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### About the Cover

**Inset:** 2004 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award recipient E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, with his wife Renee, four-year-old son Logan and seven-year-old daughter Kaija.

**Background:** A beautiful crabapple tree on the 17th hole at North Oaks Golf Club.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25

**SPRING "ASSISTANTS" MIXER**  
North Links Golf Course, North Mankato  
Host Superintendent: Eric Peters

May 6

**MGA / MGCSA Turfgrass Forum**  
Midland Hills Country Club  
Host Superintendent: Scott Austin, CGCS  
**Note: Contact Joel Comstock, MGA  
at 952-345-3968 or e-mail joel@mngolf.org  
by Friday, April 29 if you plan to attend.  
Go to [www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org) for more information.**

May 16

**BASF Tournament**  
Stillwater Country Club, Stillwater  
Host Superintendent: Marlin Murphy

June 13

**Scholarship Scramble**  
Dellwood Hills Golf Club, Dellwood  
Host Superintendent: Eric Peterson

August 1

**Harold Stodola Research Scramble**  
Brackett's Crossing Country Club, Lakeville  
Host Superintendent: Tom Proshok

September 26

**MGCSA Championship**  
Midland Hills Country Club, St. Paul  
Host Superintendent: Scott Austin, CGCS

October 11

**Fall Mixer**  
Monticello Country Club, Monticello  
Host Superintendent: Rick Traver, CGCS





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### MGA/MGCSA Turfgrass Forum Set for May 6 at Midland Hills

By Robert Panuska

What a Mini-Seminar! Thank you to all who attended, the weather was perfect and the topics were very timely as we gear up for spring. James Bade and the entire Education Committee are to be commended for a job well done on organizing the day. Thank you also to Tom Proshok and the staff at Brackets Crossing CC for hosting, we look forward to returning on August 1 for the annual MGCSA Research Scramble. Congratulations again to E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, our Distinguished Service Award recipient for 2004, and Garrett Gill, our 2004 Watson Award winner. Thank you, gentlemen for your contributions.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Mark your calendars for May 6.** The Minnesota Golf Association and the MGCSA will be co-sponsoring a Turfgrass Forum for decision makers in the golf business at Midland Hills Country Club. The purpose of this forum is to bring leaders together to hear from industry experts as well as share ideas related to turf management. This year the guest speakers are Mr. Bob Vavrek from the USGA and Dr. Brian Horgan from the U of M. By the time you receive this issue of *Hole Notes* we will have a fairly good idea about how much winter injury we will be dealing with. This forum offers the opportunity to share ideas and hear from others what they are doing to either prevent or grow out of winter damage. You should have received a flyer by now via e-mail or mail with reservation details, if not, be sure to contact the MGA office by April 29 and reserve your spot.

\* \* \* \* \*

**How is your network of support?** I have mentioned this many times over the past year and with good reason. Even though it may seem we stand alone at our individual courses, we can all benefit from sharing ideas and getting feedback from others. Chances are very good that if you are having a problem, others are as well. However, a network is not just for problem solving; this can also provide the opportunity to share what has worked for you and hear what others are doing at their courses. Your network is not just limited to other superintendents but also the suppliers to your course both in and out of the turf industry. I have found that "bouncing" ideas off of a few trusted members can give me a different insight into solutions. Let us not forget the old adage "it isn't always what you know but who you know" that may help you along the way.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Finally, I would like to thank our editor, Jack MacKenzie,** for his feature article last month. I was very humbled by the comments from my friends and family. Thank you Jack, not only for the presidential feature but also for the outstanding job you do as our editor. You have truly taken this publication "to the next level!"

Until next month,  
Rob

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the MGCSA

Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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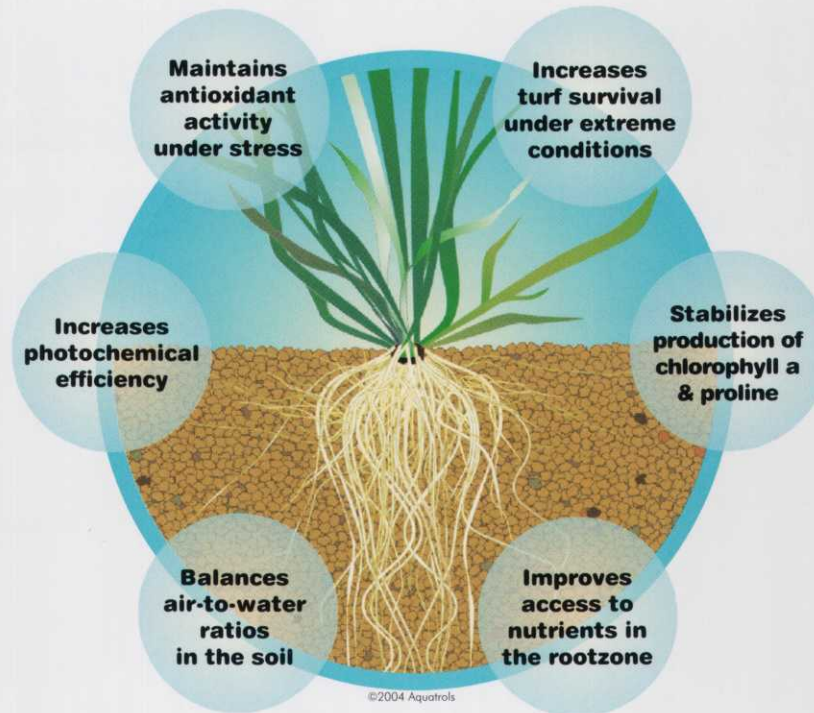
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# E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Receives Distinguished Service Award

