

MEMBER PROFILE

STILLWATER'S MARLIN MURPHY

Like Father, Like Son

By RICK TRAVER

A long-standing tradition in many cultures leads the son to follow in his father's footsteps. While this was common place in generations past, it is not so common place today. This makes the father and son combination of Marlin and Jerry Murphy that much more unique. You read about Jerry (the father) on the previous page, now read on about Marlin (the son) as follows.

Marlin Murphy is the superintendent of the Stillwater C.C., and has been since 1995. He got his start in this industry at the age of 11 years, working at Somerset C.C. Marlin worked for Somerset C.C. for 7 years, then moved to the Mendota Heights par 3 course which he managed for 2 years. He then attended the Penn State turf program and did his internship the summer of 1988 at the The Minikahda Club. After graduating school he went to work as the Assistant Superintendent to Kevin Clunis at Stillwater C.C. In 1991 he moved to Brookview G.C. as the assistant superintendent until his appointment as superintendent at Stillwater Country Club.

Stillwater C.C. was founded in 1924 as a 9-hole golf course, and was originally designed by Tom Varden on 80 acres of farmland. In June of 1954 an additional 71.75 acres were purchased to complete the 18 holes. Paul Cotes designed the new 9-holes, which was purchased for \$20,000.

Marlin loves the outdoors, with his favorite hobby being Pheasant and Duck hunting. Deer hunting is close behind. He enjoys golf and uses it like a tool, as many of us do, to keep and eye on the course. He does say it would be the first hobby to drop, only because it is, "a frustrating game!" He also finds fishing to be very refreshing.

Marlin has three kids, Ashley 13, Andrew 9 and Max who is four. Marlin says "the best thing in life is



MARLIN MURPHY

watching your kids grow up into young adults. "They help to remind us what it was like looking at the world through innocent eyes", he said.

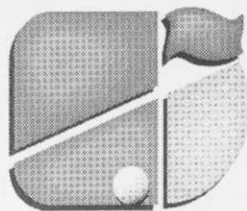
When questioned about the funniest or oddest thing ever asked, Marlin had several responses. The first was the suggestion to add antifreeze to the irrigation lines instead of blowing the water out for the winter. The second was to use the greens roller to remove the hills on the greens, but in Marlin's mind the best question was, "how can we kill all the worms in the fairways?"

Marlin's number one goal is to be the best he can at his present position. He really enjoys where he works and says, "it would have to be the perfect position to take me away from SCC". Another of

his goals is to be the best parent he can, also a chosen profession.

When asked about the future of our industry, Marlin felt that government gets too involved, and has a tendency to make uniformed decisions. While he feels the future looks tough he also feels that it is not impossible.

I have known Marlin for several years having graduated from Penn State with him. He has always been fun to be around and although I have never played Stillwater C.C., (maybe I'll get and invite), I am sure he is doing an excellent job of carrying on and up the Murphy reputation.



**GILL
MILLER** INC.
Golf Course Architects

Design • Renovation • Master Planning • Practice Centers

122 North 2nd Street • River Falls, WI 54022 • 715-425-9511 • e-mail: info@gillmiller.com

visit our website www.gillmiller.com

Member: American Society of Golf Course Architects

AT THE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

Minnesota Green Expo Set January 8-10

The Minnesota Green Expo is set January 8-10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. All members of the MGCSA are invited to attend. This show takes the place of the MTGF Conference and Trade Show which has been held in early December in past years.

The Trade Show features 750 booths including a full line of plant materials, machinery, tools, equipment, hardscapes and services for nursery, landscape, turf and grounds professionals. All booths in a 170,000 square foot exhibit hall at the newly-expanded Minneapolis Convention Center.

Expanded networking, buying and selling opportunities for the broadest spectrum of green industry professionals in the north central region will be available.

On-line registration is the easiest and most accurate way to register for the Minnesota Green Expo. You'll also receive a quick e-mail confirmation of your registration. We accept Visa and MasterCard.

Exhibitors should not register on-line, for an exhibitor registration form contact info@minnesotagreenexpo.com

The Minnesota Green Expo offers educational programs

that are unparalleled in the green industry for their quality and affordability. For only \$65, you can attend all three days of the Expo and take your pick of the more than 70 seminars featuring some of the best speakers from across the country! A one-day complete registration is only \$45 and trade show only registration is just \$20.

All registration choices include access to the 750-booth trade show and the evening networking events. Persons planning to participate in the Pesticide Applicator Recertification on Friday, January 10, must choose either one-day or three-day complete registration plus mark the Pesticide Recertification box.

Trade Show hours are as follows: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 10.

For more information, write: Minnesota Green Expo, P.O. Box 130307, St. Paul, MN 55113, or call 651-633-4987/toll free 888-886-6652, fax 651-633-4986/toll free fax 888-266-4986 or e-mail info@minnesotagreenexpo.com

**CARRIES JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING
BUT A BIG PRICE TAG.**

Kawasaki UTILITY VEHICLES

- Liquid-cooled, V-Twin engine
- Air intake system overhead
- 1,330 lb. load capacity
- Rack & pinion steering
- Sound-insulated and extra-quiet muffler
- Governed to 16 mph safety
- Lock-out differential for min. ground disturbance
- Full line of accessories available



KAWASAKI 3020 MULE™



Call Tim Commers or
Steve Scanlan today...
(612) 333-3487 or
Toll Free 1 (800) 759-5343

CUSHMAN MOTOR CO., INC.

2909 EAST FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406
(612) 333-3487 • Fax (612) 333-5903 • Toll Free 1-800-759-5343

Charles "Charly" Erickson Our First MGCSA President



Over one hundred and one years ago Charles Erickson was hired from the Minneapolis Park Board to become the head greenskeeper at The Minikahda Club (1899). He was approximately 35 years of age when he began his tenure at Minikahda and there is little or no history on his expertise or employment with the Park Board. He was affectionately known as the "General" by the club membership.

