#### Green Waste Recycling-

(Continued from Page 9)

Agency projects that half of the country's 6,000 landfills will reach capacity and close by the late-1990s. Therefore, some states are passing recycling mandates and legislation banning yard wastes from landfills.

Golf course superintendents in many states are faced with legislation aimed at specific types of wastes generated by golf courses. Many superintendents voluntarily recycle even though there are no mandatory state laws requiring participation in recycling programs. As landfill disposal costs begin to rise, recycling may become the most economical method of waste disposal.

Whenever possible, superintendents recycle grass clippings.

Grass clippings can be recycled by spreading them along the rough and around trees. Composting the clippings is also an option. Compost is an excellent growing medium that promotes fast germination and can reduce fertilizer use. Recycling grass clippings provides valuable nutrients that improve the soil.

Whenever possible, superintendents recycle pesticide rinsate.

An alternative to disposal of pesticide waste is recycling pesticide rinsate in the field. According to an EPA research workshop, pesticide rinsate recycling is "economical, technically uncomplicated, provides total containment, may be adapted to specific site situations and minimizes the amount of wastewater that must be treated and disposed of." Superintendents who utilize this practice are encouraged to build a catchment and storage system for pesticide rinsate intended for reuse. This facility should be in compliance with state and local regulations.

#### Used Tires and Motor Oil Can Be Recycled

Used tires and motor oil from golf course maintenance equipment and golf cars can also be recycled. Tire and oil distributors and local recycling companies should have information regarding recognized tire and motor oil recycling centers.

#### Trends in State Waste Reduction and Recycling Legislation in Effect In Some States

Banning certain materials -- such as leadacid batteries, oil, tires and yard wastes -from landfills.

Assessing advance disposal fees on the purchase of hard-to-dispose-of products.

Encouraging or requiring composting of yard waste.

Making the state a market for recycled goods by requiring or encouraging state agencies to buy products made from recycled materials, to use compost material whenever possible and to recycle their own wastepaper.

Offering tax incentives to companies or organizations that buy recycling equipment.

Providing funds for private research and development and low-interest loans to recycling companies.

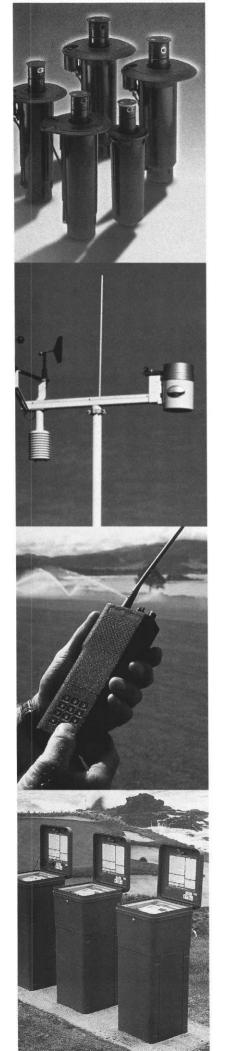
Requiring recycling instruction in schools.

Financing processing centers for recyclables.

You can work with your superintendent to start a community recycling program.



SEPTEMBER 2000 HOLE NOTES 11



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## Aspiring Superintendent Thomas Edstrom From Pine River Receives \$3,500 "Footsteps on the Green" Scholarship

By RALPH TURTINEN

An aspiring golf course superintendent from Minnesota has been granted a \$3,500 scholarship as the first place winner in the GCSAA Foundation's "Footsteps on the Green" program funded by the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association.

He is Thomas Edstrom, of Pine River, Minn., who attends Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn.

Others receiving awards in the first year of the program were:

Second place, \$2,500: Joshua Laughridge, Penn State University, University Park, Pa.;

Third place, \$1,500: Dan Tolson, Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont.;

Merit winner, \$500: Casey O'Connor, Ryerson Polytechnic University in Canada.

"The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's annual support of the Footsteps on the Green scholarship program emphasizes its commitment to preparing qualified young men and women for a career in golf course management."

Earlier this summer, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association signed a three-year agreement with the GCSAA to fund \$8,000 in scholarships annually.

This program offers educational aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who are following in their parents'/grandparents' footsteps in the golf course management profession.

"The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's annual support of the Footsteps on the Green scholarship program emphasizes its commitment to preparing qualified young men and women for a career in golf course management," said GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE. "The TMGA's dedication to education and promoting the game of golf is to be commended."

To be eligible for the scholarships, one or more of the applicant's parents or grandparents must have been a GCSAA member for five or more consecutive years and remain active.

