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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### How We Can Help Each Other



The strength of *any* association is directly related to the active role that its membership plays.

Every year new chairpeople are placed on various committees, all of which are important factors in the success of the organization. They often need help in lessening the amount of work that needs to be done in order to make their committees effective.

I strongly urge each MGCSA member to take an active role in a committee. The camaraderie, along with new friendships that are formed, is very rewarding. It is a chance for each of us to expand our professional horizons and share insights into the future of our organization. Everyone benefits.

\* \* \* \*

**Many positive responses** have come forward regarding the idea of having more education-related monthly meetings. We will continue to work towards this goal for next season. One idea is to have regional sessions in our outstate areas. These meetings may be held quarterly or biannually. Some members are holding these regional meetings with pretty impressive participation. Our MGCSA office can help organize these gatherings; however, members will need to facilitate them. I pledge my support for any idea that benefits our members.

\* \* \* \*

**The MGCSA was well-represented** at the GCSAA Annual Convention and Show at Anaheim. It was great to see so many members taking advantage of the educational opportunities and trade show. Our Friday night get-together was well-attended. Thanks to our affiliate members for sponsoring this annual event.

\* \* \* \*

**Mike Brower of Hillcrest CC** has put together an interesting agenda for our March Mini-Seminar. This is also a great time to share information on springtime strategies. Hopefully we can enjoy more positive winter outcomes compared to last year.

\* \* \* \*

**On behalf of the association and myself**, I send our condolences to Chris Hasbrouck of Daytona whose sister lost a courageous battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

— Jim Nicol, CGCS  
MGCSA President



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## 1998 MGCSA CALENDAR

- April 16** . . . . . **Bearpath** (*no golf*)  
Host Superintendent: John Malloy, CGCS
- May 11** . . . . . **Marshall GC**  
Host Superintendent: Doug Larson  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Ward Stienstra, U of M
- June 8** . . . . . **Creeksbend GC**  
Host Superintendent: John Betchwars  
Guest Speaker: Robert Vavrek, USGA
- July 20** . . . . . **MGCSA Scholarship Scramble**  
**Elm Creek Golf Links**  
Host Superintendent: Mike Klatte, CGCS
- August 17** . . . . . **MGCSA Championship**  
**North Links GC**  
Host Superintendent: Jerry Storjohann
- September 14** . . . . . **Stodola Scramble**  
**Pebble Creek CC**  
Host Superintendent: Cary Femrite
- October 5** . . . . . **Chaska Town Course**  
Host Superintendent: Mark Moers  
Guest Speaker: Dale Spier, Golf Course Owners Ass'n.
- November 14** . . . . . **Minnesota Zoo**  
**Family Outing**
- December 10** . . . . . **Annual Meeting**  
Minneapolis Convention Center

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# MGCSA Board Votes To Invest Research Trust Fund

By **ROB PANUSKA**  
*Waseca Lakeside Club*  
*MGCSA Treasurer*

At the December 9th Board Meeting of the MGCSA, the Research Trust Fund was the main topic of discussion. Immediate Past Treasurer Tom Johnson had arranged for a second presentation on how we might invest the trust fund dollars. But first a little history of how this trust fund got started.

The idea of establishing a trust fund to provide ongoing dollars for research began in the late 1980s and was the brainchild of then Vice-President and Chair of the Research Committee Scott Hoffman, CGCS, Madden's. He and the MGCSA Board at the time were searching for ways to increase the revenue available to fund research projects. This was also the beginning of the Minnesota Turf Tourney which Fred Anderson was instrumental in establishing. The trust fund idea was discussed and the Board voted to establish a long term fund dedicated to providing dollars for future research. The goal of \$100,000 was set as a minimum needed before any dollars could be used from the fund. To establish this, the Board voted to dedicate 50% of all research fund raising profits to the trust fund until the \$100,000 was reached and then 25% of the profits must be added to the principal annually.

Today the trust fund has reached \$150,000 and the MGCSA Board has been exploring different investment options over the past year or two. Special thanks go to Tom Johnson for all his time and effort in gathering information. The feeling of the Board was that we wanted to earn a better return than the 5% CD rate we had

been receiving. The board also felt strongly that, as an association, we needed to look long term. After several discussions we felt the best way for us to increase our return and maintain an acceptable level of risk was to invest in a mix of mutual funds with professional management.