BY RICK FREDERICKSEN, CGCS  
Woodhill Country Club

E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS was presented with the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award during a ceremony at the March Mini Seminar.

The award was given for his contributions as a leader, mentor and a person with vision that has represented our professional community. Paul's insight and organization led our association through issues at the state capital and to develop a turf research center at the University of Minnesota.

Our Distinguished Service Award recipient began his career as a junior in high school, when he took a horticulture class to fill out his schedule. Enjoying the class he took a summer job working at a greenhouse for Vern Bushlack. Paul was thinking this was where the sun would rise and set for him and thus he enrolled at the U of M in greenhouse management.

Through Vern Bushlack, Paul met Kurt Erdman, then Superintendent at Rochester Golf Club, and was hired for an internship where he did course set-up, picking the staff up for breaks and injecting Elm trees. Finding that he preferred turf to flowers, Paul switched majors soon after to turfgrass science where Dr. Don White was his advisor at the U of M.

The following is an excerpt from Dr.

White's letter of congratulations:

To preface this, two thoughts come to mind: The objective in all education is to share knowledge with students and guide them to the point where they can leave the University and function productively in the real world, represent us well and develop their talents and skills on their own; and, it is said that the best way to evaluate a teacher is by evaluating his students. In Paul's case then, I will have to be careful not to give myself a big head because Paul deserves all the credit.

He always was an industrious, conscientious self-starter who got things done. One of the most rewarding things for me was observe him grow in the profession while developing his leadership skills. These talents coupled with Paul's abundant energy level set him apart. He is serious about his professional growth and he



E. Paul Eckholm CGCS

tives. This has been especially prominent with the TROE Center, and his contributions as our representative at the legislature. He has been a major spokesman for the industry throughout the contentious times associated with the phosphorus legislation.

In short Paul is a distinguished leader well deserving of any recognition we can give.

Dr. Don White

*"As my first long-term assistant, Paul and I grew together in the industry. We conquered many challenges during those early years. Through that time and to this day I have great respect for him and his abilities as a turf professional and leader in our industry."*

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

is generous with his commitment to service to the University and Industry. We have all benefited greatly by his initia-

Paul joined the MGCSA in 1985 while an Assistant

Superintendent at North Oaks Golf Club. After the 1990 season he pursued and attained the Superintendent's position at Grand Forks Country Club in North Dakota.

In 1995 Paul interviewed for the Construction Superintendent position at Heritage Links. Since they were in the process of completing their government regulation work, Paul would not be able to start until February of 1996 when he began the construction of Heritage Links. Paul is currently both the Superintendent and General Manager of Heritage Links.

In 1997 Paul Eckholm was elected to the Board of Directors. He has served as the legislative chairman, research

(Continued on Page 9)



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## Eckholm—

(Continued from Page 7)

chairman, public relations chairman and human resources chairman, as well as the President of the association in 2000 and 2001.

The Board noted early on his ability for detail and his passion for the industry. Within a year he was appointed the government relations chair and soon found himself testifying at the capital for proposed phosphorous legislation. He made over 70 trips and devoted countless hours attending conference committees, testifying at the capital and behind the scenes lobbying on the association's behalf.

Paul was able to convince legislators that the golf course industry was a steward for the environment and handled phosphorous in a responsible fashion so as not to impact the balance of the natural ecosystem. His commitment is the reason superintendents today can continue to use phosphorous-based fertilizers. In 2002 Paul was nominated by the MGCSA for the GCSAA Excellence in Government

Relations Award for his outstanding dedication (please see accompanying letter). Although not a winner nationally, Paul continues to serve as our state association government relations chair and thus earns our appreciation as a leader.

