

Versatile Bill Vollbrecht

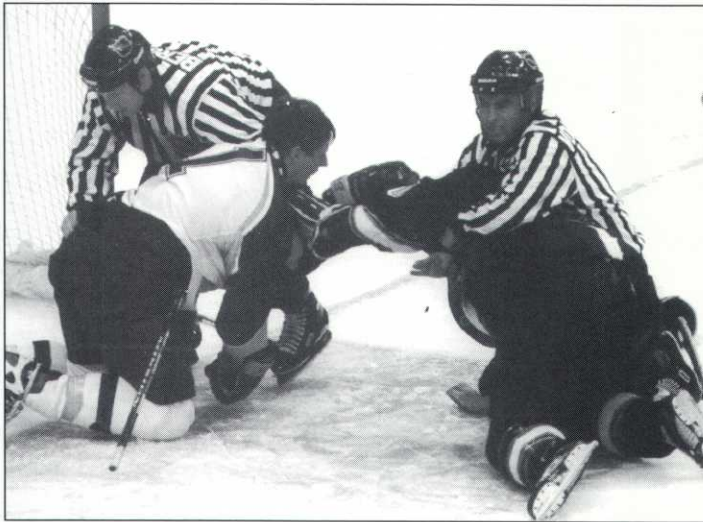
By RALPH TURTINEN

When Bill Vollbrecht was playing defense for Buffalo High School's hockey team in the late '70s, little did he realize that his love for the sport would lead to some fascinating "night jobs" for this 40-year-old turf manager whose "day job" is with Hennepin County Parks.

Virtually every weekend during the winter you'll find Vollbrecht, an assistant golf course superintendent at the new Eagle Lake Golf Club in Plymouth as well as Glen Lake Golf Club in Minnetonka, officiating at Western Collegiate Hockey Association games in St. Cloud, Mankato, Duluth or Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis and, on occasion, in Bemidji.



BILL VOLLBRECHT AND HIS SON HUNTER



BREAKING UP FIGHTS goes with the territory for MGCSA member Bill Vollbrecht, linesman on the right, when working WCHA games throughout the state.

For the past five years he has been a linesman and an assistant referee at games for the Gophers, Mavericks, Huskies and Bulldogs, and it's evident that he likes what he's doing in both of his jobs.

"The WCHA is a great league with a lot of fast, strong, talented players, and you have to skate and think quickly to keep up with the fast pace of the game," Vollbrecht said.

"Working on golf courses also is a fascinating profession, and something I've really enjoyed," he said.

But let's step back a few years to see how this all came about.

Born in Hanover, Minn on June 5, 1961, Bill played defense for three years for Buffalo where he was graduated in 1979. He then continued his hockey career for the

University of Minnesota/Crookston where he majored in horticulture and natural resources and was graduated with high honors in 1983.

The following year he began working for Hennepin Parks full-time as a nursery specialist, where he developed considerable interest in the growth and care of trees, shrubs and grass. Much of his early work was with Glen Lake Golf Club until Eagle Lake opened last summer. Both are 9-hole courses in Hennepin County.

"Working on a brand new course was a great challenge," he said. "It also developed several new interests in the care and maintenance of golf courses."

But his golf course work didn't take Bill away from hockey. Like virtually all hockey officials, he began by working youth hockey games, then advanced to high schools and the Minnesota state high school tournament for three years.

In 1997 he was selected as an official for the WCHA, and his weekend work began with games at the four Minnesota schools which are in the league as well as at Bemidji

"All of these are great hockey venues, and there always is a great atmosphere," he said.

Bill and his wife, Paige, live with their son Hunter, 9, and daughter Haily, 4, in Greenfield in western Hennepin County.

Retirement Announcement

The University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Department of Horticulture has announced the Retirement of Dr. Don B. White. Dr. White has been a long time friend of the Golf Course Superintendent. Dr. White will phase out his retirement over the next 4 years. The Dean of the College has given the Department of Horticulture permission to begin a search for a successor to Dr. White.

