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PEER-TO-PEER: SHARING THE GOOD WORD

Considering the Events of Last Winter, What Will Your Winter Protection Plan Be?

(Editor's Note: The MGCSA conducted a survey via e-mail to members of the association in July)

* * * *

I am still on the fence regarding winter covers. Last spring we purchased, and used quite successfully, spring recovery covers. As of this moment I do not plan on covering and rather will place all covers upon the greens as soon as possible in the spring to encourage soil warming. Snow mold control will be 4 oz./m Chipco and 6 oz./m Daconil on the fairways and tees. I will add Medalion into the mix upon the greens. I will monitor my turf closely and keep my BOD up to date.

- Jack MacKenzie
North Oaks Golf Club
North Oaks

I will let the greens get a little longer in late fall. Otherwise, due to labor and financial constraints, no covers - plan stays the same.

- Paul Diegnau, CGCS
Keller Golf Course
Maplewood

We will have the same protocol as last season.

- Jim Nicol, CGCS
Hazelton National Golf Club
Chaska

I will stay the same as last year, I had no damage from the winter. Winter covers will go down 3rd week of November and stay on till spring. Snow mold control will be 12oz of Revere, 4oz of Touche, 6oz of Manicure Ultrex and 3oz of Iron.

- Jeff Vinkemeier
Glencoe Country Club
Glencoe

I have experimented with the green-jacket, with and without the foam. I will use the covers on 12 greens this year, no foam. These are greens I have lost grass three of the last 5 years. Water freezing in the low areas of greens has been the great-

est cause for winter kill. The impermeable cover seems to reduce winter kill in this situation, especially as the last of the snow melts off in the early spring. I also use snow fence to hold snow on the more exposed greens.

Fairways get PCNB and daconil ultrex. Greens will get 26Gt, Daconil and PCNB

- Donnacha O'Connor
Alexandria Golf Club
Alexandria

Greens covers on in the spring, along with green turf paint or black topdressing sand or both. Haven't decided on that yet. Kind of strange to be thinking about this since I feel like I am permanently attached to a hand water hose right now. Looking forward to a long winter of ice fishing.

- Nick Rongstad
Izatys Resort
Onamia

As of right now I will not be using greens covers and putting them also on in the spring. As far as Snow Mold protection: Greens and Tees--Medalion Banner Maxx 3 oz Daconil 5.5 oz Transfilm 6 oz. Fairways--PCNB 8 oz Transfilm 6 oz And last but not least I add in a lot of I Hope, I Hope it is a good Winter Season.

- Barry J. Hines
Izatys Resort
Onamia

Medalion and Heritage for snow mold control. No covers. Have not used covers for 38 years and have had virtually no winter damage on greens. Except for this past winter. Hopefully, we will not see another winter like that for a long time.

- Randy Allen
Tartan Park
St. Paul

I won't change anything from last year. We cover mid-November just before the ground freezes. Treat with 4 oz PCNB two weeks before and just before we cover. We also apply 6 oz Weatherstick

Daconil and 8 oz Spot - Treat for mouse repellent because of the brush I put on several of the covers. Fairways are treated with 4 oz PCNB.

On the greens I plan on doing what we did last year on the greens Chipco / Daconil with weather stix (4 oz. and 6 oz.) and an application of Turfcide 400 (12 oz.). I also will spray some transpirant and topdress if I can get out to them late.

I do not treat the fairways generally but will spray 6,7,10. They got hit bad last year. And I do plan on doing a lot of trimming, the fairways that are the shadiest, lost the most poa.

- Stephen R. Dinger
Como Golf Course
St. Paul

My Snow mold applications for last year: Greens, No snowmold. 6 oz./m Daconil Weatherstik; 4 oz./m Chipco GT; 4 oz./m Heritage. Fairways and tees had unacceptable breakthrough in the fall about a month after application. The disease pressure was very high but I will be doing something different this fall: 2 oz./m Banner Maxx and .5 oz./m Medallion. I put down Evergreen covers in the late fall. I will continue to put down covers.

