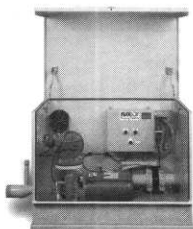
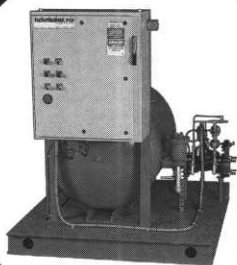
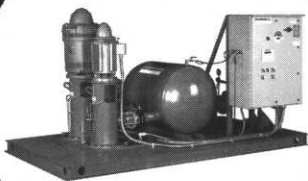
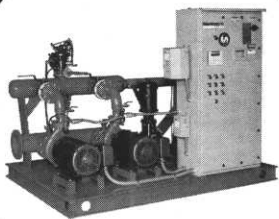
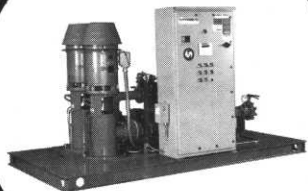


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# Cragun's Course Is First in Minnesota Certified Audubon Signature Sanctuary

Legacy at Cragun's South Course has become the first golf course in Minnesota and the 17th in the world to be certified Signature Sanctuary by Audubon International, Henderson, Ky.

Certification is granted only to new developments which have been designed, constructed and managed according to Audubon International's minimum standards and environmental disciplines, according to Ron Dodson, president and CEO of Audubon International.

Through his partnership with Audubon, Dutch Cragun, owner and developer of the property which is located about 14 miles north of Brainerd, has preserved old growth forests and wetlands, restored prairie habitat and protected wildlife.

Audubon International is an environmental organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life and the environment through research, education and conservation assistance. The environmental priorities of the mission are water conservation, water quality protection and the conservation and protection of biological diversity. To achieve that mission, the Signature program is designed to work directly with the landowner to develop a comprehensive approach to sound land management practices and positive approaches to appropriate land use changes based on sound scientific research.

Cragun's developed a **Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP)** including an analysis of existing conditions, a conceptual design plan and a plan for maintaining the quality of the large tract of wetlands based on the environmental framework provided by Audubon International.

The NRMP addressed wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement, water quality monitoring, management and conservation, integrated pest management, energy conservation and waste management. Certification was contingent upon the quality and completeness of the NRMP and its implementation.

The golf complex at Cragun's was laid out on the 280-acre, medium-growth, mixed hardwood forest with Oak, Birch, Aspen, Norway Pine, Sugar and Silver Maple dominating the site. More than 160 acres of unimpacted wetlands and vegetative buffers are interspersed throughout the site and provide corridors for the uninhibited movement of wildlife throughout the property.

**The predominant water feature on site is the 104-acre, spring-fed Stephen's Lake.** Only four to five feet deep, the lake is sandy and provides a resting place for waterfowl during their migration through the Brainerd region. The lake is buffered by a no-spray zone of native vegetation and a grass filtration runoff zone of 25 feet minimum. Among the 5,000 waterfowl spotted on Stephen's Lake during fall migration were Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Blue-winged Teal.

In an effort to restore habitat for ground dwelling birds, grasses such as Blue Grama, Little and Big Bluestem as well as wildflowers such as Yarrow, Joe-Pye Weed, Wild Lupine and Bergamot were planted in corridors between golf holes.

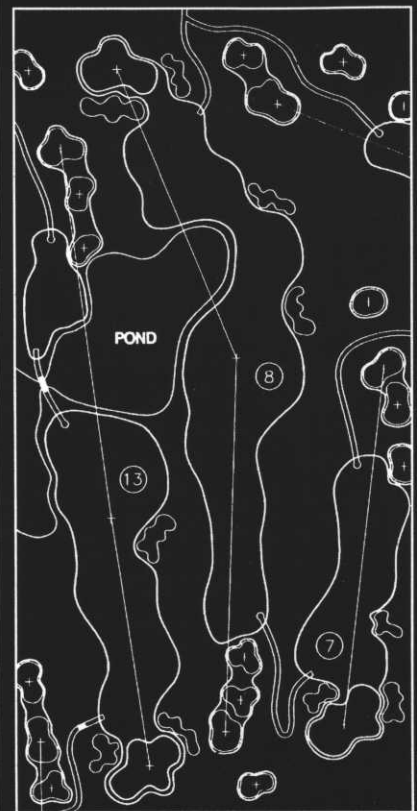
Dutch Cragun will continue to add to his golf complex, and each new golf hole will be built according to Audubon's principles for sustainable resource management. Site inspections will continue throughout the construction period of the remaining holes.

