

**SOMERSET COUNTRY CLUB'S JAMES BADE**

# *Soft Spoken But Strong Willed*

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS

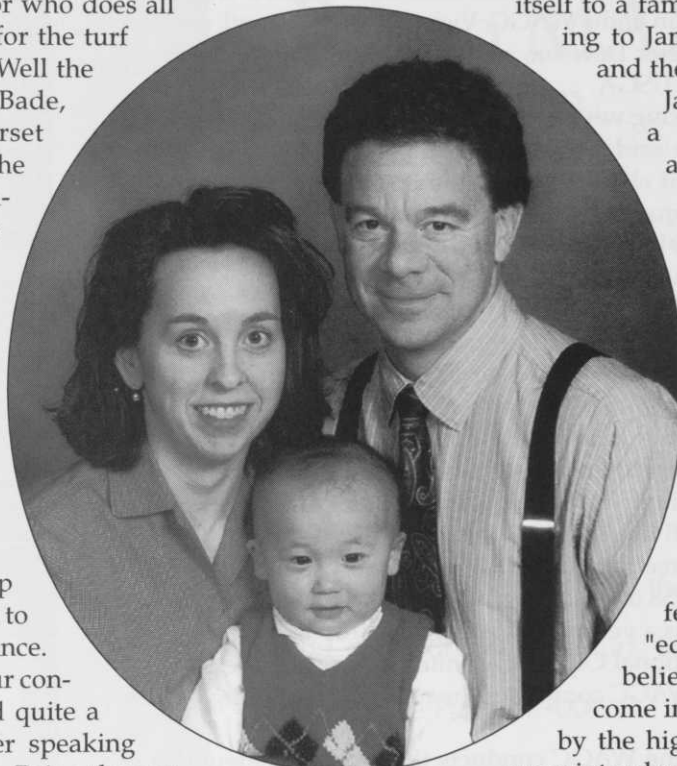
Did you ever wonder how or who does all the educational programming for the turf conferences or Mini-seminar? Well the person to ask is James Bade, Superintendent at Somerset Country Club. James has been the driving force behind all the educational programming for the MGCSA for the past few years. Having joined the MGCSA in 1986, James is currently serving his second term on the MGCSA board of directors.

He has served as Chairperson of the Conference and Education committee since his election in December of 1999.

To get the speakers lined up for these events, James has had to start up to two years in advance. Many of the key speakers for our conferences are so busy they need quite a bit of front time to fit another speaking engagement into their schedule. Being the conscientious person he is, James would like us all to have a great educational experience at our gatherings. If you have any input as far as speakers, topics, etc., please give him a call.

A soft-spoken person, James grew up in Chaska on a hobby/truck farm, rolling sod, picking tomatoes, cucumbers and apples. His first golfing experiences were at Dahlgren Golf Course and he was lucky enough to play high school golf at Hazeltine National Golf Club, where he worked on the greenstaff from the age of 16 and continued working there until his last year in college. James completed his internship at Saucon Valley Country Club in eastern Pennsylvania. Shortly after earning his degree in Turf Management from the University of Minnesota in 1986, he joined the staff of Somerset Country Club

Somerset was founded in 1919. The phrase "country club" certainly describes this fine track. It has a low membership and doesn't take tee times. The small club lends



itself to a family like atmosphere and according to James, "It is a great place to work and the people are good to work for".

James married his wife Stephanie, a "cheesehead", in 1995. They adopted their son Samuel in December 2000, when Samuel was only 5 days old. Their church is a big part of their lives. Recently the family has moved to a new house in South St. Paul.

When asked about the future, James stated that his goal is become a certified superintendent. He believes that because the environment will only become a bigger issue in the years ahead, that as a profession we need to be or become "educated stewards." He also believes the biggest changes may come in technology. This will be driven by the high standards that all golf course superintendents are being held to.

James' newest interest has been curling. Like many in our association it has become a bit addictive. James likens it to putting on ice. He strives to be the best he can in both his professional and personal life, without sacrificing time with family or friends.

I would like to personally thank James for the time and effort he has put in, making our association and its conferences better every year.