The formal motion came at our December 9th meeting: To invest in a "Moderate Growth Portfolio" which would consist of 40% fixed income investments, 40% equity investments and 20% money market fund. We selected a professional broker with Offerman & Co. to help us select the funds and work with us in the future. The actual investments were made on December 22nd with \$60,000 invested in the "Eaton Vance Classic Senior Floating Rate" fund representing our 40% fixed income investment. Representing our 40% equity investments were \$15,000 in "Federated Small Cap Strategies," \$15,000 in "Federated International Growth" and \$30,000 in the "Morgan Stanley Value" fund. The remaining \$30,000 was invested in the "Prime Fund/Capital Reserves" on January 12th after our final research CD matured representing our 20% money market fund investment.

Hats off and a big thank you to Scott Hoffman and those leaders of our association, who some 10 years ago had the foresight and made the commitment to establishing this trust fund for research. It has already provided us the ability to make annual contributions to the USGA, GCSAA, O. J. Noer Foundation and the University of Minnesota. In ad-

dition, this fall we partnered with the GCSAA Foundation to fund a three-year Late Fall Sand Topdressing study at the University of Wisconsin — River Falls with Dr. Don Taylor. Also our own MGCSA Research Committee is conducting a greens cover evaluation this winter at Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel. These types of studies would not be possible without our Research Trust Fund. Watch *Hole Notes* for future updates on these and other projects.



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# Course Construction

*A Checklist to Prevent Errors in Construction, or Errors from The Architect, Coming Back to Haunt You Once They've Left*

By **JOHN HAMMERSCHMIDT**

*The Bridges Golf Course  
Blaine, Minnesota*

Get a contract in writing detailing specifications and responsibilities of each party involved. For technical specifications you are not familiar with, ask for a clear explanation in writing.

Make sure a performance bond is posted. These are generally in effect for two years from final payment. Do not fix construction problems during this time period unless you notify the construction company and architect and have an understanding as to who is responsible.

If you want your architect to specifically manage an area of construction, do not rely on promises made during hiring interviews. Put the responsibility in writing and note amounts being paid for this service. Examples would be irrigation design, soil testing, drainage, wetland permits, etc.

## Checks to Make for Soil

### FAIRWAYS

**Depth of topsoil:** Six to 10 inches, compacted to 70% of maximum density. (AASHTO +/-5%). Maximum density needs to be checked for both topsoil and subsoil. Pay attention to where the construction equipment was driven or where silt runoff collected. You don't want overly compacted soil or layers formed.

An acceptable definition of topsoil is a medium containing three to 10% humus with no rocks larger than one inch. Subsoil has 1% or less humus.

Any soil engineering firm can test maximum density (compaction level) for you.

**Soil fertility.** Get NPK and other nutrient requirements as well as soil pH and CEC. From this you can select both a type of grass and a variety that will thrive in your soil. These tests can be done at the University of Minnesota or by your fertilizer vendor.

**Percolation** should be in excess of one inch per hour. Easily done by cutting a cup and filling hole with water. If not, area needs to be tilled or chisel plowed to sufficient depth to allow required drainage.

If topsoil needs to be brought in, have it lab tested for compatibility with current topsoil and get recommendations for how deep to till or chisel plow it in.

### TEES

If push-up using native soil, use fairway guidelines. There are many published articles that, depending on type of native soils, this may be method of choice.

**If using 80-20 greensmix or similar:** Use at least four to six inches unless compatible with subsoil. Just remember, this will be depth of your rootzone unless you can use frequent deep tine aeration. To lay your sand greensmix on top of a compacted or incompatible subsoil and then ring it with a sod grown with a peat soil, will give two dis-

tinct problems.

When it rains or after irrigation you will get puddling of water on the low sloped ends. This is due to the fact that the sand area has to be saturated before water will start to flow through the peat-sod layer you have surrounded the sand with. The results are compaction, disease, mechanical damage due to the wet conditions, etc.

The opposite but equally damaging effect happens during hot, dry conditions when the peat-sod ring will draw the water out of the sand. This will cause localized dry spots, wilting, disease due to stress, along the entire edge of the tee area.

**A suggestion:** It is easy during  
(Continued on Page 27)

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# U of M, MGCSA Benefit From Trans-Miss Turf Scholarships

By RALPH TURTINEN

For 36 years the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, based in Minnesota, has granted scholarships to young men and women pursuing careers as golf course superintendents or in other areas of turf management and research.