- Michael Nelson, CGCS
Dacotah Ridge Golf Club
Morton

I plan to keep my same program. Spray 2oz 26GT and 4oz Weather stick on Bluegrass tees and the same combo plus 4oz of Turfcide 400 on Providence greens. I do not treat fairways. I will dormant feed tees and greens at 1# with some sort of N source. I do not use covers. Keep it simple.

- Kevin Clunis
Tanners Brook GC
Forest Lake

(Continued on Page 23)

Protection Survey-

(Continued from Page 22)

Last year I split my course in half and tried two different mixtures on each half of the course. I will do the same thing this year. On one half of the course I will spray 5 oz of PCNB in mid October (to cover for pink snowmold). Then another 5 oz PCNB, 5.5 oz Daconil Weather stik and 2 oz of Terremc SP just before it snows.

On the other half of the course I will spray 2 oz 3336 in the Middle of October (to cover pink snowmold) then I will spray 5.5 oz of Weather Stik, .5 oz of Medallion and 4 oz of 26GT just before it snows.

I am trying to see if the PCNB is causing the tip burn in the spring of the year. Last year I saw no difference between the half of the course that I used PCNB and the half of the course that I did not.

I spray this on Tees and Greens. I do not protect Fairways.

-Dan Hill
Birnamwood Golf Course
Burnsville

Mankato University Student Awarded Garske Grant

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has named Branden Tanko of Stevens Point, Wis., as the recipient of the second annual Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant.

The \$2,500 grant, funded by Par Aide and administered through The Environmental Institute for Golf, was established in 2003 in honor of Par Aide company founder Joseph S. Garske. The program provides annual awards to assist children of GCSAA members in funding their education at accredited colleges or trade schools. The grant is renewable for a second year with proof of enrollment and a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

"We believe it's important to recognize golf course superintendents for their tireless dedication to the game of golf," said Par Aide President Steve Garske. "It's great to be able to give something back to

superintendents and their children."

Tanko will attend Minnesota State University-Mankato next fall to study aviation. His father, Gary S. Tanko, CGCS at Sentryworld Golf Course in Stevens Point, Wis., is an 18-year GCSAA member.

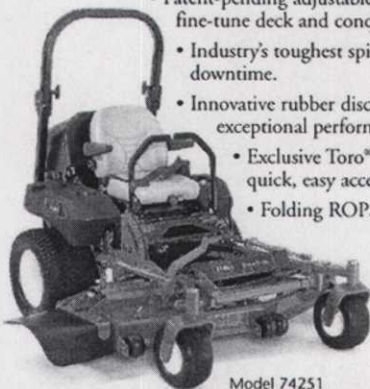
"A bachelor's degree in professional flight from Mankato University will maximize my chances for success in any and all fields of aviation," Tanko said. "I view my accomplishments and experiences thus far as the tip of the iceberg to what I can achieve, and I feel a degree in professional flight will get me one step closer to realizing my full potential."

"We appreciate the continued support of Par Aide," said GCSAA President Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS. "It represents a strong commitment to the profession, the industry and the game."

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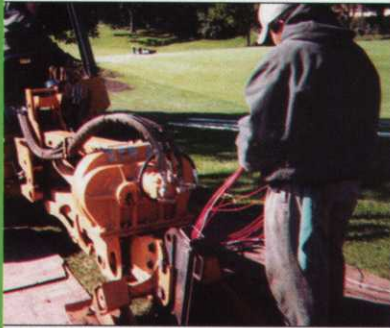
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What are the Odds of Getting Struck By Lightning?

Courtesy of the United States National Lightning Safety Institute

The oft-repeated myth would have it that you are more likely to be struck by lightning playing golf than while pursuing any other activity. But is it true?

If you play golf you probably know the feeling - you're enjoying a leisurely round when those ominous dark clouds roll in and the growl of approaching thunder makes you start missing your putts. How worried should you really be about being struck by lightning? It turns out that although golf is not the most frequent activity cited in cases of death from lightning strikes, when you adjust for the participation in the activities, you find it does appear to be the riskiest.

