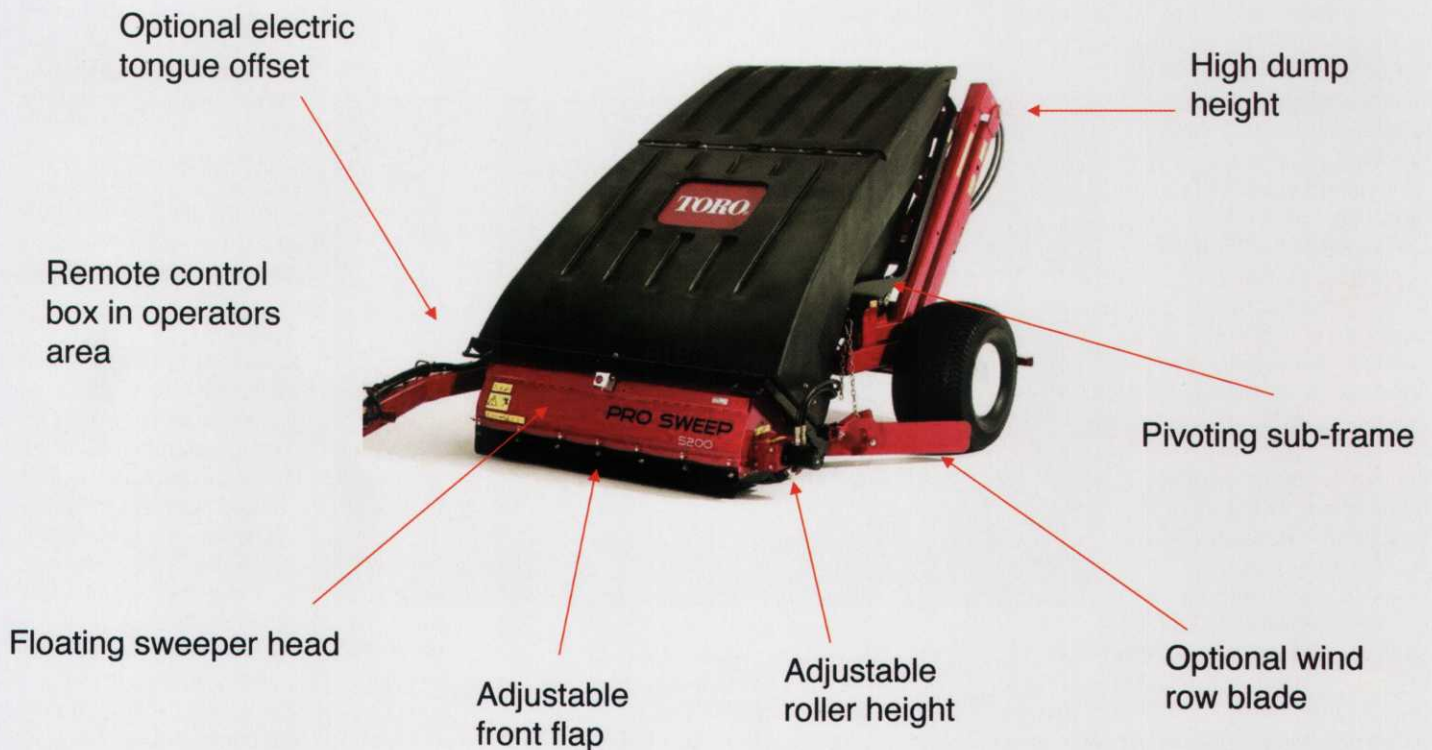


TORO

The New TORO® Pro Sweep® 5200



A better mouse trap.

For commitment and high quality, contact MTI Distributing!



4830 Azelia Avenue North #100
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
763-592-5600 800-362-3665
www.mtidistributing.com

TORO

Count on it.

We've Been Hit

By NATE USELDING

Assistant Superintendent, Dellwood Hills Golf Club

"What the heck is that?" Those were the first words out of my mouth as I looked at the 13th green on my way into work. Are you kidding me? We awoke to 280 divots taken out of a green at Dellwood Hills on April 13. An aspiring golfer found our 13th green to be an excellent spot to practice his swing. That night he tore it up, he was the best of the best and made himself a name at Dellwood. Two hundred and eighty thick divots sprayed all over the green and approach but no golf balls in sight. A sheer act of vandalism occurred without anyone knowing.

