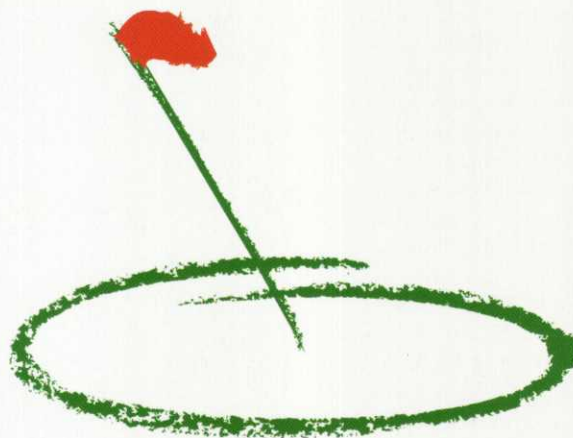




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Gypsy Moth Advance Continues

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS
Keller Golf Course

(Editor's Note: The following column is not intended to cause fear, panic, or a pit in the bottom of your stomach. The intent is to present the latest facts and to educate.)

Long thought to be strictly a problem of the northeastern United States, the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is making serious inroads into the Midwest and "The Land of 10,000 Lakes". Let's explore the life cycle, distribution, impacts, and control measures posed by this annoying and potentially devastating insect.

Like so many other invasive species, gypsy moth was brought to the United States with good intentions. This European species was brought to the east coast in an attempt to breed a heartier silk worm. It escaped into the woodlands and forests of Massachusetts in 1869. In the early 1900's, the federal government realized that this pest would be a serious problem. The Plant Quarantine Act was introduced in 1909 and passed in 1912. This law quarantined all trees located in infested areas and required that a thorough inspection be performed on any trees leaving that area. The law was very effective and kept the moth in the northeastern United States for many decades. But as we shall see, as Americans became more mobile, so did the "Gypsy" Moth.

The life cycle of the Gypsy Moth is fairly simple. The larval stage emerges in the months of May and June. The larvae feed voraciously on deciduous trees and woody plants as they progress through five to six instars. The insect pupates during the month of July and the male and female moths emerge in August. The female moth is flightless and moves very little from the pupation site. After mating, the female deposits an egg mass on or in any protected location in the immediate area. The egg mass over-winters until the following spring.

The Gypsy Moth is a unique pest in several ways:

"It has no natural predators (which is often the case with invasive species) to control its population; they just keep increasing.

"It is not a finicky eater, reportedly feasting on 300-500 different species of



*Female depositing egg mass. Each egg mass contains 100-1200 eggs.
Photo by Kenneth H. Knauer, USDA Forest Service*

host trees. The spread of this pest will not be deterred by the absence of host species.

+ The egg mass is often deposited in log piles, trailer frames, camping gear, automobiles, etc. and unknowingly transported great distances by human activity.

+ In areas of heavy infestations, the female will lay her egg mass high up in a tree, impeding efforts to destroy populations.

+ Because it tends to feed high in large trees, aerial spray applications may be the only option when dealing with areas inaccessible to high pressure spray rigs.

+ The Gypsy Moth caterpillar is capable of "ballooning", a process of trailing a long line of silk that is picked up by high winds, moving the caterpillars from tree to tree. It is next to impossible to keep areas downwind clear from heavy infestations.

The Gypsy Moth is capable of defoliat-

ing huge tracts of forest and woodland. Successive years of defoliation weaken otherwise healthy trees, leaving them susceptible to disease, drought, and additional insect attacks. Worst case scenarios result in tree death. While the economic and environmental impacts from this pest are devastating, living among these insects is definitely no treat. When the larvae leave their host trees after ten weeks of feeding, they begin searching for a pupation site. In heavily infested areas they can literally cover houses, garages, automobiles, driveways, or anything else exposed to their numbers. Copious amounts of frass and leaf litter fall from the sky as thousands of larvae consume every leaf on a host tree. An allergy to the frass and molted skins of the caterpillar is an issue for some individuals.

