

Tap the Power of Your Chapter—

(Continued from Page 20)

unteer contributions, with everything from thank-you notes, to recognition at meetings and in newsletters, to highly prestigious awards.

"The members who serve on our board become recognized by legislators and well-known by leaders in other golf and turf organizations," says Karen White, executive director of the Georgia GCSA. "Our members who write for the Georgia State Golf Association also become very well recognized."

O'Keefe agrees that board service results in significant prominence, adding that his increased visibility has benefited his club with greater recognition, too. More valuable to him personally than the recognition, though, are the relationships he has built during his involvement: "I have met people I enjoy whom I would probably otherwise never even have met."

Tapping into the chapter network is also an excellent means of building your own career. "You meet superintendents who know what jobs are opening up and where new courses are being built," says Brandenburg. "Not only that, but you may get to meet the architects who are building the courses, and it's so valuable to have the chance to talk with them."

White says she has found that more employers are looking for a certain level of participation, desiring individuals who demonstrate the professional and personal growth that develops with service and volunteer leadership. "More than one superintendent has told me that they got the job they wanted because of their service on the board or a particular committee," White says.

"People who don't go to meetings, who don't even call the office with a question, miss out on an opportunity to be involved in an incredible community, more so than in any other profession, I think," White says. "Everyone is willing to share information - not just the superintendents, but also the vendors and others who come to the meetings. People make friendships that last a lifetime."

Getting Started

Bill Holmes, general manager at Stonecreek Golf Club in Phoenix, Ariz., sees chapter membership as a valuable investment of your time. "You can't get involved in everything," Holmes cautions. "Be choosy (about the organizations you join), and get involved. If you're just paying your dues, why bother? You need to utilize your membership. Everybody's busy, but this is important."

Brandenburg agrees: "You can't just go to play golf; you have to network, get involved." He speaks from experience. Brandenburg started writing a regular column for *The Carolinas Green* when he started his first job as head superintendent at Furman in 1999. The Superintendent's Diary, the brainchild of his boss at Charlotte Country Club, Mark S. Stoddard, CGCS, began as a chronicle of the challenges and successes of the first-year superintendent, and has con-

tinued for another year. "It has let me get some use out of my English degree, and I've enjoyed doing it," Brandenburg says.

For those who don't want to write or feel ready to serve on the board, Brandenburg has lots of other ideas to get involved: host a meeting, an educational event, a tournament, a dinner or a field day. Ritchie, for example, has participated in a panel discussion with superintendents and general managers, and last year hosted the Cactus and Pine GCSA's Employee Challenge Golf Tournament, which brought a full field of mechanics, laborers and other crew members for golf and a barbecue.

Edward L. Mellor, golf course superintendent at Colts Neck Golf & Country Club and GCSA of New Jersey president, recommends trying to get on a chapter committee. "It's a great way to meet other superintendents and it offers an additional vantage to see what other superintendents are doing," Mellor says. While he was still an assistant superintendent, he worked the registration desk for chapter tournaments and met many superintendents he would not otherwise have had the chance to meet.

"Volunteers are so critical to the association," White says. "And it doesn't take a lot of time to make a big impact."

(Editor's Note: Carol Hayes is a free-lance writer, and formerly GCSAA's senior manager of executive communications. Portions of this article were printed in the October 2001 issue of GCM.)



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Stodola Scramble Results

Woodhill Country Club

September 23, 2002

Gross Scores

Kasner, Saatzer, Kasner, Milstroh	59
Hansen, Trudeau, Kemitz, Walker	62
Kolter, Gostomski, Cleveland, Paulson	62
Deyak, Ruhoff, Meyer, Ramler	62
Nyland, Fischer, Bergland, Close	63
Grundstrom, Nelson, Mogren, Stern	64
Schirck, Folie, Salo, Crist	64
Lies, MacDonald, Mundy, Bade	64
Redmond, Nelson, Larson, Femrite	64
Braunig, Hansen, Haglind, Kirscht	64
Lundgren, Belland, Grover, Salwei	65
Odden, Swenson, Shuck, Swanson	66
Grannes, Walters, Bettinger, Wideen	66
Queensland, Klaehn, Schneider, Thomas	67
Taylor, Painter, Cliff, Sherwin	67
Eckholm, Paquette, Spanier, Marvin	67
Backstrom, Carnel, Rechtzigel, Quam	67
Hubbard, Ligday, Erickson, Foley	67
Provo, Norby, Newinski, Abts	67
Murphy, Gajdostik, Funk, Samarzia	67
Horgan, Carson, MacKenzie, Ryan	68
Brual, Vee, Peterson, Peterson	68
Greeninger, Anderson, Almquist, Frank	69
Kelley, Schindele, Jordan, Malloy	69
Notch, Gagstetter, Stout, Johnson	69
Churchill, Meyer, Parske, Hoff	69
Shumansky, Thompson, Drummond, Cavanaugh	69
Sinkel, Hanson, Vanhooser, Southard	69
Weltzin, Fessler, Goetz, Cheslock	69
Fredericksen, Simeon, Kubista, Marson	70
Oberle, Berquam, O'Neill, Daniel	70
Gullicks, Hanson, Raskob, Jackson	70
Zimmer, Nascene, Ninnenian, Nelson	73
Monson, Roman, Wolters, Muenzhuber	73
Hasbrouck, Rouillard, Davies McCann	74
Panuska, Langager, Jerttson, Juberien	75



