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EDITOR

Steve Shumansky
E-mail: plcc@eot.com

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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

MGCSA Board Votes To Recommend Dues Increase at Annual Meeting



(Editor's Note: This month's "From Your President's Desk" was written with the help of MGCSA Treasurer Rob Panuska.)

* * * *

After several months of discussion the MGCSA Board of Directors voted to recommend a dues increase of \$15 for Class A, B and C members. This would bring the cost of dues to \$95. Other member classifications would remain at present levels. The change in dues will be brought before the members of the association at the MGCSA Annual Meeting to be held December 9th during the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show. If approved by the membership, the new dues would not take effect until our new fiscal year beginning June 1, 2000.

We have been very fortunate to have been able to hold our dues at the \$80 level for so long. The last increase was passed ten years ago and was required because the Minnesota Golf Association was no longer able to provide our association with an office and support to manage the day to day business of our membership. Over the past ten years strong membership growth has kept pace with and ahead of increasing costs but it was only a matter of time that increased revenue would be needed to continue to provide current as well as expand our level of service to the membership.

Dues from our members is the No. 1 revenue source to fund our association. Many of the activities we sponsor are a service to the membership and are budgeted to break even. Examples include our annual golf tournament and the March Mini-Seminar. However, we did make money for our association with each one of these events every so often and we also lost money on them as well. The profits were often placed in savings for a "rainy day." The other two major golf events we sponsor are dedicated to raising money for scholarships and research, both of which have been managed very well over the years and do provide for these areas.

You may ask about this publication *Hole Notes*. This is also budgeted to be a break even revenue source for us. The monthly advertising is supposed to cover the cost of production, printing and postage. However, we have come up short the last few years. This is partly due to an IRS audit and ruling that we must pay income tax on the advertising revenue because they classify it as unrelated business income.

All of the other member services we provide are funded directly from dues. These include: Employment assistance job postings and mailings; the membership roster and cards, which are updated and mailed out annually; the environmental guidebook, which is updated and the changes mailed out every couple of years, and the monthly meetings, which end up costing us money because of lower than expected attendance.

We have two new member services we are working on at this time — one is our new Web page, which is in the early stages of development. The other is a public relations program to promote the green industry. Mike Brower and Tom Fischer are working with the MTGF Board on a partnership to benefit all in the industry including golf courses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I hope it helps you understand the decision to raise dues a modest amount. If you have questions, please feel free to call myself or our treasurer Rob Panuska. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have.

* * * *

At the September 16th Board Meeting, Gary Gardner, from the university and Bob Mugaas, MTGF Executive Director, attended. Gary explained the new turf position at the University.

— Thomas Fischer, CGCS, President

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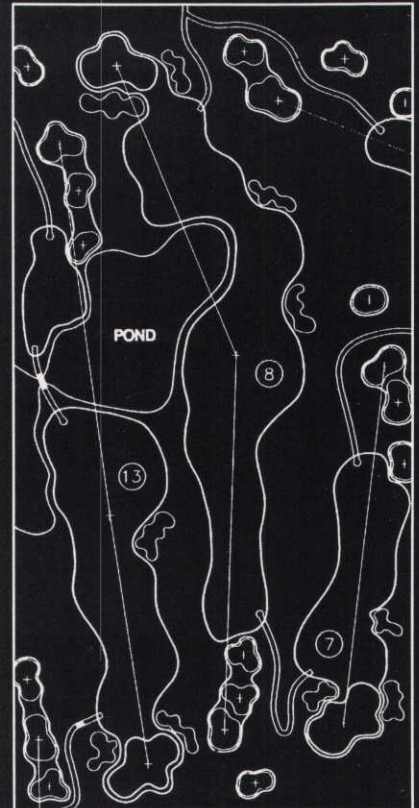
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From Humble Beginning to World Class Facility

Ray Moris and Tartan Park Golf

By JACK KOLB
MGCSA Life Member

Immediately after WWII Ray Moris busied himself milking a large herd of dairy cows. This means that you work each and every evening and then you are up early every morning with no days off, holidays and Sundays included. Like most young couples, Ray and Ceil (his wife) were looking for employment where they could have quality time with their two young children, daughter Audrey and infant son Joseph.

In 1947 an opportunity to manage 320 acres of land with a herd of Aberdeen Angus provided an escape from the 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. schedule of the dairy herd. The farm was owned by a wealthy individual who used it as an investment and hobby. The owner's private home was a 27-room mansion on the property. Thus Ray Moris and wife Ceil settled in as tenant farmers and quasi helpers to the wealthy family.

