

ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

*By Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club*

Can you believe it is already Memorial Day? Even though we started out a little early this year, time is really flying. I hope everyone is on track to having a great year. In talking with some sales people I have gotten the impression that attitudes are definitely improved from last year, and that is great news.

Well, your Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 15 at the Edina C.C. While the quantity of information was rather low, the quality was very high, giving us some very interesting discussions.

For starters Paul Eckholm updated us on the legislative actions taken place over the last couple of weeks. It seems the legislators have had a change of mind and extended the deadline for the Power Limited Technician license test. The deadline for application is now June 30 and to take the test is September 30.

Paul also told us that the legislature passed a law that bans the use of any fertilizers containing 500 PPM or more arsenic. This could have a dramatic effect on some organic fertilizers.

It seems your lawmakers also were in agreement, passing a law that requires the use of a rain sensor switch on all irrigation systems installed after June 1, 2003. If I may interject an opinion here, I happen to think this is way overdue. I cannot tell you how many homeowners and businesses that have irrigation systems installed, set up by some installer and never shut them off. You can get 4" of rain and see those darn things running the next day on someone's lawn.

Moving on, Scott Turtinen reported that only about half of all members have paid their dues. This caused some con-

Anyone who did not pay their dues by May 31 will not be in the current revision of the roster, and will be taken off all mailing lists, until they pay their dues.

cern on the Board of Directors, as the goal is to get the membership roster out in a timely fashion and have it be as accurate as possible. Therefore, since we have no financial penalty for late payment, we passed a motion that the cut-off day for the roster was May 31. Anyone not paying their dues by that day will not be in the current revision of the

roster, and will be taken off all mailing lists, until they pay their dues. By the way the roster will be a three-ring binder this year so additions and changes for future issues will be much less expensive

We will also be looking at sending the dues out earlier next year to help alleviate this problem in the future.

We discussed the latest issue of *Hole Notes*, and the consensus was that the color added to our publication has really enhanced its value. Your editor, Jack Mackenzie CGCS, is continuing to look at ways to improve this publication and would appreciate any input.

Keep an eye out for a letter promoting the Hole-in-one day or week for the TROE center. You will all be getting a letter in the mail describing this program and how it works. We would like to have participation by all the superintendents in our association. This would help to generate the funds needed to help promote the TROE Center.

Mike Kelly reported that he is moving forward in updating the Environmental Guide CD. The Board asked him to try and time its publication for Spring 2004 to ensure all the new phosphorus issues and the PLT issues are included.

I hope all goes well for everyone over the next month. Make sure you take time for you and your family. I know how easy it is to put in mega hours and forget the important half of your life, so so take time and smell the roses.