By July 15 of that same year Charly had completed the first nine holes at Minikahda and an appropriate ceremony was performed as the first ball was driven from the number one tee by the club president.

Charly's work at Minikahda was a pioneering adventure. There were no consultants, a very small contingent of other greenskeepers to commiserate with and no agronomically educated salesmen. His philosophy then would be to recognize and solve problems "In House." Charly Erickson Charly Erickson was the first president of what is now

called "Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association" and was very active in its formation. A memorial plaque in honor of him was presented to "The Minikahda Club" by the Minnesota Greenskeepers Association." and resides in a prominent position on the course.

Charly Erickson suffered a broken hip and other injuries in a fall down the "Minikahda tool-house basement steps." He died from other causes one year later just short of his 78th birth date in 1942.

(Editor's Note: A more complete story on Charly Erickson was printed in the Dec.-January 2002 issue of Hole Notes. The article was written by Jack Kolb.)

Traditions, Legends, Myths and Heroes

From the beginnings of recorded history, people from almost every culture throughout the world have created and enjoyed stick-and-ball games.

However, the precise origins of the modern game of golf have been obscured with the passage of time. While many Scots firmly maintain that golf evolved from a family of stick and ball game widely practiced throughout the British Isles during the Middle Ages, considerable evidence suggests that the game derived from stick-and-ball games that were played in France, Germany and the Low Countries.

We cannot be certain, however, that the game they played resembled modern golf - at least not until 1744, when the first known Rules of golf were composed by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in Scotland.

The game was played in America as early as the 1770's in Charleston, South Carolina, although it would not take a firm grip on American life until the 1880's.

The foundation of the United States Golf Association on December 22, 1894 marked the formal organization of American golf, establishing a centralized body to write the Rules, conduct national championships, and establish a national system of handicapping. The USGA also plays a prominent role as the game's historian in the United States, collecting, displaying and preserving artifacts and memorabilia at its Museum and Archives in Far Hills, New Jersey.

The History section of the USGA's Web site is dedicated to the long story of the game - to the people, places, events, and moments that make the game special.