The owners entertained lavishly. Ray helped keep the yard free of snow and occasionally helped errant guests back onto the driveway after festive events. Among the guests were members of the top CEOs, XOs, VPs and CFOs of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company.

There was a trend during the 1950s where large employee corporations began to provide recreation areas for their workers. Continental Machine Company had a beautiful area out in Credit River Township called "COMACHE" now named Cleary Lake. Honeywell started an area in Lakeville on Judicial Road now called Brackett's Crossing. These areas were for recreation of all employees, the highest to the lowest and not initially concentrating on golf.

Thus 3M was interested in providing picnic and recreation areas for their employees and began to negotiate with the owner of the Lake Elmo farm for whom Ray Moris worked. On May 10, 1959 3M executed the option to buy the farm and property for recreational purposes.

One of the financial forces in providing employee recreational facilities was the income derived from the many coin operated food and beverage dispensers located throughout the employer's plant. A young accountant by the name of Don Herfort was selected to set up a bookkeeping system for these monies and then, working with a committee, began planning and designing picnic areas, ball fields, ski areas and a bow-and-arrow target range.

The golf bug was not as common in the hourly employee as it was in the salaried group, but by 1962 some agitation for a golf course was in the making. Ray Moris in the meantime was busy cleaning up after picnickers, grooming ball



RAY MORIS

Happy in his new "Superintendents Chair." October 1970

fields, working nights on the ski slopes and pulling vehicles with their errant drivers from ditches and off-limit areas. Young son Joe Moris was working with his father and completing high school. In interviewing Ray Moris for this article it seemed that his largest headache was keeping people and cars confined to designated areas. Not all but many picnics became a little out of control and Ray was a virtual policeman as well as maintenance supervisor.

Several architectural plans for golf courses were submitted and after many agonizing hours of critiquing by members of a committee headed by Mr. Cy Pesek (at that time a VP at 3M), a plan by one of their own members, Don Herfort, was accepted. Construction of the golf course began in 1962 with the burden of supervisor, of the new course, resting on Ray Moris' shoulders.

Most of 1963 was spent in construction of the golf course now known as Tartan Park. Nine holes were opened for play in 1964. Ray Moris had gone through the transition of Dairy Farmer, Herdsman and now Construction Supervisor. Upon completion of the new 9-hole layout he faced the responsibility of being the golf course superintendent. This transition was rather shocking as he had not worked with such intensive and fastidious turf management in the past.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Ray Moris—

(Continued from Page 5)

An itinerant greenkeeper by the name of Walter Mann was hired as an interim superintendent to help Ray adjust to the new vocation. Young Joe Moris in the meantime had grown into manhood, spent time in the military and returned to work with his father.

Construction of a second nine began in 1965 and the combined 18 holes were ready for play in 1966. Also in 1966 Ray Moris and son Joe joined the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. A young man by the name of Jim Gunn became the Superintendent for the completed 18 holes until the year 1970 when Ray Moris with great confidence took over the reigns of Superintendent.

Ray Moris had guided the 320-acre Tartan Park through many transitions and in 1975 was given mandatory retirement at age 65. Ray has a home across the street from Tartan Park and at age 89 has kept what he calls "an eye on his baby." Ray Moris and wife Ceil celebrated 60 years of marriage June 14, 1999.

Second generation Joe Moris has taken over the "head of operations" mantel since his dad's retirement in 1975. There is little he hasn't witnessed from the inception of the project until the present. Other than a few years in military service Joe has seen the evolution of a 320-acre farm (plus another 163 acres for a total of 483 acres) into a "world class" recreational facility. Joe is responsible for the maint-



THREE GENERALS AND A PRIVATE. Left to right, Joe Moris taking instructions and leaning on his shovel, Ray Moris giving directions, Randy Allen working the shovel and Jim Gunn seems relieved that his sod cutter just ran out of gas.

enance of six ball fields, four of which are lighted, four picnic areas, an archery range, 12 tennis courts, four bocce ball courts, one conference center, an 18-hole golf course, plus a 9-hole regulation course completed in 1986, for a total of 27 holes.

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Removing Stingers From Golf Courses

Wasps, Hornets and Yellow Jackets Endanger Golfers' Health And Their Enjoyment of the Game

By DANIEL A. POTTER, Ph.D.
and MICHAEL F. POTTER, Ph.D.

Wasps — including paper wasps, hornets and yellow jackets — are a common problem on golf courses. They annoy outdoor diners, pose a hazard to golfers and grounds workers, and present a potential liability. Many people die each year from allergic responses to their painful stings. These insects are far more dangerous and unpredictable than honeybees, and the process of eliminating their nests should be undertaken with great care. Folk remedies such as dousing the nest with gasoline or a water hose seldom work and may result in multiple stings.

