

ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club

The decision was unanimous; the 75th anniversary Gala and Awards Banquet was a wonderful success. Those in attendance welcomed the chance to share a great evening with their spouses, celebrate the achievements of four turf professionals and embrace their league of peers. It was a fun time and rumor has it that another dinner event will be investigated by the next Board of Directors.

Speaking of the next BOD, the MGCSA will be holding the Annual Meeting on January 9th at the Green Expo, Room 101 at 4:45p.m. Plan to attend and then head over to the All Association Casino Night celebration. It will be a good time to relax after spending a hard day in the educational seminars or out on the show floor. Attendance numbers for the Green Expo should top 7,000. Wow!

The Annual Meeting will also be the time to vote for the next Board of Directors. Candidate profiles and proxy voting materials were sent via email to those on line and snail mail to everyone else. Please, please check your addresses in the roster and make sure your information is relevant. The cost savings of using electronic mailing is over three hundred dollars per mailing. Those recently connected should also send their addresses to Scott at the MGCSA office.

Work at the TROE Center continues. Dr. Horgan and Troy Carson have been busy with several winter cover trials. Besides covering small, side by side plots, whole greens using a variety of products have been blanketed at Rolling Green Golf Club. The progress of the Center is moving along and contributions from the industry continue to come in. Soon however, with the development of more turf test plots and increased maintenance, both operating and capital costs will go up. And thus our association will need to make a more aggressive fund raising effort.

Several ideas have been kicked around. The most popular of which would be a MGCSA sponsored "hole in one" event. The concept entails the stationing of a superintendent and/or their assistant at a par three hole for a WHOLE day, soliciting donations in exchange for a chance to win something big should the participant make a hole in one. Just the day alone would generate huge money, conservatively \$100,000. And just imagine if we caught the attention of a deep pocket willing to contribute in a large fashion. More information about this opportunity will follow.

Also discussed at the monthly meeting were ideas to promote more awareness amongst non-member courses as to the laws regarding pesticide and fertilizer use. As THE recognized representatives of the golf industry, the MGCSA must put forth every effort possible to encourage all golf courses to comply with the rule of law in our state. We must create a "paper trail" so to speak, to show the political powers that we have done all that is possible to bring everyone on board. These efforts will potentially reduce the liability upon our association as well as improve our political relations. We may even gain a member or two.

The BOD is also continuing their review of the member roster. A small three ring binder with tabbed sections seems to be winning approval at this time. It would not be much bigger than the current book and would potentially be a lot less expensive to manage in the future.

Another item of interest is the attempt to create a Community Calender page at the MGCSA website. Should you have any important date of interest associated with our industry let Scott Turtinen know so he can post the information. This will reduce the chance for double dating time slots, especially for the Affiliate members.

On a personal note, the last few months have been fun for me. Participating on the Board and also planning a portion of the 75th Gala have been enlightening. Your association leaders are progressive and professional and I have been very impressed.

Reflecting upon our Anniversary event I cannot help but be proud of my association. We looked and acted damn professional that night. All in attendance were resplendent and manners were impeccable. And to top it off, the night was a whole lot of fun!

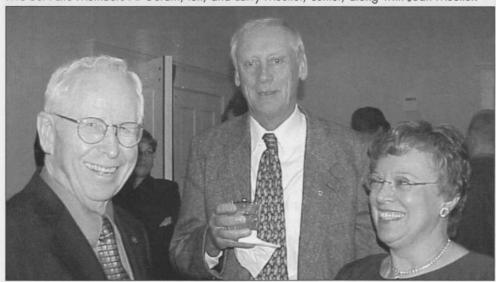
- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS MGCSA Director

The **MGCSA** Officers and Board of Directors Wish You And Your Family A Season of Peace And A Happy New Year!

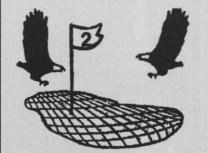
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MIKE OLSON, HOST SUPERINTENDENT at the MGCSA's 75th Anniversary Banquet at Golden Valley Country Club chats with USGA President Reed Mackenzie. Golden Valley brand new clubhouse proved to be an excellent venue for this event. **Pictured below** are MGCSA Life Members Al Gerdin, left, and Larry Mueller, center, along with Joan Mueller.