Each applicant must be a full-time student enrolled in a major field related to golf/turf management, must have completed 12 credit hours in a major field of study (sophomore, junior or senior) and pursuing a career in golf course management.

Evaluations of applicants are based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community involvement, which may include membership in one of GCSAA's 50 student chapters. The applicants also must complete a 100-word essay on why they have chosen a career in golf course management and describe their own observations, insights and expectations about the profession and their career goals.

"We are pleased to support this outstanding scholarship program," said Tom L. Crow, La Jolla, Calif., president of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association. "We are looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship with The GCSAA Foundation and continuing our efforts to promote the education of young people interested in pursuing a career in golf course management."

Founded in 1901, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf organizations in the United States. As one of the first golf organizations to recognize the necessity to educate qualified men and women in golf course management and turf research, the Trans-Miss has sponsored its Turf Scholarship Program since 1953.

In Minnesota three Trans-Miss directors -- Tom Garrett, Somerset Country Club and Minikahda members Hank Wilkinson and Kip Colwell -- also conduct fundraisers in a special "Minnesota Project" to help Minnesota students.

Purpose of the Trans-Miss scholarship program, which also granted more than \$43,000 in other schol-

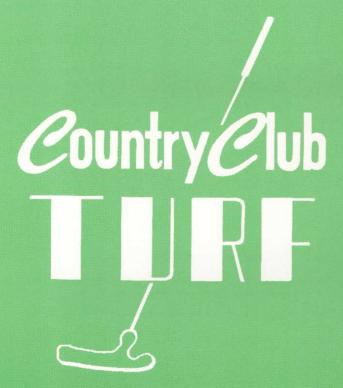
arships to 14 universities this year, is to encourage agronomy and horticulture students to pursue golf course management and supervision as a career, to place a special emphasis on turf management and grass culture, to help graduates find jobs and to uplift the image of the profession.

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## Building Successful Professional Relationships

(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from GCSAA's guidebook: Communication: The Cornerstone to Professional Relationships. To obtain a copy of the complete "Communication" guidebook at no charge, please contact the GCSAA career development department at (800) 472-7878, ext. 655.)

Few vocations demand such a wide range of knowledge to

ensure professional success as does that of the golf course superintendent. Employers take it for granted that you know the technical side of turf management. Increasingly though, employers expect you to also be proficient in communication. Communication may be the single most important contributor to employment longevity and enjoyment.

Play golf with your employer, golfers, and other golf course managers at your facility. Point out improvements, problems and planned solutions and general turf management practices that your playing partner/s may not be aware of. Ask for and listen to their input.

Golf with your employer at other facilities; he/she usually becomes your biggest supporter after seeing other courses. If your course is better managed, you look like a star. If your course is not as well managed (you should know that before going there with your employer), use your visit to illustrate similar improvements you would like to make on your course.

Be sure your employer, green committee members and/or board receives copies of Golf Course Management magazine and Leader Board, the GCSAA newsletter targeted to golf course decision-makers.

Attend green committee and/or board meetings. Develop an agenda for green committee meetings, publish meeting minutes and distribute promptly.

Provide committee members or board members with an attractive binder. Encourage them to place long range plans, progress reports and meeting minutes in the binder. Distribute timely articles, reports, Leader Board, etc. to be inserted into the binder.

Send appropriate agronomic and golf management articles to your employer and attach a handwritten note with a few brief thoughts related to the article. Stay up-to-date on turf management research. Share what you learn with your employer and explain what the findings mean or how it could affect your course.

(Continued on Page 17)



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## The Fall Harvest

By JAMES T. SNOW USGA Green Section

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the USGA Green Section Record 1990 March/April Vol 28(2): 18-19)

**WHAT'S WORSE** than not having enough trees on a golf course? The answer: having too many trees on the course.

Golf course superintendents at older courses in many parts of the country know this. They see the problems caused by shade on greens, tees, and other important turf areas, and they recognize that poor air circulation is a major factor involved in disease activity, drainage problems, compaction, and other forms of turf decline. Tree roots, too, rob the turf of moisture and nutrients and complicate irrigation and drainage programs. Trees too close together make it necessary to use time-consuming small equipment for mowing purposes. And mowing around low-branching species often requires hand mowing work or the use of small riding equipment.

