

Brad Zimmerman, Boulder Pointe Golf Course, left, and Paul Eckholm, CGCS, volunteered to help the MGCSA have a presence at the Great Minnesota Golf Show at the Metrodome in late February. At the right is the scene on the floor.

Keller Golf Course Receives 2003 LEAP Award

Keller Golf Course is proud to announce it was recently awarded a 2003 LEAP award by the Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed District. The Landscape Ecology Award Program recognizes landowners, including private residences, commercial,

and public properties, that use good management practices to preserve and improve water quality and natural resources within the district.

Keller Golf Course has been an environmental leader for many years, promoting and educating the golfing public about golf's positive impact on the environment.

Examples of the environmentally friendly procedures, projects and protocol in place at Keller include: Vegetative buffers around

Keller Golf Course has been an environmental leader for many years, promoting and educating the golfing public about golf's positive impact on the environment.



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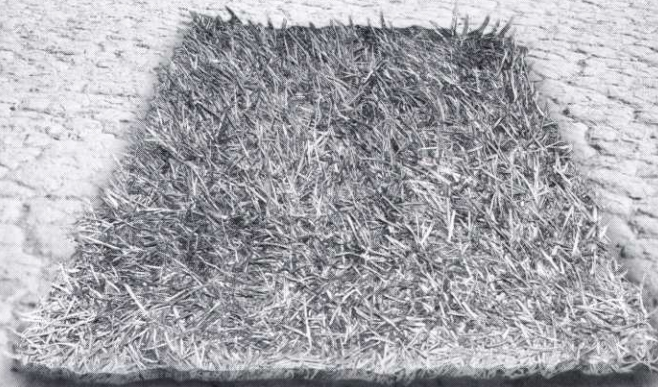
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all surface waters; primarily use slow release and natural organic fertilizers; computerized irrigation system with onsite weather station combine for accurate, efficient use of irrigation water; 72 box bluebird trail, many wood duck boxes, bat houses, an osprey nesting platform, and multiple bird feeding stations; limited pesticide use with curative control measures and threshold monitoring implemented; All plantings mulched for moisture conservation and weed suppression; All gardens planted to attract wildlife, including 1100 ft, two butterfly garden; Six acres of property restored to native Minnesota prairie along with many acres of naturalized no-mow areas; On course interpretive signage designed to educate golfers on environmental subjects of interest; State-of-the art maintenance facility includes bioremediation system for cleaning water used in equipment wash down and pesticide loading and mixing; All pesticides are stored in a separate, secure, sumped chemical storage building; Bio-retention ponds were constructed around the new maintenance facility to hold and infiltrate runoff from the site, and in 2004, the golf course will be working with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Ramsey Soil and Water Conservation District to restore the vegetative buffer surrounding two of our ponds with native vegetation. Grants have been awarded by both agencies to Keller to assist with the project.

-- Paul Diegnau, Superintendent, Keller Golf Course

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MGCSA Membership Report

New Members - March 2, 2004

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Class A - GCSAA
Ferndale Country Club
Rushford, Minn.
W: 507-864-7626

Robert Wethor
Class A - GCSAA
Pipestone Golf and Country Club
Pipestone, Minn.
W: 507-825-2592

Gerald A. Doolittle
Class B - GCSAA
Black Bear Golf Course
Cloquet, Minn.
W: 218-879-5626

Jon R. Sundvold
Class B - GCSAA
Beverly Country Club
Chicago, Ill.
W: 708-636-8700

Bruce A. Gustafson
Class C
Lakeview Golf

Mound, Minn.
W: 952-472-7546

Jordan Manor
Class C - GCSAA
Troy Burne Golf Club
Hudson, Wis.
W: 715-386-2902

Jason Ritt
Class C
Grand Forks Country Club
Grand Forks, North Dakota
W: 701-775-7969

Nathaniel Uselding
Class C - GCSAA
Dellwood Hills Golf Course
St. Paul, Minn.
W: 651-426-4406

