

Ross Simondet Serves in Iraq



Ross Simondet, son of MGCSA member Bob Simondet, Lesco, is currently in the military and serving over in Baghdad, Iraq. "I know for certain he and all members of the military serving would love to hear words of encouragement," said Bob. Ross can be contacted at: PFC Ross Simondet, 231 MP BN, 127th MP CO / Raiders, APO AE 09310. Ross' e-mail address is: ross_simondet@yahoo.com

The MGCSA salutes those who serve!

.....Jenny Hoff (*wife of MGCSA member Chris Hoff*) delivered **Sam Wurtz Hoff** on October 6, 2004, weighing in at an even 7 lbs. and 21 inches. Both Jenny and Sam are doing great. Sam is pictured at the upper right with his 3-year-old sister Emma.....Kevin Rue, Superintendent at Detroit Country Club, in Detroit Lakes, and his wife Judy are proud to announce they had a baby boy (bottom right) on October 5, 2004. His name is **Maxim James Rue**, 8.3 lbs., 19 inches....

.....**No By-Laws changes** have been recommended by the MGCSA Board of Directors for the Annual Meeting slated Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 4:45 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Elections for officers and directors will take place at this meeting.....

.....**11 members of our association will be honored** for the dedication they have shown to the profession at the Annual Meeting on January 6, 2005.

The honored members are: **35 YEARS:** John Queensland, Keith Scott, CGCS, and Lorin Maenke. **30 YEARS:** Kevin Benson, Dan Hanson, John Kuusinen, Mark Smith, CGCS, and Grant Wenkstern. **25 YEARS:**



Marlow Hansen, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, and Thomas St. George.

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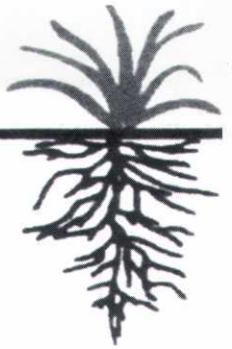
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Thank You

Thank You

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2004 GCSAA Chapter Delegates September Meeting Highlights

(Editor's Note: Following is a synopsis of the topics and issues discussed at the 2004 Chapter Delegates Meeting. We highly recommend that you publish this information in the next issue of your chapter's newsletter, post on your web site and/or mail or email it to your members. Chapter delegates may also wish to use this information as a guideline in preparing their reports for their next chapter meeting.)

Chapter Effectiveness

John Fulling, CGCS reported on the work the Chapter Effectiveness Task Group. The highlights of his presentation included:

The importance of chapter effectiveness in GCSAA's ability to serve members through chapters.

The effectiveness of different chapter models.

The delegates' perspective on the usefulness of the chapter assessment tool.

Chapters were asked to complete the assessment tool and return it GCSAA by March 31, 2005. This will provide baseline information to aid GCSAA staff in identifying chapter goals and then identifying incentives and resources to address those needs.

Chapter Affiliation Agreement

Pat Sisk, CGCS reported on the work of the Chapter Affiliation Task Group. The major revisions in the new affiliation agreement that takes effect on January 1, 2006 include:

A New Purpose Statement

Nomenclature changes & conformity issues to align with GCSAA Bylaws.

A more comprehensive list of cooperative programs, which are available to chapter members as a result of their affiliation.

New Affiliation Application Guidelines

The addition of an amendment clause, allowing for revisions to the agreement to be addressed during the affiliation period.

The Success of the Facility

A new membership growth concept was introduced that centers around the development of an affiliate "facility" membership as a 'value-add' to a Class A or Superintendent Member membership. By offering a facility membership, GCSAA will be able to deliver value, benefits and

"Does the current name, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, help us achieve our mission, vision and goals, or would a name with a clearer, more definitive meaning be better?"

services to not only the golf course superintendent, but also to the golf facility that addresses the facility's goals. Delegates brainstormed content ideas for a facility membership and identified potential challenges. The information discussed by the delegates will be forwarded to the Membership, Career Development and Strategic Communications committees for further discussions.