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## **PLAN TO ATTEND**

## USGA President Reed Mackenzie Named To World Amateur Golf Council Post

Far Hills, N.J. - Reed Mackenzie, newly elected president of the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association (USGA), has been named to succeed Trey Holland as the joint chairman of The World Amateur Golf Council (WAGC), the organization has announced. Previously, he served for two years as the USGA Delegate to the WAGC Administrative Committee.

Mackenzie, of Chaska, Minn., becomes a joint chairman of the organization along with Neil Crichton, chairman of the general committee of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (R&A). As joint chairmen, the two will work closely with the women's chairman of the WAGC, Vicky Whyte of Brazil, and the joint secretaries of the WAGC: Peter Dawson, secretary of the R&A, and David Fay, the executive director of the USGA.

"I am looking forward to working with my counterpart, Neil Crichton, in co-chairing the WAGC," Mackenzie said. "Since the inception of the WAGC, the USGA and the R&A have worked closely to promote amateur golf as a worldwide game which can and does provide spirited competition combined with the highest level of sportsmanship. I hope the WAGC will continue to be a vehicle for the promotion of international goodwill."

Mackenzie, 59, who served four years as vice president and a year each as treasurer and secretary, has been a member of the USGA Executive Committee since January 1992. In 1991, he was general chairman for the U.S. Open at his home course of Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn.

Professionally, he is president of Mackenzie & Hallberg, P.A. law firm in Minneapolis, specializing in personal injury litigation with an emphasis on medical negligence. He is a 1965 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and received a law degree in 1968 from the University of Minnesota.

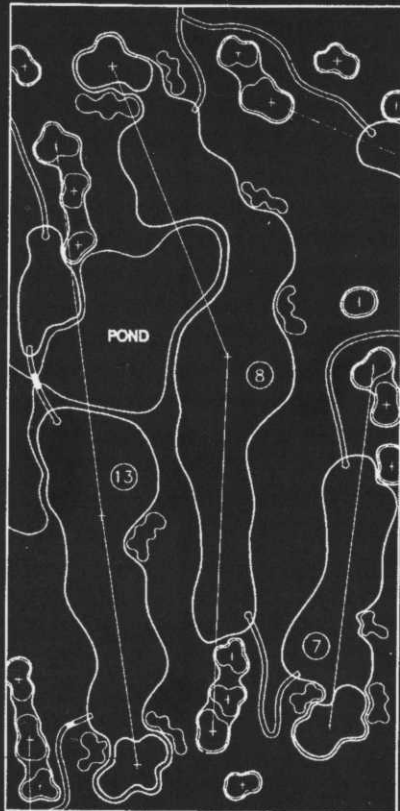
He and his wife, Jane, have three daughters: Rachael, Emily and Joanna.

The WAGC was founded in 1958 to encourage the international development of the game and to employ golf as a vehicle to foster friendship and sportsmanship. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the official international federation for golf, the WAGC comprises the national governing bodies of golf in nearly 100 countries.

As one of its main functions, the WAGC conducts the World Amateur Team Championships for women and men on a biennial basis. Future championships are scheduled for 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and 2004 in Puerto Rico.

For more information on the WAGC, contact Stephanie Parel, WAGC joint deputy secretary, at (908) 234-2300 (USA).

