

## Penn State Now Accepting Applications For Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 2003. There is an application fee of \$35 and the deadline for applications is December 31, 2002.

Applications can be obtained by calling 814-863-0129, visit our website at <http://www.agronomy.psu.edu/academic/turfgrass.html> or by writing to: Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 456 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802-3507.

*(Editor's Note: For more information, contact Heather Treaster, Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 456 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802-3507; Telephone 814-863-0129; fax 814-865-3006; e-mail: hgw1@psu.edu*

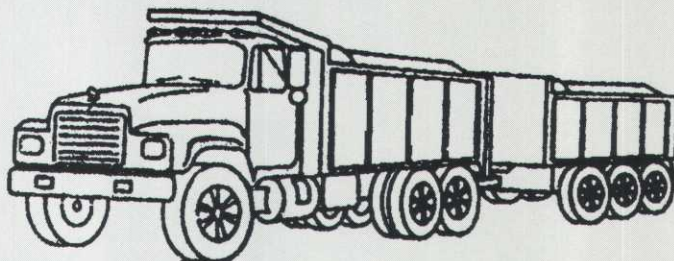
## 2002 Bluebird Report

Time has just about run out for the 2002 bluebird nesting season. I hope you all had a successful season and kept weekly records. By way of this letter, I would like to encourage all of you to send in your 2002 report. If you do, you will receive a free copy of the 2002 Directory which gives the totals for all the BBRP members reporting. This includes both Minnesota resident members as well as out-of-state members. The Directory also includes the names and addresses of people in your area which is nice to have if you ever need some local help. It's always very interesting to see how others have done during the same year. This feedback will also give us some idea of who might need help. Any member can call me (952-831-8132) or BBRP (612-922-4586) for help.

Please keep in mind that next April, we will be selling Berry Bush Seedlings again at our 2003 Bluebird Conference. Last year many of you took advantage of our special offer when we sold four bushes for \$2.00. As soon as we have things finalized we will let you know the details.

Some of you have written articles for your Golf Course Newsletter. That is great and I encourage all you to continue doing that and at the same time please feel free to also mail your articles to BBRP and to Scott Turtinen to be published in the MGCSA Newsletter *Hole Notes*.

— Jack Hauser



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# Attention all Pesticide License Holders:

If you did not recertify at last year's conference in December you need to recertify this year. Since we will not be having this year's conference until January you need to find an alternate recertification site to keep your license. If you fail to do so you will need to retest to have a license. And just as a reminder, all applicators of pesticides to golf course properties must have a license. Upcoming sessions are listed below:

**MGCSA -- Monday October 7**  
Turf & Ornamental Recertification Workshop  
for Golf Course Personnel  
Mankato Country Club, Mankato,  
contact Scott Turtinen, MGCSA 952/473-0557 or 1-800/642-7227  
Fax: 952/473-0576 or scott@mgcsa.org.

**MTGF -- Tuesday October 15**  
Turf and Arborists Pesticide Recertification Workshop  
Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington  
Contact Larry Vetter, MTGF 612/625-9234  
for registration and information.

**MTGF -- Tuesday November 5**  
Turf Pesticide Recertification Workshop at Maddens Resort, Brainerd  
Contact Larry Vetter, MTGF 612/625-9234  
for registration and information.

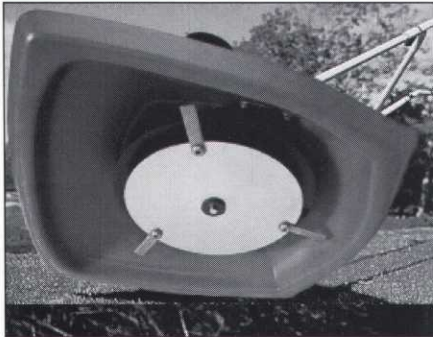
**UMES -- Thursday, November 7**  
Fall Turf & Ornamental Recertification Workshop  
Bunker Hills Regional Park Activity Center, Andover  
Call 612-624-3044 or 1-800-318-8636 for registration and information;  
on-line registration available.