Association Name Change Consideration

Jonathan Jennings, CGCS, chairman of the Messaging/Brand Strategy Task Group, outlined the process that will be followed to answer the following question: "Does the current name, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, help us achieve our mission, vision and goals, or would a name with a clearer,

more definitive meaning be better?" The process being engaged involves some of the same elements that were used in the exploration of membership standards (PDI) and the recent headquarters location study. The group is gathering information from a written survey sent to chapter leaders and a telephone survey being conducted with randomly selected members. The task group plans to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors at their winter board meeting in January.

Other Highlights

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Stephen F. Mona, CAE, addressed the decision-making process and the benefits of having allied associations join the Golf Industry Show.

GCSAA Chief Financial Officer Cameron Oury provided the delegates with a financial overview and also outlined the process for investigating a potential long-term dues pricing plan.

Delegates had the opportunity to hear from and visit with the candidates running for the 2005 GCSAA Board of Directors.

Pat Finlen, CGCS, chairman of the Headquarters Location Resource Group, briefed the delegates on the process that his group had undertaken in reaching its three recommendations: <http://www.gcsaa.org/about/community/hdqrtslocation/report.asp>

Delegates learned about enhancements to the Golf Industry Show, including the establishment of solution centers, featuring interactive displays with best management practices.

Delegates also received updates on the new certification exam, The Environmental Institute for Golf, the GCSAA committee volunteer process and the International Association of Golf Administrators (IAGA)/GCSAA action plan.



In Bounds

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

Those who know me well and have golfed with me over the last two decades remember how I feared my woods and carried them only for something to put my head covers on. Having developed a strong disdain for my persimmons and love affair with my one iron, I truly had no need to use anything but. That is of course until two things happened to change my way of thinking.

The first, it is the fact of life that I am getting older, and just cannot hit my one iron as I used to be able to. Maybe I am just not as dexterous or my body isn't in the shape it used to be in, or perhaps I think too much when I am playing. Regardless, I cannot spank the ball anywhere near the distance I once could.

And the second is that last winter I was treated to the gift of a Taylor Made 3-Wood, metal that is, titanium head with a stiff shaft and a soft supple grip. It fits in the palms of my hands as if it is a part of me. The first date we went on exposed me to a new game of golf.

It began as an explosive drive, 280 yards carry, down the center of the fairway. The ball smoked off the face of my 3-wood and I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't in a dream. I had never hit a drive as far in my life, and straight no less! It was even beyond the fairway bunker placed to capture errant drives of above average distances. My new abilities gave me an incredible appreciation of where technology, in club and ball design, has taken the game of golf. And thus the dilemma of players, such as myself, who are now able to overcome the challenges designed into golf courses by many golf course architects.

Different golf course architects have different styles.

Donald Ross designed random bunkers off the tee, scattered for directional effect. New technology has little impact upon his courses other than shortening the course dramatically. Stanley Thompson on the other hand designed risk/reward bunkers for the first shot. His style dictated that if the player wanted to challenge the bunkers and was able to overcome the test, a great second shot opportunity was set up.

Today's technology basically eliminates this type of design feature in golf. Longer and more controllable drives have changed the game. And in order for older courses, often land locked, to keep pace with these changes, something has to be done.

I am fortunate in that I am employed at a very progressive club. In the mid eighties we were at the head of the pack implementing the "contour" style of mowing designed to "create" target areas through the use of imaginative mowing patterns. Off the tee this concept was logical and although not always aligned with physical challenges such as ponds and bunkers, it served the purpose of challenging the better players to aim for a defined target. Unfortunately for the average and beginning player the "contour" mowing features that progressed down the fairway

would often compromise their second, third and even fourth shots up to the green.

In the '90s the club, in an effort to temper the dissatisfaction of many players, regressed to the original mowing program and retained an architect to create a long range plan. A structured guideline adopted into the bylaws with the intent to prevent any individual or group of individuals from radically changing the course without member approval.

Brian Silva was brought on board to develop this plan. In the process we learned that our course was special in that the architect, Stanley Thompson, is regarded as one of the masters in the industry. Mr. Silva felt that any grand changes would detract from the gem designed by Thompson. His recommendation was to restore the club back to the original risk/reward architecture.

