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# Tartan Park is a Wildlife Haven

## Doubles as Golf Course and Nature Sanctuary

It's 7:00 a.m. and John Rys, a 3M retiree, starts up a golf cart to tool around the fairways at Tartan Park. His mind is on birds, not birdies. He stops at each of the small wooden boxes on poles strategically placed along the course, opens the top and peers inside.

Rys is the bluebird trail monitor – a guardian angel for the nests and nestlings inside the 46 bluebird boxes.

Each weekday morning, Cindy Diegnau, master gardener, drives into the parking lot and pulls on a pair of well-worn gardening gloves. First she checks the lush plantings around the clubhouse and then heads across the fairways. Her tools for the day include a trowel and hose to tend Tartan Park's expansive butterfly and hummingbird garden, where host plants grow alongside nectar plants creating a butterfly habitat.

Near a maintenance building, Joe Moris, facilities superintendent, beams as a foursome reports seeing a flock of wild turkeys stroll across the course. Just the day before, as he was checking one of the golf course's "no mow" areas, he spotted a red fox prowling through the high grass.

Is this a golf course or a nature sanctuary? "It's both," said Moris – a sentiment echoed by Diegnau and Rys.

Tartan Park is one of only 13 golf courses in the state certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International (a nonprofit group not affiliated with the National Audubon Society). Certification recognizes Tartan Park's efforts in six areas, including outreach and education, environmental planning, managing habitat for wildlife, water quality, water conservation and integrated pest management.

### Coexisting with Wildlife

"We were doing many things to protect the environment and promote wildlife, even before we got involved in the Audubon Sanctuary program," Moris noted, adding that the course earned its sanctuary certification in 1999. "We're

nature activists out here and 3M has backed us all the way."

Of Tartan Park's 483 gently rolling acres, nearly 100 are dedicated to wildlife, meaning that they are off-limits to chemicals and mowers and are instead planted with bushes and trees to attract birds and animals. Moris and colleagues Randy Allen, maintenance supervisor; and Jeff Hanson, lead groundskeeper; have worked to create cover, buffer zones and wildlife corridors at Tartan Park, and are adhering to sustainable environmental practices throughout the park.

The result is an astonishing diversity of wildlife – deer, pheasant, raccoon, fox, turkey, badger, bluebirds, meadowlarks, cardinals, catbirds, eagles, osprey and hawks. Insects are thriving as well, and the butterfly census includes monarchs, black swallowtails, red admirals, buckeyes, American coppers, clouded sulphurs, mourning cloaks, spring azures, tiger swallowtails and painted ladies. Below is a list Rys and others have started of the various species of birds seen at Tartan Park.

Rys, a 32-year 3M employee when he retired in 1998 as a legal information specialist, points to the bluebird trail as a prime example of Tartan Park's accommodation of wildlife.

Bluebirds rebound "Bluebirds are cavity nesters and they rely on woodpeckers to create holes in trees – or on humans to provide nesting boxes – in order to raise their two broods a summer," Rys said. There's intense competition in the bird

world for the few available natural or man-made cavities, which is part of the reason why bluebird populations had dropped to worrisome levels in past decades. Bluebird recovery programs have inspired the creation of numerous bluebird trails in the United States and the training of volunteers, like Rys, to help promote the birds' survival.

Statistics for bluebird nesting success at Tartan Park show that almost 500 young bluebirds have fledged there – nearly 100 in 2002 alone. Once a rarity in Minnesota, bluebirds now are a familiar sight.

"The next time you're at Tartan Park for golf, archery or a picnic, look for that flash of beautiful blue so characteristic of the eastern bluebird," Rys advised.

### The Birds of Tartan Park

John Rys, a 3M retiree, and others have compiled a list (below) of some of the more common birds seen at Tartan Park. Jeff Hanson, lead groundskeeper, Tartan Park, knows that with a concerted effort the list could be much longer, because more than 313 bird species are seen regularly in Minnesota. To this end, he's planning a Birder's Day at Tartan Park for 2004. Anyone interested in signing up can contact him via Lotus Notes or at (651) 736-8793.