Chronology of Golf Courses In Minnesota

St. Paul's Town & Country Club Considered Oldest Course


Town & Country Club	1888	Brookview Golf Course	1927	Springfield Golf Club	1956	Brookland Executive Nine	1969
White Bear Yacht Club	1889	Harmony Golf Club	1928	Wayzata Country Club	1956	Dahlgreen Golf Club	1969
Minikahda Club	1898	Highland Park Golf Course	1928	Rose Lake Golf Club	1957	Eastwood Golf Club	1969
Lafayette Club	1899	Lake City Country Club	1928	Slayton Country Club	1957	Headwaters Golf Club	1969
Northland Country Club	1899	Dawson Golf Club	1928	Wapicada Golf Club	1957	Hendricks Golf Club	1969
Interlachen Country Club	1909	Grand View Golf Links of Duluth	1928	Pine Creek Golf Course	1957	Hoyt Lakes Golf Course	1969
Albert Lea Country Club	1912	Cokato Town & Country Club	1929	Birch Bay Golf Course & Resort	1958	Montgomery Golf Club	1969
Alexandria Golf Club	1914	Como Golf Course	1929	Forest Hills Golf Club	1958	Parkview Golf Club, LLC.	1969
Golden Valley Country Club	1914	Graceville Golf Club	1929	Island View Golf Club	1958	Purple Hawk Country Club	1969
Eshquaguma Club	1915	Keller Golf Club	1929	Oak View Golf Course	1958	Red Oak Golf Club	1969
Red Wing Country Club	1915	Koronis Hills Golf Club	1929	Elk River Country Club	1959	Waseca Lakeside Club	1969
Woodhill Country Club	1915	Minneapolis Golf Club	1929	Elm Creek Golf Links	1960	Bellwood Oaks Golf Course	1970
Bemidji Town & Country Club	1916	New Prague Golf Club	1929	Ironman Golf Course	1960	Castle Highlands Golf Course	1970
Detroit CC - Pine to Palm Course	1916	New Ulm Country Club	1929	Silver Bay Country Club	1960	Cedar River Country Club	1970
Minneapolis Golf Club	1916	Shoreland Country Club	1929	Apple Valley Golf Course	1960	Dellwood Hills Golf Club	1970
Minnetonka Country Club	1916	Spring Brook Golf Course	1929	Arrowhead Country Club	1960	Dwan Golf Club	1970
Detroit CC- Lakeview	1916	Swan Lake Country Club	1929	Hampton Hills Golf Club	1960	Indian Hills Golf Club	1970
Interlaken Golf Club	1916	Granite Falls Golf Club	1929	Heart of the Valley Golf Club	1960	Sundance Golf & Bowl	1970
Theodore Wirth Golf Club	1916	Birchwood Golf Course	1930	Olympic Hills Golf Club	1960	Valley High Golf Club	1970
Faribault Golf & Country Club	1917	Little Falls Country Club	1930	Grandy Nine Golf Course	1960	Blooming Prairie Country Club	1970
Austin Country Club	1919	Mahnomon Country Club	1930	Twin Pines Golf Course	1960	Chomonix Golf Club	1970
Columbia Golf Club	1919	Pine Meadows at Brainerd	1930	Albany Golf Club	1961	Driftwood Resort & Golf Club	1970
Midland Hills Country Club	1919	Winthrop Golf Club	1930	Brackett's Crossing Country Club	1961	Luverne Country Club	1970
Somerset Country Club	1919	Blackduck Golf Club	1930	Ma-Cal-Grove Country Club	1961	Lewiston Country Club	1971
Worthington Country Club	1919	Chosen Valley Golf Club	1930	Root River Country Club	1961	Mountain Lake Golf Club	1971
Southview Country Club	1919	Country View Golf Course	1930	Balmoral Golf Course	1961	Pine City Country Club	1971
Breezy Point Golf Course	1920	Thief River Golf Club	1930	Mendota Heights Par-3 GC	1961	Rolling Hills Golf Club	1971
Olivia Golf Club	1920	Eveleth Municipal Golf Course	1930	Carriage Hills Country Club	1962	Cimarron Golf Course	1971
Owatonna Country Club	1920	The Vintage at Staples	1930	Hazeltine National Golf Club	1962	Madison Country Club	1971
St. Cloud Country Club	1920	Wells Golf Club	1930	Rich Spring Golf Club	1962	Arrowwood Golf Course	1972
Winona Country Club	1920	Ferndale Country Club	1931	B & V Par 3	1962	Majestic Oaks Golf Club	1972
Castlewood Golf Course	1920	Eagle Creek Golf Club	1931	Willow Creek Municipal GC	1962	Minn-Iowa Golf Club	1972
Hibbing Municipal Golf Course	1920	Hawley Golf & Country Club	1932	Osakis Country Club	1963	Brookside Resort Golf Course	1972
Canby Golf Club	1920	Virginia Golf Course	1932	Countryside Golf Club	1963	Chisago Lakes Golf Course	1972
Oak Ridge Country Club	1921	Buffalo Heights Golf Course	1932	Babbitt Golf Club	1964	Hayden Hills Executive Golf	1972
Ridgeview Country Club	1921	Wheaton Country Club	1933	Braemar Golf Course	1964	Ponderosa Golf Course	1972
Riverside Town & Country Club	1921	Hiawatha Golf Club	1934	Daytona Country Club	1964	Bent Creek Golf Club	1973
Sauk Centre Country Club	1921	Lester Park Golf Course	1934	Maple Valley Golf & CC	1964	Blueberry Hills Country Club	1973
University of Minn. Golf Club	1921	Sleepy Eye Golf Club	1934	Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course	1964	Terrace View Golf Club	1973
Westfield Golf Club	1921	Preston Golf & Country Club	1935	Frazer Golf Course	1964	Fritz's Resort Golf & CC	1973
Pike Lake Golf and Rec. Center	1921	Ramsey Golf Club	1935	Oak Harbor Golf Course	1964	Litchfield Golf Club	1973
Cloquet Country Club	1922	Fort Snelling Public Golf Course	1935	Rolling Hills Golf Course	1964	Shamrock Golf Club	1974
Crow River Country Club	1922	Brockway Golf Club	1935	Wedgewood Golf Course	1964	Silver Springs Golf Course	1974
Minakwa Golf Club	1922	Madden Inn & Golf Club	1936	Countryside Golf Course	1964	Willow Creek Golf Course	1974
Minnewaska Golf Club	1922	Marshall Golf Club	1936	Fosston Golf Club	1965	Farmers Golf & Health Club	1975
Redwood Falls Golf Club	1922	Oak Lake Golf Course	1936	Hollydale Golf Club	1965	Twenty-Nine Pines Golf Course	1975
Ruttger's Bay Lodge-Lakes Course	1922	Pebble Lake Golf Course	1936	Lake Miltona Golf Club	1965	Clarks Grove Golf Course	1975
Cuyuna Country Club	1923	Moorhead Country Club	1937	Lakeway Golf Course, Inc.	1965	Greenwood Golf Links	1975
Edina Country Club	1923	Moose Lake Golf Club	1939	Loon Lake Golf Club	1965	Oakdale Greens	1975
Mesaba Country Club	1923	Pierz Municipal Golf Course	1939	Meadowlark Country Club	1965	Woodbury Golf & Fitness	1975
Pomme de Terre Golf Course	1923	North Branch Golf Course	1940	Mille Lacs Golf Resort	1965	Kerkoven Community Golf Club	1975
The Crossings	1923	Cedar Hills Golf Course	1940	Oakdale Country Club	1965	Cottonwood Country Club	1976
Greenhaven Golf Club	1923	Karlstad Golf Course	1940	Piper Hills Golf Course	1965	Hidden Greens Golf Course	1976
Appleton Golf Club	1924	Oak Knolls Golf Club	1940	Tartan Park Golf Course	1965	Northern Hills Golf Club	1976
Bois De Sioux Golf Club	1924	Ortonville Municipal Golf Course	1941	Coffee Mill Golf & Country Club	1966	Rolling Green Fairways	1976
Phalen Park Golf Course	1924	Gunflint Hills Golf Club	1942	Goodrich Golf Club	1966	Valleywood Golf Course	1976
Stillwater Country Club	1924	Sand Trap Golf Course	1943	Rolling Green Country Club	1966	Warroad Estates Golf Course	1976
Tracy Country Club	1924	Lost Spur Golf Course, Inc.	1944	Quadna Hills Golf Course	1966	Oakwood Golf Course	1976
Zumbro Valley Rec Club	1924	Hillcrest Golf Club of St. Paul	1945	Town & Country Golf Club	1966	Valley Country Club	1976
Orono Golf Course	1924	Oakcrest Golf Course	1945	Holiday Park Golf Course	1966	Maple Hills Golf Club	1977
Benson Golf Club	1925	Pipestone Country Club	1946	Kimball Golf Club	1967	Oaks Golf Club	1977
Francis A. Gross Golf Course	1925	Warren Riverside Country Club	1946	Mayflower Country Club	1967	Emerald Valley Country Club	1977
Minnesota Valley Country Club	1925	Hastings Country Club	1947	Oak View Golf Course - Freeborn	1967	Fountain Valley Golf Club	1978
Rochester Golf & Country Club	1925	Jackson Golf Club	1947	Orchard Gardens Golf Course	1967	Manitou Ridge Golf Club	1978
Tianna Country Club	1925	Windom Country Club	1947	Pezhekee National Golf Course	1967	Valley Golf Course of Willmar	1978
Lanesboro Golf Club	1925	Proctor Golf Course	1947	Two River Golf Club	1967	Savanna Golf & Supper Club	1978
Mankato Golf Club	1925	Tyler Community Golf Club	1948	Angushire Par 3	1968	Travelers Country Club #1	1978
LeSueur Country Club	1926	Green Lea Golf Course	1949	Birnamwood Public Golf Course	1968	Burl Oaks Golf Club	1979
Meadowbrook Golf Club	1926	North Oaks Golf Club	1949	Brightwood Hills	1968	Eagle View Golf Course	1979
Northfield Golf Club	1926	Ely Golf Club	1950	Brooktree Golf Course	1968	Green Valley Golf Course	1980
Pokegama Golf Course	1926	Fox Lake Golf Club	1953	Bunker Hills Golf Club	1968	Prairie View Golf Links	1980
Kenyon Country Club	1926	New Hope Village Golf Course	1953	Dodge Country Club	1968	Hyland Greens Golf Course	1980
Cannon Golf Club	1927	Milaca Golf Club	1954	Little Crow Country Club	1968	Kate-Haven Golf Course	1981
Enger Park Golf Course	1927	Maple Hills Golf Center	1954	Monticello Country Club	1968	Madelia Golf Course	1981
Fort Ridgley Golf Course	1927	Glencoe Country Club	1955	Whitefish Golf Club	1968	Village Green Golf Course	1981
Long Prairie Country Club	1927	Princeton Golf Club	1955	Big Lake Golf Club	1968	Forest Hills Golf & RV Resort	1982
Soldiers Memorial Field GC	1927	Gem Lake Hills Golf Course	1955	Bluff Creek Golf Course	1968	Lida Greens Golf Course	1982
Wadena Golf Club	1927	Lakeview Golf of Orono	1956	Rivers Edge Country Club	1968	Tipsinah Mounds Country Club	1982
Zumbrota Golf Club	1927	Mendakota Country Club	1956				