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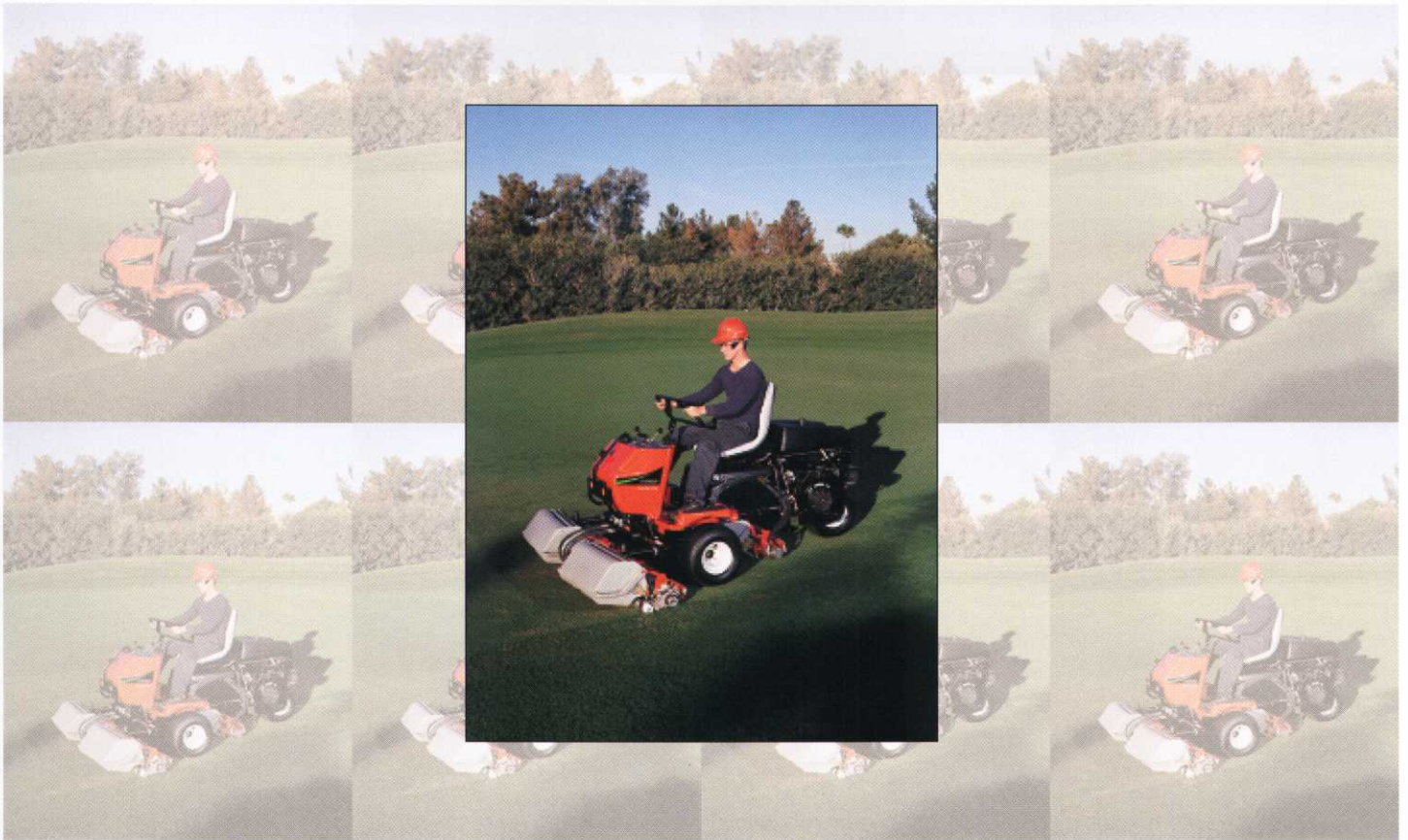


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THE USGA GREEN pictured above was built last year at the TROE Center and was constructed through donations by MGCSA members and companies.

Pictured in the background of the picture on the right is a native soil green. Dr. Brian Horgan and his staff are seeded the native soil green in the first week of June. You can see the bare soil in the background. The dead area on the USGA green is a research project slated to have started on June 1. It will evaluate potential nutrient movement during grow-in conditions.



PICTURED AT THE OPENING MGCSA SPRING MIXER AT VALLEY HIGH GOLF COURSE are, from the left, MGCSA President Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, guest speaker Jack Hauser, Valley High Golf Course host Superintendent Jeff Normandt and MGCSA Executive Director Scott Turtinen.

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Water Coolers—

(Continued from Page 15)

Paul: Sorry it took so long to get back to you. I have not had time to check this site lately. Since I last talked to you we have had a planned visit from a Washington County Health Department inspector. We wanted them to look at our operation and tell us what we needed to do. It is my understanding that Washington County has relaxed it's position a bit. I think we will see a new set of recommendations sometime in the future. This is what we came up with. Sanitize all coolers, pails and covers by running them thru our dishwasher every day. Have two sets of everything so while one set is on the course the other can be cleaned and air dried for use the next morning. All water filling must be done with a food grade hose hung from the ceiling so as not to ever touch the floor. The end of the hose is to not have any fitting on it, just the bare cut end. We purchased the hose from Fleet Farm on sale 50 feet for \$7.00. It's the same hose you use for RV applications.

Our 10 gallon igloos are then filled 1/2 full to address the weight issue. They are taken out in a clean cart along with covered pails of ice and water. The coolers are then put in place and filled to the top. We purchased the 22 quart pails from U.S. Food Service with covers for \$18.30 each. Some general rules to follow are never let buckets, coolers, covers or hose touch the ground. Sanitize coolers, buckets and covers daily.