red-winged blackbird	red-tailed hawk	common snipe
eastern bluebird	great blue heron	chipping sparrow
indigo bunting	ruby-throated hummingbird	clay-colored sparrow
northern cardinal	blue jay	field sparrow
catbird	dark-eyed junco	song sparrow
black-capped chickadee	American kestrel	white-throated sparrow
American coot	killdeer	European starling
brown-headed cowbird	eastern kingbird	barn swallow
American crow	western kingbird	tree swallow
mourning dove	horned lark	blue-winged teal
wood duck	mallard	green-winged teal
bald eagle	purple martin	brown thrasher
great egret	eastern meadowlark	wood thrush
American goldfinch	hooded merganser	wild turkey
house finch	white-breasted nuthatch	warbling vireo
purple finch	Baltimore oriole	palm warbler
northern flicker	orchard oriole	yellow warbler
flycatchers (various species)	great horned owl	yellow-rumped warbler
Canada goose	ring-necked pheasant	cedar waxwing
common grackle	eastern phoebe	downy woodpecker
rose-breasted grosbeak	American redstart	hairy woodpecker
ruffed grouse	pine siskin	pileated woodpecker
ring-billed gull	American robin	red-headed woodpecker
		house wren

(Editor's Note: For more information, contact Connie Fredkove, 3M Club Activities Coordinator at 651-736-0653 or check out <http://intranet.mmm.com/3Mclub>.)

# USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (TERO)

USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (TERO) (ISSN 1541-0277) is an electronic technical journal published by the United States Golf Association and housed with the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at the Michigan State University Libraries. It reports the results of research projects funded under USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program.

## Purpose

The purpose of USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online is to effectively communicate the results of research projects funded under USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program to all who can benefit from such knowledge. The private, non-profit research program provides funding opportunities to university faculty interested in working on environmental and turf management problems affecting golf courses. The outstanding playing conditions of today's golf courses are a direct result of using science to benefit golf.

## USGA's Vision for Turfgrass

The United States Golf Association's vision for turfgrass and environmental research is to "use science as the foundation to benefit golf in the areas of turfgrass and resource management, sustainable development, and environmental protection." Since 1983, USGA has funded more than 215 projects at a cost of \$21 million to improve the playing conditions and enjoyment of the game.

This website briefly describes projects currently being supported by USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program. Projects fall into several categories including: course construction practices, integrated turf-

grass management, turfgrass germplasm enhancement, environmental impact of golf, sustainable land use, Audubon International, and the Wildlife Links Program.

*(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the USGA Green Section Research Office, P.O. Box 2227, Stillwater, OK 74076. The USGA may be reached at (405) 743-3900 or by e-mailing [mkenna@usga.org](mailto:mkenna@usga.org) or [jnuss@usga.org](mailto:jnuss@usga.org).)*

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# MGCSA Membership Report

August 2003

## New Members

**Bill Lewis** Class A - GCSAA  
Black Bear Golf Course, Cloquet  
W: 218-879-5626

**Jeff Fjosne** Class C  
Midland Hills Country Club, St Paul  
W: 651-631-1545

**Tom Meinke** Class C  
The Summit Golf Club, Cannon Falls  
W: 507-263-9291

**Mark Fry** Student  
University of Minnesota  
Midland Hills Country Club, St Paul  
W: 651-631-1545

**Dustin Kasper** Student  
Anoka Hennepin Technical College  
Midland Hills Country Club, St Paul  
W: 651-631-1545

**Matt Olsonoski** Student  
University of Minnesota  
Wayzata Country Club, Wayzata  
W: 952-473-6955

**Jesse Treka** Student  
Pennsylvania State University  
Wayzata Country Club  
W: 952-473-6955

**John G. Hauser** Class E  
Bluebird Recovery Program, Mpls.  
W: 612-922-4586

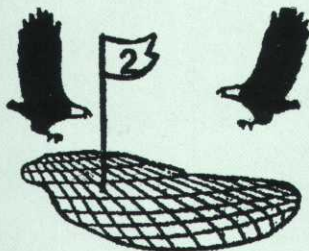
**Mike Levin** Facility  
Green Valley Golf Course  
W: 218-532-7447

*Submitted by Mike Nelson  
MGCSA Membership Chairman*

If You'd Like To Get More Involved  
In the MGCSA and Would Like To  
Host an Event in 2004,

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Boulder Pointe Country Club  
at

