

Raise the Bar—

(Continued from Page 9)

to mid '90s, just as *Poa annua* invasion occurs on so many creeping bent-grass golf courses. Those who played Mauna Lani during this time came away with nothing but negative thoughts, including yours truly. However, once the greens became 100% seashore paspalum, the visiting players have had no complaints concerning the greens.

Fast forward to 1999. A new golf course on Oahu (Coral Creek) has opened with 100% seashore paspalum. All of the positive attributes of greatly reduced fertilizer use (¼ lb. N/1,000 sq. ft. every 6-8 weeks on tees and fairways!), irrigation with brackish water, no disease or insect concerns, and no need for herbicides have been observed at this course. In addition, the greens are maintained at 1/8" at a normal speed of 9 feet. Reports from regular players are extremely positive, yet there are still those who nearly go into convulsions at the mere mention of seashore paspalum. After all of the extremely positive attributes of this grass and the new greens-type seashore paspalum developed by Dr. Ron Duncan, of the University of Georgia, how in the world can anyone be against this grass? The unfortunate answer is that the majority of the golf industry are still far more interested in creating fast greens with excessive amounts of money than truly addressing environmental concerns. How else can one look at the preceding example and not come to this conclusion?

Granted, the introduction of new bents and bermudas has "raised the bar" for golf courses with high-end budgets. Don't begrudge these facilities for making nearly perfect playing conditions. However, do resist this "raising the bar" mentality when perfectly acceptable and environmentally appropriate alternatives come your way that can save you money. In these cases, take the bar and hide it!

* * * *

(Editor's Note: Larry Gilhuly has provided Turf Advisory visits to most of the western United States during the past 15 years. His current territory includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska and the southwest portion of the Northwest Region, Hawaii.)



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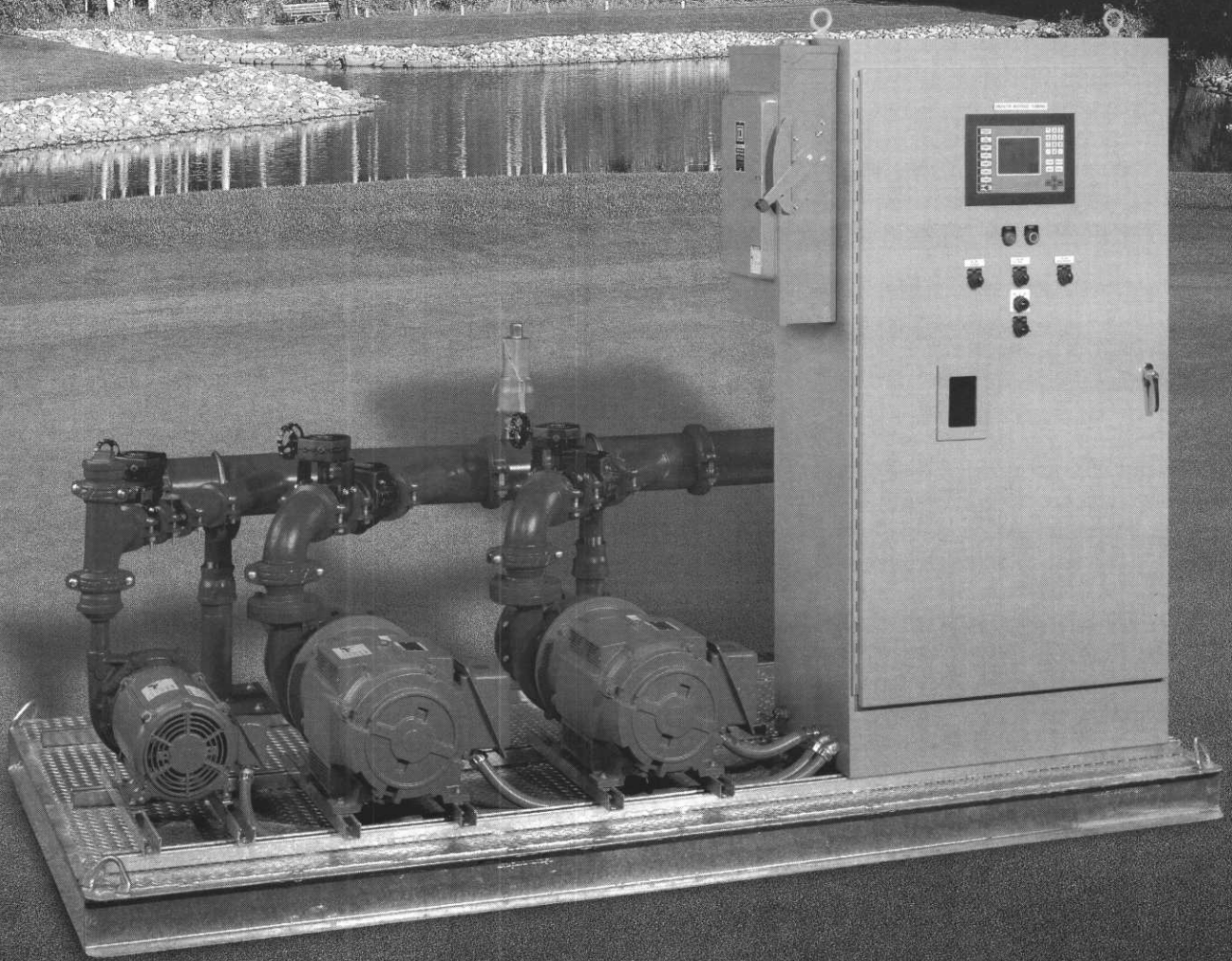
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Plan Now to Attend the 1999 MTGF Conference & Trade Show

