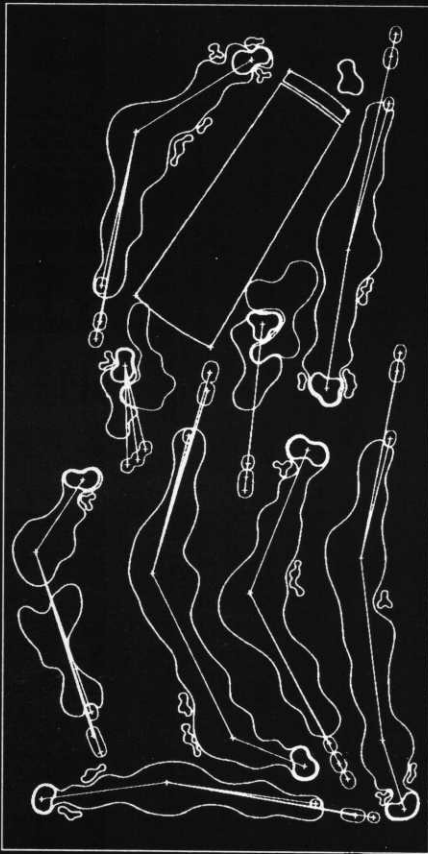


**TROY CARSON, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**, blasts from a bunker on the 10th hole. Troy helped his team to a second place finish at 24-under-par.