U of M Turf Club

Greetings! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped support the University of Minnesota Turf Club attend the 2002 GCSAA International Golf Course Conference & Show. Your monetary donations and shirt sales facilitated nine members of the club to attend.

On Friday February 8 we entered two teams in the 8th annual Turf Bowl competition. This competition is a three-hour exam covering all the major aspects of golf course management such as turf, seed, weed, and insect identification, fertilizer calculations and calibrations, general turf knowledge, soil identification, and other miscellaneous information. The team comprised of Andrew Carlson, Mike Bratvold, Grant Blumreich, and Neil Roberts finished 19th out of 58 teams. Also the team of Mike Manthey, Justin Funk, Paul Wichmann, and Brandon Kalland finished in 30th place. Both teams preformed very well with only 15 points separating the two.

Again, the club would like to thank you for you generous contributions and we look forward attending the next show in Atlanta. Thank you for you time. --Andrew Carlson, President, U of M Turf Club

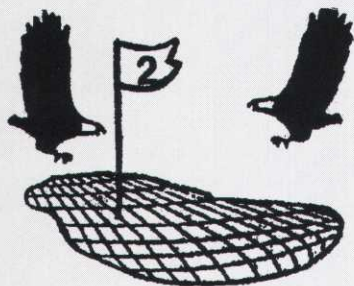
Netzel Renews Professional Certification

Michael L. Netzel, golf course superintendent in Duluth, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Netzel initially achieved his title of "CGCS" in 1986.

To become certified, a candidate must have at least three years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific post secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education units.

Maintaining certified status requires a renewal process be completed every five years since the initial date of certification. To fulfill requirements, Netzel participated in 15 CEUs of continuing education and professional development.



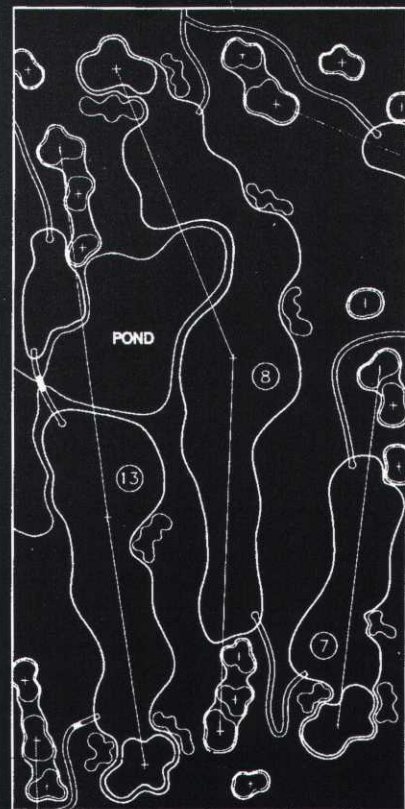
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PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSING ANNOUNCEMENT

GOLF COURSE EMPLOYEES

Exam Schedule for MN Pesticide Applicator Licensing

All exams begin at 10:00 AM. Don't be late!!!

Exams are closed-book and monitored.

Wednesday, March 13	St. Cloud	Holiday Inn, I-94 Exit 167B
Thursday, March 21	Duluth	Holiday Inn, Downtown 200 West 1st St.
Friday, March 22	Alexandria	Holiday Inn, I-94 Exit 103
Thursday, March 28	Mankato	Holiday Inn, Downtown 101 East Main St.
Friday, March 29	Owatonna	Cabela's, I-35 Exit 45
Monday, April 8	Minneapolis	Bachman's, 6010 Lyndale Ave S.

You must pre-register, complete and fax the form below.