Jaime Jirik
Class D
Hillcrest Golf Club
St. Paul, Minn.
W: 651-777-5186

Steven Mattson
Class D
Hyland Greens Golf Course
Bloomington, Minn.
W: 952-563-8711

Benjamin Pease
Student
Wayzata Country Club
Wayzata, Minn.
W: 952-563-8711

Cory Bergen
Class E
Southeast Technical Institute
Sioux Falls, SD
W: 605-367-7826

Mark C. Porisch
Affiliate
Midwest Putting Greens
North Mankato, Minn.
W: 507-920-6194

*Submitted by James Gardner, CGCS
MGCSA Membership*

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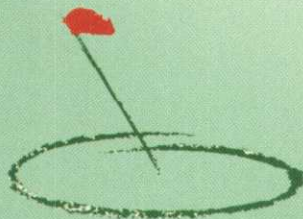
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Turf Talk in Minnesota

Deadly Bacteria Turns Golf Industry Upside Down

What is everyone going to do about water coolers this year? Everyone chime in so we can get a handle on the current trend. My operation has yet to decide our method. - Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller GC

We have decided to get a 5-gallon office style cooler and put it up at the starter shack on the #1 tee. This unit will plug into an AC outlet. The starters can keep an eye on it. We will replace the bottles with freshly washed ones each time we fill them. This will eliminate the danger of a person touching the inside of the bottle or the ice (*since there is no ice needed*) I have seen these coolers for sale at Menards and other places \$80 - \$200 ea. The bottles are about \$8 each. We can have several bottles ready to uses at any time. Out first tee is pretty much in the middle of the course so it is accessible. As far as other places on the course, we will not have any other coolers. We also lowered the price of bottles water to \$1.00 for a 20oz bottle. This may not be practical for other courses since we have the benefit of our parent corporation owning a retail bottled water company (*We pay \$0 for all of the above products*). - Jim O'Malley, Kilkarney Hills Golf Club

Last season we reduced the number of coolers down from 17 to 3. We eliminated the coolers from our ball fields and tennis courts and left one near the midpoint on each 9 of the golf course. We did not get very many complaints from the ball players and tennis players, but our golfing community seemed to think we were trying to kill them off. One member even reminded us of the Korey Stringer incident. No one provides water for me while I am hunting or fishing or participating in other sports, but golfers seem to expect drinking water on every hole. Anyway, we send our igloo coolers thru the dishwasher every day. We have two sets so that one is always dry and ready to go. The rangers have been trained how to fill the coolers with a food grade hose and replace them on the course using all the proper sanitary guidelines. We provide free water at the snack bar and have added a refrigerated bottled water machine in the golf shop. We plan to con-

tinue this way, but will be checking out the new Par Aide system as well. We will be comparing cost, labor and safety issues. -- Randy Allen, Tartan Park

Jim, make sure you have a fool proof way to clean those bottles. If they are what I envision, with the small necks, they can be hard to keep clean. We used to have them in our shop but never did develop a good way to clean them. Grew some awesome algae though. -- Randy Allen, Tartan Park

Randy, you are correct for wanting to be cautious. The system we have access to holds six bottles at a time. We put the bottles in and press a button. The machine washes the bottles inside and out, and then a conveyer moves the rack to a separate compartment and sanitizes the bottles with fresh water and sanitizer. The unit works much like a commercial dishwasher. Since a golf course would not typically have a machine like this one, it is possible to washed the bottles by hand in the club house kitchen. This is where having several spare bottles would come in handy.