Mel Strand, CEO 36 Years Experience



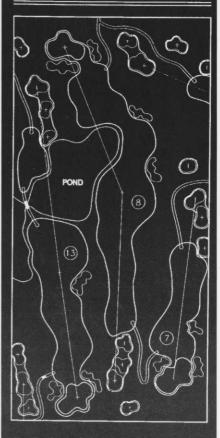
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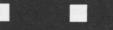
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THE PUTTING SURFACE:

ROLLERS REVISITED

By FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.

Golfdom

Superintendents who work to balance the golfer's desire for fast greens with healthy turf should consider rolling their greens as an alternative to lowering mowing heights.

Though superintendents manually rolled greens 40 years ago, mechanical rolling just came to the United States in the mid-1980s, says George Hamilton, a senior lecturer at Penn State University who researched the process in the early 1990s.

Hamilton says Australian companies produced the first mechanical rollers to smooth lawn bowling courts there. Then Australian superintendents began using them on their greens, and the companies recognized the business opportunity that American golf courses presented for them. When the first machines reached American golf courses, superintendents readily integrated them into their maintenance regimens.

To roll, a superintendent uses a machine that contains a heavy metal drum and rides it across the green. The roller, which applies 6 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure on the turf, flattens the grass. (By comparison, the atmosphere presses 14.7 psi on an object at sea level.) Since a golf ball loses less momentum traveling over rolled turf, it travels further, Hamilton says.

"Think of putting on a shag carpet," Hamilton says. "Then think of putting on a shag carpet that has been ironed flat. That's the difference you see between a green that hasn't been rolled and one that has."

Full-Speed Ahead

Rolling greens two to three times a week, combined with mowing on the other days, allows superintendents to mow greens at higher heights and still maintain speed, says John Foy, director of the Florida Region of the USGA's Green Section.

"You shouldn't mow at low heights if your greens have intense contours or consist of older varieties of grass," Foy says. "When you mow grass low, you produce a shallower root system that puts the grass at risk of disease and stress. Rolling allows you to maintain the speed golfers expect without sacrificing the health of the plant."

Smoother greens are also truer, says Matt Nelson, an agronomist in the Northwest Region of the USGA Green Section. Nelson says an aggressive rolling program provides an extra 6 inches to 1.5 feet to a regular Stimpmeter rating.

"Rolling is also helpful if you have a green under repair or one you've recently aerified," Nelson says. "In those cases, you can avoid some golfer complaints by creating a smooth surface for them to putt on."

Concerns About Compaction

Experts say superintendents do not have to worry about compaction if they roll their greens. Hamilton, Chris Hartwiger, an agronomist in the USGA's Southeast Region Green Section, and

Thom Nikolai, a turfgrass education specialist from Michigan State University, each conducted two year studies in the early 1990s to determine how much rolling turf could withstand. The studies concluded that the practice causes no compaction, Hartwiger says.

"I rolled my test plots for 70 straight days and saw no compaction," Hartwiger says. "Mechanical wear from the roller killed some of the grass, but I don't know anyone who would roll 70 straight days in real life."

His experiment shows that superintendents can roll two to three times a week during high stress periods, and up to four times a week during low-stress periods, without damaging the turf.

Hamilton says superintendents who have installed new bentgrasses and maintain low mowing heights shouldn't roll their greens.

"You can't roll if you're going to mow at extremely low heights," Hamilton says. "Stress is cumulative, and if you combine the two stresses, you'll kill the grass."

Popularity Waning

Despite the increasing desire for speed, Hamilton says he sees fewer superintendents employing rollers these days.

The advent of sophisticated triplex mowers, combined with grass varieties that superintendents can mow at ultra-low heights, explain a portion of the roller's receding popularity, Foy says. Rolling is also labor intensive, with one or two crew members dedicated to doing the job, Nelson says.