We did. Trees were removed (over 350), double hazards eliminated, greens enlarged and the bunkers were reshaped back to their original specifications. The changes were immediate and quite stunning. Long missed vistas were recreated and opportunities to generate more creative shots again realized.

The "Silva Plan" was a huge success. But of course it should have been, he was restoring a classic course back to the architect's original design.

The new millennium brought with it major changes in equipment technology. Hitting an accurate and greater distanced shot has given the average player wonderful satisfaction. And it is surreal to watch the Pros on TV consistently drive through the fairway challenges with record-breaking length. Sadly, the old classic courses have become less and less of a test of golf for the long hitters due to the neutralization of many inherent design features.

To combat this assault of technology and anticipate with appreciation the standardizations of distances attained by today's equipment, North Oaks is again enlisting the aid of a golf course architect to assess the design of our course. At the time of this writing four qualified designers have toured the track and made proposals to eliminate our dilemma while contributing to the quality of golf for everyone who plays North Oaks. I have been impressed with the similarities of each visitor.

Like Brian Silva, each of the specialists appreciated the talent of Stanley Thompson and agreed that any changes should emphasize his design features. That is, duplicate fairway bunkers beyond existing ones and tucked more into the fairway in an effort to challenge the long ball, lengthen tee boxes where ever possible to bring challenges back into play and create a shorter set of tees to accommodate those learning the game or who desire a different kind of strategy. None of the golf course architects recommended the rebuilding of the greens (much to my relief!).

The search process has been an education for me. Again I have been treated to new perspectives of Stan Thompson's design. Nuances have been brought to my attention and design style re-emphasized. I am excited about working with another architect as we conquer the challenges brought about by the technology revolution.

But on second thought, maybe not; I have had a blast rediscovering my game. Technology has brought a measurable amount of delight back to my style of play. I am hitting the ball further and straighter. My confidence level has raised tenfold and I am having fun. Isn't that why we play the game?

My new abilities gave me an incredible appreciation of where technology, in club and ball design has taken the game of golf.

Insight –

(Continued from Page 29)

With the demand for ever-quicker greens, older greens are losing many cupping locations. What is a comfortable speed for everyday play?

I think that the speed of a green again depends on whom the course is being built for. A public daily fee or resort course may want green speeds around 9.5 to 10.0 while a private course would generally be set up for somewhere between 10.5 and 12.0. The key is to determine during the design phase who your client is.

Name your foursome

Gary Player (a golf legend), Tom Lehman (a great person) and Bill Murray (a lot of fun).

