

HAZELTINE'S JIM NICOL, CGCS

# A Gentleman and a Scholar

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS

If you had the opportunity to read the Star Tribune's Sports section on Sunday, April 28, you may have run across an article about Hazeltine National, the PGA Championship most importantly, one of our members, Jim Nicol, CGCS.

Jim is currently the Superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club and has been a member of the MGCSA for 23 years. He has held all the offices of the MGCSA Board of Directors with the exception of Secretary. Jim also ran for national office with the GCSAA a few years ago.

Jim has quite the impressive resume. He started out in the golf course business in 1964 at St. Cloud Country Club as a Greensman, and moved to Somerset Country Club for the 1972 season. While working as an intern and later as an Assistant at Lake Geneva Playboy Resort from 1973 to 1978, Jim attended Penn State University, graduating in 1975. He became the Superintendent at Bunker Hills Golf Course in 1978. After an 18-year stay and four Senior PGA events at Bunker Hills, Jim became the Superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club, and hopes to retire there on November 1, 2016. *(The significance of that date will become obvious in the next paragraph.)*

Hazeltine National Golf Club was the brainchild of Totten Heffelfinger and Robert Fisher. Both wanted to build a golf course capable of hosting elite international competitions. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. the course was opened in 1962. In just four short years Hazeltine National Golf Club hosted the USGA Women's Open. Then, in 1970, they hosted the USGA Men's Open. After Dave Hill's infamous com-

ment about the "cow pasture" during the 1970 U.S. Open, Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Rees Jones went about straightening some doglegs and strengthening some finishing holes. This left Hazeltine National with nothing but praise after the 1991 U.S. Open. Future events at Hazeltine National are numerous, but include the 2002 and 2009 PGA Championships, the 2003 National Amputee Championship, the 2006 USGA Men's Amateur and the 2016 Ryder Cup Matches.

Jim is married to a wonderful lady in Barbara, "his sweetheart." Jim says. "Vacationing with Barbara during the winter is what I look forward to the most." He enjoys reading, golfing, fishing and time with friends. I had the opportunity to golf with Jim on an extremely hot day at Interlachen during an MGCSA Championship. While I was melting, his game steadily improved. I was lucky we weren't playing for money; if we had I'd be bankrupt.

When Jim looks to the future he believes it comes from fellow superintendents. "We need to focus on keeping current with the constant changes in our profession. Education is the most important tool that we have... the rest will come our way as long as we look to improving ourselves personally and professionally."

In the short time I have known Jim he has always been the consummate professional. I have a lot of respect for his accomplishments and his opinions. Jim is a great guy and has done a lot for our association. I wish him the best in weather and luck as he faces the upcoming PGA Championship.



**JIM NICOL, CGCS**  
Hazeltine National Golf Club

*"We need to focus on keeping current with the constant changes in our profession. Education is the most important tool that we have available to us. The rest will come our way as long as we look to improving ourselves personally and professionally."*

# www.mgcsa.org

Your Source For Association News And Opportunities!

## Job Listings



- Officers & Committees
- Meeting Schedule
- President's Place
- Scholarships
- Membership
- Research
- What's New
- Job Listings
- Links
- Contact Us
- Member Articles
- Home

**NEW LISTING - APRIL 16**

**Legends Golf Club.** In Prior Lake, MN is accepting applications for **Equipment Manager/Mechanic.**

### Responsibilities:

- Upkeep of all golf course equipment
- Grind and sharpen bed knives and reels
- Be able and willing to work weekends and longer shifts during golf season
- Day to day maintenance of all golf course equipment
- Management of all Golf Course Buildings including Maintenance Facility, other buildings
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive maintenance program on all equipment

### Qualifications:

- High School Diploma
- Experience with golf course equipment preferred
- Experience with oral communication skills
- Good written and oral knife and reel grinders
- Experience individual with strong work ethic
- Organized individual with strong work ethic
- Highly motivated and dependable
- Outstanding customer service

### Benefits:

- Health and life insurance
- 401K program
- Educational seminars
- Annual vacation
- Meals
- Golfing privileges