(Continued on Page 23)

Gypsy Moths –

(Continued from Page 22)

As of this year, the range of the Gypsy Moth is from the Northeastern U.S. down the Atlantic coast to northern North Carolina and west across the Great Lake states. It is now common in eastern and central Wisconsin. Most of the western counties in Wisconsin are part of the USDA Forest Services' "Slow The Spread Program" (STS). This program focuses on using IPM strategies to deal with low-level moth populations in the transition zone between infested and uninfested areas. The program relies heavily on the monitoring and eradication of small, isolated populations before they become established. The program goals are to slow the spread of Gypsy Moth into uninfested areas by almost two-thirds, thereby saving monies that would otherwise be spent on damages and control. Currently, the Minnesota counties of Houston and Winona are in the STS program.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has been trapping Gypsy Moth since 1973. They place and monitor an average of 16,000 pheromone-scented traps annually. The trapping is not done for control purposes, rather, it is done to monitor for new infestations. Control methods include aerial applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, a naturally occurring bacteria with insecticidal properties; and pheromone flakes, a mating disrupter that virtually makes the female moth invisible to the male moth and reproduction is eliminated. Over the past several years, the MDA has made numerous Bt applications to some highly populated urban areas including the Lake Harriet area, Edina, and the Golden Valley area. These treatments are very effective

Tree Preference of the European Gypsy Moth

<u>Preferred</u>	<u>Less Preferred</u>	<u>Avoided</u>
Oak	Yellow Birch	Ash
Aspen	Boxelder	Red Cedar
Basswood	Walnut	Balsam Fir
Paper Birch	Spruce	Silver Maple
Tamarack	Cottonwood	
	Pine	
	Red / Sugar Maple	

in localized areas.

The reality of the situation is this; the Gypsy Moth can be slowed down but it can NOT be stopped. Experts expect that Minnesota will be overrun in 8-12 years. At that time, the MDA will change its game plan from eradication to suppression. The financial costs for suppression will be enormous.

Listen closely...you might just hear *Lymantria dispar* knocking on Minnesota's door.



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Insight: One Executive Director's Perspective

Scott Turtinen, MGCSA Executive Director



Statistics

My name is Scott Turtinen. I have been involved with the MGCSA since 1990 and currently serve as Executive Director at the association's Minnetonka office. One of my main functions is to follow the direction of the Board of Directors as well as all requests of MGCSA members.

Background

I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in Individualized Studies with an emphasis on marketing, advertising and graphic arts. During my college days I refereed hundreds of high school hockey games in the winters and then coached the Wayzata High School Girls and Boys golf teams each spring including notable pro golfer Tim Herron and his sister and former U. S. Women's Mid-Amateur champion Alissa Herron. Both players played on my varsity squad as seventh graders.

Why Are You Involved in the Turf Industry?

I love the game of golf and the field it's played on. In 1989, the MGCSA was at a crossroads. The Minnesota Golf Association handled the business affairs of the MGCSA but found less and less time to pay due diligence to the MGCSA as interest in golf was skyrocketing at the time. The MGCSA was steadily growing, too. Former Wayzata Country Club Superintendent James Lindblad enlightened the MGCSA Board of our business capabilities and love of the game of golf. After interviewing multiple candidates, the Board of Directors selected Turtinen Communications to manage the MGCSA business office. Soon after, I was selected as Executive Director.

Who Was Your Professional Mentor?

My professional mentor is my dad, Ralph Turtinen. My dad taught me many valuable lessons by dealing with people in a courteous and respectful way and the importance of following up on all details,

big or small, requested by association members.

What Has Been the Highest Point in Your Career?

I like to think that every day is a high point because I sincerely enjoy working with turf professionals and doing my part to make the game of golf even better.

What are the Lowest Points in Your Career?

The anxiety of sometimes waiting extra days for *Hole Notes* to come back from the printer seems to be a low point at the business office.

Are Your Greatest Problems Political or Managerial?