"It's a slow process," Nelson says. "For most courses, particularly those watching their budgets, they're only trying to stay one step ahead of the golfers. They don't have the labor to roll on a regular basis."

Then there's the cost of an additional piece of equipment. Stand-alone mechanized rollers cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000, while triplex mower attachments cost only slightly less, Hamilton says.

While rolling is an important tool in the quest for more speed, superintendents can't treat it as their only solution to the problem. The effects only last 24 hours, says David Oatis, director of the Northeast Division of the USGA Green Section.

"You can get a sharp increase in speed for a short time," Oatis says. "You won't see any long-term effects, however."

Nelson says he doesn't expect widespread rolling to catch on, but Hartwiger is far more optimistic.

"Rolling adds another important weapon in the superintendent's arsenal in the fight to balance speed and health of the turf," Hartwiger says. "Putting greens are the most important part of a golf course, and you should use all the tools available to keep them in good shape. That's why rolling will make a comeback."

North Central TurfGrass Association To Host Regional Convention & Trade Show in Fargo

The North Central TurfGrass Association will hold its Annual Convention & Trade Show on February 25-28, 2003, at the Fargo Doublewood Inn.

This year's event will feature popular speakers such as:

Topics will include valuable information on sports field

This event will also include a GCSAA SEMINAR, featur-

management, mosquito control, weed control, tools, bios-

timulants, and other topics as related to turf studies.

Floyd Perry, Grounds Maintenance Service, Orlando, Fla.; Nick Christians, Iowa State University, Iowa; Keith Karnok, University of Georgia, Atlanta, Ga.; Darwin Hinrichs, County Vector Control, West Fargo, N.D.; Matt Nelson, USGA, Twin Falls, Idaho, and Dr. Deving Li, newly hired professor for NDSU's new Urban & Sports Field Management Program.

Topics will include valuable information on sports field management, mosquito control, weed control, tools, biostimulants, and other topics as related to turf studies.

Strategies for the Turf Grass System. (This GCSAA Seminar is sponsored by Peaks & Prairies GCSA).

A Pesticide Recertification Seminar, sponsored by NDSU, will be offered on Tuesday, February 25th, 2003.

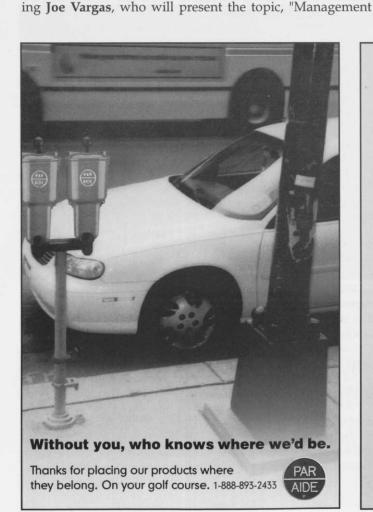
> (MN, ND reciprocity offered for this seminar.)

A Trade Show will highlight the Convention to be held on February 26th & 27th, which will feature equipment and supplies from many wellknown vendors TurfGrass Industry.

All are invited to attend this informative event. For

more information, please contact: NCTGA at 701-280-2529

The NCTGA is a non-profit organization that strives to promote the turfgrass industry, to encourage and support the further study and research of turf, to gather and distribute this information, and to represent this group on matters of policy regarding the turfgrass industry.



DRIVE FOR THE "U" PROGRAM

The Drive for the U is a program designed for in-kind donations to the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research Center. All donations are tax deductible and will help to build the research center into a top notch facility. Contact:

Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Heritage Links Golf Club. epeckholm@msn.com		
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THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

Throughout the past few years the Minnesota Legislature has succumb to pressures from environmental groups and others to increase the licensing and training requirements of those of us who apply pesticides to golf courses. Currently all persons applying any pesticide to the property of a golf course are required to be licensed by the state department of agriculture in all of the appropriate categories. Please note that the last sentence said all persons who apply. No longer can the Superintendent hold a license and have the applicator operate under that one license. No longer does the law only apply if you are using restricted use pesticides, all pesticides are now covered. It is a whole new ball game.