**University of Minnesota -- Thursday Nov 14**  
MN Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen,  
Insect & Disease Workshop on IPM of Landscape Plants and Turf  
Contact Vera Krischik, U of M at 612/625-7044  
for registration and information.

**University of Minnesota -- Tuesday Dec 10**  
Midland Hills Golf Course, St. Paul  
Insect & Disease Workshop on IPM of Landscape Plants and Turf  
Contact Vera Krischik U of M at 612/625-7044  
for registration and information.

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# TROE CENTER UPDATE

By Dr. Brian Horgan  
*University of Minnesota*

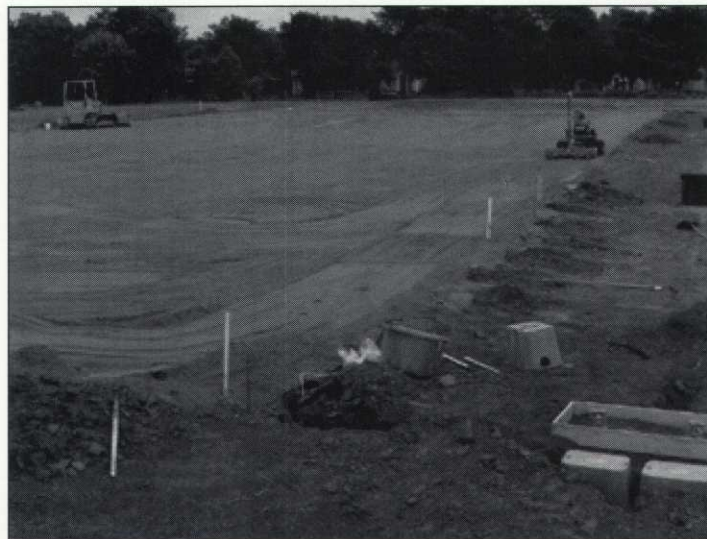
We didn't waste any time following the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education Center on the St. Paul Campus.

**EXCAVATION:** On July 25, the College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences had a formal ground breaking ceremony for the TROE Center held in conjunction with the most successful Turf Field Day to date. Immediately following the ceremony, the Hartman Company began excavating the soil for the USGA specification green designed by Jeff McDowell of Bonestroo and Associates. By August 1, 2002, the Hartman Company had installed the drainage tile, donated by Prinsco, and filled in the cavity with 4 inches of pea-gravel donated by Plaisted Companies.

**IRRIGATION:** Irrigation design and all irrigation parts for the green were provided by MTI and The Toro Company. From August 7 through August 13, the irrigation was installed by Premier Irrigation and staff from the University of Minnesota Turf Program. The irrigation design, as seen in the photo, may seem as a bit of overkill. However, the focal point of the irrigation system is individual control of 10 by 10 foot areas in a 2500 square foot portion of the green. These micro-irrigation plots will enable researchers at the U to use water rates as a treatment in the experimental design. In addition, scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture donated 8 lysimeters that were installed in the green within the micro-irrigation plots. In short, the combination of the micro-irrigation plots and the lysimeters will be used to measure the amount of water necessary to leach nutrients and pesticides through the USGA green.

**TOP-MIX:** Following the installation of the irrigation system, on August 15 and 16, the top-mix, which was donated by the Plaisted Companies, was delivered. Again, the Hartman Company moved the top-mix and leveled the surface to a specified 1.5% slope. Seeding as to be completed by August 31 with seed and fertilizer donated by Simplot Partners.