To take the pesticide applicator exams, you must bring:

1. Check for \$110 (\$10 for local units of government)
2. Driver's license or other picture identification

To order study manuals, call University of MN St. Paul Campus Bookstore 612-624-9200 or www.extension.umn.edu/pesticides/pat/order011702.pdf

Questions? Call Ruth @ 651-296-4948

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Telephone Number(____) _____

Golf Course/Club Name _____ Commercial __ Non-commercial __

Course/Club Email _____

I will be taking the following exams on (Date) _____ at (City) _____

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 Category E Turf & Ornamentals
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 Category L Mosquito and Black Fly Control
 Category P Pocket Gopher

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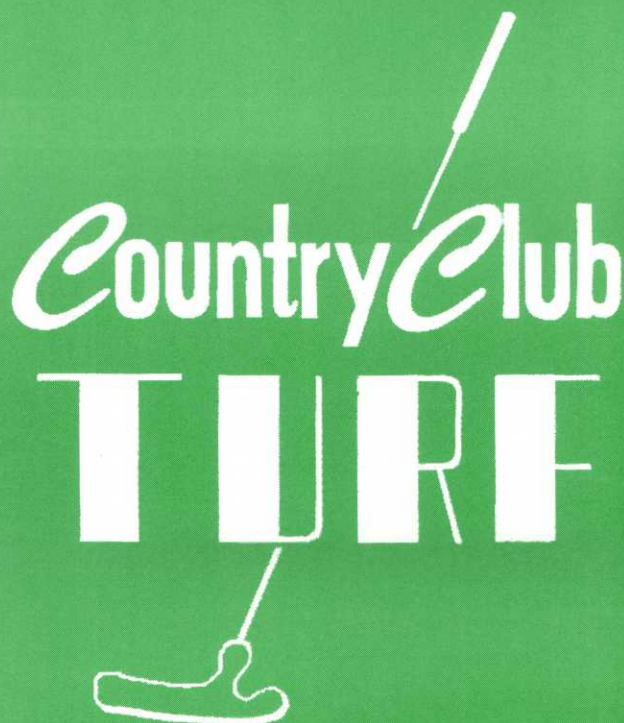


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Winter Play... You'll Be Sorry

By **BOB VAVREK**, *USGA Agronomist*

The winter-play bug bit some die-hard golfers this week. After a long spell of frigid temperatures, followed by a brief period of near record high temperatures, there came an almost uncontrollable urge to hit the links. A day near fifty degrees feels downright balmy after weeks of weather that barely "warms" up to the low twenties. Factor in the sunshine, the lack of snow cover this season, and perhaps a new driver from Santa and it's not too difficult to understand why superintendents have had to defend the decision to keep the course closed.

I wholeheartedly agree with their decisions to keep play off the turf. Previous Web site updates have warned golfers about foot traffic and this particular sequence of weather events as being especially detrimental to the playing surfaces.

Cold temperatures and the absence of an insulating blanket of snow were conditions that encouraged the development of deep frost in the ground this winter. Nights were cold even when the daytime temperatures climbed into the upper forties. The upper inch or two of turf thaws out by mid-afternoon on a warm, sunny day, but the soil profile beneath this thin zone of soft, unstable soil remains frozen. Traffic across partially thawed turf will cause rutting and possibly shear off a portion of the root system that is still anchored into the frozen soil. It should come as no surprise that winter golfers will want to play during the warmest part of the day...the time of the day when the potential for damaging the turf is the greatest.

Winter play is always a topic of considerable controversy across the northern tier of states. Some courses evidently have the ability to accommodate a limited amount of traffic across dormant, frozen turf better than other courses for reasons that are not always well understood. However play on partially frozen surfaces should always be avoided. Be safe, not sorry.

* * * *

(Editor's Note: Bob Vavrek can be reached at rvavrek@usga.org or 262-797-8743)

ON THE ROAD WITH THE USGA

By: **R.A. (Bob) Brame**, *Director*

Wow, it's hard to believe that another year has rolled around. I sure hope the off-season is providing you some time of rest and relaxation. If not, there's plenty of winter yet ahead for reflection and planning. If 2001 taught us anything, it is that family and friends are a higher priority than work alone.

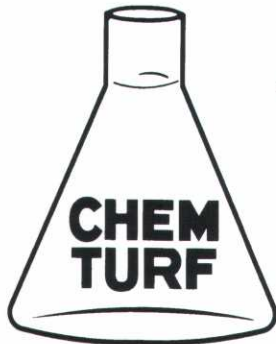
The next major turf conference in the lower portion of the North Central Region is the Midwest Turf Expo in Indianapolis starting on January 14th, 2002. Hope to see many of you there. The GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show will follow in February, and, as always, it offers a host of opportunities to stay current with the golf turf management industry. The Orlando setting offers an excellent opportunity to take the family and combine business with pleasure.

