

A Good Cup of Joe?

(Continued from Page 10)

each cup, consumers are imbibing over 2,000 identifiable substances, one of which is caffeine. Each 8 ounce cup of regular coffee contains 85 to 120 milligrams of caffeine. Instant typically has between 60 and 85 milligrams and Espresso 30 to 50 milligrams of the potent chemical. Other common caffeinated products include tea at 40 milligrams; one can of cola at around 42 milligrams and one chocolate bar which has 6 milligrams.

But here is a not so fun fact about your morning jolt. Caffeine has a lethal dose (LD50) of 192 milligrams per kilogram of body weight. Your favorite "cup of Joe" is much more toxic than what typically comes out of your chemical application spray tank!

Whoa! Oral LD50 is the lethal dose necessary to kill 50 percent of the test population. It is expressed in milligrams per kilogram of test subject body weight and indicates the amount of material necessary to kill one half of the test population after administration. The above chart details LD50 terminology. According to the LD50

chart, caffeine, with an LD 50 of 192 ml/kg, falls into the "moderately toxic" category along side of Chlordane, a substance banned from use in horticulture due to its toxicity. How does that Latte' taste now?

For that matter, if you use baking soda (LD50 of 4,220), table salt (LD50 of 3,000) or grain alcohol (LD50 of 2,80) be aware of their potential toxicity. Now that you can't enjoy your food, let us put the volumes into perspective.

In order to kill 50 percent of a population weighing 150 pounds, test subjects would need to consume .63 pounds of baking soda, .44 pounds of table salt, .3 pounds of grain alcohol or an incredibly small amount, .027 pounds, of caffeine in one dose. The second chart on Page 10 investigates the LD50 amounts, expressed in pounds, of commonly used turf chemicals necessary to be lethal to an average 150 pound human.

None of these materials are anywhere near as toxic as the common cup of coffee. Yet the general public's perception when they see a plant protection application of chemicals upon a golf course is one of extreme concern. As professionals we

understand that it truly is the dose that makes the poison.

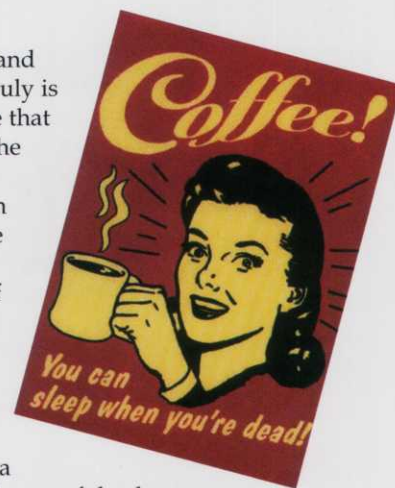
As an example of "too much of a good thing," I calculate that

to have a

50/50 chance of death

I would have to consume quite a bit of coffee. We know that the Oral LD 50 of caffeine is 192 mg/kg. If one eight-ounce cup contains an average of 100 milligrams of caffeine, and I weigh 180 pounds, then I would need to drink over 160 cups of coffee to put my system over the top.

That is 10 gallons of coffee!!! Talk about bladder control! And talk about putting your next "cup of Joe" into perspective!



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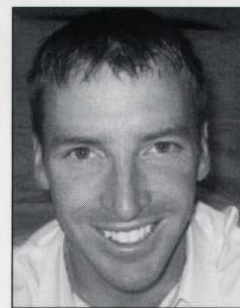


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Where Do You See Yourself In 10 Years?

By Nate Uselding

Assistant Superintendent, Dellwood Hills Golf Club



The GCSAA and Toro have teamed up for the 7th annual Toro Championship Tournament Training Program. Two assistant superintendent and one GCSAA student member will be selected for an all expense paid trip to either the 2005 U.S. Open or the PGA championship. Winners will experience first hand what it takes to prepare a course for tournament play. Think of what great exposure this would bring to you as an assistant and what a career building experience this would add to your resume.