Vandalism isn't a frequent occurrence at Dellwood Hills but we do see it roughly a half a dozen times each year.

There are many access points to our course with different housing developments separating many of the holes. These holes are the hardest hit by destruction and we are aware of them, but nothing has been this severe before.

Flagsticks, ball washers, tee markers and benches have all gone missing but you never have to venture far as most times they end up in the pond or woods nearby. As I drive into work every morning I am able to see five different holes and usually check to make sure everything is still in place.

It wasn't 280 divots randomly taken either, there was a purpose. After hacking away at our green with nice penmanship, he left behind a clear message to someone within our company. We contacted the Sheriff's Department and a deputy came out to assess the situation. His first question was "What do you think they used to do this damage?" We debated beforehand if it was a 9-iron or a wedge but to make things easier we just said a golf club. His response, "kind of hard to believe they would use a golf club to do this." A month later we are still looking at the aftereffects of the damage

with no leads and no help with the situation.

Who was this person targeting the golf course or a certain individual? We tried making the connection to what was written to whom we know and nothing came of it. The Sheriff's Department had nothing else for us and now we are back to square one. We have never caught anyone nor do I think we ever will. Usually when something of this magnitude happens, there is a buzz around town, or at



the club, and something comes about. Still no one has come forward and we are left with filing a report and hoping for something someday. As a kid, a neighboring course experienced high schoolers dumping gas and oil out all over greens and tees and spelling out some choice words. These kids got caught because they couldn't keep their mouths shut and someone turned them in. We hope this happens in our situation.

Vandalism happens everywhere from someone missing a putt and in disbelief jamming their putter in the ground to tossing a tee marker in the woods. Those are minor cases but when someone drives a car on a green and whips a cookie, what are you to do? You can't avoid vandalism but we can try to control it. Is putting up a perimeter fence the answer? You may deter them but if they really want to get

in, they will. Security cameras are out of the question and so are motion lights because of their price. Our greatest assets are our neighbors as they patrol their neighborhood and keep a watchful eye on the course. Quite a few neighbors are members at our club and we rely heavily on them to report suspicious activity. In the 12 years I have worked on a golf course, this is the worst I've experienced. I'm sure you may have stories about other places that are worse. I guess we luckily

avoided all serious situations of real physical damage.

To fix our "new" practice facility, three of us carefully replaced all the divots but not to their original spots. We got lucky because the divots were thick and had a lot of root mass to support growth and hold moisture. Cutting and piecing them to fit took a couple of hours and, once complete, the outline of the damage was still there. We aggressively topdressed and watered the area over the following weeks with occasional plugging of dead

spots. It will be a couple weeks of topdressing till the outline is completely healed over and not noticeable. If there is any good news to come of this situation, the area attacked by this hack was on the front quarter of the green, which only is good for two or three pin locations. We don't have a green nursery at Dellwood Hills and we must recover lost turf the old-fashioned way, reseeding.

How can you put a price on what you need to do in the next two months until it is completely healed? Do you pull it out of a hat or is there a way to calculate labor, love, water and sand? I like to embellish the price of destruction in the police report, in hopes of one day catching someone. We should also charge the person for three rounds of golf fees, seeing he took 280 strokes.

2005 TWIN CITY GOLF COURSE SURVEY

These budget figures were generated from 10 private metropolitan golf courses. While they are not reflective of all the courses throughout the state, the numbers a can be used to justify your needs and or improve your bargaining power.

Thank you to Ben Just at Midland Hills for generating the survey."

