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MGCSA Announces New Board

Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, MN, has been elected president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Fredericksen, who was president in 1992, was elected at the association's 74th Annual Business Meeting on December 5 in Minneapolis.

Other officers elected were: Robert Panuska, Waseca Lakeside Club, Waseca, vice-president, and Mike Brual, Faribault Golf & Country Club, Faribault, treasurer. Michael Brower, Minnesota Valley, Bloomington, remains as secretary. E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Heritage Links Golf Club, Lakeville, remains on the Board as an ex-officio member.

New directors elected were: James Bade, Somerset Country Club, Mendota Heights; Joe Churchill, Simplot Partners, Roseville; Greg Hubbard, CGCS, Manitou Ridge Golf Course, White Bear Lake; Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis; Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello Country Club, Monticello. Remaining on the Board are Barry Hines, Mill Run Golf Course, Eau Claire, WI; Ted Schirck,

Hydrologic, Plymouth; Steve Shumansky, Perham Lakeside Country Club, Perham; and Dan Swenson, River Falls Golf Club, River Falls, WI.

The MGCSA wishes to thank Kerry Glader, CGCS, Plaisted Companies, Elk River, and Tom Fischer, CGCS, Edinburgh USA, Brooklyn Park, for their time and effort on the board.

The MGCSA handed out its Distinguished Service Awards at the Annual Meeting to Larry Mueller and Tim Commers accepting for his late father Jerry Commers. The recipient of the Watson Award this year is Norma O'Leary, CGCS, for her insightful article on the pressures of labor shortages entitled "Dealing with Labor Shortages."

This year we had 16 members of our association to honor for the dedication they have shown to the profession. G.M. Murphy, CGCS, 40 years; Roger Kisch, Orland Maenke, Joe Moris, Larry Vetter, 35 years; James Brooks, Douglas Dieter, Michael Klatte, CGCS, Mike Roach, 30 years; Kerry Glader, CGCS, Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, Rodney Johnson, CGCS, Thomas Johnson, Douglas Mahal, CGCS, Charlie Pooch, and John Steiner, CGCS, 25 years.

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Two UW/River Falls Students Receive Trans-Mississippi/MGCSA Joint Scholarships

Two students at the University of Wisconsin/River Falls are the recipients of joint \$2,000 scholarships awarded by the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association.



Adam Bergdahl, 21, North Branch was graduated with honors in 1999 from North Branch High School where he also was an all-conference football player, captain of his football and golf teams, earned four letters and played for two years in the school band. He also earned his

Eagle Scout badge.

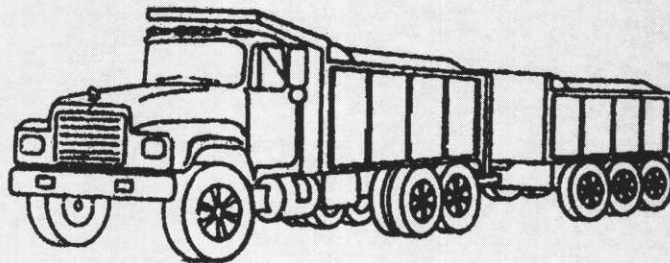
Adam has worked at North Branch Golf Course, Willow River Cemetery, Tanner's Brook Golf Club in Forest Lake and River Falls Golf Club. He enrolled at River Falls in

September, 1999, has made the Dean's List and intends to be graduated following the Fall semester in 2003.

Daniel L. Thelen, 21, Clear Lake, Wis., was graduated with a 4.00 GPA from Clear Lake High School where he missed only one day of class, was captain and an all-conference player in football and was a state FFA officer.

His work includes service at Bailey Nurseries, Inc. in Newport, Minn., Cedar Hills Greenhouse in River Falls and the River Falls Golf Course. At UW/River Falls, he has a 3.91 GPA.

He also has served as a Junor Agriculture advisor for the Horticulture Society, a treasurer for the FFA and has volunteered 160 hours on Habitat for Humanity projects in El Paso, Texas; Baltimore, Md., and Valdosta, Ga. He expects to be graduated in May, 2003



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AFFILIATE NEWS

Twin City Seed Co. Appoints Dave Gamez As Turf Specialist

Twin City Seed Co. is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Gamez as Turf Specialist. Dave brings over 15 years experience in the seed business with six years in the former Peterson Seed facility in Shakopee, Minn. Dave serves on the board of the Minnesota Erosion Control Association, and has done public speaking on various