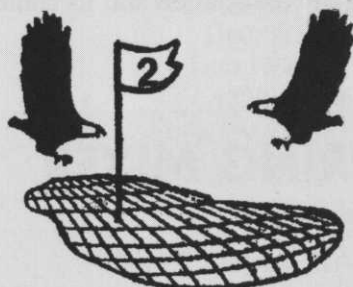
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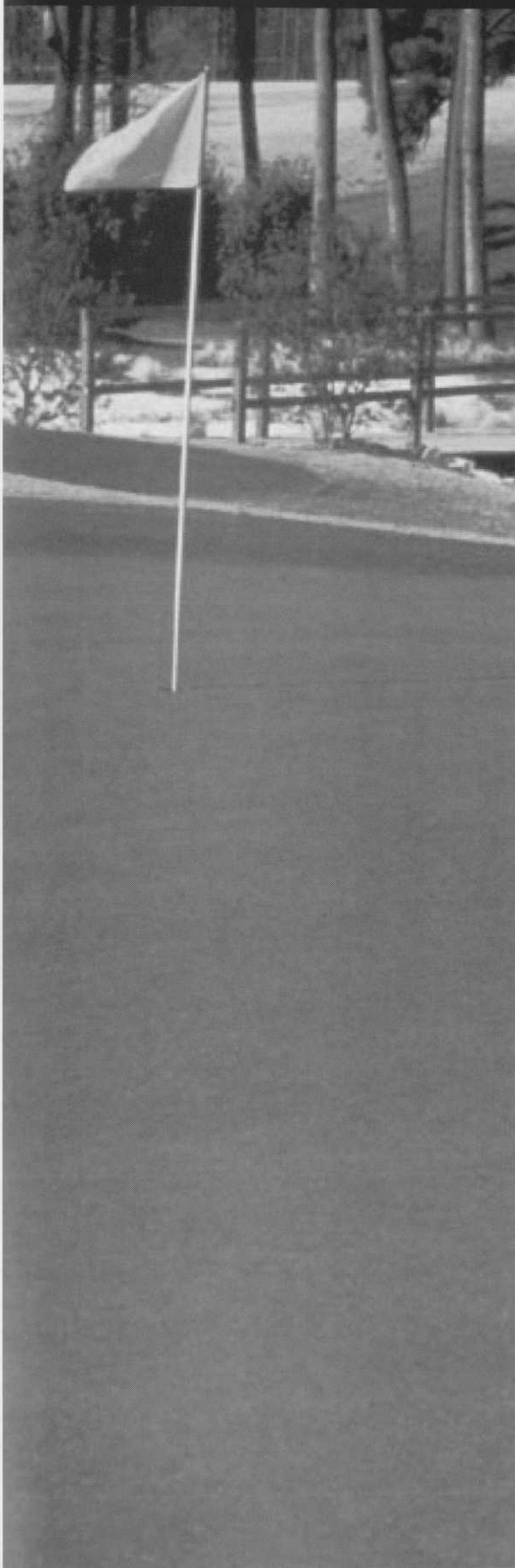
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# USGA Awards Nearly 2 Million in Grants

Colorado Springs, Colo. - With nearly \$2 million awarded by the United States Golf Association at its first Foundation Grants Committee meeting of 2002, the Association has passed the monetary halfway mark in its 10-year, \$50-million commitment to the game of golf, which was launched in 1997.

A total of 62 grants were awarded to programs in 27 states totaling \$1,809,925 as part of the USGA "For the Good of the Game" Grants Program. Including grants awarded at the first 2002 meeting, total giving since 1997 has surpassed \$27 million. A projected 37,000 economically disadvantaged youths in these USGA-supported programs will be given an opportunity to learn and grow through the game of golf.

Born out of a belief that the game can positively impact people's lives, the Grants Program was established as a way to help make golf more affordable and accessible to people facing economic and physical challenges.

Of the 62 grants awarded so far in 2002, 53 will support junior golf programs for economically disad-



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Minneapolis - \$15,000

vantaged youth.

One such program is Mid-South Junior Golf Association (MSJGA) of Memphis, Tenn., which was awarded \$50,000 for junior golf instruction, course access and education. Founded in 1991 to expose inner city youth to the game of golf at no cost, the MSJGA program now reaches hundreds of youth in the Memphis area. The organization recently started The First Tee of Memphis with plans to construct a new youth facility that will serve as MSJGA's home. The new youth golf learning facility will also be supported by the Bridgestone/Firestone Foundation, among others.

Another program offering junior golf to urban youth is the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce Charity Foundation's Urban Youth Golf Program (UYGP), a previous USGA grant recipient. Granted more than \$200,000 since 1993, the UYGP has provided instruction and access to approximately 1,000 youths annually. Teaming up with the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department in 1997, the program operates out of the newly built, USGA-supported Tregnan Golf Academy at Griffith Park, providing the youth in Los Angeles' urban areas with \$1 green fees. At the recent 2002 Grants Committee meeting, an additional \$50,000 was awarded to UYGP for instruction.

Other grants made continue the Foundation's outreach to programs for individuals with disabilities, caddie and occupational programs for economically disadvantaged youth, and for the development of non-profit beginner-friendly golf facilities.

Grant awards to programs for individuals with disabilities included a \$20,500 commitment to The Forum Health Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital (Warren, Ohio).