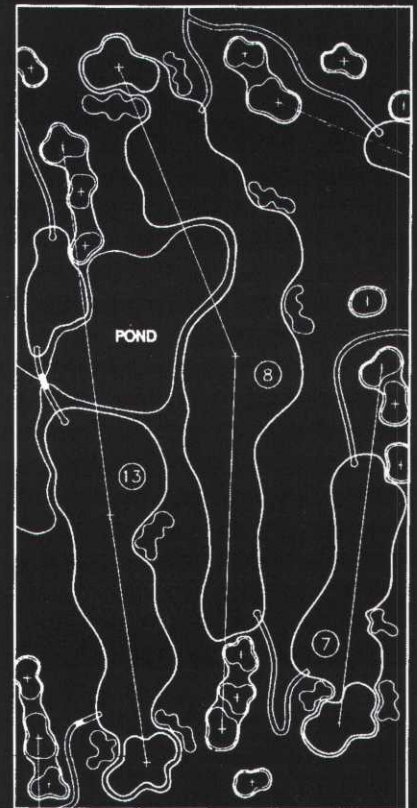
**Compensation:** \$35,000 to 40,000 Dependant on qualifications

Application deadline: Open until filled

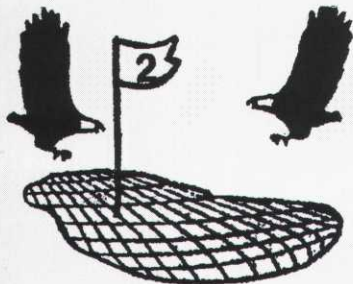
### Send or Fax Resumes To:

Rob St. Sauver  
Legends Club Maintenance  
8540 Credit River Boulevard  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

HERFORD • NORBY



GOLF COURSE  
ARCHITECTURE



**Mel Strand, CEO**  
36 Years Experience

## Double Eagle Golf Construction

Redesign the Old  
...Construct the New

17715 Jefferson St. NE ~ Ham Lake, MN 55304 (763) 434-0054

(952)942-0266 (952)942-0197 Fax

# Growing More Green With A Greenhouse

With the opening of the golf season, superintendents with greenhouses on their courses are adding to the bottom line. Operating an on-course greenhouse can reap the following benefits:

## Cost Savings

The ability to grow plants and flowers from plugs (or seeds, in very temperate parts of the country) and keep perennials from year to year saves financial resources as opposed to buying full-grown vegetation every year.

## Better Quality Control for Flowers

Hands-on management of plants helps to keep annuals safe from late frosts between the date of purchase and setting them out on the course. Perennials can also be housed in the green house after dividing to maintain healthy growth and plant size throughout the growing season.

## Better Control of Resources

Keeping tropical flowers and plants in the greenhouse helps to provide large, beautiful plants year after year for the clubhouse.

## Immediate Availability

Having plants ready whenever the maintenance staff has the opportunity to put them in the ground is a tremendous time asset.

## Abundant Supply

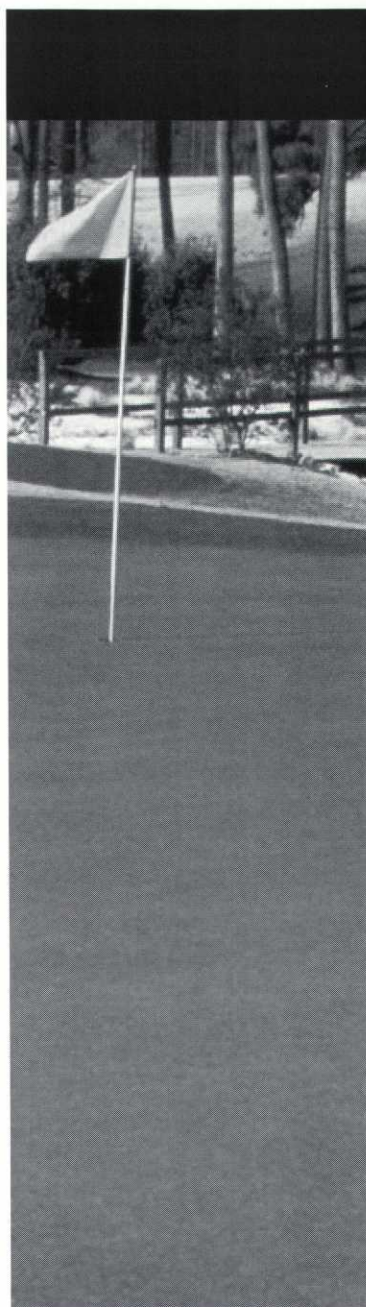
Long-term landscaping projects can benefit. Some golf facilities even supply other courses with plants and flowers.