Covers must remain on at all times when not in the act of filling, even when empty. Rubber gloves or sanitized hands needed for ice and water handling. Ice scoops need to be sanitized daily. Wash and clean cart used for transporting coolers daily. We have



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reduced the total number of locations that have coolers and have added a glass front refrigerator type dispenser for bottled water at the golf shop. Hope this helps. It sounds like your on the right track Norma. -- *Randy Allen*

To All: After talking to the manufactures reps from Igloo Water Coolers they say **DO NOT PUT IGLOO WATER COOLERS IN DISHWASHERS.** The heat and pressure will break seals, contaminate the integrity of the cooler. And void any warranty. If anyone has any questions please give us a call at Turf Supply Co. Good Luck! -- *Tom McCann*

Tom: Thanks for the Heads-Up. -- *Jim Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National Golf Club*



ROCHESTER SUPERINTENDENT TIM O'DRISCOLL checks out this unusual ball picker at Valley High Golf Course.

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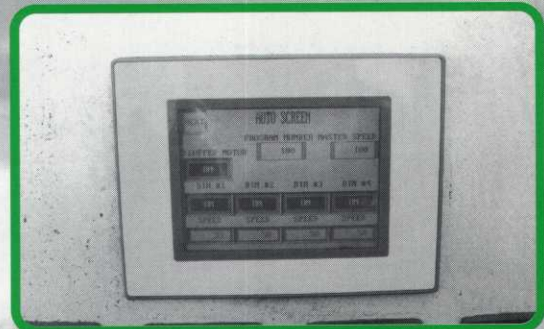
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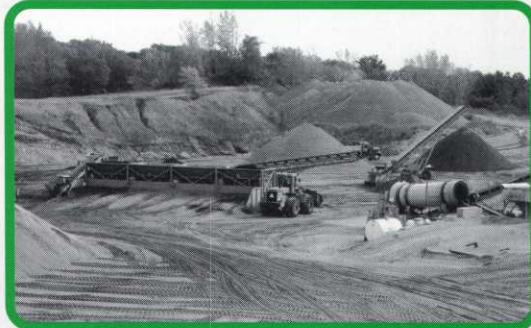
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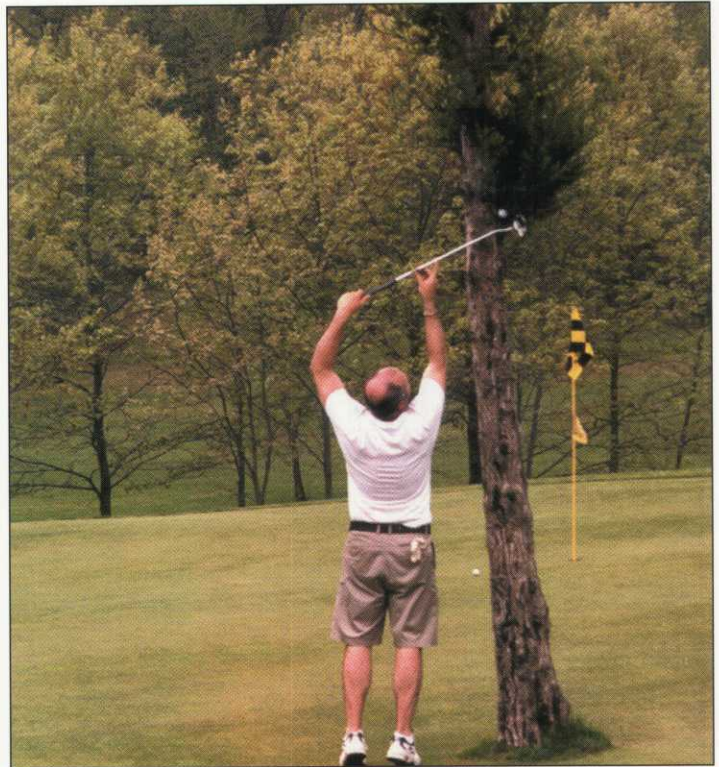
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THE INFAMOUS TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GREEN at Valley High Golf Course finds a golf ball every now and then. Pictured



at the right is Rochester Golf & Country Club's Superintendent Tim O'Driscoll who successfully dislodged his golf ball onto the green.