**MIKE OLSON**, Golden Valley CC, talks with his old assistant Richard Meyer who is now with Spring Hill Golf Club.

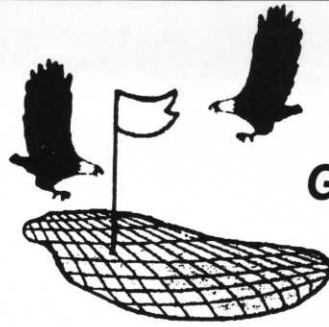
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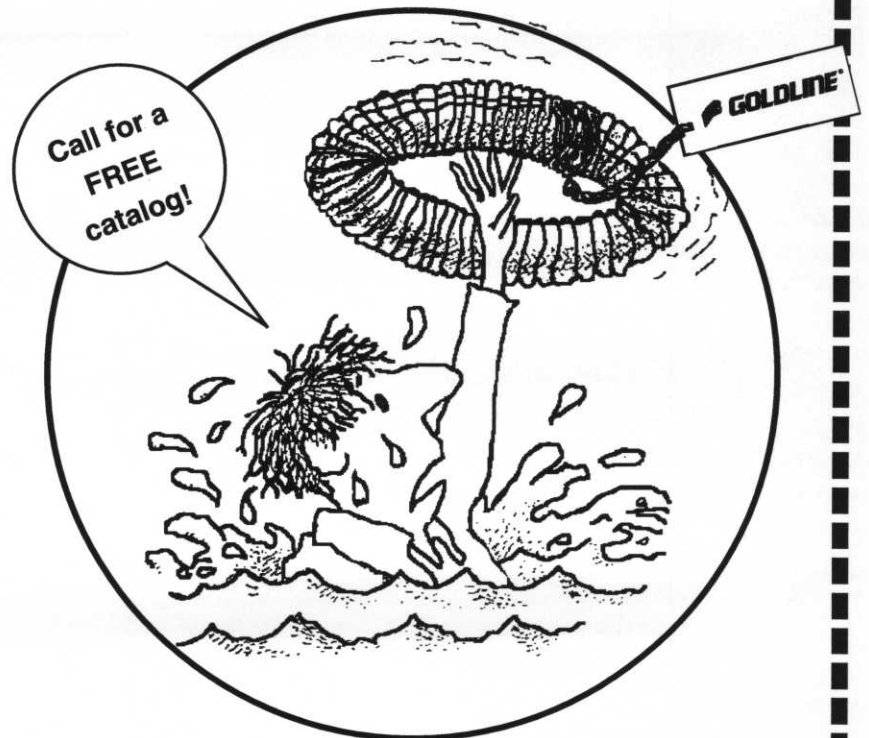
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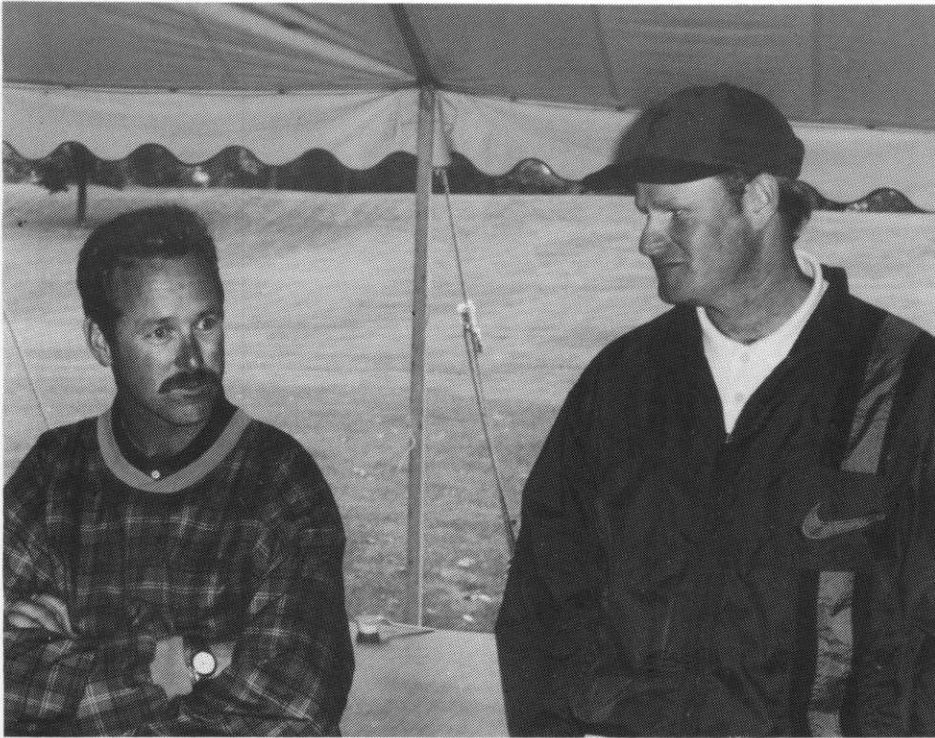
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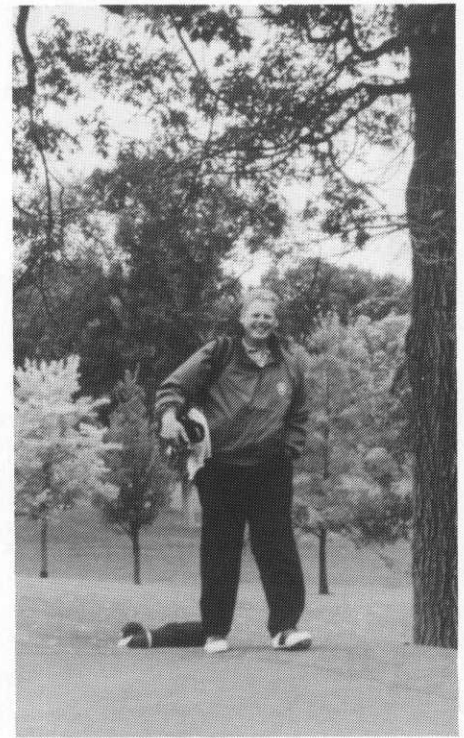
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# Scenes at the University of Minnesota Golf Course



James Gardner, The Wilds Golf Club, and Mike Nelson, The Links at Northfork, discuss all the birdies they made at the MGCSA October meeting.



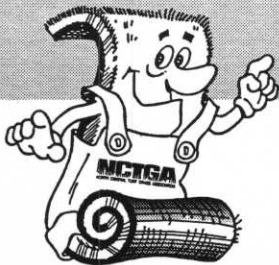
MGCSA PRESIDENT Fred Taylor enjoying his round of golf at the University of Minnesota Golf Course.