(Continued on Page 15)

Golf Courses—

(Continued from Page 14)


Carefree Country Club	1982	Superior National at Lutsen	1989	Hidden Creek Golf Club	1995	Stone Creek Golf Club	1998
Marshall High School Golf Course	1982	Baker National Golf Course	1990	Island Lake Golf Training Center	1995	St. James Country Club	1998
Lone Pine Golf Course	1982	Grand View Lodge- The Pines	1990	Island Pine Golf Club	1995	V. A. Hospital Golf Course	1998
Pinewood Golf Course	1982	Red Rock Golf Course	1990	Links of Byron	1995	Cedar Creek Golf Course	1999
Oak Glen Country Club	1983	River Oaks Golf Course	1990	Mississippi Dunes Golf Links	1995	Fair Havens Golf Club	1999
Sartell Golf Club	1983	Wilderness Golf Course	1990	Pine Ridge Golf Course	1995	Greystone Golf Club	1999
Sawmill Golf Club	1983	Prairie View Community GC	1990	Sugarbrooke Golf Course	1995	StoneRidge Golf Club	1999
Double Eagle Golf Club	1983	Albion Ridges Golf Course	1991	The Bridges Golf Course	1995	TPC Twin Cities	1999
Meadowbrook CC, Inc	1983	Blueberry Pines Golf Club	1991	The Wilds Golf Club	1995	Wolfridge Golf Course	1999
Pine River Country Club	1983	St. Charles Golf Course	1991	Thompson Oaks Golf Course	1995	Zumbro Falls Golf Club	1999
Emily Greens Golf Course	1984	Meadowwoods Golf Course	1991	Timber Creek Golf Course	1995	Willowbrook Golf Course	1999
Crosswoods Golf Course	1985	Southern Hills Golf Club	1991	Wendigo Golf Club	1995	Begin Oaks Golf Course	2000
Greenwood Golf Links, Inc.	1985	Cedar Valley Golf Course	1992	Wilderness Hills Golf Course	1995	Blackberry Ridge Golf Club	2000
Prestwick Golf Club	1985	Falcon Ridge Golf Course	1992	Lancaster Riverside Golf Club	1995	Dacotah Ridge Golf Club	2000
French Lake Open Golf Club	1985	Inver Wood Golf Course	1992	Maple Ridge Golf Course	1995	Eagle's Landing Golf Club	2000
Irish Hills Golf Course	1985	Nordic Trails Golf Course	1992	Travelers CC on the Mississippi	1995	Emerald Greens Golf Club	2000
Mount Frontenac Golf Course	1985	Oak Summit Golf Course	1992	River Bend Golf Course	1995	Fairways, The	2000
Mississippi National Golf Links	1986	Oneka Ridge Golf Course	1992	Bearpath Golf & Country Club	1996	Geneva Golf Club	2000
Rum River Hills Golf Club	1986	Pine Hill Golf Club	1992	Eagle Ridge Golf Course	1996	Golden Eagle Golf Club	2000
Whispering Pines Golf Course	1986	3 Brothers Vermilion River Green	1992	Oak Marsh Golf Club	1996	Legends Club	2000
Ridgewood Golf Course	1986	Valley View Golf Club	1992	Preserve at Grand View, The	1996	Oakdale Golf and Tennis	2000
Bentwood Climax Municipal GC	1987	Vermilion Fairways Golf Club	1992	Rush Creek Golf Club	1996	Pioneer Creek Golf Course	2000
Centerbrook Golf Course	1987	Willingers Golf Club	1992	Stoney Creek Golf Course	1996	Refuge Golf Club	2000
Edinburgh USA	1987	River Oaks Municipal Golf Course	1992	Chaska Town Course	1997	Ridges at Sand Creek	2000
Chippewa National Golf Club	1987	Creeksbend Golf Course	1993	Deacon's Lodge	1997	River Hills Golf Club	2000
Cleary Lake Park Golf Course	1987	Meadow Greens Golf Course	1993	Giants Ridge Golf Course	1997	Tanner's Brook Golf Club	2000
Afton Alps Golf Course	1988	North Links Golf Course	1993	Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center	1997	The Ponds Golf Course	2000
Fiddlestix Golf Course	1988	Shadowbrooke Golf Course	1993	Heritage Links Golf Club	1997	Tournament Greens	2000
Hidden Haven Golf Club	1988	The Links at Northfork	1993	Lake Pepin Golf Course	1997	Wild Marsh Golf Club	2000
Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club	1988	Wildflower at Fair Hills	1993	Meadow Lakes Golf Club	1997	Deer Meadows Golf Course	2000
Pebble Creek Golf Club	1988	All Seasons Golf Course	1994	Riverview Greens	1997	Vintage Golf Course	2000
Rich Valley Golf Club	1988	Applewood Hills Public GC	1994	Southbrook Golf Club	1997	Boulder Ridge Golf Club	2001
Perham Lakeside Country Club	1988	Greens at Howard Lake, The	1994	Lakeview Nat'l Golf Course	1997	Eagle Lake Golf Center	2001
Riverview Golf Course	1988	Hawk Creek Country Club	1994	Sand Hill River Golf Club	1997	Old Barn Resort and Golf Course	2001
Deer Run Golf Club	1989	Meadows Golf Course	1994	Arbor Pointe Golf Club	1998	Summit Golf Club	2001
Fox Hollow Golf Club	1989	Pine Island Golf Course	1994	Black Bear Golf Complex	1998	Thumper Pond Golf Course	2001
Oak Hill Golf Club	1989	Pine Ridge Golf Club	1994	Eagle Valley Golf Course	1998	Boulder Pointe Golf Club	2001
Stonebrooke Golf Club	1989	Prairie Ridge Golf Course	1994	Long Bow Golf Club	1998	East Mill Nine	2002
Viking Meadows Golf Club	1989	riverview	1994	Lynx National Golf Course	1998	Eko Backen Golf Club	NK
Woodland Creek Golf Club	1989	Sandstone Area Country Club	1994	Rodina Golf Course	1998	Fore Seasons Golf Club	NK
Pheasant Acres Golf Club	1989	Sanbrook Golf Course	1994	Spring Hill Golf Club	1998	Hidden Hills Pitch & Putt	NK
		Crystal Lake Golf Club	1995	The Legacy Courses at Cragun's	1998	Howard's Barn & Golf Course	NK
		Eagle Trace Golfers Club	1995	Fairway Shores Executive GC	1998	Shor-tee Golf Course	NK
		Elmdale Hills Golf Course	1995	Falls Country Club	1998	Stephen Riverside Golf Club	NK
		Grand National Golf Club	1995	Golf at the Legacy	1998	NK = Not Known	