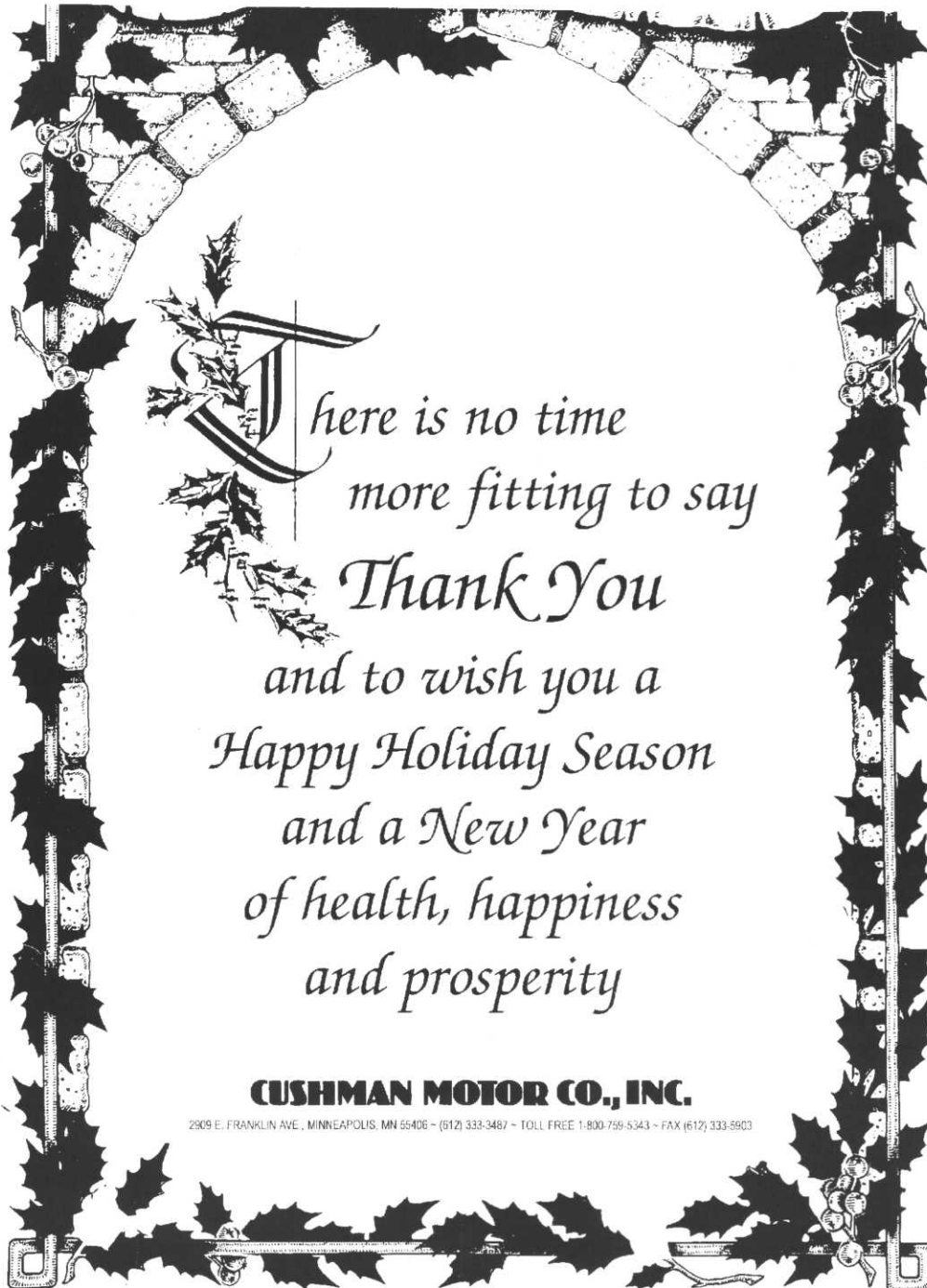
turf topics for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Gamez will be calling on golf courses; garden centers; landscapers; hydro-seeders; Dot highway seeders; sod growers; utility restoration companies; sports and turf professionals, and government purchasing agencies.

Along with Dave's experience, John

Glattly, president of Twin City Seed Co. brings 25 years of seed experience and a newly expanded line of erosion control blankets, hydro mulch and small packaging.

If you would like to contact Dave Gamez, please call 1-800-545-TURF or 612-961-2824 or by e-mail at dave_gamez@qwest.net.



