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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
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From Your President's Desk

It Was a Beautiful Day for Golf At Brackett's Crossing on May 8



E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

It was a beautiful day for golf at Brackett's Crossing and the May Meeting. Our thanks go out to Tom Proshek and his staff for providing us with a well manicured track to play. Thanks also go out to Dr. Jon Powell for his presentation. We were able to see just what a difference different covers make.

* * * *

Speaking of beautiful days for golf, there have been very few here at Heritage. The anticipated spring rush just hasn't taken place. We are plenty busy, but I would have anticipated more traffic with the late start. I hope that this is not some indication of a slow down in the interest to play.

* * * *

The Drive for the U program will be entering the second phase with requests from you the members to contribute in kind donations of machinery, materials or expertise. If you are wondering if what you have might find a home at the University please call Jon Powell and ask him if they have a place for what you would like to donate. (See contributor list on Page 36)

* * * *

As we enter the spring rush and get into full swing, don't forget to take some time to spend with your family, friends and loved ones. You never know when they might be gone. Most of your adult life will be spent working and there is no prize for those that try to pack twenty hours of work into a twelve hour time period. Budget your time so that you have a chance to look around you and appreciate what you have accomplished, I guarantee you that others are appreciating it.

* * * *

You have received the mailing for the Scholarship Scramble. I hope that you will all attend. Dakota Ridge is a beautiful and challenging track for all golfers. So mark your calendars for June 18.

* * * *

Have a great month and don't forget to take the time to smell the flowers.

Respectfully,
Paul Eckholm, CGCS
Heritage Links Golf Club
epeckholm@msn.com

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running for the
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should contact
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CGCS
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MGCSA CALENDAR

**Monday, June 18
SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE**
Dacotah Ridge
Host Superintendent: Mike Nelson

**Thursday, July 26
U OF M FIELD DAYS**
University of Minnesota
Host: Dr. Jon Powell

**Monday, August 20
MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP**
Wayzata Country Club
Host Superintendent: Bob Distel

**Tuesday, September 25
HAROLD STODOLA SCRAMBLE**
Edina Country Club
Host Superintendent: Mike Kelly

**Wednesday, October 3
MGCSA FALL MIXER**
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
Host Superintendent: Joe Wollner



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Impatiently Waiting For Warm Weather

By **BOB VAVREK**,
USGA Agronomist

Impatiently waiting for the warm weather... The upper-Midwest could sure use the spell of unusually warm weather that jump-started the turf growth and development in New England a few weeks ago. Many courses in central to northern Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin are still awaiting the first sustained surge of turf growth this year. Scars from severe snow mold injury have been extremely slow to heal. Pockmarks from dollar spot injury that occurred last September and October are still evident on greens as well.

Slow recovery has encouraged some superintendents to apply extra fertilizer to the playing surfaces at a time when soil temperatures are not high enough to initiate the release of nutrients. This strategy can backfire when the weather finally warms up and a flush of heavy growth occurs.

Too much topgrowth during the spring causes several problems. The obvious concern is keeping up with mowing at a time when the maintenance crew is not yet fully staffed. Furthermore, excessive leaf tissue is often produced at the expense of root growth. Root growth needs to be encouraged before the hot weather arrives. Wet weather during April and early May has already limited root growth. Shallow root growth was noted on greens during several Turf Advisory Service visits.

It was encouraging to find core cultivation operations on greens, tees, and fairways well underway during visits. Coring the playing surfaces is one of the most effective ways to stimulate deep, healthy root growth. Golfers need to be reminded that the holes will heal over slowly during cool, cloudy weather.

To make matters worse, the combination of lingering snow mold injury and slow growth provides an opportunity for weed encroachment. It's already another banner season for dandelions and knotweed in fairways and roughs. It

might not be a bad idea to plan pre-emergence herbicide applications for areas that have a history of crabgrass problems. At least budget for applications of post-emergence herbicides such as quinclorac (Drive) turf or fenoxaprop (Acclaim) just in case crabgrass appears with a vengeance on thin bunker banks, fairways, and roughs.

Let's hope that next month's update is more upbeat.

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

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**Questions regarding the scholarship program
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GCSAA Examines Management Practices

First-Ever National Survey Reflects Positively on Golf Courses

First-ever national survey reflects positively on golf courses

Results of the first comprehensive national survey of golf course management practices in the United States indicate golf facilities can be maintained in a manner that is compatible with the environment. These findings were released recently at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas, February 11-17.

"More so than the results, the most important news is a process is in place to examine the performance of golf courses," said GCSAA President Tommy Witt, CGCS. "The debate about golf's impact on the environment has been clouded by a lack of complete and nationally-aggregated data that has led proponents of pro-golf and anti-golf factions to make assertions that have not necessarily been supported by fact. As we conduct this annual survey, we will be collecting data that will be used to assist golf courses in their operations."

Perhaps the most revealing finding was the importance of golf facility green spaces for protecting and managing various types of wildlife habitat. Approximately 63 percent of survey respondents indicated their golf courses managed specifically for wildlife. In addition, facilities owned or controlled an average of 100.3 acres of wildlife habitat.

Earlier this fall, GCSAA sent surveys to 11,000 member golf course superintendents (Class A and B) posing a significant number of agronomic and economic questions such as grass types, number of rounds, length of season and maintenance budgets. In order to collect data for a two-year trial, half of the superintendents provided information for 1999 and the other half for 2000. GCSAA's goal is to conduct the survey on an annual basis with the purpose of analyzing trends and examining smaller components of golf facility management.