Could you also let us all know how the new Par Aide system works out? If it is economical and safe, we are always looking for ways to serve our customers better. -- Jim O'Malley, Kilkarney Hills Golf Club

I am leaning toward the Par Aide product. We have access to water on all 18 of our holes including 12 Igloos. It will be one more step in an already time taking

project. I would love to cut back, but don't need the headaches of unhappy players. What really kills me is the caddies using the water to wet their towels down! -- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from the University of Minnesota's Turf Talk website. You can join in the on-going conversations at www.turf.umn.edu)

MGCSA EVENTS

Monday, May 17
SPRING MIXER

Glencoe Country Club
Glencoe, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Jeff Vinkemeier

Monday, May 24
BASF CHALLENGE

North Oaks Golf Club
North Oaks, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Monday, June 7
SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE

White Bear Yacht Club
White Bear Lake, Minn.

Host Superintendent: John Steiner, CGCS

Monday, August 16
STODOLA SCRAMBLE

Somerset Country Club
Mendota Heights, Minn.

Host Superintendent: James Bade

Monday, September 13
MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP

Edina Country Club
Edina, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Mike Kelly

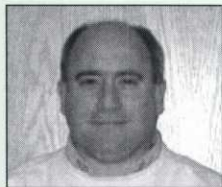
Monday, October 11
FALL MIXER

The Crossings at Montevideo
Montevideo, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Terry Nigen



Dale Parske, Simplot Partners, takes a little break to play some ping pong with some MGCSA friends at the Keller GC maintenance facility.



Musing the Minutes

By Rick Traver, Jr., CGCS
Monticello Country Club

Hello members of the MGCSA. Is anyone as excited about opening his or her golf course this spring as I am? I don't know if it's because I didn't go south this winter or our new clubhouse staff or the sunshine, but I can't wait. Going to the March Mini got me just that much more pumped up. I know listening to all the great things Jerry Murphy, CGCS has done for our association and the impact he has had on the lives of so many, left most present with a renewed energy.

Well I am supposed to keep you all informed on the meetings of the minds of the association so I will proceed. Your Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 2nd at Heritage Links Golf Course. All but two members were present. The highlights to this month's meeting were a new golf tournament proposed by BASF and the new legislation at the capital.

The first was a golf tournament proposal from BASF. This event would be

held in Minnesota for golf course superintendents, and is held in conjunction with several other tournaments around the country. The winner of the tournament would qualify for an event to win an opportunity to play with either Sergio Garcia or Jack Nicklaus. It is a net handicap event and we need to get a full field. The arrangements committee is working on setting up a golf course and how we can tie this into one of our annual events. It is exciting to have our state chosen to host such an event and thanks to Dave Oberle for bringing it to the MGCSA.

Paul Eckholm, CGCS notified us that the phosphorus issue returned in a new bill that included the whole state, not just the metropolitan area. He met with the writers of the bill and with the blessing of the MDA, got our verbiage inserted into the bill. That means our phosphorus certification applies to this bill the way it did to last year's legislation. It appears other states are dealing with this same issue and that we are being used as a model of how to handle this topic. I have thanked you before Paul, but thanks again for making the time to go down to the capital and take on this task.

Paul also reported that the Department of Health is looking at taking on the issue of Nitrogen fertilizer applications and its potential of leaching into water. So we still need to keep an eye on this issue as well.

If you think we have it bad with taxation and legislation, check this out. I was just reading an article from the December issue of Audubon and it appears the farmers and ranchers in New Zealand have a bit to complain about. The government there is planning on imposing a tax on gas

emitted from livestock. It would be the world's first "fart tax." The purpose or justification of this tax is to raise revenue to conduct a study to find better feeds for the animals so they can reduce the amount of methane produced by the livestock. It appears that livestock create over 50% of the greenhouse gasses in New Zealand. My wife visited there about 8 years ago, she said she thought the smell was from the sulfur, live and learn.

In other news the MGCSA Board decided not to have home addresses in the membership roster. Mike Kelly reported he is working on the new environmental CD. Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, introduced, and "asked us to embrace," the concept of a Superintendent Ambassador. This would offer one or two select media people complimentary membership. It would be done in an effort to develop good relationships with the media as well as create some positive PR for our association.

I hope you all have an excellent and early start to the golf season. May Mother Nature protect your turf and the golf gods protect your swing. Have a great start to the year!