BUDGET/STAFF SIZE

	Club A	Club B	Club C	Club D	Club E	Club F	Club G	Club H	Club I	Club J	Club K	Club L	Club M
Operating Budget (\$)	786k	825k	630k	739k	913k	850k	720k	900k	480k	784k	803k	730k	726k
Quantity of Full Time Staff	5	4	4	8	7	6	4	5	5	5	6	6	5
Quantity of Seasonal Staff	25	24	23	25	20	25	22	25	12	15	18	16	14

GOLF COURSE ACREAGE

	Club A	Club B	Club C	Club D	Club E	Club F	Club G	Club H	Club I	Club J	Club K	Club L	Club M
Greens		2.8A	3A	2.7A	3.1A	3.2A	3A	3.5A	3.6A	2.0A	3A	2.1A	3.7A
Tees (not including range tees)	1.7A	2.0A	2A	2A	1.5A	2.3A	2.5A	3.5A	2.3A	1.2A	3A	2.5A	2.0A
Fairways	22A	35A	21A	25A	28A	26A	32A	28A	20A	23A	24A	26A	22A
Rough	50A	75A	60A	60A	170 total	60A	60A	80A	?	65A	65A	55A	60A

EQUIPMENT

Manufacturer	Toro	Toro/JD	Jac	Toro	Jac	Toro	Toro/Jac	Mixed	Jac	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro
New Equipment Trend	JD	open	Jacobsen	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	?	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro
Total Inventory (\$)	786k	900k	?	1M	1.1M	1M	1M	800k	?	650k	768k	1.6M	1M
Purchasing Equipment Budget (\$)	50-75k	300k ('04)	65k	120k	?	175k	60-80k	60k	60k	100k	150k	130k	37k
Equipment Repair Budget (\$)	27k	30k	23k	24k	20k	35k	44k	30k	20k	29K	18k	25k	32k
Lease?	carts	club carts	No	2 carts	carts	carts	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Tractors (& years old)	4 (2-45)	2 (0-8)	2 (4-30)	3 (4-35)	2 (0-12)	5 (2-51)	3 (6-30)	3 (3-19)	3 (5-11)	2(10)	2(8-10)	3(6-12)	4(8-34)
Fairway Units (& years old)	4 (4-8)	3 (0-4)	6 (0-12)	3 (0-4)	3 (2)	4 (0-4)	3 (0-4)	3 (1-3)	2(4)	2(2-3)	2(2)	4(0-3)	4(4-10)
Removes Fairway Clippings (Y/N)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

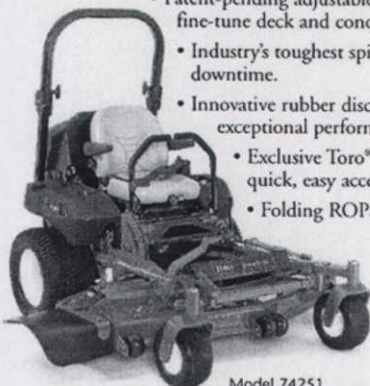
IRRIGATION

Manufacturer	Toro	Toro	Rainbird	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro	Toro
Number of rows	Double	Single	Triple	Triple	Double	Quad	Double	Double	90%	100%	D/T	100%	Double
Year installed	1995	50's& 70's	1992	2004	1990	2002/03	1989	1996	1975	1967	1977	1989	1981
Cost to install (\$)	780k	?	236k	1M	?	970k	?	800k	?	?	?	725k	?
Repair Budget (\$)	12k	8k	12k	5K	8k	3k	7k	10k	8k	9k	9k	5k	10k

Productivity that's a cut above the rest.

Z Master Z500 Series

- High-capacity TURBO FORCE™ deck features 7-gauge high-strength steel fabricated shell.
- Patent-pending adjustable baffle allows operator to fine-tune deck and conquer changing conditions.
- Industry's toughest spindle assembly eliminates downtime.
- Innovative rubber discharge chute provides exceptional performance and resists damage.
- Exclusive Toro® Z Stand™ provides quick, easy access to underside of deck.
- Folding ROPS enhances operator safety.



Model 74251

ProLine Mid-Size Fixed Deck

- Exclusive T-Bar steering.
- Kohler® Command® PRO engine — gear drive.
- Fast 6.2 mpg forward ground speed — reverse assist.
- 36 inches side discharge deck — optional Recycler® mulching bagging kits available.



Model 30178

Landscape Contractor Equipment

TORO Count on it.

Visit us at www.cushmanmotorco.com

CUSHMAN MOTOR CO., INC.