By **BOB MUGAAS**
MTGF Executive Director

On behalf of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, I would like to invite you to our 1999 Conference and Trade Show. Sponsored by the allied member associations of the Foundation and in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, this event has something for everyone involved in the turf and grounds industry. Come and take advantage of the many educational and networking opportunities along with an extensive trade show to enrich yourself and your career as a golf course superintendent.

Internationally renowned golf course architect, Dr. Michael Hurdzan, will kick-off the conference with a keynote presentation entitled *Profiling the 21st Century Manger of Community Green Spaces*. Dr. Hurdzan will highlight forces that will shape the kinds of skills, training and experience needed to be a successful manager of our community's green spaces. If you manage your community's "green" assets for recreational, environmental or aesthetic purposes, you will definitely want to hear Dr. Hurdzan's comments and perspectives. Dr. Hurdzan will also present a session specifically addressing the future of golf courses; how many is to many and have we reached market saturation yet. This session will be followed by USGA Regional Agronomist, Bob Vavrek, who will provide a survey of some of this year's major turf problems and a peek into the future as to how some of them may be solved. All this and it's only the afternoon of the first day.

A couple of new features at this year's conference are sure to provide additional opportunities for networking and learning. The first of these is the **All Industry Reception** being sponsored by the Foundation on Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the trade show floor. This will be a great opportunity to grab a bite to eat, avoid rush hour traffic and, take some additional time to tour the trade show and visit vendors. Second, **two 2-hour in-depth educational sessions** are being conducted on Friday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. University of Minnesota Pathologist, Dr. Jon Powell will be conducting a session on the use of diagnostic equipment and test kits for accurate on-site diagnosis. Craig Paskvan from Paskvan Consulting will conduct the second session on the use and interpretation of soil and water tests as a means of helping diagnose problem turf areas.

The conference is shaping up to be one of the best ever. What better way to begin the new millennium than with an infusion of some top quality education into your career.

And if that's not enough, the event features a trade show with state-of-the-art equipment and products to help you do your job correctly, safely and efficiently.

Be sure to watch your mailbox around the end of September for conference registration materials. They will also contain descriptions of many other interesting and educational sessions being offered. We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference!