One of the thirty \$1,000 scholarships the association grants annually to universities noted for their agronomy/horticulture schools goes to the University of Minnesota where the current recipient is Loriena Bluedorn. These scholarships are funded from Trans-Mississippi member club dues, proceeds from the two prestigious amateur tournaments the association conducts annually and contributions.



In addition, through its "Minnesota Project" coordinated by Trans-Miss directors Hank Wilkinson of The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, and Tom Garrett, Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, the Trans awards scholarship monies to the Minnesota Golf Course

Superintendents Association. These funds come from special events like an October invitational at Somerset or Minnesota club members playing with maintenance staff as they did last summer at Hazeltine and Minikahda.

Several other Minnesotans have received scholarships at other schools. Among recent awardees have been Mike Brower, head superintendent at Hillcrest in St. Paul, who studied at Penn State, and Brian Netz, formerly an assistant at Minikahda and now at Richmond CC in California. Netz studied at the University of Minnesota.

Founded in 1900, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States.

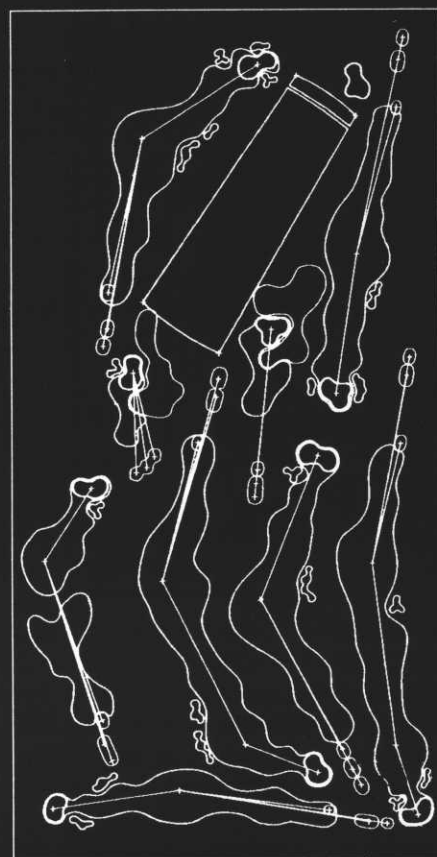
Composed of approximately 200 member clubs located west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, its primary purpose is to foster, promote and advance the interest and true spirit of amateur golf.

By encouraging and cultivating the spirit of fellowship, harmony, friendly competition and cooperation among members of the association, the Trans-Mississippi has become one of the foremost factors in amateur golf. Its annual tournaments traditionally attract the elite of the nation's amateur golfers.

In addition, through its Turf Scholarship Program, the association perpetuates the training of qualified young men and women to become responsible for any golf club's greatest physical asset — the golf course itself.

For additional information contact Ralph Turtinen, Executive Secretary, Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, P.O. Box 617, Wayzata, MN; telephone 612/473-3722 or fax 612/473-0576.

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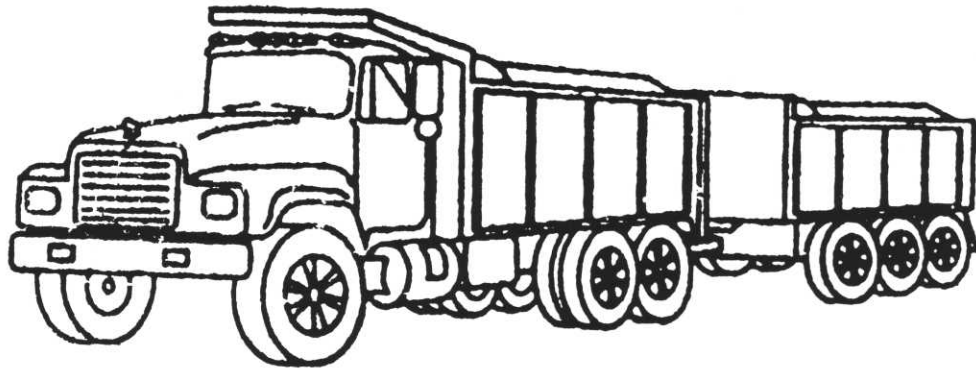
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