Audubon hopes that other developers will follow the lead of Cragun's to create sustainable developments that are integrated with the ecosystems in which they are built.

\* \* \* \*

*(Editor's Note: To learn more about the Signature Program, contact Nancy Richardson at 270-869-9419 or write to Audubon Signature Program, 230 Second St., Suite 311, Henderson, KY 42420.)*

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky  
Perham Lakeside Country Club



## Stormy July

Like usual, I spoke too soon last month. (At least I had not had to write about any nasty storms.) Well, after our monthly Board Meeting on July 15th, I was driving home and with about 40 miles to go, I turned on the local radio station and heard of this nasty storm that had just passed over my course. I'm driving and thinking to myself, should I just go home and bypass the course? Should I ruin a perfectly good day off? Nope, I don't have enough brains to do something like treat what we do as just a normal job. I went straight to the course and saw what went through.

**OUCH!** A bunch of trees down, trash cans in places that no one would ever think of putting them. The greens looked like someone tried to aerify them without actually punching holes from all the quarter-sized hail. It was certain I was gonna go home and plan for operation cleanup for Friday. (It never happens on a Monday or Tuesday, it always seems to hit on a Thursday or Friday). But this is when

my staff kicks butt!! Buzz, buzz went the chainsaws. Debris was cleaned up. Bunkers were shoveled back to their normal look, and by noon, it looked like it did before the storm went through except for a few leaves here and there.

**The worst of what hit was electrical.** Yes, my irrigation system was down, as minor as a couple of blown fuses but not so simple. The fuses in my VFD, I have just learned, are not something you can just pick up at your local electrical contractor. So, just a word of advice, have a spare three on hand and put them in a safe place so when this hits you, you're prepared. (It's a cheap insurance policy.)

**Kind of makes me happy I wasn't on sit** when it hit. But, I was happy to see how my staff took the pride they did in cleaning it all up. I'm sure all of you can relate to that at one time or another. Hopefully the pizza lunch I bought them for their hard work showed some appreciation. I hope you all do little things like that to show your employees how you feel about their hard work. It really goes a long way!

\* \* \* \*

**Our condolences go out to Secretary Mike Brower** for the loss of his father. Our prayers are with you and your family. We are sorry for your loss.

\* \* \* \*

## Over The Hump

Or maybe the dog days of summer....however you want to look at it, the first frost is just around the corner. Not to sound too burned out, but I can hardly wait! Cooler temperatures, shorter days and the feeling of another so far so good year. It has seemed in a strange way, and not only here, that for as early of a start as we had this season, play didn't get cracking until a little later than usual or expected. In my normal phone conversations with other superintendents in the area, their play seemed down until just before late June or thereabouts as did mine. But bottom line, the play is still there. Golfers expectations are still there and the quality we expect of our employees is also still there. Hence, we're over the hump, and before too long I'll be talking about how much snow we got. So enjoy some fresh sweet corn smothered in butter and salt. It won't last too long. With that, I'll close. See ya next month.

— Steve Shumansky  
Editor

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## Two MGCSA Superintendents Participate In '99 State Amateur

Two MGCSA members participated in this year's Minnesota State Amateur Golf Tournament at North Oaks Country Club in St. Paul on July 19-21.

Jeff Pint, New Prague Golf Club, qualified for all three days with scores of 76-72-74 and tied for 48th.

Tom Notch, Bent Creek Golf Club, shot 78-77 but missed the final day cut by a few strokes.

Nice going, gentlemen!





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