The most substantial study was an analysis by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1997 of 3,239 deaths over 35 years. They found that five times more people are killed by lightning in open fields or parks. Golfers, in fact accounted for only 5% of deaths during the period.

Most authorities have used this information to discount the risk to golfers.

But this ignores the fact that far more people participate in other outdoor activities than in golf. If you adjust these figures by the number of people playing golf relative to the number that participate in the other activities, you get a very different picture - and it turns out that playing golf might well be the riskiest activity out there.

According to the National Golf Foundation of the US there are 26.4 million golfers in the US. So the statistics translate into one death for every 4.7 million golfers per year.

Now assume that 50% of the United States population visits "open fields, parks or playgrounds" at least once each year, and that half of them can be found at least occasionally "under trees." That gives a likelihood of one lightning death per 5.3 million visiting open fields, parks or playgrounds, and one in 5.2 million of those wandering under trees.

As for the risks on water, they are trifling by comparison. According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association 77.8 million Americans (30%) participate in boating activities alone, so it must be assumed that at least 130m Americans either go boating, swimming or fishing. This would give just one death in 17.4 million.

So what should you do? You're not exactly going to give up your sport because one in every five million American golfers is struck by lightning each year, are you? No, but look at it this way: the overall odds of being struck by lightning each year are estimated at 1 in 600,000. That makes one in 7,500 throughout an 80-year life, which is not negligible. In fact, you are far more likely to be struck by lightning than to win the lottery. So the risk is real enough to be worth taking some time reading about sensible safety precautions.

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2005 Winter Injury Survey

By DR. BRIAN HORGAN
University of Minnesota

Most winters are rather quiet here in Minnesota. Golf course employees enjoy educational seminars, vacations, table tennis tournaments, equipment repairs and preparation for the next golf season. Not last year. No sir!! The rumors started in December, 2004 that the Poa was damaged. This was verified by a group of very astute superintendents that were taking samples from their greens and growing them out under grow-lights.

The story continued.....In late January through February, more rumors circulated that the Poa was now dead. The ugly smell of winter that we all dread was diffusing through the air around these putting surfaces. Impromptu educational roundtables were called to discuss what people were observing. There were groups of people that were "cautiously optimistic" and there were groups of people prepping their membership and owners that things were not going to be pretty come spring.

As the ground thawed and rough areas began to break dormancy and green-up, there lay dead expenses of putting surfaces. In order to understand the extent of the damage and to ascertain why the Poa died, a survey was sent to all MGCSA members asking a series of questions. The following are the results of that survey which was presented at the 2005 Golf Summit in May and sponsored by the Minnesota Golf Association and the MGCSA.

We had 70 people respond to the survey and respondents represent all of

Minnesota except the far north-western corner. Thank you to all who took the time to answer the following questions:

How would you classify your putting green soils?

- 59% - Native
- 41% - modified sand-based

I asked this question because during the 2003-2004 winter, some golf courses lost considerable amounts of turf after covering putting greens with impermeable covers where the soils may have been too wet from a late season rainfall or irrigation event. This was to determine if turf problems may have been related to soil drainage.

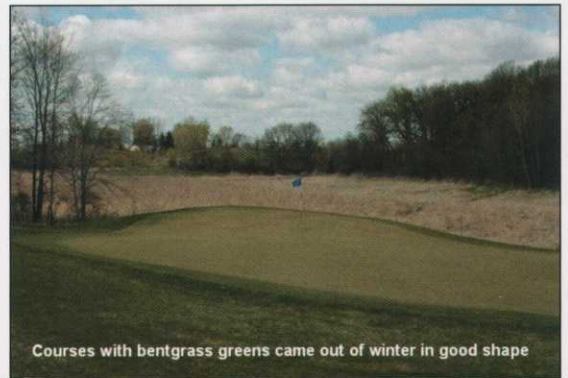
What is the predominant species on your putting surfaces?