2909 EAST FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406
(612) 333-3487 • Fax (612) 333-5903 • Toll Free 1-800-759-5343



Premier

commitment to

Quality

irrigation, inc.



new course
Construction



2 YEAR WARRANTY
ON ALL NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



Providing Quality Golf Course & Athletic Field Irrigation

- **New Golf Course Construction**
- **Certified Irrigation Contractor**
- **Licensed, Bonded & Insured**
- **Flexible Installation Schedule**
- **Financing Options Available**
- **Renovations, Additions & Upgrades**
- **Pump Stations & Retrofits**
- **Fountain & Aerators**
- **Repair & Service**
- **Winterization & Start-ups**

Premier Irrigation, Inc. is the only irrigation contractor also to be licensed by the Minnesota State Board of Electricity as a Class "A" Electrical Contractor.

This distinct advantage allows us to do all our own electrical work without involving other subcontractors

renovations,
additions &
Upgrades



Premier irrigation, inc

Hastings, MN 55033

Call to Schedule a Free Site Visit

621-480-8857 • 651-480-8854 Fax

Pythium Blight

By RICHARD LATIN

Professor of Plant Pathology, Purdue University

Pythium blight attacks all cool season grasses, but outbreaks are especially damaging to creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Pythium development may occur on Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue, but disease severity is often limited and damage is manageable among turfgrass diseases, Pythium blight receives considerable attention because it spreads very quickly, affects leaves and crowns and kills plants resulting in extensive loss of turf stand.

Pythium blight occurs during the most uncomfortable days of summer, when dew periods are long (greater than 14 hours) and evening temperatures average 68° F or higher. Outbreaks often are first observed in low areas or swales, where more soil moisture is maintained and dew begins to form early in the evening and remains through the morning. Late afternoon rain showers during these hot, humid periods further favor disease development and may be responsible for rapid spread of the pathogen. Turf with lush growth and excessive nitrogen fertility is especially vulnerable to infection.

The hot, humid weather should signal an alert for Pythium blight outbreaks. Initial symptoms include small circular paths of collapsed, water-soaked leaves and stems on close mown turf (Figure 1). The cottony white mycelium may be associated with affected plants if observed

Figure 1



early in the morning (Figure 2). If disease-favorable conditions persist, and no efforts are made to interfere with disease progress, large areas of turf may be killed within a matter of days. (Figure 3).

The Pythium fungus over winters in soil and plant debris. Spread is associated with water movement. Surface water can transport spores as run-off drains through



Figure 2

areas of symptomatic turf. Also, the fungus is readily spread by equipment after affected areas are mowed while they are still wet.

Disease Control

Varieties of creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass appear to be equally susceptible to Pythium blight infection. Other species are somewhat less susceptible but varietal differences within species have not been identified, and they may not be suitable replacements for susceptible species.

Modifying the environment may contribute to a reduction in the severity of Pythium blight. Water management and proper drainage to avoid water-logged root zones during summer are especially important. Selective pruning of trees and shrubs and use of fans will help circulate air and dry turfgrass surfaces, effectively limiting the duration of the dew period. Avoiding conditions that approach excessive nitrogen fertility during mid-summer will reduce vulnerability to Pythium outbreaks. Because of the survival and spread characteristics of the pathogen, Pythium outbreaks normally occur in the same "problem" areas each year as hot and humid weather conditions prevail. Mowing in those areas should be delayed until surfaces are dry, and precautionary spot treatment with fungicides is advisable.

Fungicides for Disease Control

Because of the speed of disease



Figure 3

establishment and spread, and the consequences of Pythium infection (turf death), fungicides represent essential tools for Pythium blight control. Golf course superintendents who have experienced the effects of Pythium blight epidemics have learned to apply fungicide with the arrival of hot, humid weather. Depending on the history of the disease on certain golf courses, they may spray fairways as well as greens and tees, or may spot-spray areas that seem particularly vulnerable to Pythium blight. If hot, humid weather persists, then repeated applications may be warranted.

Accurate identification and confirmation of Pythium blight is important because the most effective fungicides may not be effective against any other disease (Table 1). therefore, distinguishing between Pythium blight and other diseases that may occur during the heat of the summer (brown patch, gray leaf spot, summer patch and dollar spot) is especially important.

Table 1. Fungicides used for Pythium blight control and an assessment of their relative efficacy.