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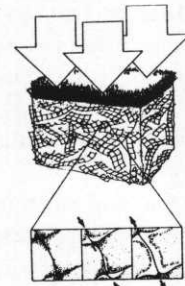
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# Explore New Ideas at 4th Annual Turf & Grounds Conference, Show December 10-12 in Minneapolis

By RALPH TURTINEN

Every year the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Convention and Trade Show gets bigger and better, and that's the same path being followed for the fourth annual session December 10-12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Brimming with an excellent cast of expert speakers in this year's general meetings and 24 concurrent sessions plus providing considerable time to review a superb array of equipment and vendor services, this year's gathering promises to be a worthwhile experience for all involved in the industry.

The quality and variety of programs dispersed throughout the three-day show is testimony to the dedicated effort made by the Convention Planning Committee to produce topics of interest to all concerned.

"Here is an opportunity for all of us to share our problems while seeking solutions and to share how we achieved success in various endeavors," said Dave Kemp, chair of the 1997 Convention. "Part of our purpose as a foundation is to encourage and support research, education and outreach, and that's what this conference helps us do."

Full conference registration of \$95 accomplished by November 15 provides a significant savings of \$30, compared to on-site registration of \$125.00. Attendees also may register for only one or two days of the three-day show.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday (December 10). Attendees then will be welcomed by MTGF President John Hopko, who also will provide an association update, from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

## Living Proof That A Positive Attitude Helps

Principal speaker at the opening session Wednesday is Dr. Zacharie Clements, president of Inner Management, Inc. of Shelburne, Vt., known as "living proof that positive attitudes, hard work, personal responsibility and a sense of humor" are vital ingredients of successful, worthwhile living."

"In today's climate of change, ever-dwindling resources and continuing challenges in society, even positive individuals can fall prey to negativity and non-commitment which, in turn, can adversely affect their outlook on family, work and country," Clements declares.

His presentations around the country have been widely hailed as a prescription for "positive people in negative times." He accomplishes this by employing humor, role-playing and vivid portraits of life enhanced by a sound, time-tested philosophy. As a result, he enables his audience to focus on essential, positive attitude changes that

benefit both their professional and personal lives.

Next on deck Wednesday afternoon are six concurrent sessions, built around soils, irrigation, arborists, harassment, golf/sports turf and parks/schools.

On Thursday, all morning sessions qualify for Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commercial and Non-Commercial turf and ornamental recertification for 1998. Attendees must complete all five hours of training. (For more information on whether you need to attend this pesticide recertification workshop, please contact Wayne Dally at 612-297-2746 or fax 612-297-2271.)

**Principal speaker Thursday morning will be Dr. Carl Whitcomb**, who has received 12 patents, written more than 400 technical and semi-technical publications on a wide assortment of topics, authored four books and lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Whitcomb was a professor of horticulture at the University of Florida from 1967 to 1972 and at Oklahoma State University from 1972 to 1986. Currently he is a private research horticulturist, consultant, author and lecturer with Lacebark Publications and Research, Stillwater, Okla.

Six more concurrent sessions will be presented Thursday morning on turf pathology, pest control of turf, protection of people and equipment, erosion control, plants and plant stress and environmental issues relative to athletic fields.

Then come another six concurrent sessions on aquatics, equipment, sustainable practices, sports facilities, an OSHA update and golf in the afternoon.

## Dr. Joe Vargas Heads Friday Program

Well-known to Minnesotans in the turf and grounds industry is Dr. Joe Vargas, the Michigan State University professor who will be the opening speaker. In his 9 a.m. presentation, Dr. Vargas will focus on "Fungicide Resistance: Fact and Folklore."

He also will present one of six concurrent sessions set Friday morning. At 10:05 he will provide an "Update on Patch Diseases" followed by an 11:05 discussion on "Important Winter and Summer Diseases."

Other Friday morning presentations are on trees and shrubs, a potpourri on a living snow fence as well as new and improved annuals for the Minnesota landscape, managing football and soccer fields as well as selecting and managing skin areas for baseball and softball, nutrients and fertilizers and a session on Board roles and responsibilities.