- 47% - creeping bentgrass
- 53% - annual bluegrass (poa)

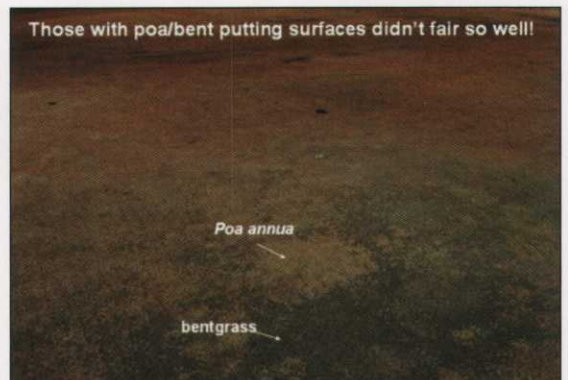
I asked this question because we know that creeping bentgrass has a higher tolerance to lower temperatures and is not as susceptible to winter injury in Minnesota.

Did you cover your putting greens last winter?

- 19% - yes, I covered all my greens
- 7% - yes, I covered some of my greens



Courses with bentgrass greens came out of winter in good shape



Those with poa/bent putting surfaces didn't fair so well!

in problem areas

74% - no

Follow-up. Of those that covered any green, what type of cover did you use?

35% - HPI

11% - Excelsior

19% - Green Jacket with a second layer between cover and turf

11% - Green Jacket without a second layer

24% - other

With Excelsior mats, I did see courses where the age of the mats will make a significant difference in turf protection.

These covers have worked well in our research but do need to be replaced as the wood fibers break down. The use of Green Jacket covers with a foam layer placed between the turf and the cover is relatively new for most of you. Thanks to an innovative idea by one of your fellow superintendents and years of testing by that same person, the use of these covers now comes with a recommendation to use foam, especially in problem areas.

(Continued on Page 27)



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Winter Injury Survey—

(Continued from Page 26)

Did you follow your turf health throughout the winter (remove plugs)?

14% - yes

84% - no

Those that took plugs had a history of Poa death and used this information for educational purposes and to develop an agronomic plan for spring.

Monitoring turf health throughout the winter is easily accomplished by cutting a section of turf and soil with a knife and placing it in a plastic bag or a food take-out container that has a clear plastic top. Place the sample in a refrigerator for a couple of days, then transfer to your desk with a supplemental light source. Make sure to keep it watered.

If you are interested in participating in a program to track health of your putting greens this winter, please contact me for more information at bphorgan@umn.edu.

Did you have any death? What species? Was the death in expected areas?

54% - had some level of Poa death ranging from 5% of a green to 24 out of 27 greens.

+ The majority of the death occurred in areas that were expected.

46% - had no death and either held snow cover and/or had bentgrass

+ Remember, 47% of respondents said they have bentgrass putting surfaces.

Poor drainage during the December freeze thaw cycles and during the February rains may have caused most of our Poa death through crown hydration. Other possible causes for the Poa death include improperly staked-down covers that bunched or blew off during winter storms; covers that were not placed far enough off the green and into the rough to prohibit water from migrating under the covers (note: if you have sunken greens and are using impermeable covers, then trench the cover into the ground to prevent water from moving under) and turf areas that are traditionally hard to manage anyway because of excessive shading, poor drainage or just weak biotypes of Poa.

What was your plan of attack for getting your putting greens back into play?

+ Job Saving

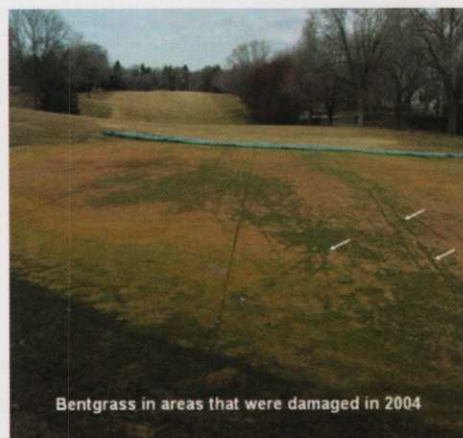
+ Vertical mowing

+ Overseed with bentgrass

- + Nothing
- + Wait for Poa seed to germinate
- + Use covers to increase soil temperatures
- + Pray for good growing conditions this spring
- + Pregerminate seed

One of your fellow superintendents from Iowa who receives *Hole Notes* responded to the survey and had the following to say: "I feel for the Minnesota superintendents that I am reading about and can only hope for a warm and moist spring for them to get their turf back for the golfers."