The MGCSA has been and still is a great organization to be involved with. The "down to earth" turf professionals of the MGCSA make my job enjoyable. Fortunately, not too many problems have surfaced throughout the years. Of course, instances that need special attention come up every now and then. When this happens, the issue is dealt with in a respectful and professional manner.

What is the Most Difficult Disease to Manage at Your Golf Course?

While working with turf professionals for the past 15 years I have come to realize a lot of the trials and tribulations a superintendent encounters. The "greener grass" disease is what I encounter at the golf course. It is always a little annoying to hear golfers complain of course conditions, green speed or bunker sand. They see no reason why their course can not stay in U.S. Open conditions all season long.

Do You Have a Dog on Your Staff?

I have had dogs my whole life. Darby, my new golden retriever puppy, was named by my son Alex after professional hockey player Darby Hendrickson. Darby is too young to bring to work at this time.

Where Will Our Industry Be in 10 Years?

Although golf course development will probably slow down in the years ahead as land becomes more and more valuable, I believe the industry as a whole will be thriving. The turf research being done today at our universities will improve all courses tomorrow. New technology and better equipment will help Superintendents manage turf more efficiently and, hopefully, more cost-effective. As long as there are sunny days and rainy days the game of golf will continue to thrive as well.

Where Would You Like To Be in 10 Years?


I would like to still be the MGCSA's Executive Director but office out of a complex that included a driving range and an 18-hole putting green. A certain percentage of each bucket of golf balls purchased could go towards golf research.

What is Your Perspective of Our State Association and What Would You Change?

Although I realize the demands of a golf course Superintendent sometimes can prohibit people from attending a meeting, it would be nice if more members find the value of attending MGCSA functions. Gathering valuable information from peers who encounter the same issues has tremendous value. I feel that we, at the office, are keeping up with the new technologies of today's world. We have adapted to the computer age and will continue to evolve in all areas in the years to come. We respond to member requests as promptly and professionally as we can.

Name Your Golfing Foursome

My foursome would include Bobby Orr (*great hockey player*), Wayne Gretzky (*another decent hockey player*), and Jim Nicol, CGCS (*one of many great turf professionals I have had the pleasure to meet through the MGCSA*).



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Par Aide: Home Grown Company Embraces Super Ideas

By Steve Garske
President, Par Aide Products Co.

As Par Aide Products Co. closes in on its 50th anniversary, it's a great time to take a look back on our history, and to call attention to how Minnesota Superintendents have contributed to our success - in addition to being such loyal supporters of our product line.

Our company roots go back to a chance encounter at the 1954 annual PGA meeting held in St. Paul. My father, Joe Garske, was invited to that event as the guest of Wally Mund, Golf Professional at Midland Hills CC, President of the PGA and a good personal friend.



Steve Garske
Par Aide President

Somehow during this conference, Joe was given the challenge of building a "good" ball washer. No one knows for sure how it came about, but as the owner of a non-ferrous foundry, Dad was clearly in a position to experiment with the idea, and designed the Par Aide ball washer that is not much different today, at least in function. In fact, it was the helical agitator which by its nature causes the ball to turn in random direction, thus more completely cleaning it, that allowed for the original patent, awarded in 1957.

He took his prototype to his first GCSAA conference and show in St. Louis in 1955, and a star was born. Response was overwhelming. As the story I understand goes, he stopped at both Standard Golf in Iowa, and diverted over to Menasha, Wis., to visit with Lewis Line on his way back home. As these were the only two known companies making golf course accessories, his objective was to sell

his design, patent, tooling, etc to one of them. He knew nothing about the golf business but did know how, and wanted, to make the castings for them. Both turned him down and Par Aide was born as a simple diversion of Progress Casting Co. (In fact, on the early models of the Junior and Senior ball washers, a few still used on Minnesota courses today, will show the Par Aide logo but will also read "manufactured by Progress Foundries").

