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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Outstanding Program Takes Place At Golden Valley for Mini-Seminar

By Robert Panuska



My thanks and kudos to James Bade and the Conference and Education Committee for the outstanding program at the March Mini-Seminar. This was one of the best attended seminars in recent memory with nearly 150 people participating. A very special thanks to everyone that made time in their schedules and took part. The "dual track" was a big success although I wanted to attend both sessions. Congratulations again to Jerry Murphy "the senator" on receiving the Distinguished Service Award for 2003. Watch future issues of *Hole Notes* for updates from the Banquet/Awards Committee. If you have ideas or would like to assist in the planning of future events please contact Barry Provo, the committee chair.

* * * * *

By the time you are reading this, our courses will be open and more than likely, in "full swing". As I anticipate the season ahead I like to think about the opportunities that may be lurking, waiting to be discovered and utilized. How can we be prepared to seize what may be presented to us? Certainly, education, networking and experience are very key to preparation that can help us in "seizing the moments" as become evident in the season ahead. That moment may appear some early morning in the form of an ugly turf disease or the unexpected visit from the MDA inspector or it may be "just the right" person for a job you needed to complete. Whatever our opportunities may be, positive or challenges, my hope is that we have prepared to seize them and make the most of whatever hand we are dealt.

* * * * *

I would like to thank the Minnesota Golf Association for their assistance at the state legislature again this year. Their "man on the hill", Doug Carnival has worked very closely with our "man on the hill" Paul Eckholm in monitoring the issues that impact our industry. Most recently the phosphorus issue and from what I hear this will continue to be a very "hot" issue for many years to come. Even production agriculture is beginning to "feel" the heat of this issue as more and more data is gathered on non-point source pollution and phosphorus loading into surface water.

* * * * *

Finally, make plans now to attend the summer events we have planned beginning with our May meeting in Glencoe. Check the schedule in this issue of *Hole Notes*.

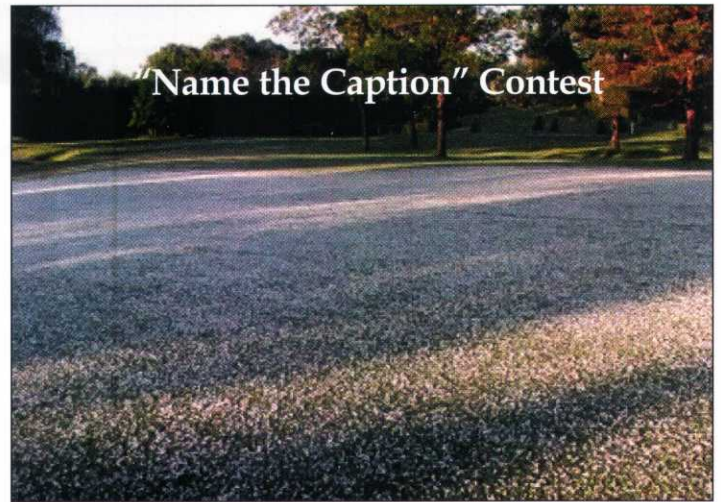
*Until next month,
Rob*

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"Name the Caption" Contest

Beginning with last month's issue of Hole Notes a "Name the Caption" contest has begun. Please e-mail jmackenzie426@msn.com with a caption for the above photo and/or send in your own "unique" photo for an upcoming issue of Hole Notes for the MGCSA's "Name the Caption" contest. Last month's winning caption may be found on Page 25.

At the right is the photo from last month's "Name the Caption" contest: Jay Yonak, The Links at Northfork, was the winning caption writer. He suggests "Toro's new lateral hazard marker." Check "It's in the Hole" on Page 25 for other top captions from MGCSA members.



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139 Attend Mini-Seminar at Golden Valley

Members Take Advantage of an Informative Session and to Honor Jerry Murphy, CGCS

By JAMES BADE

This past March 10th was a good day. Golf course Superintendents, their assistants and vendors gathered to learn and further themselves in their profession. Two national speakers were able to join us and share their expertise. Bruce Williams from Los Angeles C.C. shared his insights into the business end of golf course mgmt. And Dr. Roch Gaussoin from the U. of Nebraska talked about many agronomic issues. Well known Oscar Miles was able to join us from Chicago and Jeff Johnson shared his experience of restoring The Minikahda club back to it's Donald Ross design.

Another highlight of the day was celebrating Jerry Murphy's acceptance of his Distinguish Service Award. The learning didn't stop at the luncheon. There is a lot to learn from a person who has been in the business as long as Mr. Murphy. It was nice to see a lot of young (and old)

faces at the luncheon. I had to wonder where a lot of these people were in 1971 when Jerry was president of the MGCSA.

Just because one has been president and in the business over 40 years doesn't qualify you for the DSA. What made Murf different is that he cared about the association and what it tried to accomplish over those 40 years.

There are a lot of ways the world measures success besides business. The tributes by Oscar Miles and Larry Vetter were very touching and showed what it means to have a special friend for so long.