Many golf facilities enjoy the pay-backs from the initial investment in construction and the cost of upkeep of their greenhouse. Beyond the economic benefits, some superintendents use their agronomic expertise to encourage member involvement.

In order to enjoy the positive aspects of a greenhouse at a golf facility, the budget needs to include costs not only to build a state of the art facil-

ity, but also to maintain it. The labor for potting and caring for the plants may come from early morning down time of the crew when the course has a frost delay or is too wet. Courses in colder climates may need to include heaters and the personnel to monitor the operation of those heaters during non-work hours.

*(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from the June 2002 issue of Leaderboard with permission from the GCSAA. Sources include Talking it Over discussion forum; Dean Graves, Golf Course Manager and Michael Gildea, Golf Course Superintendent, Chevy Chases Club, Chevy Chase, Md.*



syngenta

## Consider Primo MAXX® the turf's personal trainer.

The best way to get turf into prime condition? Primo MAXX. The premier plant growth regulator, Primo MAXX makes the turf canopy thicker, smoother, and more uniform—all while keeping clippings under control. It's the best possible service you could do for your turf. So get your turf in top shape. Use Primo MAXX.

**Contact Todd Loecke at 515-225-8715  
to learn more about Primo MAXX.**

 **Primo MAXX®**  
Plant Growth Regulator

Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product.  
©2001 Syngenta. Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC 27419.  
MAXX®, Primo®, and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

[www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com](http://www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com)

# Scenes From The Ridges at Sand Creek



**FOUR ARCHITECTS FIELDED QUESTIONS FROM MGCSA MEMBERS** at the Spring Mixer at The Ridges at Sand Creek on May 13th. Pictured left to right are David Kirscht, David Kirscht and Associates; Kevin Norby, Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects; Garrett Gill, Gill Miller, Inc., and Joel Goldstrand, the designer of The Ridges at Sand Creek.



**LONG DRIVE CHAMP** at The Ridges at Sand Creek was Steve Busch, Green Image.



**Without you, who knows where we'd be.**

Thanks for placing our products where they belong. On your golf course. 1-888-893-2433



## 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](mailto:epeckholm@msn.com)

| <u>Company/Person</u>   | <u>Commitment</u>              | <u>Value</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Glenn Rehbein Companies | Site Survey                    | OPEN         |
| Turf Supply Company     | Product                        | OPEN         |
| Hartman                 | Construction Services          | OPEN         |
| Paul Eckholm, CGCS      | Rotary Mower                   | \$200        |
| Plaisted Companies      | Materials                      | OPEN         |
| Eureka Sands            | Materials                      | OPEN         |
| GreenImage              | Sprayer                        | \$1,000      |
| DTN Weather Services    | Satellite System               | \$1,500      |
| Rick Fredericksen, CGCS | Vacuum                         | \$800        |
| Rob Panuska             | 18 Cups                        | \$325        |
| Century Rain Aid        | 6 Irrigation Heads             | \$950        |
| Milona Turf Products    | Turf Maintenance Tools         | \$325        |
| Paul Eckholm, CGCS      | Reel Maintenance               | OPEN         |
| Hydrologic              | Irrigation Materials           | \$2,000      |
| Gill Miller Inc.        | Design Services                | \$3,500      |
| E-Z-Go Golf Cars        | Workhorse                      | \$5,000      |
| E-Z-Go Golf Cars        | Workhorse                      | \$3,500      |
| Bonestroo & Assoc.      | Design, Construction, Services | OPEN         |
| Twin City Seed          | Bentgrass Seed                 | \$400        |
| Simplot Partners        | Fertilizer Products            | \$5,000      |
| North Star Turf         | Two Mowing Units               | \$33,819     |
| North Star Turf         | Top Dresser                    | \$7,495      |
| MTI Distributing, Inc.  | Three Mowing Units             | \$48,423     |

# *Iprodione* <sup>Fungicide</sup> PRO 2SE

A Fungicide for the Prevention and Control of Key Turfgrass Diseases.

**Economical, cost-effective brown patch and dollar spot control for cool and warm season grasses.**

Brown Patch  
Dollar Spot

- Large Patch • Fusarium Blight
- Corticum Red Thread
- Leaf Spots
- Necrotic Ring Spot\*\*
- Gray Snow Mold\*
- Fusarium Patch\*
- Pink Snow Mold\*

*\*For improved control, use Iprodione in tank mix with Thiophanate Methyl or re-treat at shorter intervals.  
\*\*Not registered in California.*

**Works preventatively and curatively** against ten turf diseases, including excellent brown patch and dollar spot control.