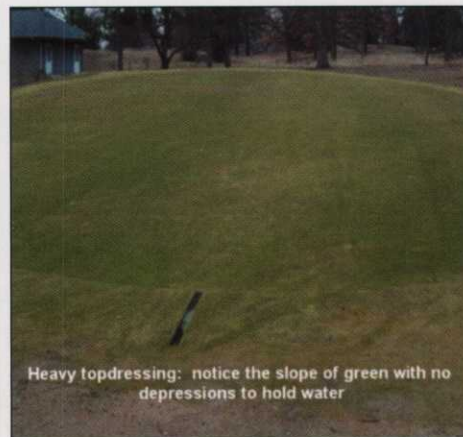
Even though our spring was less than ideal for growing grass, the golf courses in Minnesota look great. The education, support and experiences you have doing what you love have paid off.



Bentgrass in areas that were damaged in 2004



Poa annua green that used an impermeable cover with and without foam



Heavy topdressing: notice the slope of green with no depressions to hold water

Hearing Loss

Courtesy of U. M. Bloedel Hearing Research Center, University of Washington

Over 25 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss and, as the average age of the population increases, this number will rise. Hearing loss is characterized by type of loss (conductive, sensory, neural) location of the problem (middle ear, cochlea, auditory nerve, central) degree of loss the condition that causes it.

CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS

Conductive hearing loss results from external or middle ear problems, which are often mechanical in nature and often can be corrected by medicine and/or surgery. There are various causes for conductive hearing loss, including otitis media and otosclerosis.

Otitis Media: The most common cause

of conductive hearing loss in children is otitis media infection in the middle ear cavity. The infection may start in the nose from a cold and spread to the middle ear via the eustachian tube. If the infection progresses, fluid forms in the middle ear impeding transmission of sound and can result in a mild, conductive hearing loss as long as the fluid persists. Chronic otitis media is a major cause of hearing loss in medically under-served areas worldwide.

Surgical treatment is usually necessary if the infection persists and, thanks to modern techniques, is highly successful. A perforated ear drum caused by otitis media or by physical tearing can be repaired in 95% of cases, restoring hearing to normal levels. Our knowledge of otitis

media has dramatically increased over the past two decades and its treatment has had an important impact on children's health care. Antibiotic treatment, tympanostomy tubes and adenoidectomy have been mainstays in treatment but development of vaccines against the most common bacteria is in progress. When perfected they should provide a major improvement in pediatric health care.

Otosclerosis:

The most common cause of conductive hearing loss in adults is otosclerosis. About 10% of the entire population has otosclerosis but only 10% of those have hearing loss as a result. The loss results from

fixation of the stapes (the third bone in the middle ear) so that sounds cannot be transported to the inner ear. Otosclerosis is thought to be an inherited condition. It usually begins in early adulthood and progresses slowly, typically causing up to a 60 dB loss in both ears. Surgical treatment is very effective, with over 90% of patients achieving normal hearing levels. Occasionally the otosclerotic bone will invade the cochlea to produce a sensory loss as well. Fortunately this is rare. Removal of the stapes (stapedectomy), which has been done for 40 years or the newer laser technique of partial removal (stapedotomy) followed by reconstruction with a small piston-like device result in better hearing with little risk to the inner ear or balance disturbance. This means patients return to work sooner after surgery and can expect significantly better hearing.

SENSORY HEARING LOSS

Sensory hearing losses are due to disorders in the inner ear, specifically, the cochlea. This type of loss may be present at birth (congenital hearing loss) resulting from abnormal cochlea development or inherited conditions, or the loss may be the result of an acquired condition, such as meningitis, an infection of the fluid around the brain often extending into the inner ear. Another example of a sensory hearing loss condition is Meniere's disease.