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Bluebird Conference Set April 13

Now, during the off season is a good time to repair and paint your bluebird houses. Enlarged entrance holes (from squirrels or wood peckers) should be replaced to prevent starlings from entering your boxes. Painting boxes (outside only) helps prevent boxes, especially roofs, from warping, cracking or just falling apart. Also it is a good time to relocate any houses that have been unproductive or inhabited by Wasps, ants or House Wrens.

Our next Bluebird Conference will be held Saturday, April 13, 2002 in Faribault at their Middle School. The Conference is free to the public and will host several great speakers. This will be the third year that BBRP will be selling berry bushes at or below our cost. This year we are encouraging MGCSA members to attend and pick up some Bittersweet berry seedlings for their Golf Course.

If you cannot attend, but are interested in purchasing some Bittersweet seedlings; you can advance order then now by calling Jack Hauser at 952-831-8132 or e-mail him at jghauser@net-zero.net. Bittersweet seedlings will sell at 4 for \$2.00 at the Conference. Advanced orders can be picked up in Bloomington in April, or delivered within the Twin Cities at \$5.00 for minimum orders of 20 plants.

They Keep Going and Going and Going ...

By **BOB VAVREK**
USGA Agronomist

The end of the year may be close at hand, but the end of the golfing season remains elusive. Extended periods of sunny December weather and temperatures in mid- 40's abound across the northern tier of the Region. Like the Energizer Bunny, golfers won't quit and some courses will literally be worse for the wear next spring.

Winter play is always a controversial topic during mid-November through December, particularly this season when rounds have been down at many courses. Owners perceive late season play as an opportunity to recover revenue lost earlier in the season. Some golfers at private courses believe that their year-round dues entitles them to year-round play. Consistent snow cover will settle this touchy issue, but until then, golfers need to take a common sense approach regarding winter play.

Granted, a round or two played on frozen turf or turf that is completely thawed, relatively firm, and dry will not adversely affect the course. Golfers need to keep in mind, however, that the playing surfaces have no ability to recover from wear once the turf enters winter dormancy. The damage caused by concentrated foot traffic or motorized carts will have a cumulative, adverse effect on the turf until the grass begins growing actively again next spring. Furthermore, the damage caused by play across partially thawed turf can be an even greater concern. Playing surfaces can be rutted and root systems can be sheared by traffic when only the top half inch or so of turf has thawed - a common scenario that occurs on a mild winter day after frost develops in the soil profile.

Follow as many of these simple guidelines as possible to minimize damage from winter play.

- Keep carts off the course.
- Play temporary greens.
- Do not open the course when there is frost on the turf.
- Initiate play from a spot adjacent to (not on) the tees because divots will not recover.

An interesting option to consider regarding off-season golf is to play the course in reverse. Tee off from the approach and play to temporary green located adjacent to the tees. Players rarely look backwards during a round of golf, so you just might be treated to a picturesque view of the layout that you never knew existed.

Have safe and Happy Holidays.

Source: Bob Vavrek, rvavrek@usga.org or 262-797-8743.

On The Road With The USGA

By R.A. (Bob) BRAME, *USGA Director*

For most of the lower portion of the North Central Region November was a very mild month. Rainfall increased and for many it was needed as we head into winter. Overall, it was a good fall for projects and growing-in new plantings. Hopefully, the winter will be equally kind.

Now is the time to finalize plans for snow mold protection. Past history is the best means of zeroing in on any needed control strategy. Some courses, in the lower portion of the region, have found it unnecessary to apply snow mold protection fungicides. Yet, turf that is weak heading into the winter, especially greens, may need preventative protection. New plantings and sites with a past history of snow mold damage should also be considered for fungicide treatment. Based on the weather pattern over the last few weeks, and the change that appears to be developing over the last couple of days, now would be a good time to apply any preventative treatments.

The mild November weather has increased the need to mow. With the exception of warm-season grasses, which can benefit from being a little shaggy heading into the winter, continue mowing as growth dictates.

There also is time for late season and/or dormant feeding. Late season feeding is applied while the turf is still growing, using predominately readily-available nutrients. Dormant feeding then follows a couple weeks after active growth has stopped. Slow release fertilizers work well for dormant feeding, and many continue to achieve good results with natural organic materials, especially on greens. Yearly, representative chemical analysis should guide fertilization efforts. We'd be happy to review your soil analysis and aid in tweaking feeding efforts.

The Kentucky Turfgrass Council Conference and Show in Bowling Green was a big success. Hope to see some of you at the OTF (Ohio Turfgrass Foundation) Conference in Columbus during the first week of December. Happy Holidays to one and all and thanks for your ongoing support of the USGA Green Section. Feel free to call upon us at any time.