Many courses either do not have, or are reluctant to get an applicators license. **This is a violation of the law.** Many feel that if they only apply granular products they don't need a license. **This is a violation of the law.** I could go on and on. Anyone who applies pesticides to a golf course property must have a license.

The question then becomes one of economics. Why should I spend \$100 or more to get a license? They never check. Well that may soon change. With the dwindling funds provided by the state for Ag department programs, inspections and the associated fines could make up a nice

income for the department. And just how much are those fines? All I can tell you is that it varies with the severity of the violation. Typically an application of a pesticide without a license could carry a **fine of \$500** for a first time offense, assuming you have done all other things correctly. If you applied product inconsistent with the label you may have crossed a line drawn by the federal government covered by the FIFRA (Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act). This also carries a **fine of \$500** for a first time offense. Stronger penalties may apply if you have disposed of containers improperly; have improper storage, caused environmental harm or any other possible infractions. As well, costly cleanup may need to be done in a worst case scenario.

So the question becomes, is it worth the possible civil and criminal penalties to save \$100. Many may say that that is the cost of doing business; I feel that the cost of doing business is the cost of the license. For the small effort it takes and the few dollars it costs, why not take the high road, license all of your applicators and help us all in saying that the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents are doing their part to protect the environment and provide a safe and healthy place to play golf. -- Paul Eckholm, CGCS

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The Benefits of Naturalizing The Golf Course Landscape

For many people, answering the question "Why Naturalize?" when posed by critical employees, committees, or neighbors can be an unsettling prospect. Successfully communicating the many benefits of a naturalization project can make or break support for establishing wildflower or prairie areas, naturalized pond or stream shorelines, and rougher golf course roughs. Here, we share are our best answers to this most pressing question, as well as tips for planning habitat improvements and educating people about your stewardship efforts.

The Environmental Benefits of Naturalization

- + Maintains a diversity of plants and animals.
- + Protects ecosystems and ecological communities.
- + Improves water quality.
- + Maintains the gene pool of particular plant and animal species, promoting hardiness, disease resistance, and adaptability.
 - + Minimizes erosion.
 - + Supports an aesthetic appreciation of natural beauty.
- + Creates positive, progressive, and constructive attitudes about the natural world.
- + Promotes stewardship of the environment and contributes to the conservation of local wildlife species.

Additional Benefits of Lake And Pond Naturalization

- + Maintains the food chain for a variety of wildlife species.
- + Enhances "structural diversity" of plants along the pond margin. Plants of varying heights and types increase wildlife diversity.
- + Provides improved habitat for amphibians, such as salamanders and frogs, especially in ponds that do not contain fish.
 - + Provides shelter for fish and freshwater invertebrates.
 - + Supplies food for aquatic organisms.
- + Provides waterfowl and wading birds places to feed and rest.
 - + Stabilizes shorelines and reduces erosion.
- + when combined with a designated "buffer zone" in which no chemicals are applied.
- + Improves water quality as plants take up excess nutrients and produce oxygen to aerate the water.

Financial and Labor Savings

- + Lowers maintenance costs and reduces the need for high-intensity or time-consuming maintenance.
 - + Reduces equipment wear and tear.
- + Reduces the need for gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, and water.
- + Enables staff to concentrate where it really counts-highly visible areas or, for golf courses, the playing surfaces.

Additional Benefits

- + Increases wildlife sightings.
- + Adds distinctive contrast and natural beauty to your landscape.
 - + Provides places for nature study and enjoyment.

Audubon International 2002

To find out more about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses or request a membership application, call (518) 767-9051, extension 12 or email: acss@audubonintl.org or visit www.audubonintl.org

Tips for Naturalizing

- 1. Make a plan. Assess existing conditions, create a conceptual design, and outline your plan for establishing and maintaining the area.
- 2. Choose your location carefully. Be considerate of visual appeal, traffic patterns, and any neighbor concerns.
- 3. Inform people about your plans. This is especially important if the naturalization project will alter the view of nearby homeowners.
- 4. Select native plants that will thrive under the specific growing conditions of your site.
- 5. Prepare the site and mulch, water, and weed as needed during establishment. This will greatly increase the likelihood of successful naturalization.
- 6. Hang in there during grow in. Naturalized areas may need to mature for a season before looking great. Don't expect or promise immediate color or wildlife use.