Fungicide	Product Name	Topical Activity	Relative Efficacy
fosetyl aluminum	Aliette Signature® systemic		+++
mefenoxam	Subdue Maxx® systemic		+++
propamocarb	Banol® systemic		+++
azoxystrobin	Heritage® systemic		++
cholothalonil	Daconil® contact		+
mancozeb	Fore® contact		+

+++ best chance of satisfactory control if proper rates are used prior to severe outbreaks
 ++ effective if used strictly as a preventative
 + some efficacy, but used primarily as a tank mix with other fungicides

We Are Your Delivery Solution...



Any custom blend can be created, in any quantity - and delivered where you need it!

Plaisted Companies - a reputation for results.



**Plaisted
Companies**
INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 332 • 11555 205th Ave N.W.
Elk River, MN 55330
(763) 441-1100 • Fax (763) 441-7782
Toll-free (877) 564-8013
www.plaistedcompanies.com

Construction Material • Top Dressing Blends • Bunker Sand • Cartpath Aggregate • Drantile & Decorative Rock

MTGF Funding For 2005

By LARRY VETTER

Executive Director, Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation

The Board of Directors of the MTGF at its March 3, 2005 meeting approved funding several research programs and other projects. Approved requests were submitted by Dr. Brian Horgan, Dr. Eric Watkins, Dr. Jeff Gillman, Brad Pedersen and Bob Mugaas.

Dr. Brian Horgan, Turfgrass Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota, submitted proposals that would continue funding his research for the coming year and also provide technician support for the operation of the TROE Center on the St. Paul campus. These requests were at the same level as those submitted in 2004. Brian's request included his appreciation for past support which has allowed him to leverage those contributions for additional grants, in-kind contributions from industry and other state associations. The Board unanimously approved both requests.

Dr. Jeff Gillman, Associate Professor, Department of Horticultural Science, also submitted two proposals. The first was a request for continued funding of stem girdling root research by the TRE Nursery at the University of Minnesota. Collaborating researchers are Dr. Gary Johnson, Patrick Weicherding, Extension Educator, and Chad Giblin, Scientist, all with the University of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation supported research at the TRE nursery for the first time last year when it provided funds to look at a variety of different research projects related to stem girdling roots (SGRs). This research was conducted primarily by Gary Johnson, an Urban Forester and Professor at the University of Minnesota, who is one of the leading national authorities on SGRs, and Jeff Gillman, Associate Professor and Nursery Management Specialist. Much information was gleaned through the use of these funds and information from these experiments was made available to those interested at the 2005 Green Expo as well as in the fall 2004 MTGF newsletter and the MNLA Foundation Bulletin. Additional information from these studies will be published as it is collected.

As is the case with most research, the

answers that have gained have led to more questions. These questions include how soft the bark is in trees that have been planted too deep and whose root system is raised upon transplanting and whether more radical root pruning can lead to enhanced ability for a plant to break out of a pot-bound state.

The TRE nursery request was to help support three different research projects associated with planting depth and stem girdling roots. These projects are as follows:

The first set of experiments is to investigate the tenderness of stem tissue covered by earth during production. This

could lead to damage on stems similar to what has been seen recently on transplants coming from various nurseries.

This set of experiments is broken into two parts. First, a greenhouse experiment will be arranged where trees that have been planted too deeply will be replanted to a proper planting depth and will have their lower, formerly earth-covered stems, exposed to high intensity heat lamps to see how well they handle this energy source compared to trees that have not been buried too deeply.

Second, two sets of trees, one that was planted too deeply during production and one that was planted to the proper height, will be planted in the field at the proper depth. These trees

will be monitored for trunk splitting and cambial damage over the course of three years.

We will perform an experiment that looks at better ways to stop circling roots in containers based on an experiment conducted last year which showed that butterflying, teasing and slicing roots had no benefit over a control in encouraging rooting in pot-bound plants. This experiment will include testing much more drastic measures for altering the root mass such as removing the outer inch of roots and soil from the circumference of the pot and slicing significantly deeper into the root ball when scoring the tree.

(Continued on Page 28)

Get Answers. Relax. Repeat as necessary.

Solutions and supplies for your turf care needs.