1999 MGCSA MONTHLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Cragun's Resort / Host: Tom Kientzle, CGCS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

Albion Ridges / Host: Brooks Ellingson

DECEMBER 8, 9 & 10

MGCSA Annual Meeting
MTGF Conference & Trade Show
Minneapolis Convention Center

MGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS: AUGUST 9, 1999

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Adam Popenhagen Hudson Golf ClubC — GCSAA 1360 6th Avenue, Apt. 2, Baldwin, WI 54002 W: (715) 684-2204	
Joseph T. Schmidt Oneka Ridge Golf CourseC 26641 Fenwick Avenue N., Wyoming, MN 55092 W: (612) 462-8890	
Anthony J. Edmonds Glen Lake Golf Center — Hennepin ParksD 4265 Vera Cruz, Crystal, MN 55422 H: (612) 473-3369	
Bill Mielke Minnesota Valley Wholesale/LandscapeAffiliate 9100 Riley Lake Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55379 H: (612) 937-0501	

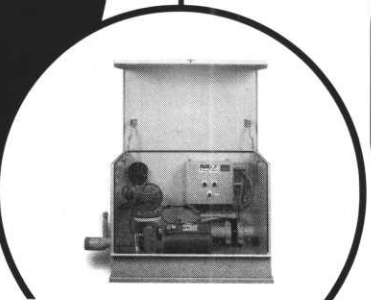
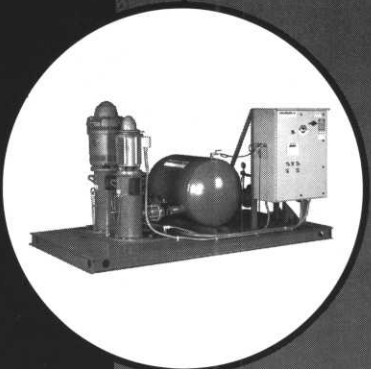
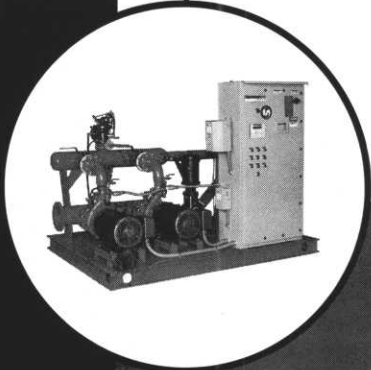
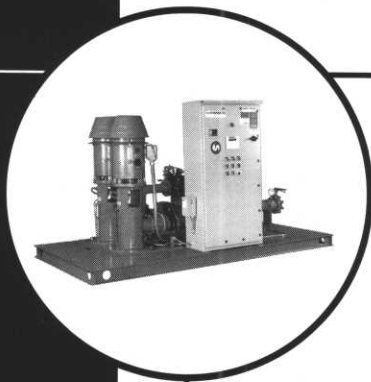
RECLASSIFICATIONS

Andrew Lindquist Glen Lake Golf Center — Hennepin Parks ...F to A (GCSAA-pending)	
Michael Knodel Oakdale Country ClubB to A — GCSAA	
James R. Ball Elk River Country ClubStudent to C	

—Tom Meier
MGCSA Membership Chairman

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MGCSA Announces Four Legacy Scholarship Awards

Four Legacy Scholarship awards — including one new recipient and three who were selected last year — have been announced by the Scholarship Committee of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Laura Lee Lenter — a National Honor Society student at Benilde High School, St. Louis Park, where she also was a member of the varsity tennis team and a figure skating coach — this year received her first award, a \$1,000 grant to pursue her studies in either mechanical or electrical engineering at Marquette University in Milwaukee. At Benilde she had been on a five-member team that won a national engineering design award that sent that group to Washington, D.C.

Laura Lee is the daughter of Glen F. Lentner CGCS, superintendent at Inver Wood Golf Course, Inver Grove Heights, and his wife, Doris Mae. They live in Eden Prairie.