This grant will support instruction and course access for more than 150 adults and children with disabilities from hospitals throughout northern Ohio. In addition to the creation of the USGA Resource Center for Individuals with Disabilities, more than \$1.5 million has been awarded to programs for individuals with disabilities in the last five years. For more information on the Resource Center, please visit the Web site at <http://golfcenterdisabilities.usga.org>

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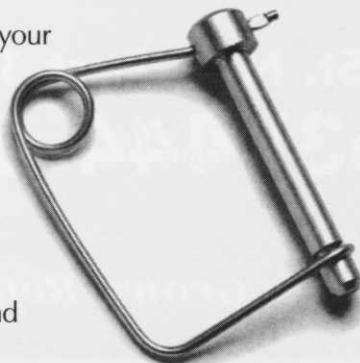
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# It Really Is a Small World

By **BOB BRAME**, *USGA Agronomist*

Recent travels took me far from the known surroundings in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, to attend a turf conference in Munich, Germany. While some components of golf turf management are the same in Germany, there are a number of differences. Nevertheless, the experience brought to light the fact that golf is loved in a number of countries over and above those where English is spoken. It really is a small world and the similarities tie us all together as we work to improve golf turf management while learning to be the best possible stewards of limited global resources.

The mild winter weather continues in the lower portion of the North Central Region, although there have been a couple cold snaps along the way. If the trend continues we may experience an early spring. However, March can sometimes be the snowiest month of the year. Nonetheless, working for prompt completion of equipment servicing would seem to be a wise posture given the possibility of an early spring.

While most of the turf conferences for the off-season have come and gone, there is a USGA Regional Meeting scheduled for March 27th in Indianapolis at the Marriott North. The northern portion of the North Central Region will have a regional conference on March 25th in Minneapolis at the airport Marriott. The program planned for each offers something for course committee members, managers, golf course superintendents, professionals and anyone interested in golf. If your course has not received a mailing for one of these regional conferences, give our office a call. Plan to join us at the conference closest to your course.

Our Turf Advisory Service invoice mailing has been out for a few weeks and commitment cards are coming in at a steady pace. This means our travel scheduling has been initiated and it looks like it will be another busy summer. If you did not receive a mailing, give us a call. All others, please return the green, postage paid commitment card so that we can more accurately continue the scheduling process. As always, should specific scheduling concerns/needs exist give us a call.

We will continue to update regional news, on this Web site, through the season ahead with postings at the first and middle of each month. I will be doing the first of the month posting and Bob Vavrek, who covers Minnesota, Wisconsin,

and Michigan in the northern portion of the North Central Region, will write the mid-month update.

*(Editor's Note: Bob Brame can be reached at [bobbrame@usga.org](mailto:bobbrame@usga.org).)*

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# Ross's Northland Country Club Update Completed

A course wide renovation of the venerable Donald Ross-designed Northland Country Club is complete. Northland Country Club, host of the 1946 Western amateur and 1956 Women's USGA Open Golf Championship anticipates that course improvements completed over the past three years will return the course

to its original grandeur.

"A diverse membership profile and the evolution of golf equipment technology required that we update the course to accommodate today's member," said Joe O'Connor, Northlands' Director of Golf Operations. "Improvements have been made that restore, maintain and enhance the

strategic integrity of Ross' design."

A Renovation Master Plan prepared by Kansas City based Craig Schreiner Golf Course Architects (CSGCA) outlined numerous course improvements to update the 6,825 yard, par 71 layout. CSGCA, highly regarded for their work at numerous Ross courses, integrated multiple tees to balance par for all handicaps and provide a new dimension of playability and shot selection. Fairway bunkers repositioned to define landing areas enhance strategy while greenside bunkers restored to proper depth and position accentuates shot making opportunities. Drainage throughout the course is improved by way of an extensive drainage system and the conversion of drainage ditches into meandering creeks that are visible on eight golf holes. Native stone bridges built with funds generously donated by members complement the creek enhancements. "Probably one of the few areas of the course that was left untouched is the putting greens. Donald Ross designed exceptional green complexes here and we worked hard to respect the nuances that remained intact over the years," said Todd Clark, CSGCA Senior Design Associate. Northland CC is ranked by *Golf Digest* as one of the top 5 courses in Minnesota and in the top 100 classic courses in the United States by *Golfweek*.