Bob Brame, bobbrame@usga.org or 859-356-3272.



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THE MGCSA OFFICE

(Editor's Note: This article is the beginning of a series that will profile various members of the MGCSA. We will begin with the MGCSA office and Executive Director Scott Turtinen.)

* * * *

It may be an old phrase, but, in this case, it certainly is true. Your MGCSA office is as close as your phone or, for that matter, your e-mailing capabilities.

Located on the receiving end are Executive Director Scott Turtinen, 44, and his brother, Jeff, 41, who have been conducting the administrative and publication duties of the association for nearly 13 years.



Scott Turtinen

Their responsibilities and activities are manyfold, and these duties have been growing continually ever since the two men became involved with the superintendents' association in 1989.

That's when the firm of Turtinen Communications, Inc., started by their father, Ralph, in 1964, became the headquarters of the MGCSA. Previously the administrative work had been done by the Minnesota Golf Association, but the two groups parted amicably in 1989 when it became apparent that the growth of the

MGA didn't leave that organization the necessary time to devote to the MGCSA, which also was growing rapidly and needed much more done.

After interviewing others, the MGCSA selected the Turtinens, primarily because of their association management experience, their knowledge of the game, their interest in the sport, their ability to organize competitions and conventions, their business and production capabilities in their already established office and their ability to wear well with people.

Both Scott and Jeff grew up in the family business, which included weekly newsletter for the Western Collegiate Hockey Association when Turtinen Communications handled the publicity and statistics for that league in the 1970s and the *Minnesota Golf Scene* -- a golf publication the Turtinens produced for about 10 years.

Since the early '80s the Turtinens have been the business office for the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association. That association, now 100 years old, is composed of approximately 200 member clubs and is recognized as one of the most prestigious golf organizations in the United States.

Its primary purpose is to advance interest in the true spirit of amateur golf by encouraging friendly competition and cooperation among members of the association.

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 granted its first turf scholarship for \$700 in 1953. That went to Colorado State University, then known

as Colorado A&M. Since then the Trans has provided 1,038 scholarships totalling more than \$825,000. Currently, the Trans awards more than \$50,000 annually.

\$45,750 goes to 34 students at the agronomy schools of 14 universities, \$8,000 is given to the "Following in the Footsteps" program of the Golf Course Superintendents of America and other grants go to various individual chapters of the GCSAA, including Minnesota.

Both Scott and Jeff earned letters in golf and hockey at Wayzata High School where they were graduated, Scott in 1976 and Jeff in 1978. Both spent their college days at the University of Minnesota, where Scott was graduated with a degree in marketing and graphic arts and Jeff pursued his education in journalism. Following school, they began working full-time in their family firm and later took over its overall operation.

In 1989 they became immersed in MGCSA business. Both make it a point to be aware of what the other is doing and, in that fashion, are prepared to back each other up.

Scott attends Board, committee and convention meetings, follows up on what develops in such areas as environment, government relations, research, scholarships, education, industrial relations, membership and public relations as well as golf competitions like the Garske Scholarship Scramble, the Stodola Research Scramble, the MGCSA Championship and monthly meetings.

While keeping abreast of those activities, Jeff took a number of computer classes to ensure the MGCSA would "keep up with the times." Jeff keeps the association's website up-to-date, creates printed pieces for association mailings, and produces *Hole Notes*, a 40-page, 10-times-a-year monthly publication.

Their basic philosophy is rather simple: Get what needs to be done quickly and efficiently, answer calls and respond to requests with a good attitude.

Their approach has produced results. When they started, the association had 585 members. Now there are 930. MGCSA conferences grew in booths and attendance annually when the superintendents had their own session before merging with the MTGF for an annual conference in December.

Want to contact them?

The MGCSA office is located one block north of Lake Minnetonka at 240 Minnesota Avenue South, P.O. Box 617, Wayzata, MN 55391. They can be reached by phone at 952-473-0557 or toll free at 800-642-7227, by fax at 952-473-0576 or by e-mail at scott@mgcsa.org.

You're welcome to visit. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (most times earlier and sometimes later.)



Jeff Turtinen



The History and Integrity of Golf Courses Change With Time and Management Demands

By JACK MACKENZIE
North Oaks Golf Club

The history and integrity of all courses change with time and management demands. North Oaks Golf Club is no different. Designed and built by master Canadian architect Stanley Thompson in 1950, the club was the cornerstone of a very progressive community which offered a total living package complete with a private fishing lake, horseback riding, ski slopes, skeet shooting range, dog kennels and tennis courts. The first fifteen years of operation saw very few changes on the course.