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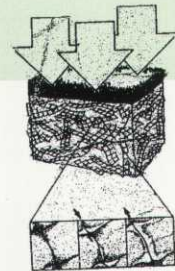
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INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

Bonestroo Golf

Your To Do List: Remodel #12 green; fix drainage problem on #2; repair eroded streambank - again, and seed the out of play area with native plants.

What goes through your head when you read your to-do-list: An architect could make the 12th green special; the low area on #2 is next to a wetland. What are my options? I rip-rapped the streambank last year and it washed away - now what? I want the native area to look nice. What plants should I choose? How am I going to find the time to answer these questions? I've got a pre-emergent to get down, the new guy just showed up, the green chairman is on hold...

Sound familiar? Everyone has projects that need special knowledge, but it's hard finding time to track down answers. Bonestroo Golf makes it easy. One phone call can answer all your questions.

The seed that became Bonestroo Golf was sown more than forty-five years ago, when Otto Bonestroo started a municipal engineering firm. As municipalities grew and became more complex, Bonestroo's services diversified and Otto began to envision a "one-stop shop" for engineering

solutions.

In the mid-1990s a lucky bit of timing propelled Bonestroo into the golf business. The City of Chaska, a long-time client, was planning the Town Course. Permitting and environmental issues reared up, threatening to tangle the project in red tape. Bonestroo kept the project on track.

At the same time, Bonestroo hired a promising golf course architect, Jeff McDowell. Jeff had already remodeled some courses, worked on Ron Bloom's construction crew, and was completing his master's degree in landscape architecture.

How am I going to find the time to answer these questions? I've got a pre-emergent to get down, the new guy just showed up, the green chairman is on hold...

While working on the Chaska Town Course, it became obvious that superintendents don't have the time or energy to find and then coordinate numerous consultants. Transferring Otto's "one-stop shop" philosophy to the golf industry was a no-brainer. The seed germinated, and Bonestroo Golf took root.

Since the Chaska Town Course, Bonestroo Golf has been solving problems for superintendents and owners. When the City of Roseville's Cedarholm Golf Course was having trouble maintaining its push-up greens, Bonestroo Golf was hired to remodel and update the greens to USGA standards. Care was taken during the design to create greens that fit the clientele's golfing ability.

While at Hillcrest, Mike Brower used Bonestroo Golf to eliminate some isolated drainage areas. Catchbasins and drainage pipes were sized based on drainage areas, amount of runoff and how long temporary ponding was acceptable.

Park Construction teamed with Bonestroo Golf on a design/build, nine-hole addition at the Milaca Golf Club. The site had wetlands and a large, flat, poorly-drained area. Park liked the idea of having one company design the golf course, deal with wetlands and plan the drainage system.

Bonestroo's current projects include nine-hole additions for the Zumbrota Golf Club and the Silver Bay Golf Club. Norma O'Leary's project in Silver Bay is putting their full-service design philosophy to the test. The site is blessed with two trout streams, 35 acres of wetlands, mature pine forest, and plenty of dramatic elevation changes. Along with these blessings comes responsibility. The design team is working hard to create a special golf course while protecting the site's natural resources.

(Editor's Note: To learn more about Bonestroo Golf go to www.bonestroogolf.com, or call Jeff McDowell at 651/604-4798.)