"Not since 1921 when Ross was hired to completely layout a new course has the Northland membership witnessed such dramatic improvements to their golf course," said Northland General Manager Bill Roberts. In the early days, flocks of sheep, rather than wide-sweeping mowers, were driven around the course to groom the holes. Each fall the caddies would herd them down Superior Street to the course, and then on to a West Duluth packing house when the job was done, according to Roberts. "With the exception of a few modifications the golf course has remained essentially the same since the early '20s."

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# The Changing Face of Golf Course Management

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As sure as the azaleas blooming at Augusta National, the start of each golf season brings new technology that the marketing gurus say is guaranteed to improve one's game.

But come 2003, the newest advancement will not be a longer-flying ball; a lighter, yet bigger oversized club head; or a more flexible shaft. In fact, to take advantage of this new innovation, golfers will not have to take a lesson, make a purchase at a pro shop or spend extra hours at the driving range.

As of July 1, 2003, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) members will have to meet more rigorous standards. Other associations have created stricter membership requirements, and like those associations, GCSAA recognized a void in the world in which its members functioned. Today's golf course superintendents are being challenged by golfers and employers to produce at unprecedented levels, and there is no reason to believe those demands will wane in the future. The new standards will provide golf course superintendents with the tools to manage a facility in a manner that enhances the golfer's enjoyment of the game.

"The game and the business of golf have changed tremendously in a relatively short time period," says GCSAA President Mike Wallace, certified golf course superintendent. "There are economic and course management pressures that did not exist 10 years ago. Competition between golf facilities is more intense and the expectations for premium conditions on a daily basis have combined to put the onus on the golf course superintendent to perform like never before."

Recognizing the continued need to keep pace with the marketplace, GCSAA members in February 2001 approved a membership standards bylaw amendment that will showcase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the golf course superintendent. Class A members will be responsible for completing entry-level and ongoing requirements for continuing education and service, tenure as a superintendent and possess pesticide application credentials. The pesticide license requirement speaks to the core makeup of the golf course superintendent. In addition to a love for the game of golf, superintendents choose to enter the profession because of a desire to work with nature. The combination of standards and the pesticide license support the commitment of the profession to environmental stewardship.

A key feature of the continuing education program is development of individual occupational core competencies.

The establishment of these competencies will provide focus and enhance the education GCSAA provides to golf course superintendents and the golf course management industry. These competencies include communications, leadership, operations management and resource utilization. The competencies are broken down further into specific skill sets. For example, the resource utilization competency is evaluated on such subjects as the rules of golf; golf course and grounds construction/renovation; soil management; turf management; and staffing, among others.

The competencies also will serve as the guiding foundation for the Class A requirements and the advanced voluntary level of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). There are approximately 9,000 Class A GCSAA members and 1,800 Certified

Golf Course Superintendents. The certified requirements will still be substantially more challenging than those of Class A. Certified applicants must pass a six-hour exam and have his/her course evaluated by two other certified golf course superintendents before achieving this status.

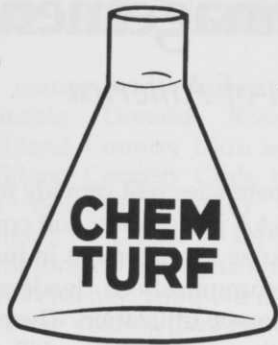
"The membership standards dictate a prescribed level of education and experience for the GCSAA golf course superintendent," Wallace says. "This will no doubt advance the superintendent profession,

but the ultimate benefactor will be the golfer. A better educated golf course superintendent means a better golf experience."

For the past 75 years, GCSAA has provided education, representation and information to the men and women who maintain golf facilities. During this time, golfers have witnessed unprecedented advances in the quality of golf's playing field. Golf course superintendents have been able to overcome the ills of weather, disease and traffic that afflict their facilities. Events that used to close facilities for days or render large portions useless for weeks upon end are now a rare occurrence. Regular maintenance activities that once called for courses to be closed for a day can now be performed during play, resulting in little or no interference with golfers.

In fact, many golf industry experts - including the legendary Byron Nelson - contend that the greatest advances in the game have come not in the playing implements, but in the science, technology and education employed in maintaining golf courses. The new standards for GCSAA superintendents will continue the improvements the game has witnessed over the past 75 years.

*"The game and the business of golf have changed tremendously in a relatively short time period. There are economic and course management pressures that did not exist 10 years ago."*



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