I read about this last year and thought about writing an article, but I procrastinated and never got it done. After the fact, I read in GCM, less than 100 assistants applied and thought my odds of winning would be great. There are over 100 assistants alone in the metro area and to think this is a national search, I said to myself, "I will submit one next year." Before I saw it posted this year, my boss printed me off a copy and handed it to me. He said, "Here, you should try this. This would be a great opportunity for you." Not only do I have pressure from myself to write this, I now have pressure from my boss. I will surely write in this year!

The topic is on where you see yourself in 10 years professionally and what do you wish to accomplish in that time? What an easy topic...until you get started. The essay needs to be five hundred words and I could easily sum it up in less than ten, but it is important to think outside the box. Think about how you will get to the year 2015 and your ups and downs in that time. You can't just flick a switch and be 10 years in the future unless you're Marty McFly. So how do you get there? Are you still involved in the business? Are you still in Minnesota? And then the doubt sets in about what if I don't get a head job somewhere, what if I fail and I am on a second try? What if I lose the passion for what I do? And the what ifs come easily in the winter when things are slow at the course, but when you hit a 50

degree day in February everything comes back into perspective, and ah yes, I love my job.

Five hundred words and I begin with, I see myself in ten years... NO! This will get you to the wastebasket faster than you can blink an eye. I will tell a story of my dreams and aspirations that are realistic to achieve. Anything can happen, heck I could win the lottery and be retired. But in all seriousness, start by looking at yourself 1-2 years from now. What do you want to accomplish and where will you be? If you haven't thought this far in advance, it's time to start if your goal is to one day be a superintendent. Break it down, look at 3-5 years down the road. What position will you be in, where are you working, and finally are you happy? Do you see something big happening within five years and what will you do with it 6-8 years from now? Are you making the correct decisions? Are you learning from your mistakes? What have you brought with you from other courses? Finally, in 9-10 years are you settling down somewhere new or have you settled into your big job? Are you happy with where you are or are you looking elsewhere? What are you doing to make yourself better at your job? Are you keeping up with all the new technology that is available to us? There are so many different questions to ask yourself. These are just a few to get the ball rolling and get us thinking about our future.

It is tough enough for me to think two years in advance let alone ten years, but it is important to have a plan and remind yourself of your goals. It is great to think in ten years I will have a superintendent job, but more importantly how will I get there? How can I develop myself in the next ten years to acquire the necessary tools and resources to be successful in that head role? Even though you have a plan it always changes. You will probably have to revise your plan many times throughout your career, but at least you

have something you are working toward. I remember going through interviews for an assistant position and the gentleman asked me where I see myself in five years. WOW! Who knew, but now that I have a plan and attainable goals, I do!

Each assistant's career path will look a little different. Some will be on the fast track and have a head job very quickly, some will make it a gradual process and others may not want the responsibility of being a superintendent. Nobody can tell us what we want, we need to decide what is best for ourselves. In terms of my career path, this is a brief overview of what I would like to accomplish in the next ten years.

I would like to be on the fast track to becoming a superintendent but I am cautious with the fear of failure. Each day I learn a new lesson by asking questions and learning from my mistakes. No matter what position I am in, I am never too old to learn something new. As an assistant, I want to maximize my personal production and minimize my mistakes by learning everything possible. I will fine tune my skills as a manager and strive to set-up our team for success. Within two years, I will be ready and I will begin applying for superintendent positions so within five years I am settled in as a superintendent. Now the fun begins because one of my career goals is complete, becoming a superintendent. As a superintendent, I want to give back to others and one way is by having an internship program. Every year I would like to teach and train an aspiring superintendent the ropes of the trade. This will keep me on my toes as a superintendent and ensure I pass on our great profession. Throughout these ten years there will be bumps in the road but I am a positive person and the glass is half full. I am going to be successful because I work hard and I am happy with what I do.