In 1965 the club was sold to the membership and over the next two decades changes took place under the guidance of a well intended Green Committee and Board of Directors. Trees were planted, bunkers added and deleted, green shapes modified, fairway design altered and tee boxes reconstructed. Everything implemented under the tutelage of very smart people, the best in their fields of banking, medicine, industry and economics. Unfortunately, architectural intent was lost to the political fancy, and the player expertise, of those in charge.

The decade of the 1980's saw dramatic changes in management philosophies. The hierarchy of control progressed to the General Manager concept. The process of change was streamlined to develop consistency throughout the club. A new superintendent was hired in 1985 and a golf course architect was brought on board to lend his expertise to the future direction of the club.

Enter the esteemed architect Geoffrey Cornish, former partner of Stanley Thompson and golf course historian. Cornish's task was to prepare the course for the twentieth century by implementing his concept of Contour Mowing. That is, each hole outline was redefined depending upon distance from the green and shot values. Besides increasing the risk/reward component of the game of golf, fairway acreage, and the maintenance there of, was reduced dramatically.

The once huge and straight fairways were modified and narrowed into hour glass shapes which offered tight targets for the long hitters and large landing zones for those willing to take a lesser risk. Great idea for some clubs, but it became very evident after a short period of time that the narrow necks were also the landing zones for the second, and even third and fourth shots of those unable to reach the green in regulation. And what once was a blend of Poa, bent, blue and rye grass fairway, maintainable fairly consistently at a tad over one half inch, became spotty, marginally playable and aesthetically unacceptable rough. Scratch



players were less affected by this hodge-podge of turf than the high handicappers.

Political fury centering around this "New" rough became high pitched until architect Brian Silva was retained to create a master plan and restore the course back to the original Thompson design. Adopted into the by-laws in 1994, the Silva Plan recommended the restoration of bunkers, the removal of hundreds of trees and the re-contouring of the fairways. The majority, but not all of the fairway acreage was returned back to their meandering flow around the strategically placed Thompson hazards. A formal first cut was created by maintaining a 72-inch strip of abandoned fairway around each hole as well as an apron in front of the fairways a minimum of thirty feet in depth. The height was determined to be 1.25 inches.

From bunker restoration to the creation of berms and the removal of trees, the Silva Plan was embraced, implemented and completed over the next five years. The course was once again close to the original architectural intent. But what to do about those intolerable abandoned fairways disguised as first cut and primary roughs?

The mix of Poa, bent, blue and rye grasses were unacceptable to the majority of golfers, both in playability and beauty. Optically, there was no clear-cut definition between the first cut and the fairway. And as the fairways

(Continued on Page 29)

History and Integrity—

(Continued from Page 18)

are mowed in the traditional fashion, only too appropriate for a traditional course, this negative perception was accentuated.

Last spring the Green Committee began to pursue the conversion of the abandoned fairways from the crazy mix of grasses to a blend of close cut Kentucky Bluegrasses. Not only would the height of cut and texture be consistent, but also the deeper color would add contrast to the lighter green of the predominantly Poa fairways.

One of the information resources enlisted was the Turf Net network. Ideas for conversion ranged from growth suppression and heavy over seeding to fumigation with Basimide and reseeding. However the most surefire method of developing a consistent rough was the physical removal of the existing turf and the laying of new sod. Needless to say, a very big project.

And expensive. In fact, the Green Committee went back to the drawing board after they received the bids. However, the project was important and the need for an impressive and guaranteed finished product was deemed the correct thing to do.

A local sod producer with a national reputation was brought on board to do the work. Originally the Glenn Rehbein Companies was going to use their sod harvest machines to strip and roll the grass to be abandoned. However, this would necessitate the creation of haul roads and the use of plastic netting to keep the cut rolls intact for removal to the dumpsite. The roads themselves would have to be restored and the netting would never break down completely.

Realizing the challenge, the Glenn Rehbein Companies pursued and bought the Koro Field Top Maker machine, described in Gordon Witteven's Last Word article from April of 2001. This device actually flails, and removes through a conveyor system, the grass and soil off of the area to be resodded. There would be no surface glazing, as found in the sod harvesting process, and the finished product is ready for sodding after a bit of grading with a light landscape planner. Small trucks, less than one ton, are used to haul the debris thus not developing any haul roads. And no plastic netting would be introduced for the removal of the old sod. As a bonus, the material harvested would also, after degradation, create some fine soil for future construction projects.

(Continued on Page 25)

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