The Montana State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Announces Bear Warning Could Minnesota Be Next?

The Montana State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising Superintendents and golfers to take extra precautions and be on the alert for bears while in the Gallatin, Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forests golf courses.

Superintendents and their staff are advised to wear noise-producing devices such as little bells on their clothing to alert, but not startle the bears unexpectedly. They also advise you to carry pepper spray in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for signs of bear activity.

Superintendents should be able to recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings on the golf course. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain berries and possibly squirrel fur. Grizzly bear droppings have bells in them and smell like pepper spray. -- Jack Kolb

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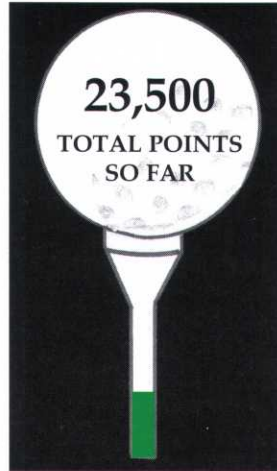
Big Business and individuals CAN make a difference at TROE CenterDonations are coming out of the woodwork. Although not terribly fast or furious, the pace is gaining momentum. And excitement is in the air as the Turfgrass, Research, Outreach and Education (TROE) Center gains solid financial footing.

Now that the first shovel of soil has been turned, contributions are in demand to maintain the development of this first class scientific research center. Both private individuals and companies can jump on the wagon to contribute. One simple method of participation currently being promoted by Syngenta and Bayer Companies allow for the best of both opportunities.

Recently, Syngenta Turf and Ornamental launched the GreenPartners program for golf professionals. This program was formally known as Pro Rewards. Along with the new name, Syngenta has made other improvements in the program

The Bayer program is called Accolades.

The MGCSA is now a preferred association member of the GreePartners and Accolades programs. Participants in both programs can donate their points in 1,000-point increments to the preferred association of their choice. The MGCSA of course! The association can then use these points for the same rewards available to golf course superintendents.



To donate points to the MGCSA, simply go on-line at www.greenpartnersonline.com. Once you enter your secure password and pin, go to the online catalogue. Under the category, "Merchandise", you will find a listing named "Donations". Simply look for our association name on the list, and donate the points. It is easy. The points are then

donated to the TROE center in the form of supplies, office equipment or even as prizes for future cash raffles.

donated to the TROE center in the form of supplies, office equipment or even as prizes for future cash raffles.

Bayer, Syngenta and the MGCSA believe this is an excellent opportunity for you to give back to your profession and industry. If you are not a member of GreenPartners, simply go to www.greenpartnersonline.com to join on line.

A recent survey showed that only 5 percent of superintendents use the premium points made available to them through the purchase of products. For some clubs it is a "pay-o-la" rule. For other individuals it is just unawareness or apathy. If you fall into any of these categories, belly up to the bar and throw your points to the MGCSA and then onto the TROE Center.

Recently Guy Lohman of Voyager Village contributed \$35 to the MGCSA. Thank you Guy for stepping up to the tee. And I will continue the ball down the fairway by donating another 10,000 points from my club right now. I challenge you to match us! And talk about easy, once registered there is nothing else to do. No receipts to mail or documents to fax. Thank you Syngenta and Bayer for making these programs available to the MGCSA.

Quality Renovation and Construction



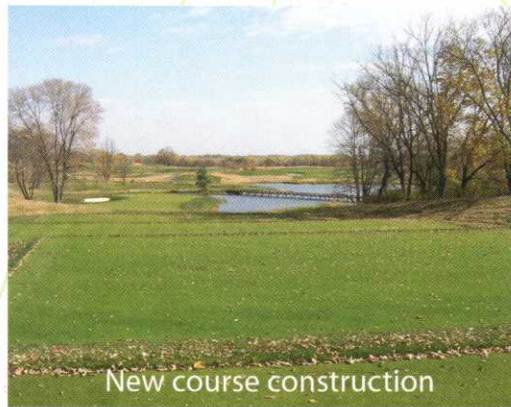
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In Bounds

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

I like a good tree on the golf course. Something about three feet in diameter or maybe a spruce tree. In fact I really have two favorite big trees, one typically on the fourth hole and the other on the thirteenth hole. And in all honesty, the best tree is located about 45 minutes after I leave the men's locker room or half-way house.