On the other hand, wasps generally are beneficial because they prey on other insects, including caterpillars and other pests. There usually is no need to control a hornet nest located high in a shade tree or a paper wasp nest on a remote eave of a building. Unless it poses an immediate hazard, the best option usually is to leave the nest alone. Control may be warranted when nests are near areas of human activity.

General Biology and Habits

Most wasps are social insects that live by the hundreds or thousands in nests or colonies. Mated queens spend the winter under bark or in other sheltered locations. In spring, the queen begins a small nest of paper material made from chewed wood fibers and saliva. The nest reaches its maximum size by late summer. After mating flights, the young queens seek out overwintering sites, and the main colony dies off.

Paper Wasps

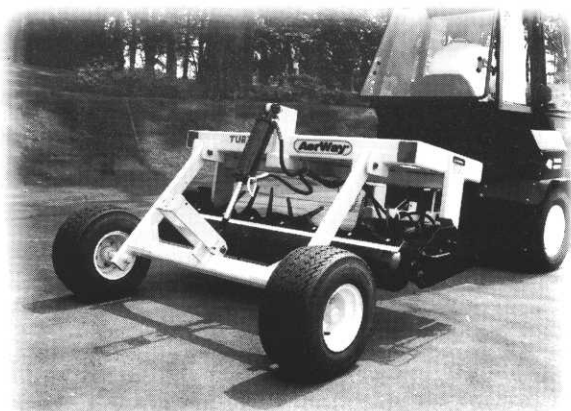
Paper wasps (*Polistes* species) typically build their umbrella-shaped nests under eaves and ledges of buildings, or sometimes in shrubs or hedges. Adults are narrow-bodied, brownish with yellow or reddish markings and about 5/8 to 3/4 inch long. Paper wasps are less aggressive than hornets or yellow jackets. They're fairly easy to eliminate with the wasp and hornet sprays sold at grocery or hardware stores. These products often can be sprayed from as far away as 20 feet.

Although it is safest to treat all wasps at night, paper wasps can be controlled during daytime provided that you do not stand directly under the nest during treatment. Most

wasp sprays cause the insects to drop, so standing under the nest increases the chance of being stung. Wait a few days after treatment to ensure that the wasps have been killed, then scrape off or knock down the nest.

Hornets

Hornets are far more dangerous and difficult to eliminate than paper wasps. The baldfaced hornet (*Dolichovespula maculata*), the most common species, is 5/8 to 3/4 inches long and black, with white markings on the face, thorax and end of the abdomen. Hornet nest are made of gray,
(Continued on Page 11)



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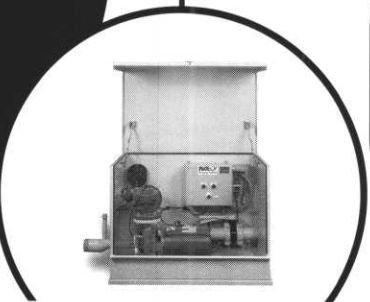
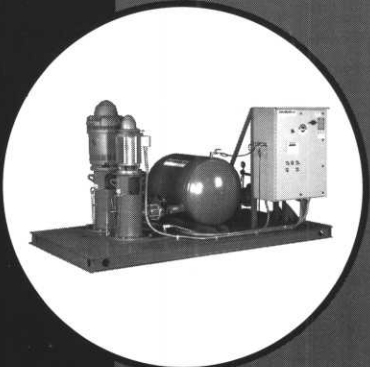
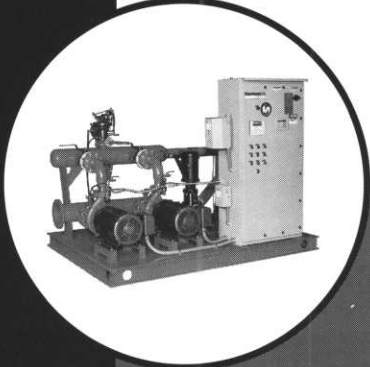
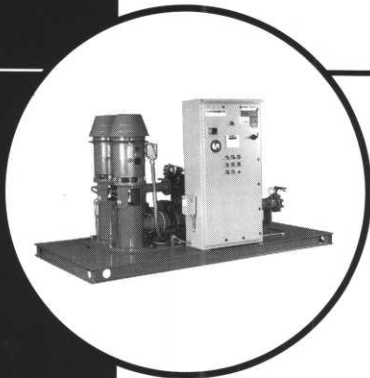
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