STODOLA RESEARCH SCRAMBLE HOSTS from Woodhill Country Club are, from left to right, Dave Simeon; Andy "the bloody brit" Marson; MGCSA President Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, and Paul Kubista.



18TH HOLE AT WOODHILL COUNTRY CLUB site of the 2002 Stodola Research Scramble. Pictured at the left is MGCSA Research Chairman Robert Panuska.



75th MGCSA Anniversary Banquet
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Host Superintendent: Mike Olson, CGCS

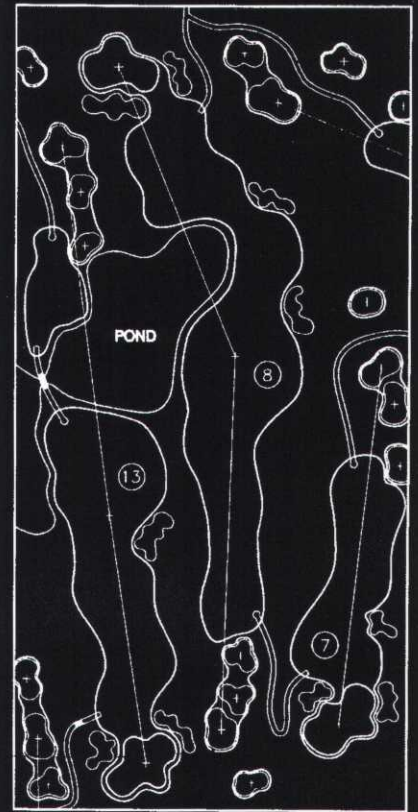
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

PHOTO BY REBECCA EBERT



THE JR. SOLHEIM GIRLS marveled at the fast, smooth greens at Oak Ridge Country Club for the Jr. Solheim Cup which took place prior to the Solheim Cup at Interlachen.

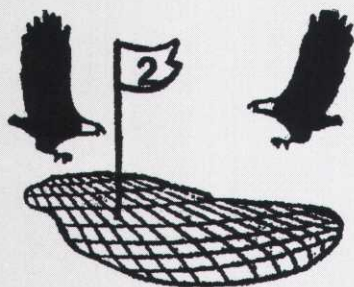
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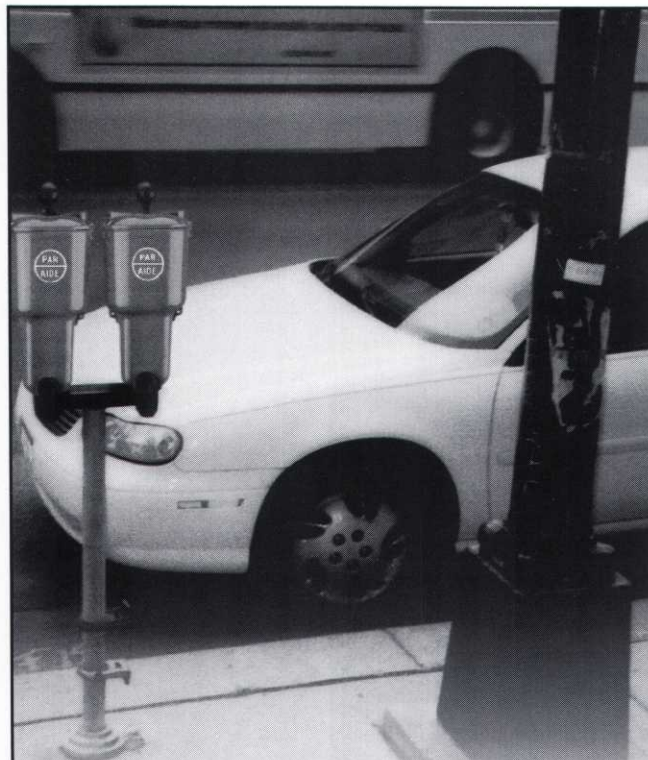
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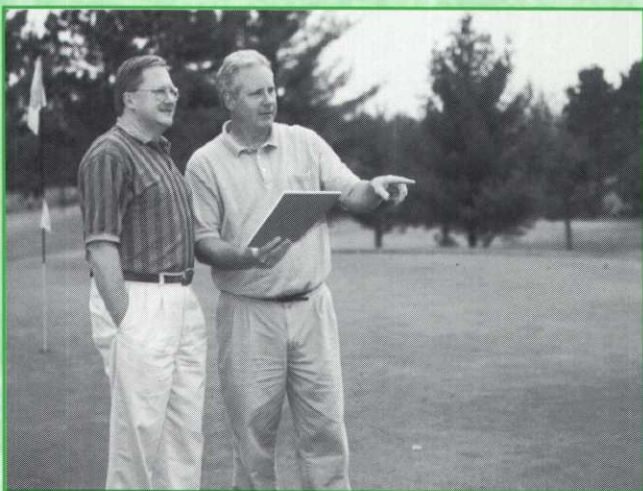
DRIVE FOR THE "U" PROGRAM