*"Paul has been a great supporter of the turf program at the University of Minnesota. He has been instrumental in the development and fundraising for the TROE Center and recently served on the search committee to hire Dr. Eric Watkins. Paul's energy to transform the turf program into a beneficial entity for all superintendents across Minnesota is contagious."*

- Dr. Brian Horgan

In 2000, the Association Board passed a motion to discontinue funding of out-of-state research and support the University of Minnesota in doing local research. With Paul's input, Dr. Brian Horgan was hired at the University as Turf Extension Specialist. Dr. Horgan's immediate need was an area to do field trials and conduct research. Under Paul's guidance the MGCSA and the MTGF began talks with

the University to locate a potential site.

A 16-acre plot was allotted to be used for the new Turf, Research, Outreach and Education Center. Paul saw an opportunity to get the MGCSA involved in helping with the new TROE Center. He started a program called the Drive-for-the-U that would enable Superintendents and their clubs and vendors to be able to donate equipment, services, or supplies to help. His cultivation and solicitation of funding resulted in over \$170,000 of in-kind services and supplies being donated.

He invested an enormous amount of energy and time into a project that he felt could help today's students and superintendents as well as the future generation of turfgrass managers.

Paul was asked how many trips and time he had invested in working on the TROE Center. He apologized for not having a better tally but confessed that he had never thought to keep track and added "it took what it took and I didn't give it another thought".

Paul's philosophy seems like a great way to approach life.



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# A GOOD CUP OF JOE?

By JACK MacKENZIE, CGCS  
North Oaks Golf Club

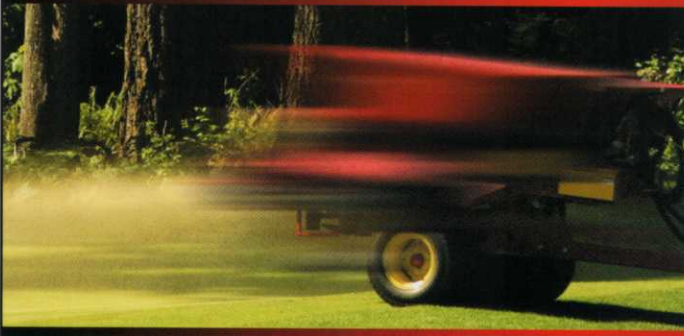
How many cups of coffee have you had so far today? More than three? Supplemented with cream and sugar? Are you putting your health at grave risk by consuming this popular beverage?

Coffee. Latin genius *Coffea*. There are over 25 different species of coffee, the two most popular of which are Arabica and Robusta. First developed as a libation back in the 9th century by the Mufti people of Aden, coffee grew in popularity for the following 400 years throughout the Yemeni district of Arabia. Today this area is called Persia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey.

- + 52% of adults in America drink coffee
- + 35% of coffee is consumed black
- + The average American coffee drinker consumes 3.5 cups a day



Long before Starbucks became popular, the small coffee shop called Kivhan was popularized in Turkey, roughly 700 years ago. Soon laws had to be created to control the demand for the potent beverage. Coffee was so intrinsic to the Turkish way of life that women were allowed to divorce their husbands if denied their

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Mancozeb	Practically None	8,000	1.4 lbs.
Iprodione	Slightly Non-Toxic	5,000	.75 lbs.
Propiconizol	Slightly Toxic	1,300	.2 lbs.
Orthene	Moderately Toxic	866	.13 lbs.
Sevin	Moderately Toxic	850	.12 lbs.

morning cup of "Joe."

It wasn't long before coffee was distributed throughout Europe, much to the chagrin of wine producers. Fearing too much competition they petitioned the Pope to damn the elixir as unholy. Prior to his judgment, Pope Clementine smelled the brew. Then he tasted it. Apparently he embraced coffee for

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shortly after his first cup he baptized the caffeine concoction as a "Christian" drink.

In the 1600s coffee was popularized in England. Originally used as a pharmaceutical, coffee soon found its way to college campuses throughout Britain. Penny Universities, so named because a cup cost one cent and students often learned more over this libation than in the classroom, became very popular. In fact the London Stock exchange was conceived in a coffee house.

But not all of history was favorable for the ingestion of this rich elixir. For a brief period in the mid 1600's coffee consumption was prohibited in its birth region of Turkey. Those daring the law could find themselves bound and placed inside a leather satchel and then dipped in the local waterway. In England, the Women's Petition Against Coffee movement was established. Fortunately for those of us who like the beverage these petitions were short-lived.

By 1723 the commodity had been brought across the big pond and was established in America. The following 200 years witnessed a grand rise in coffee's popularity, especially in the United States. By 1940 the U.S. was importing 70 percent of the world's coffee production.

Yes, coffee is extremely popular. In fact 4,848 cups are enjoyed every second of every day in our country. And with

(Continued on Page 11)