**Longer residual control** means significant savings in time and money by extending the intervals between spraying. Iprodione PRO 2SE is competitively priced.

**Safe to use** on all cool and warm season grasses at any stage of growth.

**Locally systemic action** enhances uptake and even distribution of active ingredient. Two-way protection prevents diseases from occurring and eliminates diseases present at an early stage of development.

*See Iprodione label for more details.*



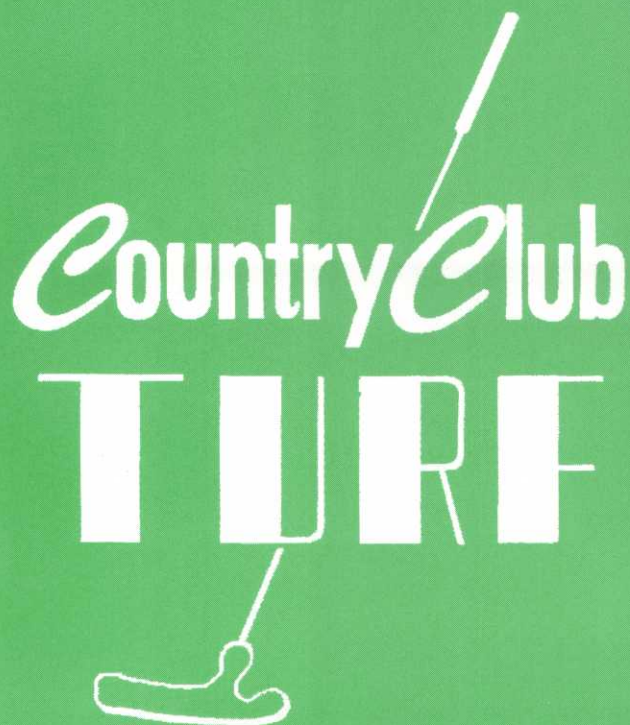
3080 Centerville Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55117  
651.484.8411 • Fax: 651.484.8257  
800.592.9513

# PENNCROSS SOD

*from Country Club Turf*

Grown by Golf Course Professionals  
for Golf Course Professionals

Supplying over 200 Golf Courses Since 1987



24317 Durant St. N.E., East Bethel, MN 55005  
**(763) 444-6753**

*"A Quality Grown Reputation"*

## ON THE ROAD WITH THE USGA

By BOB BRAME, USGA Agronomist

Most courses throughout the lower portion of the North Central Region are moving into the season with no major problems. The very inconsistent weather has been a challenge, but then weather conditions always are. Overall, recent visits have shown most courses to be in reasonably good early season condition. That is, relative to their play volume and operating budgets.

Do not allow the current good condition of the course to alter planned aeration. Early to mid-May is a good time slot for putting surface aeration and the benefits far outweigh any short-term inconvenience. Stay with previously laid out plans for early May aeration. Should we experience a harsh summer you'll be glad aeration was not altered or postponed.

Remember that spring is not the time to make-up for missing the mark with fall feeding. In fact, if the turf was not fed properly last fall the deficit cannot be corrected until the coming fall. Spring is the time to be conservative with cool-season grass feeding. Light rate applications of readily available nutrients may have value, but be cautious and stay in control (*minimal to no slow release feeding*).

A few courses have experienced some pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*) and cool-season brown patch (*Rhizoctonia cerealis*) disease activity over the last few weeks. For most the warmer weather has eliminated any lingering concern from either of these diseases. If you're still finalizing your fungicide spray rotation for the coming season give us a call to discuss specific concerns.

*Poa annua* seed-heads on putting surfaces have been a discussion topic on recent visits. There is no combination of cultural and/or chemical strategies that is right for all courses. A number of factors must be considered to arrive at a plan that will work for the specific needs of your course. Each and every plant growth regulator or cultural practice has advantages and disadvantages. In fact, this is a good example of what our Turf Advisory Service is about – taking into account desired conditioning, relative to available resources, and drawing upon research and field observations to formulate appropriate recommendations.