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. peckholm@msn.com

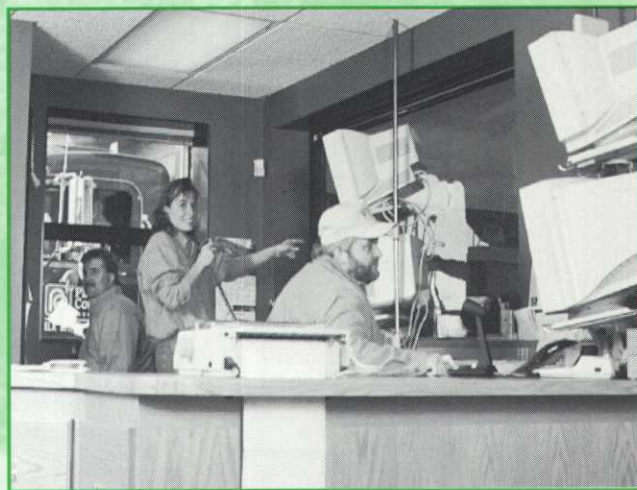
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Northern Turf Services	Plumbing for Pump Station	OPEN
Prinsco	Drain Pipe	OPEN
Glenn Rehbein Companies	Site Survey	OPEN
Turf Supply Company	Product	OPEN
Hartman	Construction Services	OPEN
Paul Eckholm, CGCS	Rotary Mower	\$200
Plaisted Companies	Materials	OPEN
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Former NFL Star Fran Tarkenton and PLCAA Team Up On New Website For Lawncare Professionals

Visit www.plcaa.org and see a newly revamped, colorful, resource-packed website for lawn care professionals. The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) site launched in September and features Tarkenton's Small Business Network, founded and owned by football great Fran Tarkenton.

Former Minnesota Vikings superstar Tarkenton, one of the country's best-known sports and television personalities, as well as a very successful small business owner and advocate, teamed up recently with PLCAA to bring his network of thousands of business questions and answers to PLCAA members.

"We're very excited about our new, beefed-up site and access to Fran Tarkenton's business expertise," said Tom Delaney, PLCAA's executive vice president. "Lawn care professionals can turn to PLCAA for 24-hour business and industry information. This latest addition to our growing list of benefits and services ties in well with our other

football great Joe Theismann who is PLCAA's keynote speaker at our Green Industry Conference during the Green Industry Expo in Nashville this November."

A successful entrepreneur, quarterback Tarkenton led the Minnesota Vikings to three Super Bowls. He is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and author of *What Losing Taught Me About Winning*.

PLCAA's Web site launch also includes an innovative Great Fall Sweepstakes campaign for new and current member appreciation. Associate member sponsors are offering top prizes and an entry form is located on the site. Other features of the site—a monthly member spotlight and featured sponsor, a legislative update section, online catalog and member renewal option join the already-popular online conference registration and ProLocator—listing of PLCAA members for consumers to search when looking to hire a lawn care service.