**THANK YOU FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA:** All of companies mentioned in this brief update on



the TROE Center and the dozens of others that made this possible deserve a sincere thank you. For all of you that participated in the "Drive for the U" program, thank you. For all of the members of the MGCSA research committee that donated their time and energy in helping make the green a reality, thank you. The University of Minnesota appreciates all of your support and efforts and I personally look forward working with you in the future. **STAY TUNED.....**

## TROE Center Green Construction Vendor Participants

**DRAIN TILE**  
Prinsco Pipe

**SITE DESIGN**  
Jeff McDowell, Bonestroo Assoc.

**EXCAVATION & DRAINAGE**  
Hartman Co.

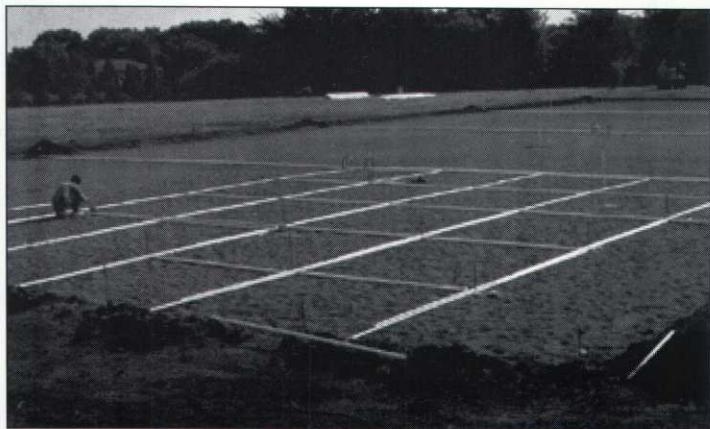
**IRRIGATION SUPPLIES**  
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# THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS

## Greenkeeper's Diary

**Monday** - Want to spray bad dollar spot on greens. Cushman won't work. Sprayer won't work. I don't want to work. Nobody else wants to work. Two of the crew stayed home and did not work. Just had a phone call -- the Junior Golfers are to have a shotgun start on both nines at 8:30. Hung up in caller's face. Should not have had that last beer last night. Mowed greens and tried not to notice that the cups needed changing and the dollar spot is even worse than I thought. Did not mow 13. Hate it. Between the winterkill, oil spill kill and the disease, we ought to tow it to the S.P.C.A. and have it put to sleep. Chairman left message in the pro shop to get in touch with him at once. He better not hold his breath. Hit 95 by late afternoon. Late for supper, wife mad, supper lousy, I'm mad. Watered 'til dark. Showered and went to bed. Wife sexy - I'm not.

**Tuesday** - Went in at daylight - the air feels like a police dog's breath. Got the sprayer working. Can't figure out why the chemical companies package dusty chemicals in bags that are impossible to open without getting it all over yourself, and the sprayer, not to mention breathing it. The cheapest cereal on the market is packaged in easy-to-open-and-close containers. We all should go to granulars - that would snap their eyes open. Fairway tractor stuck in wet spot right next to the huge localized dry spot the crew calls Iran. Why are there so many cars in the club lot? The Pro shop says it is a ladies member-guest transferred from another club that had a fire in their kitchen. I think I will set one in ours and let them eat at Burger King. Went home early - slept through supper. Wife mad again, too tired to be mad. Mowed rough 'til dark. Showered and ate cold, leftover supper. Felt sexy - wife still mad from early evening. Lost interest.

**Wednesday** - Slept late, went in at 7:00. Changed cups 18 greens, hit 14 rocks. No record, but close. Thirteen green has a disease that looks like vomit - on close inspection it is vomit - what a relief! You can always hose off vomit. Birds working on greens - how many cutworms does it take to fill up a crow?! I think their mother was raped by a rooster the way they scratch with their black toenails and dig with their beaks. The member who owns the ice cream plant told me we need more sand in the traps - I told him his maple walnut needs more nuts. He said "times are tough" - I agree. Went in the club for a cup of coffee and the manager asked me if I knew anything about the septic backing up. Left without getting the coffee. Fairly normal afternoon except we are down to one Cushman. Are flat tires contagious? Home for supper at the right time for a change - no one is home. Note says heat a T.V. dinner. Go down to the Old Eagle Inn and wash a steak down with a half-dozen 'hinnies'. Finish mowing rough. Wife mad. Don't care, sleep on floor after watching Sands of Iwo Jima. Love Big Duke.