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U of M Turf Club Continues to Improve

By Aaron Johnsen

The University of Minnesota Turf Club is beginning its new season, just like many of you. Recently, we returned from the GCSAA National Show. This year, as in the past, we competed in the Turf Bowl. This year's Turf Bowl consisted of a three-hour test on a variety of topics about warm- and cool-season golf courses.

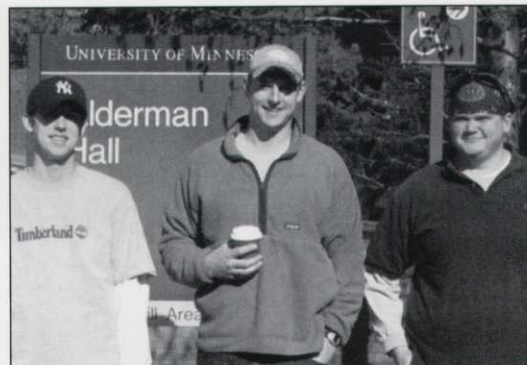
Four teams competed from the University of Minnesota and placed 11th, 19th, 40th and 42nd. Eighty-six teams competed overall. Eleventh is the highest the U of M Turf Club has ever placed. Members of the 11th place team consisted of Gabe Klaassen, Josh Olson, Mitch Savage and Mark Schloo.

Currently we are beginning our fundraising to raise money for next year's trip. Our efforts include selling Easter baskets with turf, organizing a golf pass raffle and working/volunteering at various golf courses. There are many ways one can support the turf club's efforts in these fundraising activities.

Last year we held our first annual Golf Give-away. We collected golf passes from ten courses around the state and raffled them off. This event was the club's largest fundraiser ever and it will occur again this year. Courses can contribute golf passes or anything else golf-related for the raffle.

The Turf Club has also raised funds by helping golf courses with major maintenance projects. Some of those projects include covering greens, aerating and removing trees. We have also helped with the tournament preparations at the TPC of Blaine. Graciously these courses have donated money and golf passes for our efforts. Anyone interested in having the Turf Club do work should contact us.

Besides our fundraising activities, we participate in educational opportunities revolving around the turf industry. Last fall we had speakers from local golf courses and from the University of Minnesota. This spring we are planning to tour some golf courses' facilities. The members of the turf club are interested in learning all they can about the turf industry and we



Top U of M Turf Bowl Team
Mitch Savage, Gabe Klaassen and Josh Olson.
Teammate Mark Schloo is not pictured.

encourage anyone to talk to us.

It is important for Turf Club members to learn all they can about the turf industry. A good way to prepare for the turf industry is to attend regional seminars and the national conference.

Thank you for your time and support. Good luck on the upcoming season. We look forward to hearing from you.

(Editor's Note: Any donations or inquiries can be directed to President Aaron Johnsen at john6333@umn.edu or 1970 Folwell Ave, Alderman Hall 305, St. Paul, MN 55108.)

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



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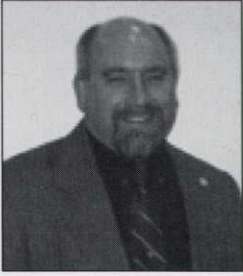
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Musing the Minutes

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS
Monticello Country Club



March Madness is here. Are you sick of hearing that term? While I believe it began with the NCAA Boys Basketball tournament, it seems to apply to so many events. Well I am taking advantage of the craze and moving it into the golf industry. The madness I am referring to is the madness you see from golfers calling to ask if you are open when it turns to 45 degrees even though they live on the course and can see there are still piles and piles of snow on the course. I am referring to the madness of a green chairman that asks you on the second week of March, when the course is going to open, like you could answer him with anything that would sound intelligent. I am referring to the madness of the golfer who expects you to open the golf course and have the same conditions they have seen on their televisions for the last three months.