Mr. Murphy was general manager of Somerset C.C., a personal businessman, police officer, and the list could go on but here are my four reasons of

what made Murf a success. He is a mentor. He taught his assistants and more importantly let them learn from their mistakes without losing his temper. He is a grandpa. Jerry became a grandpa not too long after I joined Somerset, and I can tell you that he is one good grandpa. He is also a faithful husband and has been married to Marilyn for over 40 years.

But the number one reason for success has been his friendship. He put relationships before business. Jerry Murphy, CGCS, has always been a friend to the association, to vendors, to colleagues, to Somerset, and most importantly his family.



MGCSA members did not have to go away hungry.



Providing good information to MGCSA members were Dr. Brian Horgan, left, who talked about the seriousness of having an incident response plan in place, and Roch Gaussoin, one of the featured speakers at the Mini-Seminar.



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The Next Dutch Elm Disease?

Beetles Ravage Michigan Ash Trees; Wisconsin Officials Fear Invasion

By DAN EGAN
Journal Sentinel

A Michigan doughnut shop will become ground zero this week in that state's desperate campaign to halt a rapid invasion of an ash-tree killing beetle that already has claimed millions of trees in the Detroit area and is threatening to spread to other states.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has 155 full-time employees in a fight that, if lost, federal officials say could cause as much as \$60 billion in damage to U.S. forests and neighborhoods that turned to ash trees to patch the damage wreaked by Dutch elm disease in the 1960s and '70s.

The emerald ash borer has not been found in Wisconsin, but a monitoring campaign will be conducted this summer in state forests and parks.

The beetle was first discovered in the

United States when Michigan officials found it just two years ago. It is believed to have hitched a ride from Asia in wood packing material or in wood used to stabilize loads in cargo ships.

There are about 700 million ash trees in Michigan and more than 600 million in Wisconsin, not counting those trees planted in urban areas. Ash are among Wisconsin's most popular street trees because of their durability, said John Kyhl, plant pest and disease specialist with the Wisconsin DNR.

"It's hard to impress upon people the impact of this insect," said JoAnn Cruse, Wisconsin director for plant protection and quarantine for the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "It was even hard for us to comprehend until we saw it over there, when we saw how

many trees had died."

The first target in the push to eradicate the bug - and its potential host trees - is a half-mile radius around a doughnut and coffee shop in Saginaw County in north-east Michigan. Some trees from an infested nursery in the Detroit area were planted at the site in July 2002.

Every ash tree inside that circle around the doughnut shop will be chopped down. Crews expect to take down about 20,000 trees at a cost of about \$500,000. The job will take a few weeks, and then crews will move on to about a dozen other sites in the state as part of a federally funded control effort that could cost \$43 million this year alone.

(Continued on Page 8)



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LARRY THORNTON



Ash Trees –

(Continued from Page 7)

"It's analogous to mad cow disease," said Therese Poland, a research entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service. "If you find an infected cow, you destroy the whole herd."

The tainted wood will be chipped and hauled to an electricity-generating incinerator.

Clandestine Killer

A 13-county region in southeastern Michigan in the Detroit area has already been put under quarantine, where no ash, dead or alive, can be transported out. Officials are now figuring how and where to build a "firebreak" that will level all the ash trees in a wide swath around the perimeter of the region's core infested area.

But, as was the case with the doughnut shop in Saginaw County, some infested nursery trees and firewood made it out before the quarantine took effect.

Those are the areas agriculture officials are most worried about now. Most are within Michigan, although some have been located in the southeast part of the country, as well as in Ohio.

Emerald ash borer can be more of a problem than the tree-munching gypsy moth and the Asian longhorn beetle, largely because it does its work so clandestinely.

The beetle lays its eggs in the bark of a tree, where they are almost impossible to spot. The bugs then hatch and bore into the tree, where they devour a layer just underneath the bark. That cuts off the delivery of nutrients between the leaves and roots.

The adult bug then bores its way out the next year when, iridescent green, it is easy to spot. But by then it is too late to save the tree; the damage has been done. Even healthy trees can succumb to the bug within two or three years.

"You can't see any symptoms on these trees until it's too late," Poland said.

Not in Wisconsin

The most likely way the beetle would make the jump from Michigan to Wisconsin would be through imports prior to the Detroit-area quarantine.

Wisconsin officials stress that a dead or dying ash tree doesn't mean the beetles have landed here.

"There is a lot of ash out there declin-

ing from other causes, and we don't want to give people the impression that if you have an ash tree with dead branches that it is (because of) the emerald ash borer," said Jane Cummings-Carlson, forest health coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Still, she said the state needs to be vigilant in looking for it and isolating pockets of infestation if they do pop up. Michigan is now paying the price for not identifying the source of the problem in its early

stages.

"It really did sneak up on them, and when they realized what they were looking at . . . the extent of it is just amazing," Kyhl said.