**Thursday** - My yellow crud is back. Every year

it comes the end of July. Interesting light green spots get weaker looking then turn yellow ... then gray ... then dead. Some say it is Fusarium, some say Anthracnose, some say funose. Wife says it is my imagination. My assistant got rid of the persistent red leaf spot patch on the practice green, he cut it with an eight-inch patcher and threw it in the pond. Sure is wonderful what they teach you at the University of Rhode Island. - author unknown

The advertisement features a central flow diagram. At the top, 'Our Company' points to a black box with 'Twin City Seed Company' in white. A dotted arrow labeled 'gives you' points down to a grey box with 'technically superior products'. A dotted arrow labeled 'such as' points left to a grey box listing products: '• Turfgrass Seed', '• Wildflowers', '• Native Grasses', and '• Conwed Erosion Products'. A dotted arrow labeled 'teamed with' points right to a black box with 'superior service and pricing' in white. A dotted arrow labeled 'there simply isn't a better source for the' points left to a grey box with 'conservation and enhancement'. A dotted arrow labeled 'of your valuable turf.' points right from the 'conservation and enhancement' box. At the bottom left is a stylized leaf logo. At the bottom right is the company name and contact information.

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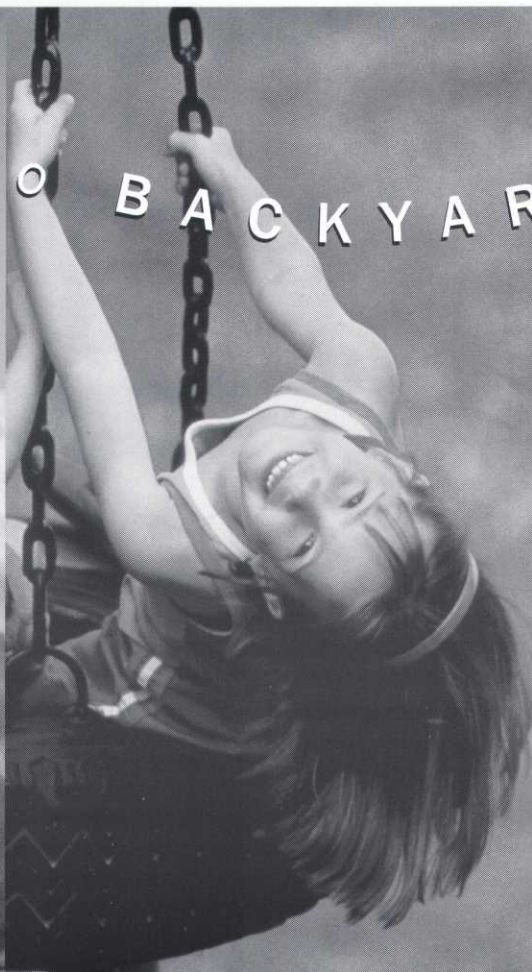
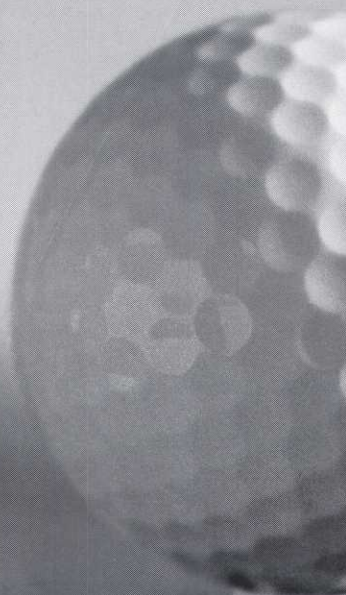
such as → **• Turfgrass Seed  
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# 2002 MGCSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

This award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendents profession or the green industry throughout the year.

I nominate the following individual for MGCSA's 2002 Distinguished Service Award for his/her outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession:

## Nominee Information (please print)

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Company/Association \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Information About You

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following to provide detailed information regarding nominee's contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession, and nominee's involvement in activities at national, regional and local levels. Use additional sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Please complete a separate form for each individual you would like to nominate. All submissions become exclusive property of MGCSA. Requests for copies cannot be fulfilled. The MGCSA Board of Directors selects DSA recipients, and their decisions are final.