From what I was told upon returning to Par Aide in the '80s, by whom I refer to affectionately as the "old timers" such as Jim Lindblad, Bill Johnson, Joe Moris, Jack Kolb, John Fuller, Russ Adams, Jerry Bibbey, Jerry Murphy, Larry Mueller and so many others, the Minnesota association was informal and very personal. My father was well aware of the support and friendship he received in those early years, which was probably vital in allowing this young company to grow.



We are indebted to those of you who not only support us through your buying decisions but have become personal friends of ours as well. We are proud to call Minnesota home and the MGCSA, our association.

We will be celebrating our 50th year, 2005, in a variety of ways. We hope that you will share in our and your success in turf industry.

(Continued on Page 33)

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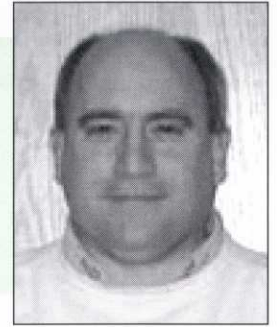
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Musing the Minutes

By Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club



Hello to all my fellow brethren of Golf Course Superintendents. I haven't written a column all summer due to an open Board Schedule (thanks Rob!) and a missed meeting on my part, but I am back again. Aren't you all lucky! What a summer it has been, too. I would like to start by thanking Brad Zimmerman our Arrangements Chairman, and all the superintendents who have offered their golf courses for MGCSA events this summer. To have so many fine venues for golf and social gatherings for our association has been fantastic. I was able to golf at all of them except Edina C.C. and what a great job every one has done to maintain their turf. Kudos to all.

While I didn't get to play Edina Country Club, I understand Mike Kelley had his facility in great condition. I must say, however, being a very poor wind player, as I drove out of the driveway to Edina C. C. and saw the trees swaying in the wind I almost looked forward to going back to work. To the business at hand, your MGCSA Board met at Edina Country Club on September 13th to conduct its latest slate of business.

Scott Turtinen reported that a membership recruitment brochure will be sent out to specific non-member clubs with an issue of the September *Hole Notes*. Turtinen also reported that 53 members could not receive their e-mails from the MGCSA business office due to a policy change/unsettled agreement between America On Line (AOL) and Time-Warner concerning mass e-mails. (*Editor's note: this problem has since been resolved.*)

President Rob Panuska (attended) the Delegates convention for GCSAA on September 24, 25 and 26. One item of concern for the Board of Directors was the consolidation of so many associations at the GCSAA Trade and Education show. While we all understand that there is strength in numbers, it was felt this is an item that should have gone through the membership. Of concern also was how this might dilute our association and the motivation for such a decision.

Panuska also voiced his concern for the number of clubs in Minnesota who are not members of our association. Much discussion ensued and listing all the benefits for membership would take too much space in this column. Rob stated that he will talk to our Membership Chair, James Gardner, CGCS, in an effort to develop a program. He also asked that we all talk to other members and get an idea why so many clubs haven't joined or rejoined the MGCSA, especially with the new Facility Membership.

In other news James Bade reported that the local GCSAA seminars are set for Jan 24th & 25th at the Double Tree in St. Louis Park. One topic is *Developing a Hazard Communication Policy*, the other is *Effective Soil Water Management for Quality Turf*. He also reported that the March Mini for 2005 is set for March 9th at Bracketts Crossing.

Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that the Minnesota Lakes Association has an agenda to push for the ban of phosphorus fertilizers in the state. This is one issue that will need to be moni-

tored in the future. He also discussed the drinking water on the golf course. The FDA has made some changes to their original guidelines; however Paul stated he has been told that water/ice baths are a definite infraction of FDA rules. It appears that there are more bacteria in that situation than in the water coolers, so all beverage carts must have drains open when carrying beverages so the cans and bottles are not in water.

Dr. Horgan reported that there is a new Plant Pathology Head on board at the U of M. He also thanked the MTGF for donating funds to design a new building at the TROE center. Having a design will help substantially in the generation of donations to build the facility. He also stated the fundraising phase will take a concentrated effort by many associations to achieve our goal.