Actually, I have good members and an excellent Green Chair, but I have heard these questions in the past. The big thing is that golfers' expectations do seem to increase and we are asked every year to produce a product that is greater than the product we produced the previous year. Despite, in many cases, budget cuts, staff cuts and weather variables. Well I hope you all have a great beginning to the season this year despite what variables you have been handed out-of-your-control.

Enough of that. You read this column for what happens at your Board of Directors meetings so without further ado. Your Board met at Keller Golf Club on Tuesday, March 8. This month's meeting was a bit longer than most. Some issues needed to be taken care of before the season really gets underway.

Treasurer Jeff Johnson reports that the financial condition of the association continues to be good. In a comparison of the '04 and '05 fiscal years, to date we are slightly ahead of last year. A motion was made to approve the Treasurers' Report and on we went.

President Rob Panuska thanked all Board Members for their service and for attending the President's dinner. He also mentioned that we have been offered an opportunity to participate in Golfweek's Bunker Book Camp, a one-day seminar that Golfweek sponsors at a host golf course. Rob felt it would fit in with our scheduled event at Monticello Country Club for this coming October. Rick Traver, CGCS will explore it farther.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen reports we have a little over 50 percent of the membership paid to date. He also inquired if we should have personal information in the roster this year. The consensus of the board was not to put personal information in the roster as that would dramatically increase the cost to print the roster and many did not want that information posted.

Vice-President James Bade reported on the MTGF directors meeting. The MTGF made \$125,000 from the EXPO, of which they set a large portion aside for the TROE Center, but they also set aside \$20,000 for an economic impact study. This study will be used to prove to the legislature and other bodies, the economic impact our industry has on the overall economics of the state. The MTGF also received a Regents Award for the amount of

money donated to the University of Minnesota TROE Center in the past. Bade also reported there are some issues with the MTGF officers as the vice-president can take office as president because he is no longer in the turf industry. They are trying to sort out who will be president and so forth during the next month.

Legislative Committee Chair Paul Eckholm, CGCS reports there are two bills that will have an impact on our industry that are being introduced. The first is the formation of a Fertilizer Council, which would be funded by a \$.45 surcharge per ton sold. This council would then be charged with the duty of directing these funds toward fertilizer research. The second is a bill that would change the pesticide application documentation requirements. All applicators would be required to file all pesticide applications to the MDA electronically monthly. Stay tuned for this one. It could be interesting.

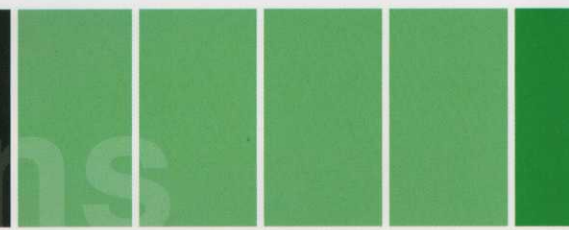
There were many other smaller items discussed, but that was the high impact list. I hope you all have a great spring and I'll see you again next month. - Rick

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Can you find what's missing from this picture?