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Editor's Corner

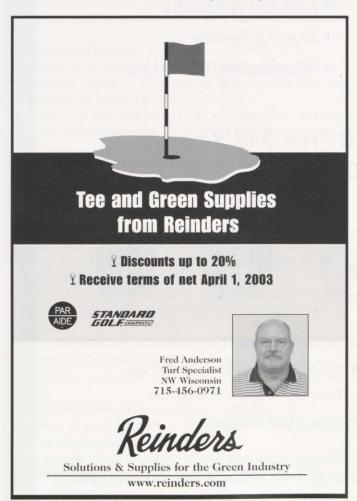
By Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS Monticello Country Club

A Wonderful Evening

I hope everyone had as nice a time as my wife and myself at the 75th gala anniversary celebration. It was a very enjoyable evening. There was an excellent turnout and the presentations of awards to some of the pillars of our industry were both entertaining and touching. The Golden Valley Country Club put together an excellent menu and the service was superb. I have to admit these types of events are not generally my cup of tea, but the company we had at our table was excellent, making for an extremely enjoyable evening. I would like to commend all those responsible for putting together the evenings' events, especially, Scott and Jeff Turtinen, Rick Fredricksen, CGCS, and Jack Mackenzie, CGCS. If you didn't have an opportunity to attend, I have gotten a lot of feedback that this type of event should happen annually, so maybe next year.

A Long Fall

The weather hasn't been all that great for golf this fall, but it



sure has been good for getting those late season dormant fertilizer applications and fall projects done. I hope everyone has taken advantage of the mild fall and gotten a few extra projects completed

Upcoming Events

Our next event is the Minnesota Green Expo. It is being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Wednesday, January 8 through Friday, January 10, 2003. This event is being held in cooperation with the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation and the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Foundation. This promises to be an excellent event. The educational opportunities have expanded and the trade show has over 350 companies with 750 booths. Look for a flyer in the mail, or go to www.minnesotagreenexpo.com for more information or to register.

Winter/Water Planning

As you all go into winter mode and start planning for next year, one of the issues to consider is the way your drinking water is handled on the golf course. This has become a hot topic lately due to the death of a 15-year old boy in Phoenix. It appears he died from a Norwalk-type virus that he caught from drinking water at the Cactus and Pine Golf Course. The Maricopa County Environmental Health Services Division set some guidelines and requirements for organizations in that county and they are available on line at www.maricopa.gov.

Cactus and Pine golf course found it less expensive to convert to permanent water dispensers, and their design is at www.cactusandpine.com.

Safe Hunting?

I hope everyone that went deer hunting had success. As is the case many years, while I had a wonderful experience, it wasn't because I watched any deer run past my stand. This year as a matter of fact the rain on the first weekend of the season cut our experience a little short, as my group all got a bit wet on Sunday morning. The other guys I hunt with did have some success however, so with a little luck I'll be able to eat jerky soon.

Turf Talk

Don't' forget to use all your resources when planning for the 2003 season. The University of Minnesota has been very generous in giving us Turf Talk, so lets all keep it active. To access it go to mgcsa.org and click on Turf Talk or go through Dr. Horgans web site.

Just Married

Ross Pudenz was married to Hanna Weissinger in Durand, Wis., this past October. The reception, dinner and dance were held in Eau Claire. Ross is the Superintendent at St. Croix National Golf Club in Somerset. Our congrats go out to Ross and Hanna Pudenz. The couple now resides on a great duck pond outside of Durand. Ross was an Assistant Superintendent for two years at Wild Ridge and Mill Run Golf Courses in Eau Claire.

Happy Holiday's

My wife Barb, my daughter Maggie and I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

- Rick Traver Editor