January is the month our yearly invoicing is mailed out to those golf courses in our database. The mailing provides an opportunity to subscribe to our Turf Advisory Service in 2002, while also taking advantage of the early payment discount. If your course does not receive a mailing by mid-February, give us a call and we'll make the addition to our database. We look forward to working with you and your course. Should any questions arise about the invoicing or visit scheduling, give us a call.

While the first several weeks of December were very mild, winter has arrived. There were reports of greens being mowed as late as December 22nd. With the unmistakable arrival of winter equipment servicing can kick in at full throttle. Tree removal and drainage projects also are in full swing at many courses. The cold snap has stopped most construction projects and drainage work will also be coming to an end very soon, if it hasn't already.

* * * *

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame's e-mail is bobbbrame@usga.org)



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CHAPTER DELEGATES MEETING OUTCOMES

DECEMBER 1, 2001 - GCSAA HEADQUARTERS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

DECEMBER 2, 2001 - KANSAS CITY AIRPORT MARRIOTT

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

(Editor's Note: Meeting participants included Delegates Representing 99 Affiliated Chapters, GCSAA Board of Directors, and 2002 GCSAA Board of Directors Candidates.)

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GCSAA's Board of Directors, the 2002 GCSAA board and officer candidates, and delegates representing 99 of GCSAA's 102 affiliated chapters convened at GCSAA Headquarters on Saturday, December 1 for the 9th annual Chapter Delegates Meeting. Nearly 50% of the delegates were first-time visitors to GCSAA Headquarters.

Prior to the meeting, attendees participated in a dedication ceremony to commemorate GCSAA's 75th anniversary. Brad Pearson, golf course superintendent at Holdrege Country Club in Holdrege, Nebraska was on hand to unveil the Old Tom Morris statue. Pearson designed and sculpted the statue, which is on permanent display in front of the GCSAA Headquarters building. Pearson was assisted with the unveiling by David W. Fearis, CGCS, 75th anniversary resource group vice chairman and R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, GCSAA Immediate Past President.

Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, GCSAA President and Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS, 75th anniversary resource group chairman, shared thoughts on the founding of the association and discussed plans to celebrate the anniversary at the conference and show in Orlando.

The Chapter Delegates Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Michael Wallace, CGCS, GCSAA Vice President and Chapter Relations Committee Chair. He welcomed everyone to GCSAA Headquarters and thanked them for their willingness to participate in the rescheduled meeting, originally planned for September 15-16, 2001.

President's Message - Tommy D. Witt, CGCS

GCSAA President Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, also welcomed the delegates to the meeting. In his president's message, Witt encouraged the delegates to interact with one another, participate in the meeting discussions and take back to their chapter's members the information learned at the meeting. Witt noted that superintendents' compensation, recognition and visibility are at an all-time high. However, employers' expectations of superintendents and the challenges they impose upon them are equally high.

Witt said superintendents must be willing to grow, remain flexible, compete and excel in order to survive the demands of today's economy and the golf industry. He said that superintendents are the masters and planners of their individual professions.

Witt also encouraged the delegates to spend time getting to know the 2002 GCSAA Board of Directors candidates.

They will be the leaders of the association in the next several years. The nine current GCSAA board members have read a book entitled, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of a Leader* by John Maxwell. The book focuses on being a person of influence and integrity and learning to lead people. These are characteristics the board strives to maintain.

State of the Association - Stephen F. Mona, CAE

Chief Executive Officer Stephen F. Mona, CAE gave a state of the association presentation to the delegates. He discussed GCSAA's short-term and long-term goals. GCSAA has 22,000 members in 61 countries and 12 territories. The association has about 120 staff. Mona introduced Chuck Borman, CAE as GCSAA's new Chief Operating Officer.