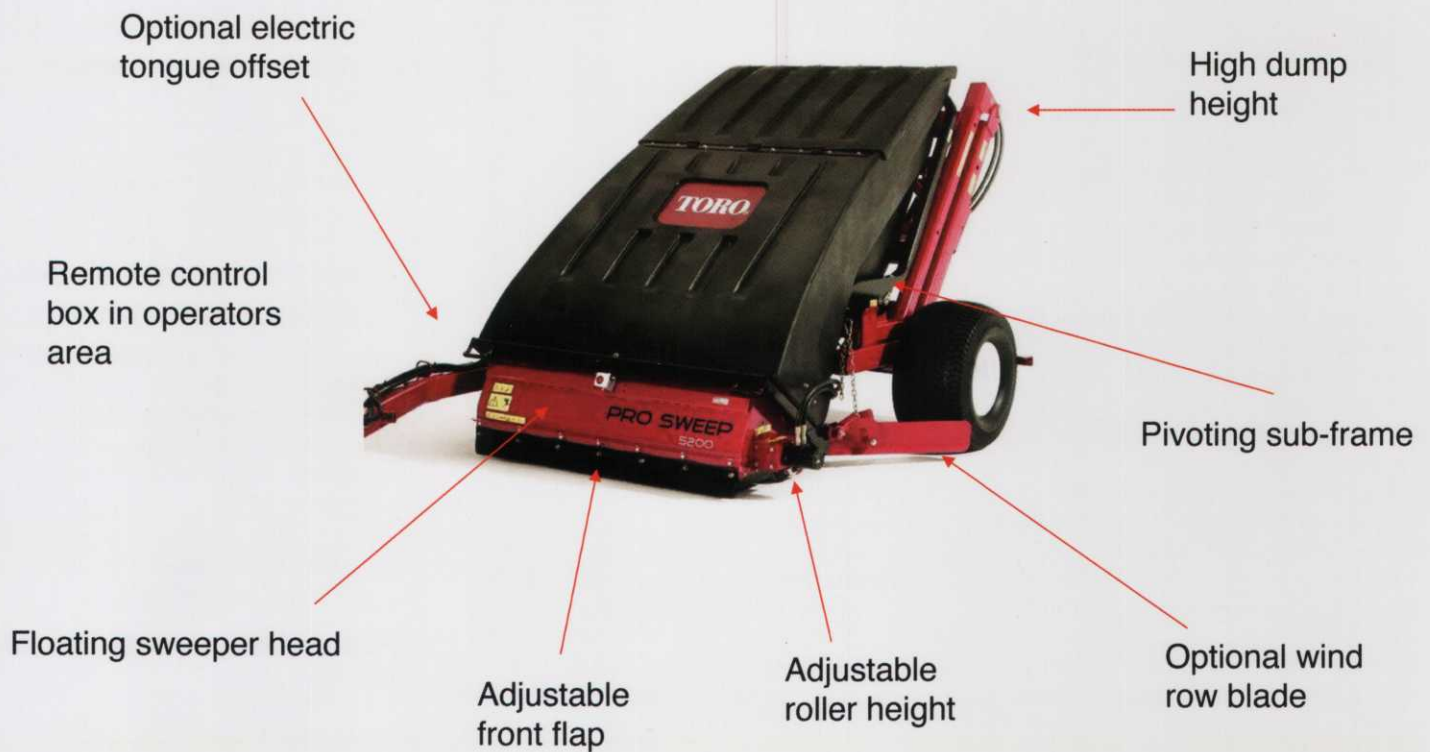
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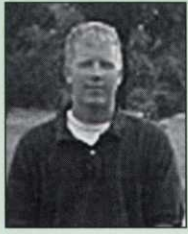
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INSIGHT:

One Superintendent's Perspective

By Dan Hill
Superintendent, Birnamwood Golf Course

Course and statistics

Birnamwood Golf Course, Municipal, 9-hole, Par 27, built in 1968 and purchased by the City of Burnsville in 1988.

Biography

I have been working in the golf industry for 16 years. I have been very fortunate in my work experience and I have had the privilege to work at a wide range of golf courses, including low budget daily fee courses, a resort course, a private country club and a municipal course.

I started in high school and worked for three years at Lakeview Golf Course for Barry Provo in Mound, MN. I then worked at The Pines at Grandview Lodge for Tom Kientzle while I was going to Brainerd Community College for my Associates of Arts Degree. After receiving my Associates Degree, both Tom and Barry urged me to go to Anoka Technical College for a turf certificate. I worked as Barry Provo's Assistant at Lone Pine Golf Course while going to school at Anoka. After Anoka I returned to The Pines as the Assistant Superintendent. I left The Pines after a year to work for Larry Mueller at Minnesota Valley. I was the Second Assistant for one year and then became the Assistant Superintendent. I stayed for two more years and then came to Birnamwood Golf Course, where I have been for six years.