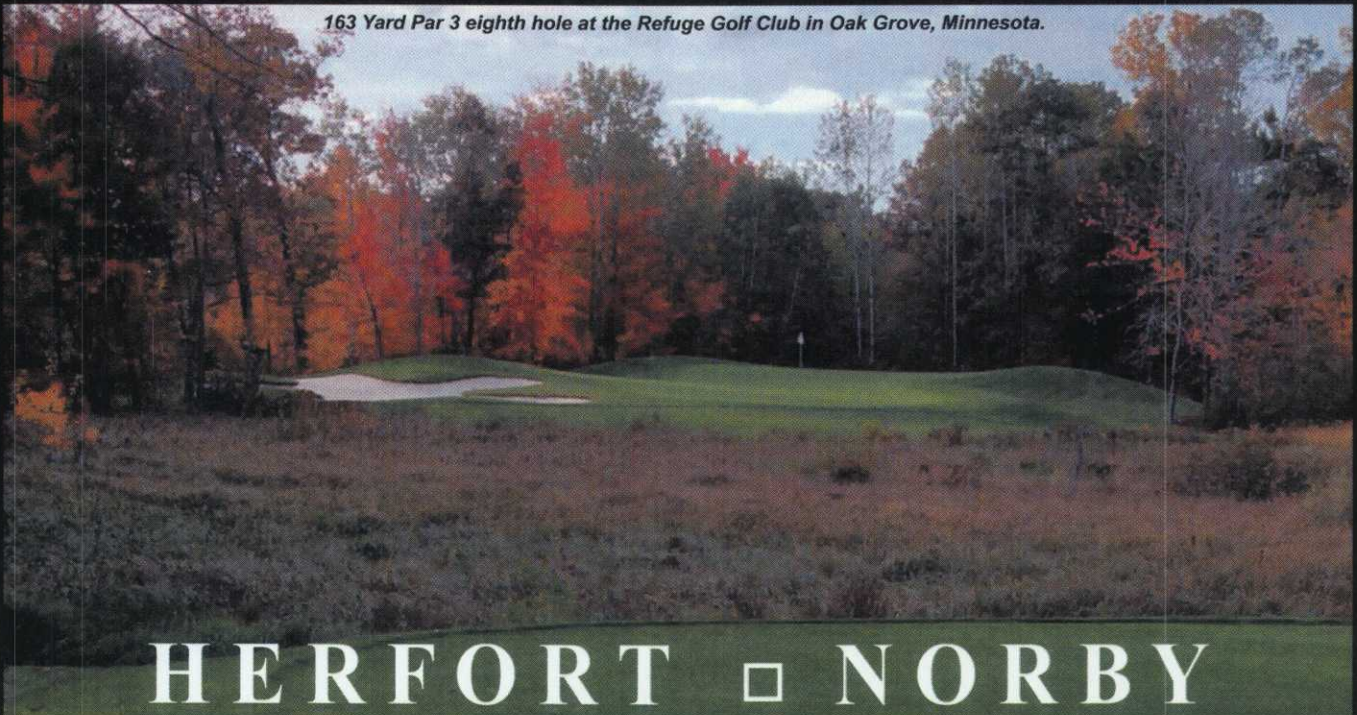
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16. I certify that all information on this form is true and complete. Signed by Scott Turtinen, Publisher..

163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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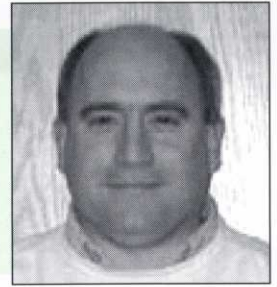
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Musing the Minutes

By Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club



Well guys and gals, it is about over. As I write this several of you have already blown out your irrigation systems and others are preparing to do the same. We have had a great year at Monticello C.C., and I hope you all have had the same.

Your Board of Directors met on a beautiful fall day at The Crossings Golf Club in Montevideo, October 11. All but four members were present. The meeting was short and sweet, so this article will follow that same format.

* * * * *

Treasurer Jeff Johnson presented the preliminary budget for 2005. We asked that it be presented in a monthly format to give the board a better understanding of where we are from month to month. There was some discussion and a few adjustments to be made before final approval at the next meeting.

* * * * *

President Rob Panuska reported on his trip to the Delegates convention at GCSAA. The two hot topics are the combining of the trade show with other associations, much like we did with

*For those who are not aware,
as members of our association,
it is an ethics violation to pursue
another position while another
member is holding that position.*

the MTGF, and the renaming of the GCSAA. There was quite a bit of discussion on both topics and no one seemed to be in favor of either. Since Rob will be voting, please e-mail him to let him know how you stand. You can find out more information on the GCSAA web site.

* * * * *

Executive Director Scott Turtinen made the Board aware of an ethics issue. It appears a general manager was pursuing other Superintendents without first informing the current superintendent of his status. For those who are not aware, as members of our association, it is an ethics violation to pursue another position while another member is holding that position. Our membership chair will be drafting a letter to the other associations letting them know our association's position on this matter.

* * * * *

Jack Mackenzie, CGCS, our *Hole Notes* editor, will be submitting our publication in the GCSAA publication contest. Let's all wish him well as he has done an excellent job in bringing this publication to the next level. Jack also contributed \$280 to the MGCSA through the contribution of Accolades Premium Points. Jack challenges all of us to do the same with their extra points as well.


* * * * *

The MGCSA Annual Business Meeting will take place at 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2005 at the Minneapolis Convention Center during the Minnesota Green Expo.