John Redmond, who is engaged in molecular biology research and economics at the University of Minnesota/Duluth medical school and son of Mike Redmond and Susan Sullivan, also received a \$1,000 grant. Mike represents Scotts ProTurf.

Aaron R. Smith, who is majoring in biblical and theological studies and studying Spanish at Bethel College in

St. Paul, received a \$1,250 Joseph S. Garske Legacy Award, one of two granted for the fourth straight year by the Par Aide Products Co. St. Paul, and named after the late Mr. Garske.

Smith, who also received a \$1,000 MGCSA scholarship a year ago and made the Fall 1998 Dean's List at Bethel, is the son of Mark and Elsa Rosales Smith, Palm Desert. Mark is the superintendent at The Quarry, one of the outstanding golf courses in La Quinta, Calif.

Amy E. Mounts, Evansville, a computer science student at the University of Minnesota/Morris, received her second Garske Legacy scholarship. She is the daughter of Peter, superintendent at Tipsinah Mounds Golf Club in Elbow Lake, and Kristi Mounts.

The legacy scholarship program is designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, Associate and Affiliate members of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. It provides scholarships to students attending college and vocational programs at any accredited post-secondary institution.

For more information on available scholarships, contact the MGCSA office at 612-473-0557 or toll free at 1-800-642-7227 or fax 612-473-0576.

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TURF EXPRESS 2000

Bentgrass Putting Green Establishment

Avoid the Perilous Pitfalls Frequently Encountered During Grow-In.

By **BOB VAVREK**
USGA Agronomist
North Central Region

You have decided to build a new golf course or perhaps rebuild a green or two on an existing course. From the minute the putting surface is seeded, there usually will be a considerable amount of pressure from owners and members, and the pressure you put on yourself, to open the green for play.

Mistakes made during the grow-in of a sand-based bentgrass green can delay the opening date significantly. The worst-case scenario? The turf fails and the new green again must be taken out of play to be reestablished. Follow these tips and avoid the pitfalls, and you will have the golfers complaining about difficult hole locations faster than you can say, "I'm glad I followed USGA Guidelines."

Tips For Success — Do Your Homework

Have potential root zone materials tested by an accredited lab regardless of construction method. Do not rely on old test results from the supplier or the test results obtained by friends across town when they rebuilt their greens. The physical soil testing lab should also perform quality control testing during the blending operation *before* the root zone mixture is delivered to the green site. A list of accredited physical soil testing labs can be found at: www.usga.org/green/coned. A sample of the root zone mixture should also be submitted to a chemical soil-testing lab to determine nutrient levels. Porosity values, percolation rates and nutrient analysis provide valuable information you can use to fine-tune the fertility program and irrigation practices during grow-in.

The adage "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" rings true when an attempt is made to build a green using questionable materials. Following USGA Guidelines is a huge step in the right direction toward experiencing a smooth grow-in. A wealth of experience and know-how from other superintendents who have successfully established USGA greens and from the Green Section staff already exists. Review the USGA Guidelines and watch the USGA Putting Green Construction video. Tips for establishing a green are also available from the USGA website (www.usga.org) or contact your Green Section agronomist.

Don't Make The Same Mistake Twice

Why was it necessary to rebuild an old green in the first place? Dense shade, poor internal or surface drainage, restricted air movement, severe contours, a lack of putting surface to accommodate the amount of play at a particu-

lar course, and a variety of other factors can lead to the demise of a green. To help remedy the situation, cut down trees, use a construction mix that drains well and resists compaction, and provide ample putting surface for the anticipated amount of play. The formula for failure is to take a small, heavily shaded, severely contoured green out of play and build a similar small, heavily shaded, severely contoured USGA green in its place. A good tool to evaluate the overall growing conditions of the green site is the article "Helping Your Greens Make the Grade," found in the March/April 1998 issue of the *Green Section Record*.