Why and/or how did you enter the turf management industry?

It started as a summer job in high school working on the local golf course. With the teaching and mentoring of Barry Provo and Tom Kientzle, I fell in love with the field and never left it.

Who was your professional mentor and why?

Although I learned a lot from everyone I worked for, Larry Mueller is my profes-

sional mentor. I respect Larry not only as a superintendent but as a person. I learned more from him in those three years than I could ever have learned at any university. Larry taught me things that I will value for the rest of my life. Not only did he teach me about turf but he also taught me managerial skills, club politics and about life.

What has been the highest point in your career?

Becoming fully certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Birnamwood became the first nine-hole course in Minnesota and the smallest course in the world to achieve full certification.

What has been your lowest point?

I think the lowest point is seeing how some superintendents that I greatly respect have been treated by their clubs over the years.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

I would have to say managerial. It is not the staff, but my own time that I have the greatest challenge managing. I not only take care of the grounds at Birnamwood but also run the clubhouse. It can be a challenge at times to decide if I should spend my time on the course working on projects, in the clubhouse doing paper work, or with the golfers and league participants. I feel that in the past six years I have greatly improved my time management skills and customer service skills.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course and how do you?

I would say that it is not a disease that I have had the greatest challenge managing but "localized dry spot." Although it is always an issue I have greatly reduced

its severity by the use of wetting agents, I use Primer and Aqueduct on a regular basis throughout the growing season.

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

I have been very blessed with a wonderful staff. Most of my staff has returned from year to year so I have had to do very little hiring after my first year. My staff has been my biggest asset.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

No. But my staff is trained pretty well at chasing geese.

Where will our industry be in ten years?

I feel that it will continue to get tougher to manage turf with all the environmental regulations and water restrictions. But I also feel that State and Federal regulations makes our association that much stronger. I remember the big Calo-Clor scare of the '90s. What were we going to do without mercury chlorides to protect us from gray snow mold? In the end we came to learn that we really did not need mercury chlorides and we are better off without them. There are many other regulations that I do not agree with and think they should be fought. I do feel that regulations (whether I agree with a particular one or not) make our association that much stronger and our members that much more educated.

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

I love my position and can't see myself doing anything else.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

My favorite thing about our association is how willing everyone is to share information. It really seems that there are no trade secrets anyone is keeping to themselves and I love that. If I were to change something, I guess I would like to see more of our peers writing articles for *Hole Notes* to share some of their experiences and expertise.

Name your foursome. Who would you play with?

It would have to be my wife Jenni and my two boys Payton and Graden.

The Cumulative Effect

By BOB VAVRE
Senior USGA Agronomist

With yet another significant thaw/freeze event, the chances of courses entering spring without injury to Poa annua appears less likely. Two consecutive days in the mid-50s during the 6th and 7th of March melted most of the ice and snow remaining on greens. As greens lost ice cover a strong smell of decaying grass was noticed—never a good sign. Samples taken from greens often yielded live bentgrass and dead Poa annua.

To make matters worse, the short-lived warm spell ended with 0.1" of rain and a rapid drop in temperature to 15°F on March 8. Greens that were free from snow/ice became skating rinks overnight. More damage likely occurred to turf already weakened by several previous similar weather patterns. Then nighttime temperatures in the low teens this week are not helping the situation at a time of the year when turf has lost most of its winter hardiness.

Superintendents at courses where greens possess a high percentage of Poa annua and surface drainage is less than ideal are hoping for the best and preparing for the worse. Significant damage will need to be overseeded and covered to accelerate recovery. Keeping play off damaged sites will be an unpopular, but, extremely important component of the recovery process.

An extra effort is being made to inform golfers, golf course owners, and other interested parties about the potential for extensive turf loss this spring. An informal morning event regarding winter injury will be held at Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul on May 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.,

(Editor's Note: Bob Vavrek may be reached at rvavrek@usga.org.)

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