Many hereditary conditions produce hearing loss at birth or later in life due to secondary degeneration of the inner ear structures. These usually occur as recessive conditions that often skip generations within a family. One of the most common of these conditions is Waardenburg's syndrome. Affected people often have eyes of different color, a white forelock, wideset eyes and progressive hearing loss. Usher's Syndrome (retinitis pigmentosa) and Alport's Syndrome (deafness and kidney disease) and other important genetic causes of deafness.

Meniere's Disease: Meniere's disease is a common condition caused by changes in the chemical composition and volume of

(Continued on Page 29)

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Hearing Loss –

(Continued from Page 28)

fluid within the inner ear. The disease tends to affect only one ear and cause episodic spells of severe dizziness (vertigo) and hearing loss, which fluctuates but over time gradually deteriorates. The cause is unknown. Medical or, if necessary, surgical treatment usually controls the vertiginous spells. Medical therapy is directed toward salt restriction and fluid control and is successful in 70% of cases. For the remainder, surgical therapy is highly effective in relieving the spells of vertigo that often keep people with Meniere's disease from working.

NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS

We live in a very noisy world and it is clear that our hearing suffers as a result. Long-term overexposure to hazardous noise will produce a typical high-frequency sensory loss resulting from permanent damage of the cochlear outer hair cells. Hearing protection and noise-reduction techniques prevent this from happening. Gun-shooting and industrial noise are the most common causes of noise-induced hearing loss and rock musicians often have hearing loss due to high sound levels of their amplified music.

NEURAL HEARING LOSS

When a hearing loss results from a problem with the auditory nerve, it is referred to as a neural hearing loss. Its most important cause is the acoustic neuroma, a benign tumor that grows on the vestibular (balance) nerve and presses upon the auditory nerve. Early detection and prompt removal of the tumor is curative and may prevent future hearing loss.

The acoustic reflex is a way of testing for neural hearing loss. The stapedius is a small muscle attached to the stapes that contracts in response to any loud sound, thus protecting the ear. The level of sound required to elicit this acoustic reflex can be used as a rough measure of hearing sensitivity. If the middle ear is normal, absence of the acoustic reflex may indicate a neural type of hearing loss. Interestingly, the reflex will remain at normal levels even with severe cochlear hearing loss but tends to disappear with mild neural losses.

Neural hearing loss is also characterized by a greater loss of speech discrimination than experienced with sensory loss.

CENTRAL AUDITORY DYSFUNCTION

Central auditory dysfunction refers to auditory impairment resulting from problems in the brain. Fortunately central problems are uncommon. While they cause communication difficulties, they do not cause deafness because they usually affect only one side of the brain: both sides of the brain are involved in hearing. Central auditory dysfunction can result from aging, from Alzheimer's disease and from other uncommon problems.

Presbycusis: Age-related hearing loss is called presbycusis (presby = elder, cusic = hearing). Everyone who lives long enough will develop some degree of age-related hearing loss. Those who damage their ears through noise develop it sooner and people who live in noisy societies have more presbycusis than those who live in quiet environments.

Presbycusis is the most common form of hearing loss and is thought to be due to the combined effects of intrinsic aging of the peripheral or central auditory systems, the accumulated effects of wear-and-tear. Most cases of presbycusis include high-frequency sensitivity loss, which disrupts speech comprehension in proportion to the sensitivity loss. The condition worsens with age.

Two major forms of presbycusis are sensory and strial. The sensory form is due to loss of outer hair cells in the inner ear and is associated with high-frequency loss. Most people with sensory presbycusis can hear speech but have difficulty in understanding it. That is, their auditory sensitivity is satisfactory but speech discrimination (which depends upon high frequency hearing ability) is reduced. Fortunately, modern hearing aids can correct the high-frequency loss and provide great benefit to the wearer.