- 
1. Nominee's contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession or the green industry:
  2. **NATIONAL** - Participation at the national level, including GCSAA committees and past service on the GCSAA Board of Directors:
  3. **REGIONAL** - Contributions at the chapter or regional level:
  4. **LOCAL** - Involvement with local or community organizations, including youth groups, churches, charitable functions, etc.:

Applications and letters of support must be submitted to MGCSA on or before October 15, 2002. Applications received after October 15 will be returned to applicants. Please send the completed form and supporting documents to:

**MGCSA  
P. O. BOX 617  
WAYZATA, MN 55391**

**Fax: (952) 473-0576**

# Teamwork Gets Hazeltine National Golf Club In Shape for A Major Championship

By SCOTT TURPINEN

After a solid summer of dedicated work, the 35 member grounds staff at Hazeltine National Golf Club had the course in pristine condition for the 2002 PGA Championship. Then 55 volunteers for this crew arrived to get all the mowing, rolling, raking, stimpmeter reading and fluffing done for the early morning tee times. Superintendents came from Florida to Montana and, of course, the great state of Minnesota.

The 90-person staff began work on Sunday, August 11th for the start of their practice runs. Volunteers would meet at the maintenance facility around 4:30 a.m. for coffee and some socializing with the other superintendents. At 4:45 Superintendent Jim Nicol, CGCS would gather us around for his daily pep talk. Assistant Superintendent Mark Storby gave us our assignments for the week. Jim wanted us to take our time doing our jobs and get used to the course. Only a handful of players practiced on Sunday. A six-year employee at Hazeltine, Jon Just taught our group the best way to rake a bunker. Jon enjoyed creating a bigger lip on the bunkers and wanted the course to play hard. The staff was finished with the morning work around 8:00 a.m. The afternoon staff started about 5:00 p.m. to mow and fill divots.

The Turf Management Chalet served breakfast at 8:00 a.m. for all the staff. They also provided lunch and dinner every day. Superintendent Nicol was responsible for arranging the tent and finding sponsors for the food and sodas. A special thanks goes to the vendors that sponsored the tent: Hartman; MTI Distributing, Inc.; North Star Turf; Turf Supply; Plaisted Companies; Lesco; Simplot Partners; Precision Turf & Chemical and Griggs Bros.; Syngenta; Griffith LLC, Adventis, and the MGCSA.

**Monday was the start of practice rounds.** Jim gave us our pep talk and some advice on bunkers and fluffing; the mowers were doing just fine. Nicol said "bunkers should have their lines parallel to the fairway on fairway bunkers and the lines should go toward the green on greenside bunkers. Place the rake handles parallel to the fairway and pointing back towards the tee. The Fluffers should not rake too hard, just make the grass stand upright with light raking." The crew was getting better and finished work around 7:30 a.m.

Autographs were available and sought by a few mem-



**GREG HUBBARD, CGCS**, Manitou Ridge GC, volunteered each morning during the PGA to help mow fairways.

bers of the staff. The *main autograph* was playing over at Bearpath on this day.

*The mowers were still going very slowly until Woods was close. They then stopped the mowers and held their hats for autographs. Tiger obliged and signed them all except for the ones that thought they could run to the maintenance facility and get their autograph flags.*

**Tuesday was more of the same**, but Jim started giving us some time goals. The crew now finished around 7:15 a.m. With the gates opening at 7:00 a.m., fans had not yet made their way to the middle of the course where we found Tiger Woods finishing on the third hole. The only spectators at this time were the grounds crew and that was just perfect. We learned that Tiger does not like to give autographs until he is done with his round but this did not deter the fairway mowers on the fifth hole.

Rich Beem was playing by himself and ahead of a group featuring Woods, Mark O'Meara and John Cook. Beem motioned to the mowers to mow through but they declined and let the eventual champ play on. The mowers had something else in mind. They started their final pass, but were going very slowly knowing who was on the tee.