We're fast approaching the cutoff for the early season discount with TAS subscription. Be sure that payment is received at Golf House prior to May 15th to realize the \$300 early season discount. Even with early payment, visits can be scheduled at any time during the season.

Resolve now to guard priorities as the busy season fast approaches. Don't let your family and friends wilt as the heat goes up.

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame may be reached at [bobbrame@usga.org](mailto:bobbrame@usga.org) or 859-356-3272.)

“I count on  
Twin City Seeds  
SUN/SHADE Mix.  
Why?  
I helped formulate it.”

— Brian Kerber, Owner  
THE LAWN FIRM  
Orono, Minnesota



This is just one sure-fire example of what comes from listening and working with our customers.

**Results:** A super line-up of area-adapted turfseed mixtures and blends, top straight varieties, wild-flower blends, fertilizers, erosion control products. And, a heavy measure of experience and common sense.

**Give us a call... we'll listen and produce.**



TWIN CITY SEED COMPANY

7265 Washington Avenue South,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439

1-800-545-TURF • 952-944-7105 • fx 952-944-7239  
[twincityseed@twincityseed.com](mailto:twincityseed@twincityseed.com)

# Have You Visited [www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu)?

If you haven't, it is time to go on line and correspond with fellow agronomists. Got a question? Have an answer? sign up and contribute.

## Sampling of How It Works:

Topic: **Degree Days** (1 of 4)

Read 50 times

Conf: Cultivation

From: Jack MacKenzie,

[jmackenzie426@msn.com](mailto:jmackenzie426@msn.com)

Date: Tues., May 07, 2002 06:22 a.m.

Do any of you keep track of them? And if so, where are we and what do you use them for?

—Jack MacKenzie  
North Oaks Golf Club

Topic: **Degree Days** (2 of 4)

Read 39 times

Conf: Cultivation

From: Kevin Clunis, [kctbrook@earthlink.net](mailto:kctbrook@earthlink.net)

Date: Wed., May 08, 2002 06:52 a.m.

I use to keep track when I was back at SCC. Have not needed to during all the construction I have gone thru the past few years. Talk to the good doctor John, he keeps track of all the phenological activities since his beginning at the WBYC.

— Kevin Clunis

# Pipe Logic 101

GOLDLINE® pipe = Better drainage

Better drainage = Drier course

Drier course = Longer playing season

Longer playing season = More rounds per year

More rounds per year = Higher profits

Higher profits = Happy management

Happy management = Shorter meetings

Shorter meetings = Longer happy hour

Longer happy hour = Hero status

Therefore:

**GOLDLINE® pipe = Hero status**



**PRINSCO**

*The pipe with the gold stripe.*

**[www.prinsco.com](http://www.prinsco.com)**

MN Corporate Headquarters: (800) 992-1725

Topic: **Degree Days** (3 of 4)

Read 36 times

Conf: Cultivation

From: Jeff Johnson,  
[pepperdgirl@aol.com](mailto:pepperdgirl@aol.com)

Date: Wed., May 08, 2002 08:19 a.m.

Can someone explain how GDD is calculated? I used to know but have not done it for a long time. In the latest TurfNet Rossi talks about the importance of timing for applications of embark for seed-head suppression of poa annua based on 50 GDD. Knowing the GDD would help for these critical timing applications.

— Jeff Johnson

Topic: **Degree Days** (4 of 4)

Read 30 times

Conf: Cultivation

From: Kevin Clunis [kctbrook@earthlink.net](mailto:kctbrook@earthlink.net)

Date: Wed., May 08, 2002 01:32 p.m.

Jeff:

GDD is the sum of the high and low for the day, divide by 2 for the ave. and then subtract from 50. Example would be high of 70 and a low of 40 would equal 110 divide by 2 is 55 less 50 equals a GDD of 5. Cumulate daily. If the ave is less than 50, use 0. There has been talk of using other numbers less than 50 for the baseline of other plant development. Hope that helps.

— Kevin Clunis



# Spacemen Land At USGA

By KEVIN MCMANEMIN

*United States Golf Association*

Far Hills, N.J. -- The USGA welcomed a unique pair of visitors on May 9. Brian Duffy, currently a vice president of Lockheed Martin Space Operations and a former NASA astronaut with four Space Shuttle missions under his belt, and Tim Terry, the simulation supervisor with United Space Alliance, visited Golf House. The two toured the USGA's facilities and spoke to groups of local grade-schoolers about what it's like to live and work -- and golf, of course -- in outer space.