Superior Turf Services

SUPERIOR SEEDING AND FEEDING FOR A GREAT 2003

Country Club



COMPOSITE TECHNOLOGY FERTILIZERS

Superior Organic

DESIGNED FOR PERFORMANCE, HOMOGENEOUS PRILL,
THE FINEST IN COMBINED TECHNOLOGIES

8-2-10 Plus 14-0-14 Fe 15-2-5

Greens & Tees Fairways & Tees Roughs & High Wear Areas

SEED RESEARCH

BIOPRO

FERTILITY SOLUTIONS

GENETICALLY SUPERIOR BENTGRASSES FROM THE WORLD'S MOST COMPLETE BENTGRASS PROGRAM

FOR SUPERIOR TURF SERVICES, CALL: LARRY THORNTON

612-804-1692

Remembering Emil Picha

By JACK KOLB

One of the first things you noted as you met Emil Picha was that you were dealing with a man who was always probing for an answer or who always wanted to know what your opinion was to any leading question. He very seldom would give his point of view until he had quizzed everyone else. He had definite opinions on certain subjects but if it dealt in the area of a science or sociological topic he was always the listener. He impressed you as being very bright and comprehended all that was being discussed.



EMIL PICHA

The other thing that impressed you immediately if you hung around his shop or work area was his frugality. He was very proud of this characteristic. Yet he was able to converse with persons of all social levels. He had a professorial demeanor, he always had a pipe in his hand and the pipe would go up to his lips during conversation, pausing slightly as he would take a drag on the pipe and then continue his conversation in a slow

methodical manner. During this slow manner of speech you could see the gears in his; mind organizing into a well thought out rebuttal or affirmation of a topic.

I would like to relate a few stories on the nature of the man. Back in the 1950's Golf Course Superintendents began meeting at different Golf Clubs for education type meetings on an irregular basis. Previous to this they would meet in small groups down in their shop area and discuss among themselves what they thought the answer was to certain problems. These were some far out theories to turf management, certain individuals seemed to think that their approach was the correct and only solution. Some were reluctant to tell of their success and felt sharing information jeopardized their job. Scientific data was not in their vocabulary.

In 1958 as Superintendent at Minikahda Club this writer hosted one of these information meetings inviting Dr. James Watson of the Toro Company and Dr. William Klompars of the Eli Lilly Company as guest speakers. Our greens-chairman was very impressed with this approach and decided to put on a very classy dinner for all the visiting Superintendents with the Club picking up the tab. We had Pheasant under glass and at each place setting was a highball- glass filled to the brim with Martini cocktail. Emil happened to be seated next to me and since I did not care

for the Martini I passed it to Emil. As the cocktail glass appeared to be empty the waiter would come around with a pitcher full of mix and offer one refill. This meant that Emil had at least four Martini's. Carl Anderson Superintendent of Woodhill C.C. was MGCSA president that year and was acting as "Master of Ceremonies" introducing the dignitaries when he decided we should hear a few words from Emil who usually had a humorous philosophy on things. Emil began with these exact words "I am not here to gild the lilly nor to perfume the rose" and he continued on this rather eclectic talk for at least 10 minutes, or a lot longer than Carl had expected. It was a very engaging and humorous talk, enjoyed by everyone. At the end of his dissertation Emil sat down, turned to me and said -- "It must have been those Martini's, what exactly did I say?"