Too many trees can also affect the play of the course. They can encroach on play off the tee, forcing golfers to one side of the tee or the other. Trees can unreasonably block play across the corner of a dogleg, where a sand bunker would be a better choice. Surface roots can be a nuisance for golfers and for maintenance equipment and golf carts. And too many trees can be a factor in slow play.

Golf course superintendents have come to recognize some of the concerns about trees. but the same cannot be said of most golfers, who generally view trees as sacred. One course, however, where the superintendent and club officials agree on the need to control the problems caused by too many trees is the Country Club of Rochester, in New York state. Hundreds

of trees have been planted on this old Donald Ross course over the years, many of which were pines planted about 25 to 30 feet apart. As the trees grew, superintendent Bob Feindt recognized that many of them were becoming overcrowded and were affecting their own growth and that of the nearby turf.

Feindt's first hint of a serious problem was encountered on the 7th green, which was surrounded by trees. A combination of shade and poor air circulation made it very difficult to maintain good quality turf on this green during the summer. On the recommendation of the USGA Green Section, the club agreed to remove several trees. The next season the turf on this green improved, and the club decided to remove several more trees and to follow through with some pruning work.

Upon seeing the significant improvement of the turf on the 7th green, the club began to look at other areas of the course where too many trees might be having a negative impact on turf quality. The superintendent, golf professional, green committee chairman, and several other committee members got together, toured the course, and selected trees for removal or pruning. For example, if an evergreen tree was crowding a good hardwood specimen, the evergreen was marked for removal. The results were great, and the tour of the course for the purpose of tree evaluation became an annual event known as "The Fall Harvest.

Most of the actual tree pruning and removal work is scheduled for the winter months. The trees are removed, the stumps are ground up, the holes are filled with soil, and seed or sod is used to reestablish turf. By doing the work during the winter

and cleaning up thoroughly, the die-hard tree lovers don't miss the trees. One winter 42 trees were removed, ranging in diameter from 3 inches to 36 inches, and nobody said a negative word about it the following season.

The removal of trees that cause turf problems is really not so unusual on golf courses today; it's the attitude of the club and its officials that is unusual. Here is a club that respects and values its trees, yet it is willing to look at them with a critical eye and remove those that no longer play a positive role on their course. That is an attitude that every club should emulate.



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16 HOLE NOTES SEPTEMBER 2000

#### Professional Relationships-

(Continued from Page 15)

Hold employer meetings in the maintenance facility. Host periodic tours of the golf course and maintenance facility. Be sure to highlight turfgrass research areas and discuss the value of maintenance equipment.

Hold an annual orientation for green committee members. Invite new board or committee members to tour the course and the maintenance facility with you. Take him/her to lunch.

Invite your employer to GCSAA related-events such as educational seminars, chapter meetings and the annual conference and show.

Write thank-you notes to your employer and other managers at your facility when appropriate. For example, send a note after attending conference and show or education seminars paid for by your employer.

If you are emotionally upset about an issue, wait 24 hours before discussing it with your employer. You will be much calmer and more rational after a cooling-off period.

During meetings with your employer, write down all the important points discussed. It shows professionalism and serves as a reminder for later reference.

#### Communicating With Golfers

Learn and use the names of active golfers at your course.

Place comment cards in the pro shop, golf cars or restaurant. Design them with your name and title clearly visible so golfers know you are asking for course-related input. Include a line for the golfer's name so you can send a letter thanking him/her for the input and addressing the concern or compliment.

Post a long-term calendar with regular maintenance activities clearly noted in a prominent spot for all golfers to see. Let golfers know what you are doing on the course, when you will be doing it and how it will affect play.

Post daily updates in a visible location to communicate current course conditions. Use photographs to better illustrate what you are describing.

Document changes on the course using before and after photos to remind people "what you've done for them lately."

Contribute to your facility's newsletter by writing a regular column. Sign it and use your photograph. Be sure to discuss what's happening on the course and why it's happening. This lets your golfer know why a green was slower, why a tree was cut down around the ninth tee box and why water was standing on the fifth fairway.

Publish monthly lawncare tips in your facility's newsletter. Present a workshop for your golfers on home turf care.

Maintain high visibility on the golf course. Eat lunch in the clubhouse daily. Maintain a high profile in the clubhouse. Talk to golfers to get first-hand input. Post your name and title in the clubhouse or restaurant and print your name on the scorecard. Note your title on your turf utility vehicle so it's visible to golfers.

Write every new club member a welcome letter and invite each to lunch. Offer to play golf with your golfers and keep a

sign-up sheet in the clubhouse.

Write a letter of congratulations to the new club champion every year.