Brian Duffy, left, and Tim Terry entertained and educated at Golf House on May 9. (Kevin McManemin/USGA)

"Hi kids. Guess what we're here to talk about today?" baited NASA Astronaut Brian Duffy, speaking to a roomful of sixth-graders in the USGA's auditorium.

"Golf?" guessed one boy.

"No-space!" replied Duffy. The response drew chuckles.

## Touring Golf House

Duffy and Terry began the day by touring the USGA's Test Center, where technical analyses are conducted on golf balls and clubs used in the United States. As men with extensive engineering backgrounds, (Terry holds a degree in electrical engineering) they took a keen interest in the technology. Though perhaps not as impressive as the equipment used by NASA to send people into space, the USGA's testing facility utilizes the state-of-the-art, custom-designed equipment. Duffy and Terry observed lab tests for a driver's 'spring-like effect,' a ball's initial velocity at the indoor testing facility, and even witnessed a few shots by 'Iron Byron,' the mechanical golfer that tests golf balls for distance.

Since both Duffy and Terry are avid golfers, the next stop on the tour proved especially memorable. The two got a rare chance to have their swings analyzed at the USGA's biomechanics laboratory. They donned special outfits fitted with sensors, then hit balls into a screen while cameras and computers whirred away, capturing their swing motions. Computers calculated the swing speed and loft angles at which they were hitting the ball, and digitally mapped the motion of their strokes.

After the tour, Duffy and Terry presented a program to local school kids in the USGA's auditorium. Their messages were clear: going to space is a team effort, and anyone who dreams of taking part in the adventure of space travel can make it happen.

Terry talked about his job training the flight and ground

crews for shuttle missions. He spoke of the importance of getting the teams to learn to work together, to communicate effectively and solve problems quickly. Duffy explained what life is like orbiting the Earth, and fielded a barrage of questions from the curious kids.

"Ever land on the wrong spot?" asked one. Another child, perhaps more interested in lunch, asked if the astronauts had ever "eaten chicken, turkey or fried chicken in space."

After the programs were finished, the astronauts enjoyed a USGA staff reception, followed in the next few days by a pleasant fringe benefit of association with the game's governing body -- rounds of golf at two top courses in the area.

## The Shuttle Putter

The pair first got involved with the USGA through the notorious 'shuttle putter' incident. This 'spectacle' of space golf occurred during the 1996 voyage of the space shuttle Endeavour, NASA mission STS-72, in which Brian Duffy served as a crew member.

Terry knew that Duffy was a devoted golfer, and arranged to have a modified putter and golf ball "smuggled" on board the Endeavour. The crew surprised Duffy by presenting him with the gift on the flight deck, while orbiting Earth.

Duffy took some time out from the mission (repairing a Japanese Microgravity Research Unit) to study the effects of zero gravity on his golf game.

"It's much more difficult to putt in space than on Earth," Duffy admitted. "Here there are only two dimensions to worry about; in space, you can also miss up or down."

The two decided to donate the 'Shuttle Putter' to the USGA to add to its growing golf bag of space-clubs (the USGA Museum already possesses the modified moon-rake 6-iron Alan Shepard used to shag golf balls into moon craters). Both clubs are currently on display.

Hopefully, the 'shuttle putter' will serve to inspire those who see it that dreams can be achieved -- whether those dreams involve playing the U.S. Open or traveling to space.

"It's great to work with kids, to see the wheels of curiosity turning in their minds," said Duffy. "I hope one of them is inspired by our program to take an interest in math and science, or to follow a dream they didn't think was possible."

**"The most advanced  
amino acid based foliar fertilizer  
technology available today."**



©1995 GRIGG BROS.

**Gary's  
Green™**

**Nutra  
Green™**

**Tuff  
Turf™**

**P-K  
Plus™**

**Sili-Kal-B™**

**Suprema™**

**Ultra-  
Plex™**

**Carbo  
Plex™**

**Bio  
Blend™**

**Grigg Bros. Liquid Fertilizer Now Available Through**



*Turf & Chemical Inc.*

**Visit our website at [www.precisionturf.com](http://www.precisionturf.com)**

**Phone: 763-477-5885 • Toll-Free: 800-925-8873 • Fax: 763-477-6511  
7728 Commerce Circle • Greenfield, MN 55373**