Another story about Emil involved Dr. Jim Watson who had been invited by Emil to visit the Oak Ridge Country Club. Emil for some reason or other had prepared and seeded a rather large area on the Golf Course Grounds and after their tour of the Course Emil invited Dr. Watson to observe a new seeding which apparently was coming along very well. Emil took Dr. Watson to a particular portion of the area where nothing seemed to be growing. Emil's question to Dr. Watson was "why do we not have germination or growth in this particular area?". Dr. Watson got down studied the soil and began a litany of many good-theories why seed might not germinate in that area. When Watson had completed with the list of things that might have influence the lack of germination, Emil interrupted him and said: "The reason there is no germination in this particular portion is because I did not put any seed here!"

Frugal-qualities of Emil could be seen everywhere. He would have tractors working on the course that were Model "T" vintage (the years were 1950-60's), with steel wheels the lugs of which had long ago worn so badly they (the lugs) had to be replaced with acorn nuts for traction. If you visited his shop in the winter you were greeted by a wood and coal burning stove. When asked if the fire might not last through a cold winters night, he would answer with "no I come twice during the night and stoke the fire with more fuel".

One of the quality stories about Emil's frugality has to do with Scotty McLaren and the Toro Company. This of course is back in the days of cast iron wheels on the fairway mowers. As you might suspect Emil had used these mowers for so long that the lugs and striations-for-traction were worn absolutely smooth. Emil priced out a new set of wheels and decided that the price was more than he wanted to spend. Now it happened that the Minneapolis Moline Company happened to be in Emil's back yard in the city of Hopkins.

(Continued on Page 33)

Jack Kolb Uncovers Interesting MGCSA History

Now that Jack Kolb is working toward his 70th birthdate, he considers himself somewhat qualified to do a little contributing as a historian for the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Jack's wife has ordered him to clean out shelves, files and drawers of all outdated material and superfluous material that he had accumulated during his affiliation with the Minnesota organization. Some of the material was given to Tom Fischer a few years ago, and Jack has uncovered another gem that he would like to share with the present group.

The document referred to was written as a secretary's report by Erich Pahl, then of Interlachen Country Club. There are club names used in this report that may confuse contemporary members of this Association. An attempt shall be made to explain those that do not sound familiar.

For instance: Northwood Country Club no longer exists; it was up near North St. Paul, just south of highway 36. The clubhouse continued as a supper club for a number of years after the golf course disappeared. Armour Golf Club was named after Tommy Armour and is now Gross Golf Course in the Minneapolis public system. Hilltop Golf Club is a mystery; it's not known whether it was a name change, or a club that went out of business. "The Country Club," presumably is the predecessor of Edina Country Club, since Leonard Bloomquist was the greenkeeper there before moving to Brookview in Golden Valley. Glenwood later became Theodore Wirth.

The following is dated April 28, 1928 and pertains to a meeting held at what was referred to as "The Country Club." The local association at that time was known as "Minnesota Greenskeepers Association" and Erich Pahl wrote the following "Preamble" as secretary's report:

Realizing the necessity of a permanent organization in this Northwest District, following a meeting of Greenskeepers at Minikahda last summer, it was decided to organize such an association, and a date set for such meetings. Whereupon Mr. James A. Hunter, of the Country Club offered the use of his club for the meeting and also arranged a dinner for the occasion.

There were 17 Greenskeepers present out of a total of 26 clubs in the Twin Cities district.

Charter Members and Clubs were: Charles Erickson, Minikahda Club, President; Leo J. Feser, Woodhill Country Club, Vice President; Erich W. Pahl, Interlachen Country Club, Vice President; F.G. Anderson, Town and Country Club;

Victor Larson Minneapolis Golf Club; M.P. Schiefner, Somerset Country Club; Mike Sanko, Golden Valley Golf Club; Matthew F. Byrne Meadowbrook Municipal Course; John Pearson, Armour Municipal Course; Carl Erickson, Glenwood Municipal Course; Emil Anderson, Columbia Municipal Course; Emil H. Picha, Midlands Hills Golf Club; John Streed, Hilltop Golf Club; Gustav Olson, Minikahda Club; Leonard R. Bloomquist, The Country Club; Arthur W. Anderson, University Folf Club, and J.E. Benson, Northwood Country Club.

Pipe Logic 102

GOLDLINE® pipe = Drier course
Drier course = Less disease
Less disease = Healthy turf
Healthy turf = Happy players
Happy players = More green fees
More green fees = Higher profits
Higher profits = Happy board
Happy board = Quiet board
Quiet board = Hero status

Therefore:

GOLDLINE® pipe = Hero status



PRINSCO

The pipe with the gold stripe.

www.prinsco.com

MN Corporate Headquarters: (800) 992-1725

Evolution of Hole Notes

REPRINTED FROM HOLE NOTES 1991

By LARRY VETTER

We all have memories of how our profession has changed over the years. Some of our young members remember the days without computer-controlled irrigation systems. Others, just a little older, remember when greens were mowed only with power walk-behind mowers and bunkers were "raked by hand". Still older members remember when the night waterman was critically important to the health and playability of our courses.

What started with just a handful of members meeting whenever possible grew slowly as more clubs were formed and "greenskeepers", came to the profession. For some years the "Annual Meeting" consisted of three days then tested them and gave them grades. This took place during the first week of March whenever possible.

If you want to really understand where this began, many can spend some time looking in the archives of their club's memorabilia or look at pictures in the locker rooms or on the walls of the grill at some of the older clubs in the area and see photographs of a time that most of us find difficult to imagine. A time when fairways were mown with cutting equipment pulled by a team of horses. A time when gasoline or diesel engines were not even dreamed of. When a "push mower" was literally just that.