The association consists of GCSAA, GCSAA Communications Inc. and The GCSAA Foundation. The Foundation funds GCSAA's scholarship and research programs, as well as historical preservation and curriculum development efforts. All together, the revenue for the association is nearly \$21 million. GCSAA has nearly 1,800 certified golf course superintendent members, as well as 102 affiliated chapters and 55 student chapters.

The association's four key strategies are:

1. Help members achieve career success. GCSAA wants to enhance its members' job continuity, and expand their career opportunities. Some members aspire to become general manager, director of golf or chief operating officer at their facility. GCSAA wants to help position those members so that they have the opportunity to move in that direction, if they are so inclined.

2. To be a powerful and influential advocate for the interests of the profession and our members. The association is focused on national media awareness. Television spots, a leadership survey at the conference and show, Jim Colbert serving as a spokesperson for GCSAA, media outreach pieces and articles are all ways that the association is building awareness of the golf course superintendent profession. The Golf Channel recently aired a two- to three-minute documentary that appeared during the Warburg Cup. It featured interviews with Arnold Palmer and Rees Jones, and was well received.

Advocacy is conducted through GCSAA's government relations programs. GCSAA has a national focus through the support of Reed Smith, a lobby firm from Washington, DC. GCSAA's government relations staff serves behind the scenes to identify state and local issues and then mobilizes chapters to contact and interact with their legislators.

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Chapter Delegates Meeting—

(Continued from Page 29)

GCSAA is positioning itself as a golf organization that happens to be in turfgrass. This is a change from being a turfgrass organization that happened to be in golf. GCSAA wants to be at the table when major decisions are being made in the world of golf. The association has representation on the World Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee, Golf 20/20, the National Golf Course Owners Association and the First Tee Advisory Committee, among others.

3. To be the recognized authority on information and issues related to golf course development, management and operations. The goal is to have members think of GCSAA first when they need information. The Web site is averaging 3.8 to 4 million hits per month. Forty-three percent of the membership is registered on the Web site. GCSAA's newest Web site - golfsuper.com - is averaging 90,000 hits per month.

GCSAA is also charged with being the organization that pays attention and manages environmental issues for the industry.

4. To be a strategically positioned, dynamic and responsive organization. GCSAA serves mem-

bers through chapters. GCSAA is as strong as its chapters are collectively.

GCSAA's Internet strategy is one strategy for providing dynamic, responsive services to the membership. This strategy consists of five elements: Internet commerce, online education, knowledge management, 24/7 services so that members can access the Web site and conduct business at any time, and image enhancement (i.e. the development of the golfsuper.com Web

The future has never been brighter for the golf course superintendent. Mullen (a public relations firm that provides consulting for GCSAA) has conducted research to show that employers recognize the superintendent as the most influential person at the golf facility.

site).

Other major initiatives for the association are the conclusion of the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign, which reached its goal of \$5 million. Two endowments are being created. One is for applied agronomic research on the golf course under actual playing conditions, and the second is to help fund curriculum development.

GCSAA is working on the expansion of the conference and show. The goal is to have 30,000 attendees (primarily golf course superintendents) by 2005. GCSAA also wants to expand its membership to 30,000 by 2005, with representation at 80% of the golf courses in the U.S. Current penetration rates are 55%.

For the future, GCSAA wants to be one of the leading organizations in golf. Secondly, GCSAA wants the golf course superintendent, by 2005, to be recognized as the key to the economic success of the facility by employers and influential golfers and the key to the enjoyment of the game by golfers. GCSAA, through its public relations efforts, continues to meet the challenge of getting the average golfer to make the connection between the enjoyment of the game and the contributions of the superintendent that attribute to that enjoyment.

The state of the association is strong. GCSAA has good sources of revenue and cash flow. Membership growth, participation in activities and recognition within the industry are strong. Challenges exist - particularly with the current state of the economy. However, the future has never been brighter for the golf course superintendent. Mullen (a public relations firm that provides consulting for GCSAA) has conducted research to show that employers recognize the superintendent as the most influential person at the golf facility. At a recent event, Jim Colbert stated that GCSAA will be recognized as the top organization in golf within the next four to five years because its members have more influence on the game than anyone else.



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