**952-461-4909**



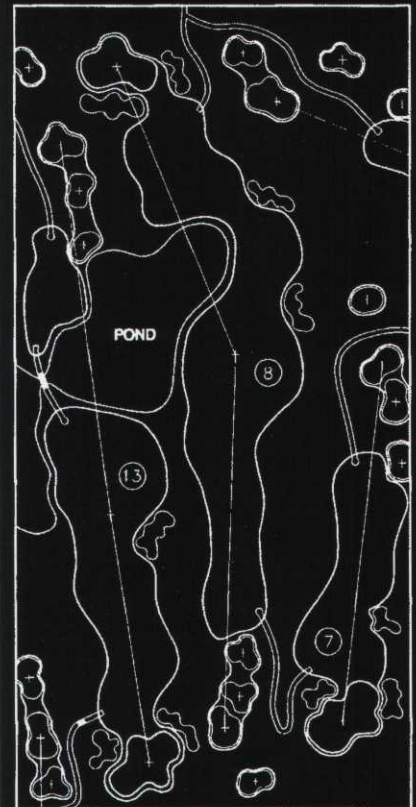
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Championship  
on August 18.*



"On behalf of the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science Program, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the generous donation of irrigation parts from Hydrologic and installation from Premier Irrigation. We now have an additional 2.5 acres of irrigated turf at the TROE Center. Thank you Ted Schirck and Pat Lynch." – Brian Horgan

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# MGCSA Championship

August 18, 2003

Bobby's Legacy Course at Cragun's



## CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Brian Brown .....	74
Jeff Pint .....	76
Dean Wojtczak .....	76
Barry Provo .....	76
Daniel Hinton .....	77
David Johnson .....	78
Tom Meier .....	83
Chuck Tuthill .....	84
Bill MacDonald .....	86
Steve Busch .....	88
Dennis Perreault .....	88
Brooks Ellingson .....	91
Scottie Hines .....	95
Mike Nelson .....	95
Mike Burke .....	95
Luke Kligard .....	95

## FIRST FLIGHT

(net score on left)

73 Dennis Salwei .....	88
73 Andrew Larsen .....	91
73 Charles Kornmann .....	83
75 Larry Gorman .....	87
78 Rick Traver .....	88
79 Chad Belland .....	89
79 Wes Fenlason .....	94
79 Leroy Wurm .....	94
79 Brian Peterson .....	95
80 Chad Snuggerud .....	98
82 Dave Krupp .....	96
83 Scott Held .....	93
84 Jon Almquist .....	103
85 Dave Kazmierczak .....	101
85 John Steiner .....	103
89 Brad Melsa .....	103
92 Paul Wohlert .....	102

## SECOND FLIGHT

(net score on left)

73 Mark Lies .....	93
80 Duane Sibbet .....	100
84 Tim Wicklund .....	107
87 Jared Hackenmueller .....	114

## CALLAWAY FLIGHT

(net score on left)

68 Gregg Giza .....	119
72 Larry Lennert .....	100
73 Jay Hudson .....	114
76 John Jarosz .....	118

## SENIOR DIVISION

(net score on left)

70 Dennis Bain .....	92
73 Jim O'Neill .....	87
81 Doug Daniel .....	104
84 David Kirscht .....	94
88 Mike Redmond .....	100
89 Joe Check .....	113



MATT McKINNON

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# GCSAA Board Meeting Outcomes

## SUMMER 2003

At the 2003 Summer Board Meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors:

1. Selected Jeffrey L. Gullikson, CGCS at Spokane (Wash.) Country Club, as the recipient of the 2004 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, recognizing his extraordinary achievements with the First Green of Washington. The First Green is a program that uses golf courses as outdoor laboratories to teach high school students environmental and agronomic principles.

2. Reviewed plan priorities and budget assumptions for the 2004 fiscal year.

3. Modified the dues renewal process to reduce the number of renewal notices from three to two. The first notice will be 60 days before the member's anniversary date, and the second will be on the member's anniversary date. Benefits and privileges will be suspended 30 days after the anniversary date, and the member will be dropped 90 days after the anniversary date.

4. Approved revisions to the Class A Code of Standards to implement the Professional Development Initiative.

5. Revised the GCSAA Standing Rules of Membership to comply with the institution of membership standards and amendments to the bylaws adopted at the 2003 annual meeting, including the establishment of an appeals procedure and a new International Superintendent Member class.

6. Approved a proposed list of sponsorship/licensing agreements and authorized staff to approach the listed companies about supporting the programs identified.

7. Approved the display of the flags of the association's founding countries (the United States of America and Canada) at the annual conference and show.

8. Adopted a standard operating procedure for the new finance committee.

9. Approved revisions to the standard operating procedures for the election, nominating and historical preservation committees.

10. Approved the minutes of the 2003 Spring Board Meeting.

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