The threesome hit their drives and strolled down the fairway. The mowers were still going very slowly until Woods was close. They then stopped the mowers and held their hats for autographs. Tiger obliged and signed them all

*(Continued on Page 19)*



## 2002 PGA at Hazeltine—

(Continued from Page 18)

except for the ones that thought they could run to the maintenance facility and get their autograph flags. By the time they got back Tiger was long gone.



**JIM NICOL, CGCS**  
Hazeltine National GC

**Wednesday and Thursday went by without a hitch.** Jim said there were many good compliments about the course and its condition. By now we were getting fairly good at our jobs.

On Friday, play had to be stopped with some players having 4 or 5 holes to play because of lightning. They would finish their rounds on Saturday.

With over three inches of rain falling Friday night and Saturday morning, the pond on

Number 8 had grown very large. Hole 1 had a new 100-yard pond in front of the green and Number 2 tee also had a similar pond. On this day the grounds crew was energized knowing that they were in the spotlight to get this course in playable shape for the finish of Friday's play and the start of the weekend.

**Scott Austin, CGCS, brought a few pumps** from Midland Hills and they were put to use with Hazeltine's pumps. The Chaska Fire Department with 60 people and two fire trucks pumped 6,000 gallons of water per minute from the pond to the creek on 17 which flowed into the 16th creek and eventually Lake Hazeltine. This took about 2 1/2 hours to get rid of the major water. The crew was still pumping out the bunkers and using the Sand Pro to fix the washouts. Then the staff finished their normal jobs and play went on. PGA Tournament Director, Kerry Haigh spoke to us on Sunday morning and expressed his thanks



**MIKE LIGDAY**, Manitou Ridge, enjoyed his week of volunteer efforts at the 84th PGA Championship at Hazeltine.

for the wonderful job the crew did.

The Championship finished with Rich Beem edging out Tiger Woods. I guess the mowers should have gotten both autographs on Tuesday.

## Major, Major —

(Continued from Front Cover)

Although the audience didn't witness them, many of the bunkers were washed out and several "new" ponds had developed upon the course. Out came the pumps, shovels and rakes to restore the course back to playing condition. The television also didn't pick up on the mass human effort utilized to make Hazeltine picturesque -- again. Like magic the course was transformed into its previous day's beauty.

"The team work necessary was impressive. Everybody with golf course experience knew what had to be done and did it in a professional manner," said Scott Austin, CGCS, and Superintendent volunteer from Midland Hills. "It was a great pleasure to be a part of the camaraderie."

And so the clean up effort went. Like a well oiled machine, and so very typical of a challenge to be addressed at their own courses, the volunteers completed the monumental task without hesitation. And when guidance or representation was necessary, the very capable Jim Nicol, CGCS, was always available.

Whether giving a pre-conditioning pep talk to the crew, making observations on the course or being available for radio, television or publication interviews, Jim was ever present. According to John Steiner, CGCS, Superintendent at the White Bear Yacht Club, "Jim had more air time than the President!"

But no finer professional of our industry could have been found. Articulate, honest and humble, Jim displayed the finest of Superintendent qualities. Both on and off camera his style of golf course management was very impressive. "It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Nicol during the Championship," said Matt Johnson, Second Assistant Superintendent from North Oaks Golf Club.

Supporting Jim and his army of volunteers and employees, as well as visiting Superintendents and their guests, were the local vendors and the MGCSA who sponsored a large Chalet. The glorified tent contained fruit, snacks and beverages throughout the day as well as wonderful and nourishing meals for the troupe of course maintenance personnel. Thanks to the following companies for the support of this accommodation: Hartman Construction; M T I Distributing, Inc.; North Star Turf; Turf Supply Company; Plaisted Companies; Lesco; Simplot Partners; Precision Turf/Griggs Brothers; Syngenta; Griffith LLC; Adventis, and the members of the MGCSA.

All in all it was a wonderful event. The golfers were delighted as well as the turf masters. According to Buddy Hairston, PGA Professional and event participant, "The greens were perfect, the course beautiful and the playing surfaces were in excellent playing condition." And what more could possibly be said for a major Major.

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