Ash trees in the Detroit area had been dying for several years, but it wasn't until 2002 that researchers identified the source of the problem. But even when they found the culprit, they weren't sure what they had.

(Continued on Page 12)

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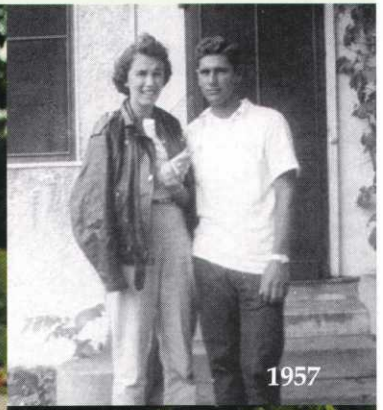
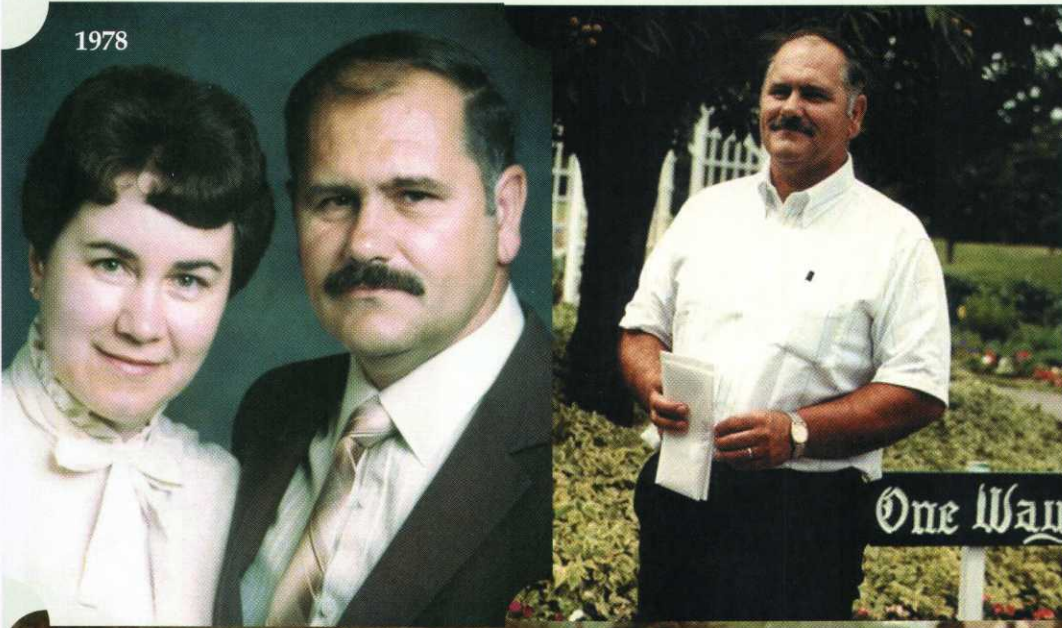
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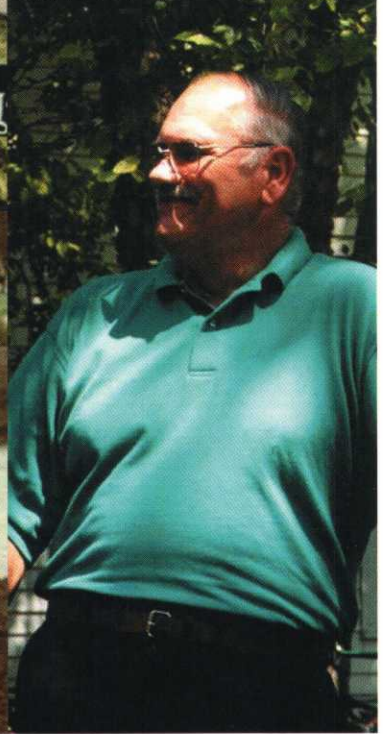
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2003 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award Recipient
Jerry Murphy, CGCS

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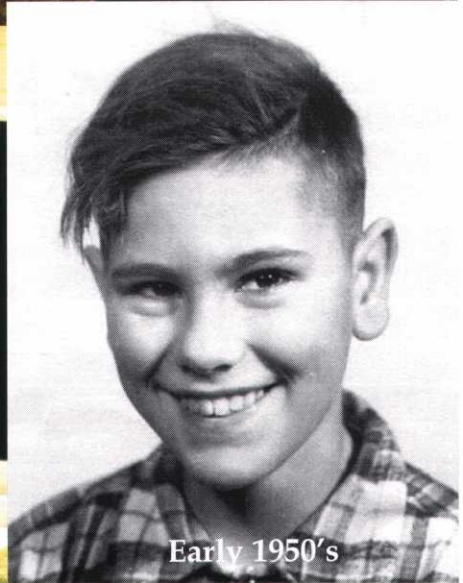
1957



No. 10 at Somerset in 1977



Family Photo in South Dakota in 2001



Early 1950's