I hope everyone has had a great summer. I know many of you are trying to survive massive amounts of water and our prayers are with you. Good luck in the month ahead and may your aerations and irrigation blow outs go well.

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What We Have Here is a Need to Communicate

By Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
The Los Angeles Country Club

Golf course superintendents do a wonderful job of providing great golfing conditions. Some have learned the trade through formal education and others have learned through hard work and good mentors. At some point we all have the skills to keep the turfgrass looking super within the constraints of our budgets and weather conditions. However, there is one area that I believe to have a wide variance in competencies and that is our ability to communicate.

I have a couple of theories on communication and how it can affect superintendents. By sharing them, in this article, I am not expecting everyone to agree with me but it may start a few people thinking about the value of communication.

"More people lose their jobs over poor communication than poor turfgrass conditions.

"Many superintendents miss opportunities to shine by not telling their story.

"Writing, speaking, providing reports, etc. is not a natural talent but one that is acquired. It takes practice and effort.

Let's look at a few things that you might be able to put into practical application at your golf course.

I hope you have some vehicle to convey your message to your golfers. Standard vehicles would be a golf course newsletter, a website, bulletin boards in the pro shop or lockerroom, etc. Every month I receive about 100 newsletters from clubs, all across the country, via our GM. Only 20% have monthly articles from the superintendent, yet all of them have monthly articles from the Pro and GM. The same is true with websites. Some superintendents have done a marvelous job of contributing to their golf course websites but again the golf pros and managers outshine us in this category. It is easy to say that you don't have time to write a monthly message but I would say that you can't afford not to take the time to communicate clearly the great and exciting things that are happening on the golf course.

I can't tell you how many times I have had peers tell me the Rodney Dangerfield line "I don't get no respect". Perhaps it is because we don't do a great job of developing our own Public Relations campaigns. It has been said that the 3 key steps to promoting your success are:

1. *Do the right thing.*
2. *Do the right thing.*
3. *Tell people that you are doing the right thing!*

To be successful and receive the respect you are due you must recognize opportunities and take advantage of them. When you

get a chance to attend board meetings, committee meetings, golf advisory meetings, etc. welcome the opportunity. Prepare well for these meetings and be certain to present your message professionally either verbally or in print. Too many people shy away from these opportunities. When you are invited to the Guest Day banquet don't turn the chance down. Sure, you got up at 4 AM but you owe it to yourself and your crew to rub elbows with the players and receive the accolades for the great golf course.

When problems arise on the golf course don't allow someone else to tell your story. I never want to depend on a waiter, bartender, golf shop employee, etc. to explain why we have some thin areas on the golf course. The message is sure to get mixed up and perhaps put you in a bad light. Be accessible when problems exist. People typically

want to know three things when trouble happens on the golf course:

1. *What happened?*
2. *What are you going to do about it?*
3. *When will it be back to normal?*

Nobody can carry the message better than you. Communicate it every way you can until the problem is resolved.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Use pictures as a vehicle to communicate your successes or to demonstrate areas that need improvement. In this era we should all learn to utilize digital photography and power point to make powerful presentations to promote programs and projects. It is a tool that can make us all look pretty good in front of our employers.

While space does not allow me expand on the subject, suffice it to say that the largest area for communication improvement is the skill of listening. If you go to the library you will find hundreds of books on public speaking. However, I doubt if you can find any that deal with listening. Listen to what your golfers want. This can be done through customer evaluations or personal feedback. Don't hear what you want to hear but try to understand what people are really saying. Don't be defensive. Learn to accept constructive criticism. Employers want people that bring them solutions rather than someone who gives excuses.

Think about the top 5 superintendents you know. What puts them in this special category of high esteem? Is it their ability to grow grass or is it their ability to communicate? I feel strongly that today the grass growing is the fundamental part of the job but the ability to communicate is paramount to career success.

"Don't hear what you want to hear but try to understand what people are really saying."

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