The strial or

metabolic form of presbycusis is less common and affects both the low and high frequencies. This form of hearing loss is due to pathology of the stria vascularis, which, through its metabolism, is the source of electrical energy driving the cochlea. Recently, it has been shown that strial presbycusis, which is more common in women than in men, is associated with cardiovascular disease. Although unproven as yet, it may be the case that measures to prevent cardiovascular disease, such as fitness and exercise, weight reduction, lowering of high cholesterol levels, smoking cessation and diet modification, may delay its onset. This appears to be a logical but untested hypothesis.

Tinnitus: Tinnitus or ringing in the ears is a very common problem. Tinnitus may be intermittent or constant in character, mild or severe in intensity, and vary from a low hiss to a high-pitched tinkling or ringing type of sound. It may be subjective (audible only to the patient) or objective (audible to others). Tinnitus is usually associated with hearing loss. In fact, in many cases, the first symptom of the hearing loss is tinnitus.

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



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INSIGHT:

One Superintendent's Dog's Perspective

By NUGGETT

North Oaks Golf Club
North Oaks, Minnesota



My name is Nugget. I am the good looking one on your left, but my side kick Tyson isn't too bad to look at either, for a little mixed breed dog.

My pal and I have worked at North Oaks Golf Club for a combined total of five years. The rolling hills of this 18-hole track is great to run and keeps my figure svelte. And the 13 water hazards sometimes attract geese. And boy do I love to chase geese, even better than the neighbor's cat.

My course is located just 15 minutes north of what my human calls the "Cities." Every day my human takes Tyson and me to the club to run around and look for geese. It sure beats chasing my tail at home. Oh yeah, sometimes my human's son goes to work with us. He rolls greens and runs a weed whip. Once on the drive in we hit a deer. Gosh, I've been chasing them for a couple of years and never caught one. However, it wasn't much fun peeling my face off of the windshield. Sure wish I was buckled up!

Years in the Business

I've been going to the shop for the last three years, first as a pup snuggled in my human's jacket and then riding up front next to him. Tyson came along a year later. I let him share the seat with me.

Why did you enter the turf management industry?

With my good looks and talent I could have been real "show" material. But I'm cool with being a viable member of the

green staff at North Oaks. That reminds me, one time one of the crew fed me cheese and rice balls (don't tell my human) and I was plugged up for a couple of days!

Who was your professional mentor?

I guess you could say that the old goose hound Bailey was my mentor. She taught me lots of stuff like where the fish wash up on the lakeshore for a good roll and how to tree squirrels. I miss her, but now I'm top dog.

What has been the highest point in your career?

Catching irrigation sprinklers. Not that there is much of a challenge to biting one, but I just love to get blasted by the big stream. Every time my human takes out a key and stands next to a silver box I am ready to roll.

What has been your lowest point?

Well, I pooped on the 17th green just as a group of people was putting. My human was not too impressed! And then there was the time I chased a rabbit into a forest of burr plants. Ouch! And who could forget the skunk I tangled with on the 8th green.?

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

Managerial of course. Sometimes my human just can't understand what I mean. When I whine at the door, I want to go out and chase something. I don't care if it is

raining or snowing. When I want out, I want out. At least he remembers to feed me in the morning right away and then just as soon as work is done.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course?

Once I had a little rash in what you would call my swimsuit area, but don't you think that is getting a bit personal?

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

Tyson is working out just fine. He just doesn't like to swim. But he has other qualities like running fast and chasing me around. Yeah, I like him.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

I beg your pardon?

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

This is an industry? I thought I was here for the fun of it. Should I be asking for compensation?

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

Well, in 10 of *your* years I'll be 91 in *my* years and I expect to have just as many ponds to play in and rides to go on with my human. Sure I may be a bit grey in the muzzle, but somebody's got to be around to keep that other dog in line.

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

I am very disappointed and a bit concerned that there isn't a membership category just for dogs. Jeez, is it just a good old boy's club or what?

Name your foursome

Well, my little buddy Tyson of course, and Ginger from Forest Hills and Dakota from Southern Hills Golf Course. And of course the cover dog from last year's SuperNews Calendar, Bailey of Angushire Golf Course. They would all be a fun pack to hang out with.

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