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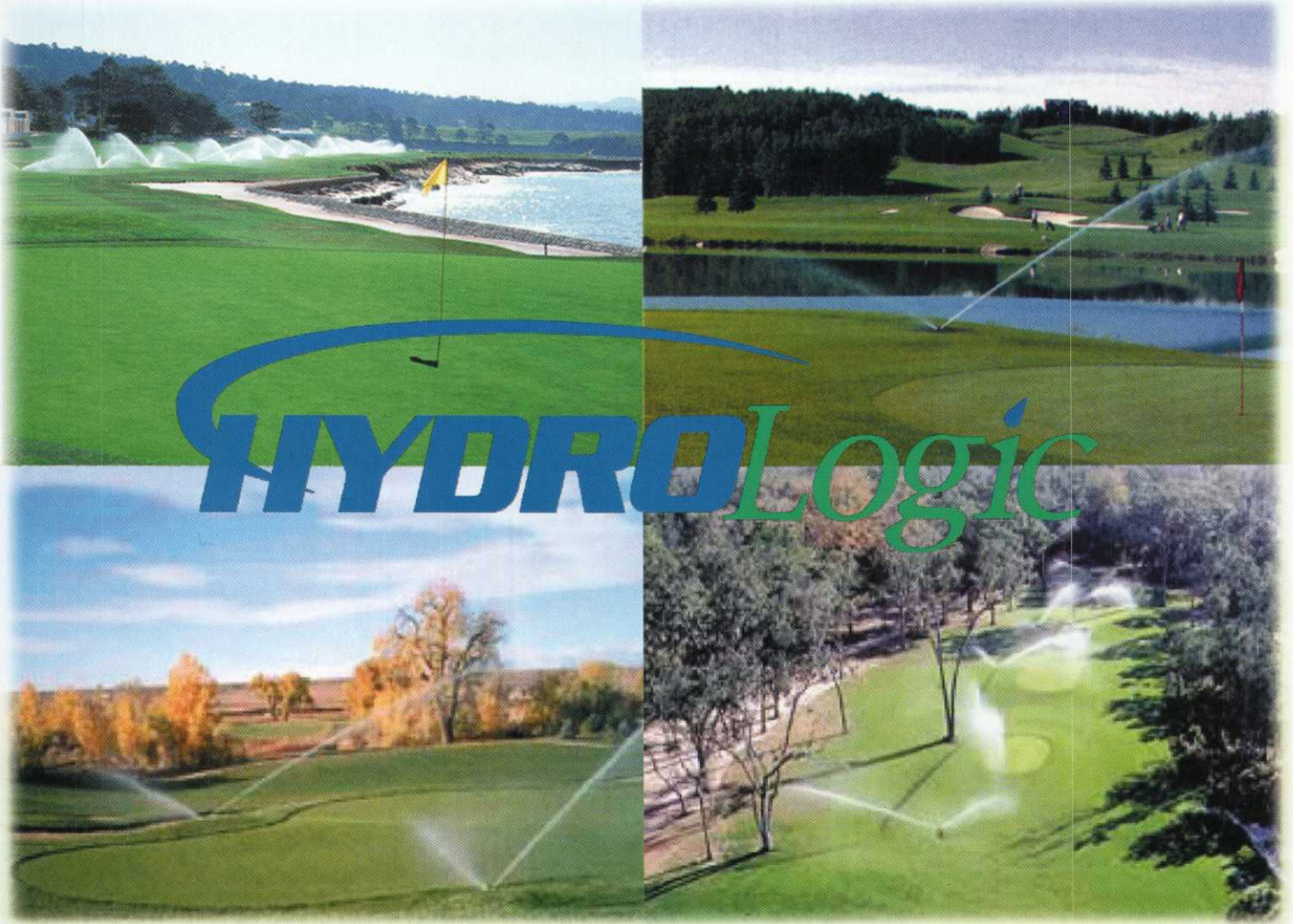
Again, I hope you all have had a great year and I wish you the best in putting your course to bed for 2004.

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