If a tree isn't available on the course I am playing, or if I think I may be in need of something more substantial than a large shrub, I will identify and locate the on course restrooms PRIOR to my round of golf. Anticipation, of course, can make or break the concentration of a person's loop!

It wasn't until recent years that I fully appreciated the value of a really nice on-course bathroom. Prior to 1995 I was accustomed to the typical fiberglass and vinyl booths referred to as The White House, Jimmy's Johnny or Satellite. Although functional, they left, and still leave something to be desired.

Most lack running water, yet some do provide a creamy substance thought to reduce germs. Many have creepy crawly flying insects that land in the oddest of places. Fans are absent due to the lack of electricity. And we all know what direct sun and stagnant air combine to produce. And then there are the night stalkers.

Many of us have begun the day embracing a beautiful sunrise, the smell of fresh cut grass and the sounds of silence. And then there are those of us who have participated in the re-erection of toppled toilets. Those who remember can surely conjure up the unpleasant surprises beheld after said porta potty was again upon its foundation.

In the early 1990s the golf course building, restoration and renovation boom was underway across the country. And North Oaks Golf Club experienced growth as well. The membership began with the construction of a fine new Cape Cod style clubhouse, followed by work on the golf course in the form of bunker restoration and fairway re-definition. And finally, but not the least important, the building of permanent bathrooms.

An architect was brought on board to continue the Cape Cod theme out onto the golf course. Complete with grey painted shaker siding, white trim and porte-cochere entries, the bathrooms looked awesome on paper and even better on the fourth and thirteenth holes. I would be truly remiss if I didn't mention functionality.

Each building has its own septic field, well and electricity. Both his and her bathrooms are equipped with multiple toilets and urinals, tile floors and marble counter tops for convenience and beauty. Scent dispensers and air exchangers are in place and maintained to limit gas exposure. And each of the buildings is surrounded by paver stones to reduce the tracking of soil and grass inside the building.

Believe me when I say that the on-course rest rooms at North Oaks Golf Club are the Taj Mahal of biffys. They make a first class



Golfers appreciate the quality restrooms at North Oaks GC.

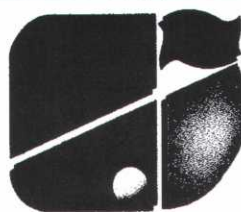
statement. My staff even places fresh flowers in the women's section when our gardens are producing. I will be the first to admit that our bathrooms are over the top.

This strong restroom endorsement isn't to say that I don't still use a tree on occasion. After all, when ya gotta go..... well, you get the message. My intent is to tout the impressiveness of a quality restroom experience. We are in the service industry and should take it to the next level where ever possible.

Of course regular service and cleaning is a must, often twice a day, but how about using quality toilet paper? Everyone knows and appreciates the difference between low grade and high grade paper products. When was the last time your units were changed out to the latest model? How about an upgrade to a larger unit? Perhaps the addition of running water would improve the functionality of your biffys. Almost anything can and will be done by your port-a-let provider to keep your business.

For example when I was the Superintendent at the Lost Spur Country Club, the St. Paul Winter Carnival would host its Winter Golf Outing on the course. A simple request to our out house company, well in advance of the event, elicited the creation of felt fabric toilet seat covers to lessen the impact of the freezing temperatures upon the extremities. This upgrade was the "talk of the town" that weekend.

Some might say that there isn't room in the budget for improvements. But the bathroom is one amenity that needs to maintain its integrity. After all, a little privacy in a clean facility, complete with soft tissue, a fresh scent and NO insects is truly one of the simple pleasures in life.



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