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Accuform Bunker Rakes, 275 rakes @ \$8 ea
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WANTED

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3-wheeler. Wanted for parts.
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Systems - \$1,500
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stoneridgemaint@aol.com

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14-Toro VT12 Electro-Mechanical Irr. Satellites \$100/ea.
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Pump Control Panel w/ Pressure Switches
4" Cla-Valve, Y-Strainer, Check Valves, Fittings, Pipe, Etc.
Buy Everything for \$4500 Pump station and control sys-
tem was installed in 1980 and fully operational until it
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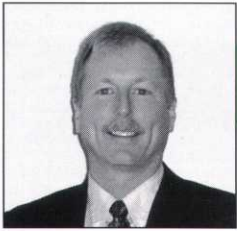
1999 68DL National Deluxe Mower
with 50 hours on it. \$5,300 or make offer.
Contact: RICHARD GEIKE
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1980 Cushman Truckster, runs good \$1,000
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76" National Triplex, Ready to cut \$750
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Toro Spartan gang mower \$1,000
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In Play

By Jack MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

Back in the old days when I traversed the great hills at the White Bear Yacht Club I would sing to myself songs dependent upon my mood and the weather. John Denver's *Sunshine On My Shoulders* was great to sing as I pulled a seven gang behind an old Toro General barely covered in a torn tee shirt and wearing cut off shorts that would be considered a thong today. My favorite tune for rainy days while mowing fairways with the Jacobsen F-10 bundled in yellow plastic was *Rain Drops Keep Falling On My Head* by B J Thomas.

Today, although I leave the "big rig" mowing to my amigos, I still sing to myself during my morning chore of cutting cups. Recently I have been doing lots of dreaming, thus Barry Manilow's classic *I Like Dreaming* has been playing in my head. You see, the future is exciting for our state turf industry and its relationship to the University of Minnesota. And I have been ruminating the possibilities.

Dr. Don White first began the Turf Program at the University of Minnesota in the mid 1970's. Since that time many great golf course superintendents and professionals in the turf industry have graduated under his tutelage, too many

to mention in fact. Also, discoveries have been made into the dynamics of top dressing, sod heating, turf covers and plant genetics. Of particular note is the development of Dr. White's own cultivated *Poa annua*, DW 184.

Until recently only four acres of property had been dedicated to the study of turf science at the U of M. Then in the year 2001, Dr. Brian Horgan joined the University staff as the Turfgrass Extension Specialist. With the enthusiasm and exuberance of youth, Dr. Horgan discovered a vacant 16 acres of property and convinced industry to back his concept of the development of a much larger turf research facility. Upon appreciating the magnitude of industry support, the Board of Regents approved the dedication of the property, soon to be called the Turfgrass Research Outreach and Education Center.

And thus the dream of taking Minnesota turf research to the next level has begun. Besides the dedicated plots that already have research being conducted on them, there are a vast number of opportunities ahead. Everyone knows about the USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service, but how about the University of Minnesota State Turf Advisory Service?

Imagine having our own dedicated professional extension turf specialist (perhaps even Dr. Brian Horgan) who could visit state courses, confer with the players, management and owners regarding local issues. After a winter such as the last one, we could all have used a nonbiased specialist to help educate our clientele regarding the ravages of winter stresses. Personally I could care less what is happening in Montana, Ohio or even Alaska!

However, when we as a state experience native challenges be it weather, political or technological related, it would be very nice to have our own "big gun" to bring in; one with intimate knowledge of local rules, regulations, growing characteristics and management challenges. Someone who can manage a dedicated research facility that caters to our turf needs. Perhaps even, in time, a team of specialists including a turf pathologist and turf entomologist, to dedicate themselves to the preservation of turf management.

How great would it be to introduce "your specialist" to the President or owner of your golf course? A progressive Superintendent could even host an educational program for their membership with the "specialist" as a keynote speaker. All it takes is support from a strong association.

And by golly the MGCSA has done one heck of a GREAT job supporting the University of Minnesota recently. And it shows in the U's response to Dr. Horgan's request for more land. Yes the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association has been stellar in their contribution of over \$100,000 to the TROE Center and research at the University of Minnesota.

If you build it, they will come. Thus the creation of the TROE Center has spurred much turf research from NTEP trials to state mandated fertilizer run off studies. Two huge 25,000 square foot greens, one push up and one USGA have been developed for golf course research. A short hole is in the conceptual stage for the instruction and research of construction practices. A shade study program is underway as well as genetic studies. What an incredible accomplishment in less than two years. Thank you Dr. Horgan for your vision and thanks to each of us and previous BOD's for the professional dedication necessary to make this dream come true. - JM

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