Attend member meetings and annual meetings; present a "State of the Union" slide show at the annual meeting describing activities that have resulted in improved golf course conditions or budget reduction. Attend tournaments and other events at your course. Take your spouse (if applicable) to appropriate functions.

Conduct a seminar for your golfers or members focusing on course etiquette. The seminar could include proper repair of divots and ball marks, raking a bunker, golf car rules, a discussion of alternative and metal golf spikes and other topics.

Sponsor a golfer outing early in the season. Point out wildlife and improvements made over the winter, show how to repair a ball mark, how to rake a bunker, etc.

Host an open house at your maintenance facility. Get your employees involved. In cold weather climates, offer coffee and hot chocolate in the maintenance facility during the winter. This invites golfers into the maintenance facility to see everything you do during the winter.

#### Communicating With the Community

Take advantage of all opportunities to establish yourself as a resource in the community. Introducing yourself to local media and speaking to local civic and school groups is a valuable way to promote your course and your profession. Keep your employer updated on these activities and pass along your positive experiences.

Prior to the start of new construction projects or prior to unique maintenance practices, write a letter to residents around the course notifying them of the upcoming work. Include the start date and anticipated completion.

#### General CommunicationTips

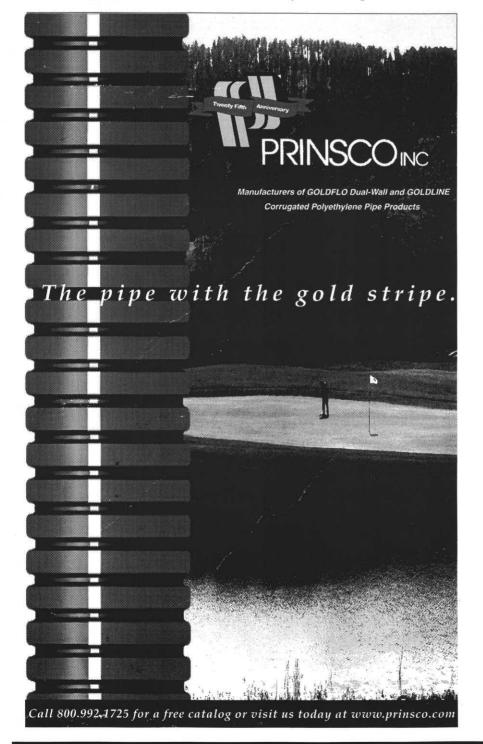
Keep GCSAA's Green Tips, Media Resource Book, Media Relations Guidebook, Environmental Media Relations Guidebook and Emergency Communications Guidebook on file for easy reference. Mail or hand out appropriate sections when questions arise.

Have first-class signage to direct individuals to the maintenance facility. Inside your facility, display nameplates on the superintendent's office door or desk and the names of the assistants, mechanic, foreman, and others on a bulletin board.

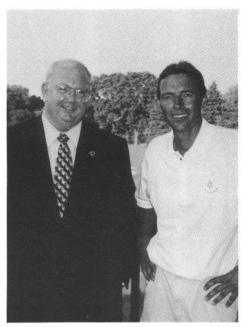
Consider the name of your maintenance facility. If you currently call it a "barn" or "shed," change it to something indicative of its importance such as turf maintenance center, environmental resource center, course management facility, turf and training resource facility, etc.

Promote your maintenance capabilities by stenciling the year you purchased a piece of equipment on its front. Every time golfers and your employer see the equipment, it reinforces how well you have taken care of that investment. When it is time to purchase a replacement, obtaining approval should be easier.

**THE MINNESOTA WILD'S BOB NAEGELE** spoke to the Championship Field about the new hockey team in town at Interlachen Country Club on August 14th.



#### SCENES FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP AT INTERLACHEN



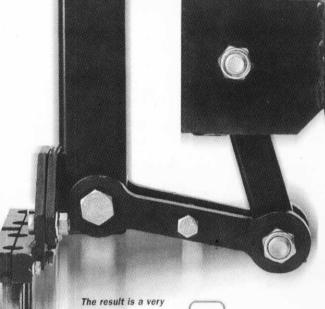
INTERLACHEN'S GENERAL MANAGER GEORGE CARROLL, left, with host superintendent John Katterheinrich.



**INTERLACHEN GOLF PRO JOCK OLSON**, in front, and his staff, helped out in a variety of ways as shown here working on the scoreboard at the MGCSA Championship.

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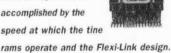
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