The ingenuity of some of the early members of this profession was incredible, as you see pictures of them designing and building tools to help them do their jobs better. In fact, the initial concepts of both the sod cutter and the aerifier of today are the result of Minnesota "Greenskeepers" and their search for improved turf maintenance tools.

There have been phenomenal changes in our profession, with many of them taking place just within the past few years. Most people "in the business" are aware of these to the extent or another. However, many members of MGCSA are not aware of how the Association has changed and, in particular, how Hole Notes has changed. That is the primary focus of this article, even though some reference is made that is more accurately "MGCSA history". Those two are so intertwined, that to understand one requires some reference to the other.

This is not intended to be a precise accounting of history. It is, however, offered as an approximate chronicle of events that took place and some of the reasons for those events. The author hopes that this article will inspire someone out there to record some form of a history of MGCSA while there are still some of the "oldtimers: around to fill in the voids and record the events that have taken place over the years. I know from researching background for this article that there are a number of members who have rather extensive files. Let's get this information centrally recorded so that files are not purged and all of this is lost.

MGCSA has gone through a number of name changes

since it was organized in 1927. Hole Notes has not, although its form and substance have changed drastically over the years. Back in the early days, Association's written communication was limited to a postcard mailing to the members telling them when and where the next meeting would be held. As the Association grew, so too did the need and desire for more extensive communication.

In 1960, MGCSA's communication vehicle underwent its first official newsletter that would include not only the information that was previously provided via the postcard, but also personal and professional items of interest to the membership

In order to accomplish this, the Association acquired a manual typewriter and a mimeograph machine. The official custodian of this equipment was the elected Secretary of the Association. It then became that person's responsibility {I'm sure this was not without assistance at home many times} to sit down monthly, accumulate this information. "cut a stencil", run of the necessary number of copies using the mimeograph machine, fold the one-page newsletter, stuff it in an envelope, seal and address the envelopes, lick the appropriate number of stamps and take this bundle to the post office.

Now most of you can probably picture this to be an absolute nightmare for the superintendent who was "elected", and thereby inherited this task. Remember, this was over 30 years ago! Most of us in the turf business were not English majors and had enough trouble spelling "typewriter", let alone using one! In addition to this, if you are old enough to remember mimeograph machines and stencils, you know that these were criters that had minds of their own more time than not, even when being used by professional secretaries. But, be that as it may, that was the price of being the Secretary in those days. As you might suspect, that position was not highly campaigned for by those willing to serve on the Board.

However, once the equipment and objectives were in place, the next item to be tackled was finding a name for this new publication. What better way than to have a contest to who could come up with the best name? The winner of that contest, according to Carl Anderson, was Maynard Erickson. And thus, Hole Notes was born.

"What to write about?" became the next issue to be dealt with. Space couldn't be filled using pictures, so words were the only space filler that was available. The objective was to have a publication that would be both interesting and informative. How this was accomplished and what it included also was almost entirely left up to the Secretary.

We must remember that over 30 years ago, word processors and computers were not even dreamed of. We also

(Continued on Page 19)

Evolution of Hole Notes—

(Continued from Page 18)

must remember that, even today with these tools at our disposal, it is many times difficult to find the time to sit down, call around collect news and then put it down in written form. You might especially try to picture finding the time to do this from about May through September. But to their credit, these dedicated Secretaries took the time to put together a means of communicating with their fellow members.

This newsletter would include such “folksy” items as “Mrs. John Greenthumb just gave birth to their first son, John Jr., who will undoubtedly flow in John’s footsteps and take over City Country Club, when John retires. Both Mary and John Jr. are doing well. Were happy to report that John Sr. is also coming along fine! Another item might have been, “John Greenthumb reports that he and his wife Mary had a great time on their vacation this winter. One of the highlights of the trip, especially for Mary, was when they got chance to tour the new maintenance building that was just built at Southern City Country Club.

Items similar in flavor to the above were included in nearly every issue. This gave the publication a very personal touch and was anticipated and enjoyed even by the spouses. In addition to the personal touch, business and professional items were included, such as John Greenthumb, City Country Club, reports no breaks coming out of winter on the new irrigation system that he put in last fall. John now feels confident that he will be able to water all nine tees and greens in the same night if his waterman can stay awake that long.

It was also about this time that technological advances and governmental regulations began to appear almost overnight, Hole Notes became a much-needed vehicle for these types of communications to the membership.

It wasn’t too many years, however, before the task of publishing this newsletter was just too overwhelming to expect one person to accomplish it, particularly on a “volunteer basis with little, or no, spare time. The Association was growing rapidly as were the demand placed on the Superintendent by the golfing membership. It became very apparent that a change had to take place to relieve the workload of all Officers and Directors, particularly that of the Secretary.

When the 1971 season was in full swing, this need could not be ignored any longer. The growth was too rapid, the pressures too great, the work load too large. Something had to change.

The need for change had been recognized. This need was brought about by, among other things, the demands being placed on the Golf Course Superintendent, the growth of MGCSA, the desire for increased professionalism, and the subsequent pressures brought on by these factors.

One of the greatest concerns from the professionalism standpoint was that most Superintendents did not have anyone who was always available to answer the telephone.

Consequently, when a member wanted to reach another member, many times it was impossible. In addition, when someone did answer, messages were either not taken or not delivered far too often. Remember, voice messaging, answering machines and electronic mail were not yet invented! It was felt that having an official office that was staffed during normal working hours would not only assist in the improvement of Hole Notes, but also provide assistance with other types of communication between members.

At about this time, the “business” side of MGCSA was expanding dramatically. Many needs and wants were being recognized and discussed. Throughout all of these discussions, it was obvious that even though many of these were worthwhile and/ or needed, each one of them had a price, both in workload and dollars. Since the Officers and Directors were already feeling extreme time pressures due to the demands of their jobs and serving on the board, and the treasury of the Association was essentially operating on a break-even basis at best, everything pointed to the need for fundamental and major change.