"Lawn care professionals can turn to PLCAA for 24-hour business and industry information"

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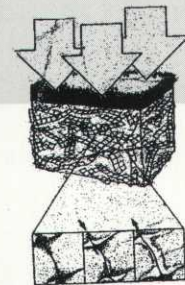
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Time to Whack Some Weeds

By **BOB VAVREK**
USGA Agronomist

Long stretches of cool days and cold nights during April and May set the stage for a considerable amount of weed encroachment into fairways, roughs, and bunker banks this summer. Dandelions, clover, and other weeds had little competition from slowly growing turf. To make matters worse, once the weeds became established, the cool weather limited the effectiveness of herbicide applications. For example, two or three herbicide treatments were often required to control dandelions because single treatment did little more than curl the leaves when night temperatures dropped into the forties.

When the hot weather arrived during mid-June and stayed through August, playing surfaces dominated by *Poa annua* began to thin out. Crabgrass and knotweed were more than happy to fill into the voids. Goosegrass, an uncommon weed in the upper Midwest, was seen on worn practice tees as far north as Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Annual weeds, like crabgrass and knotweed, will die off after the first few hard frosts. Now is the time to map heavy weed infestations and target these areas for spot applications of pre-emergence herbicides later this fall or next spring. Superintendents have had good success using Gallery during late fall or early winter to control next year's crop of knotweed. Spring pre-emergence treatments for knotweed rarely produce the desired result because this weed germinates very early during the spring.

A variety of pre-emergence and post-emergence materials are available to control crabgrass. Most pre-emergence herbicides are applied during the spring. Some gamblers apply Barricade during the fall to control crabgrass germination the following spring. This is a risky practice in areas that have a history of winterkill. Treated turf that experiences winter injury could not be overseeded until the herbicide barrier dissipates. This is more of a concern at old courses where the playing surfaces are typically dominated by *Poa annua*.

A dense healthy stand of turf is still the best defense against weed encroachment. In long run, installing a few more sprinklers across high traffic areas of droughty roughs can be less expensive than the cost of annual weed control. Also pay attention to traffic patterns. Knotweed thrives in heavily compacted sites, and is often a problem across areas of concentrated cart traffic. Simply rerouting traffic patterns more often or installing a paved surface can shift the competitive advantage back to the turf.

Take soil tests from roughs that have a history of weed problems. The fertility program may need to be kicked up a notch. Granted more fertilizer means more mowing, but it's not a bad trade off if the turf is healthy and golfers find fewer weeds to complain about.

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

On the Road With the USGA

By R.A. (Bob) Brame, Director

Recent visits (last week of August) have revealed a lot of tired superintendents and maintenance staff employees. It has been a challenging summer and the stress is beginning to show. However, for the most part golf courses have come through the season in reasonably good condition. Clearly, there are some battle scars, but the playability of most courses has remained quite good. Irrigation system limitations have been exposed for all to consider, and hopefully this will result in positive moves toward improvement. Although, there is a real danger that fall rains will erase the memory of poor irrigation system performance this season.

Most golf courses visited over the last seven to ten days have begun gearing up for early September aeration. Hopefully this is true of your course as well. While September is a great month to play golf, it also is the time to begin strengthening the turf for next summer's battle. Aeration and fertilization are vital components in next season's dependability and as such, should receive the right-of-way over any one golfing event.

Disease activity has subsided to a gentle rumble over the last few weeks from what was experienced in July and early August. There has been a resurgence of dollar spot disease activity, which clearly underscores the need to keep up the guard for a few more weeks. Allowing a preventative spray program to drift into a curative mode and dropping out other maintenance strategies like dragging dew can open the door to significant dollar spot disease activity. Also, gray leaf spot disease is active in the region. Those with perennial ryegrass should keep a close vigil.

No grub damage has been sighted over the last few days, but Japanese beetles have been seen as recent as the last week of August. Keep a sharp eye out for grub damage and the potential need to spot treat.

Although it has been a fairly common topic on recent visits, so far there are no known cases of courses upping the ante with mosquito control as a result of the West Nile virus. However, dead crows have been noted on a few courses and in each case local authorities have stopped checking for the virus as it is known to be present. Clearly, this is a topic that will receive ongoing monitoring.

There is a growing trend to address needed tree management work a bit more proactively. Hopefully the trend will continue as too many courses continue to be plagued with too many trees. If you are planning late fall/winter tree work, now is the time to finalize the list. Avoid like the plague any type of marking on the targeted trees themselves. This is sure to draw unwanted attention and ongoing debate.

Don't put away those hoses for hand watering/syringing just yet, however, there is light at the end of the tunnel. As always, give us a call should concerns exist that we can assist with. Equally, let us know if the summer has brought any unique issues or relevant tips that would assist others.

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