Shade

Experience from the field strongly suggests that bentgrass greens need at least eight hours of direct sunlight
(Continued on Page 19)



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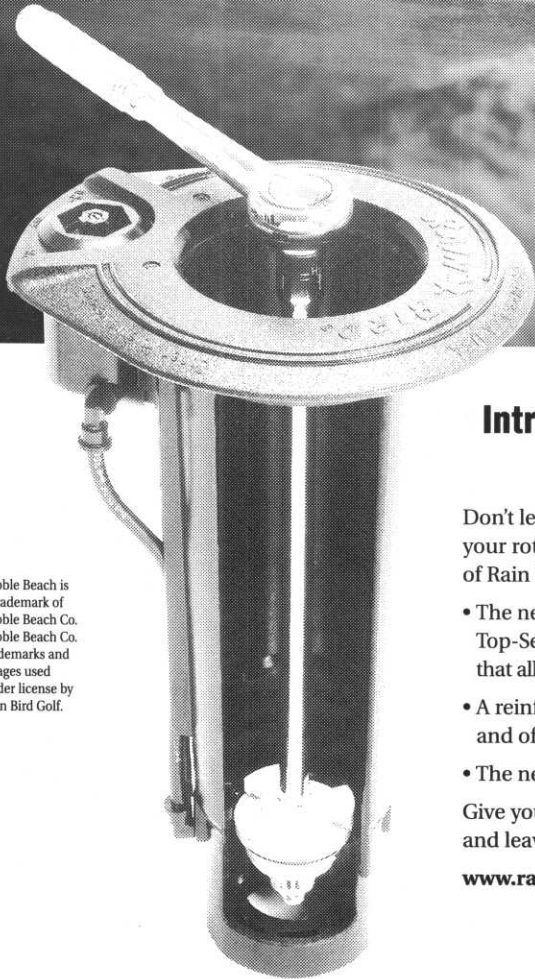
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Bentgrass Putting Greens—

(Continued from Page 17)

each day for a consistent rate of growth and development. Expect a long, agonizing grow-in if you build on a shaded site. Greens in full sun will be ready to open weeks before shaded greens. Eliminate as many trees as possible from the south and east sides of new greens to ensure morning sunlight. Need a challenge? Try to establish turf on a green where morning sun has been limited by mature evergreens.

Timing Is Everything

Many green construction projects that are attempted across the northern tier of states suffer because the green is seeded too late in the season to provide enough time for bentgrass to grow, develop and harden-off before winter. For example, a green that is seeded during the second week of August in Wisconsin will usually be ready to open the following spring, sometime during early June. Seed the same green during late September and the green may require the entire next season for grown-in.

Late summer or early fall generally is considered to be the best time to establish a new bentgrass green, but the specific optimal seeding dates vary with location and climate. Across the northern tier of states a new green needs to be seeded by mid-August if a June opening date is anticipated. The recommended seeding date can be pushed more into early to mid-September in some parts of the trans-

ition zone.

Soil temperatures generally are high during late summer, and bentgrass will germinate quickly, usually within five to seven days. Heat and drought stress become less of a concern as the days become shorter. Seedling diseases, such as damping off, that accompany extended periods of heat and high humidity are less likely to occur in late summer as daytime and especially nighttime temperature/humidity moderates. In addition, weed encroachment is much less of a problem during fall compared to spring.

A spring seeding results in the most challenging grow-in because the immature seedlings must survive heat stress, weed pressure and erosion from washouts that accompany afternoon thunderstorms. A relatively dense stand of crowded immature bentgrass seedlings is especially susceptible to turf diseases. Also, mechanical stress from mowing and topdressing applications is more of an issue during summer compared to fall.

Seedbed Preparation

Use soil test results as a guide to determine how much starter fertilizer to incorporate into the seedbed during the final grading operations. A rule of thumb used with success by many superintendents is to incorporate a 1-2-1 ratio starter-type fertilizer at a rate of approximately 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. of turf into the upper root zone just prior to seeding. Incorporating milorganite or another

(Continued on Page 22)

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