Some of the issues that were pending that added to mounting pressures were: the need to fund a research program; the need for incorporating the Association for liability purposes; the stated desire of GCSAA to hold the Annual Conference and Show in Minneapolis, and the desire to function in a more business-like manner. All of these items made it very obvious that, without change, good people would no longer run for office in the Association because the load was just getting excessive, particularly the office of Secretary.

Formal and informal discussions were held at the Board level and between individuals throughout much of 1971, trying to formulate a plan that would define and facilitate taking the next step that seemed essential for the future of the Association. A plan was devised that would utilize a person part-time who had access to office facilities and secretarial staff. Unfortunately, staff additions cost money and we didn’t have any excess funds. Consequently, since upgrading Hole Notes was going to be one of the primary objectives of this person, we had to look at that publication as a possible way of generating the necessary additional funds.

As a result of these discussions, a meeting was held in the Fall of 1971 at the Edina Country Club to explore the feasibility of the plan. Most of the Board along with representatives of MGCSA’s major Associate Member firms attended. [Rather than risk leaving out the names of some attendees, since I haven’t yet found a record of that meeting, no names are mentioned.] The purpose of the meeting was to explain the Board’s objective of hiring an individual who could upgrade Hole Notes as well as take some of the work load off of the Board members. We also were looking for advise on how best to go about this and to see if, in fact, the major Associate members would support this effort. Without their support, this effort could not possibly work.

(Continued on Page 22)

Evolution of Hole Notes—

(Continued from Page 19)

It was at this time that Al Wareham, who had been the Executive Director of the MGA for a number of years, had set his retirement date. Someone such as Al could provide closer ties to the MGA, the PGA and so forth. He also had a knowledge of the game of golf, was involved in publishing a newsletter, had an office that was already staffed and equipped and was recognized and respected in this area. He had indicated a willingness to work with us at a cost that was affordable. The timing could have been better! He could “work into” the role of Executive Director for our Association while still in the MGA office. Then if both were satisfied, he could assume additional duties when he retired. He had already cleared this temporary arrangement with the MGA Board.

This information was presented to the Associate members who attended this meeting. As if someone was looking out for all of us, they informed us that they were looking for ways to communicate more effectively with us. The match appeared to be perfect and the timing couldn't be better. The Associate members could have an advertising vehicle, Hole Notes could be improved and enlarged, a well-known person from the golf industry was available to accomplish this and the expense/revenue issue would work without a huge dues increase.

What seemed almost too good to be true soon became a reality, but not without some very interesting discussions. The plan was presented to the membership at the annual meeting in December of 1971. This was to be truly a monumental step in the growth of the Association. The discussion that ensued would probably take up the space of several issues of this newsletter, however, was viewed as much more than change by some of the “old timers.” This involved our first-ever paid employee. It also presented a “threat” that “an outsider would know too much about our business.” We'd lose control of our Association and too much information would be available to “those outsiders.”

To those of us who were presenting this plan, it seemed like hours and hours of debate. Looking back now, it undoubtedly was generated by genuine concern and caring for something that these people had devoted countless hours of their time in past years. After much discussion, this change was approved by membership and a directive was given to pursue implementation. At the January, 1972 Board meeting, [a great deal of information has been gathered from minutes of this and other Board meetings from the files of Gerry Murphy] a report was given on contract negotiations with Al, with the Board giving its approval. Soon after, an agreement was reached and the first issue of the new *Hole Notes* was published in February, 1972.

A copy of this issue was obtained from the files of Gerry Commers. The cover illustration still showed an irate golfer slamming his club down on a green with a distraught Superintendent looking on. This issue was a single sheet of paper folded to make a four-page publication. The first use

of pictures is included in this initial issue. One photo showed damage to a green due to a gasoline spill. The other two photos showed turf damage from snowmobiles. The locations were not identified.

The next issue, dated April, 1972, had several “firsts.” This was the first issue to have a person's photo included, that of Robert V. Mitchell, the newly elected president of the GCSAA. The masthead was brand new and featured a much more tranquil illustration of a green with billowy clouds in the background. It also included our Editor's name with the address and phone number of the new office. Most importantly, however, revenues had begun to be generated. Included in this issue were the first ads ever run in the Hole Notes. Equal space had been purchased by Minnesota Toro, Inc., now MTI Distributing Co., and R.L. Gould & Co., now North Star Turf, Inc.

An invitation was extended to our membership to visit the new MGA, MGCSA, MWGA and MPGA office. The results of a great deal of time and effort were beginning to be realized. MGCSA had a new office. It had a publication, a vehicle for communicating that was not only greatly improved, but was self-supporting. It had a person who would coordinate many of the business activities of the Association. And it had a place to call “home”!

Throughout 1972, Hole Notes was published out of the new office. At the end of 1972, Al officially retired to his home. The official office, however, stayed at 7100 France Avenue South with the new MGA Executive Director Warren Rebholz and his staff. This arrangement continued until Al's health deteriorated, and in 1975 the duties of Editor were consolidated with the other Association activities at the office on France Avenue.

The February, 1973 issue saw the first use of color with masthead printed in green. Advertising continued to increase and the size of the publication grew. The one item that had been the biggest “headache” for the Officers of the Association was now being handled very professionally and was improving with each and every issue.

In March of 1976 the headquarters location changed to the York Avenue South location that most of you are familiar with. The location and staffing remained intact until the most recent move to Turtinen Communications in Wayzata. There *Hole Notes* is published by a team of individuals whose primary expertise is the business of communication. There is no reason to suspect that this will not continue as time goes on.

There are so many noteworthy items that have occurred over the years that it would be a monumental task to chronicle them. They all, however, can be summed up by saying that Hole Notes has improved tremendously over the years due to the efforts of countless individuals who are not only dedicated to maintaining their golf courses in the best possible way, but have a true love of their profession and the Association that binds them together.

Very few individual names have been mentioned in this article because, to do so, would result in many not

(Continued on Page 21)