"It would be fair to characterize our first effort as solid, but limited," Witt said. We collected a tremendous amount of data, but not enough information to allow for extensive interpretation. We hope to improve the survey instrument in the future to provide even more definitive results."

Among the survey findings were:

An average golf facility covers 150 acres, with 111.5 of

that reflected as managed turf.

62.9 percent of survey respondents indicated their golf courses managed specifically for wildlife. In addition, facilities owned or controlled an average of 100.3 acres of wildlife habitat. The most common forms of habitat are freshwater bodies (found on 78.8 percent of golf courses), deciduous woodlands (67.9 percent), wetlands (51.9 percent) and streams/rivers (48.9 percent).

Median golf course irrigation water use is 78 acres or 70 percent of managed turf areas. The national irrigation median is the equivalent of 13.5 inches applied to irrigated areas per year.

85.4 percent of golf courses have at least one certified pesticide applicator, with an average of two certified applicators per golf course. It should be noted that some states do not require certification for golf courses, while other states require certification for restricted use pesticides which golf courses typically do not use.

The survey was conducted under the auspices of the Golf and Environment Initiative – a consortium of more than 20 golf associations and environmental organizations that have been examining the game's relationship with the environment since 1995. As a member of the Initiative, GCSAA voluntarily surveyed its members as part of a collaborative effort to build a national database of environmental data for golf courses.

"This is an important step in collecting objective data that both the golf industry and the environmental community can use to evaluate environmental conditions on golf courses," said Paul Parker, executive vice president of The Center for Resource Management. The Center is a non profit organization which manages and facilitates the Golf and Environment Initiative.

Witt expressed his pleasure with the results of the survey because they validate a significant body of research that has been conducted by numerous agencies during the last two decades.

"There has been some very positive research on golf course management practices conducted by public and private organizations," he said. "The body of data tells us golf courses can be managed in a manner that is compatible with the environment."

"There has been some very positive research on golf course management practices conducted by public and private organizations...the body of data tells us golf courses can be managed in a manner that is compatible with the environment."

Scholarship Scramble Set for June 18 At Dacotah Ridge Golf Club

Here is a Hole-by-Hole Description of the Course

By **MIKE NELSON**
Superintendent, Dacotah Ridge CC

The following is a hole-by-hole description of Dacotah Ridge Golf Club. I hope many of you can make it out to the Scholarship Scramble on Monday, June 18. Being out here on the prairie the wind usually plays a factor so be sure to bring your punch shots and bump and run game just in case. The course is designed by Rees Jones and he has done a wonderful job out here. It is a challenging yet fun course to play.

Hole 1, Par 4, 342 yards

This hole is a dogleg left, the right side of the landing area is generous and slopes up to contain the tee shot, so try to play away from the fairway bunker and Wabasha Creek on the left. A bunker protects the left side of the green as well, so use the open entrance at the right front of the green.

Hole 2, Par 4, 422 yards

Slight dogleg right with Wabasha Creek directly in front of the tee areas, but doesn't really come into play. The series of fairway bunkers protecting the right side of the landing area do, however, so favor the left side. A large bunker on the right protects the green, but an open, generous approach allows shots to be bounced onto the green.

Hole 3, Par 5, 541 yards

A spectacular view greets you at the tee of this long par five. Play down the right side of this hole to avoid the large deep bunkers on the left. The greenside bunker is also something to be avoided. Use the slope on the right side to reach the approach to the green.

Hole 4, Par 3, 165 yards

A downhill par three that has water left and a large

bunker right. The challenge continues once on the green because of the distinct tier between front and rear hole locations.

Hole 5, Par 4, 371 yards

The fifth hole is a dogleg right and a true risk reward hole. Bite off as much as you dare, otherwise use the fairway area on the left to go around the lake. The bunkers to the right of the dogleg and the green present themselves as hazards but will save you from a worse fate.

Hole 6, Par 5, 519 yards

Stay to the left of the fairway bunker at the first landing area. After an uphill tee shot the rest of the hole plays distinctly downhill. Staying to the left and short on the approach to the green is the safest route. Shots hit long or right of the green will find the large bunker that surrounds it.

Hole 7, Par 3, 170 yards

The Wabasha Creek runs down the left side of this hole and a pin location on the left side of the green will mean flirting with the hazard if you want to shoot for the flag in hopes of a birdie. The approach is open to the right front section of the green. Shots hit long will find the greenside bunker.

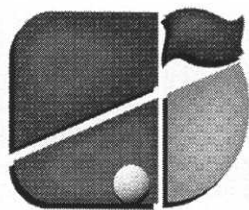
Hole 8, par 4, 386 yards

There is a swale off the left of the fairway from tee to green that is hazard. Favor the right side of the fairway all the way to the green. A subtle green surface that is protected by a large bunker front left. Avoid going long or left as the green surrounds drop off dramatically to the hazard.

Hole 9, Par 4, 404 yards

There is a stream that skirts down the left side of the hole and things narrow as you get past the fairway bunker. Favor the right side of the fairway to take advantage of the contours and avoid the hazard, which comes into play right behind the fairway bunker. Your approach will take you across Wabasha Creek. Make sure you have enough club because if you are short you may roll back into the hazard.

(Continued on Page 13)



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