- Fertilizer
- Grass Seed
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Insecticides
- Trimmers
- Spreaders
- Sprayers
- Erosion Control Products

Reinders
Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

MIKE REDMOND (612) 963-0752 Northern Minnesota
PAT WALTON (612) 770-2015 Twin Cities Area
FRED ANDERSON (715) 456-0971 NW Wisconsin

www.reinders.com

MTGF Funding-

(Continued from Page 27)

We will continue our nine-year study that investigates the effects of planting depth on the development of girdling roots. This experiment was designed to look at the effect of planting depth on *Acer saccharum* and *Tilia cordata*. In this experiment trees are planted with the crown placed at a depth of 0, 5 or 10 inches below the soil surface.

After 3, 6, and 9 years (Currently in 4th year) groups of trees will be harvested using an air spade to analyze root growth and their effects on the tree. Yearly measurements of height and caliper size will also be collected. Maintenance will be conducted as with typical landscape trees. Results from the first sampling date already shows some significant encircling problems in deeply planted lindens.

Jeff's second request was for funding of elm tree propagation research by the TRE Nursery at the University of Minnesota with Chad assisting.

According to Jeff in his request, many new American elm cultivars, resistant to Dutch elm disease, are finding favor in today's nursery industry. Hence, new ways need to be found to rapidly produce these plants. Historically grafting cultivar buds onto seedling rootstock has been a favored way to reproduce elm cultivars. However, the use of seedling rootstocks is no longer an attractive way to reproduce these plants because of the possible susceptibility of these rootstocks to DED. Currently many grow-

ers, such as Schmidt's are using stem cuttings to propagate DED resistant American elms. However, only a relatively few cultivars have been propagated and it is unlikely that this process will work for all American elms. St. Croix and Eden Prairie are two elms from our geographical area that have been found to be resistant to DED and which currently do not have a protocol in place for their vegetative propagation.

Jeff proposed to investigate stem cutting propagation of a variety of Dutch elm disease resistant cultivars that have not previously been propagated using stem cuttings including St Croix, Eden Prairie and a few others from un-named Minnesota sources as well as Valley Forge and Princeton as these two elms are already propagated from cuttings somewhat successfully. He will test hardwood and softwood cuttings for their rootability through varying timing (season and month), hormone concentrations (IBA and NAA at concentrations from 1,000 - 10,000 ppm in quick dips and in talc), and propagation media (sand, peat, and perlite mixes). These tests would be run using standard factorial designs and will yield answers as to the best way to propagate these elms from stem cuttings.

Given the value of both of these projects, the Board unanimously approved both of these requests.

Dr. Eric Watkins, Turfgrass Research & Teaching in the Department of Horticultural Science requested support for his research-related activities in the turfgrass breeding program at the University of Minnesota.

In support of his request Eric stated that the overall goal of his program is the development of low-input turfgrass varieties with improved winter hardiness. Over the past year, he has initiated breeding programs for tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and a native grass species (tufted hairgrass). Turf plots have been established on the St. Paul campus for several cool-season turfgrass species. This data will be available to turfgrass managers this summer.

They have completed several freezing tolerance studies on turf-type tall fescue cultivars; this information will be valuable to turfgrass managers throughout Minnesota and the region. New varieties of perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass should be ready for release within the next two years. Research studies have also been initiated on the vernalization requirements of both Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass. This information will be valuable as the breeding program continues to expand.

Eric is also working with Dr. Don White on the continuation of the creeping bluegrass breeding program. They will be initiating a large-scale turf plot evaluation project this spring. This study will include all material developed in recent years by Dr. White's program.

The most important component of a successful plant breeding program is high quality germplasm. Eric will continue to spend time and effort on germplasm acquisition. This will involve collection trips throughout Minnesota and the surrounding states during 2005.

The majority of his budget is devoted to labor and space fees. Adequate greenhouse and field space are critical to my program. His budget must also cover labor expenses associated with a research scientist (50%), graduate students and several undergraduate employees. Additionally, he will be contributing toward the purchase of modern seed-cleaning equipment. This equipment is necessary for proper treatment of turfgrass seed.

Given the need for improved cultivars in a variety of species, the Board unanimously approved Eric's request for funding.

(Continued on Page 29)

TURFCO

The Topdresser You Trust Most.

mti
DISTRIBUTING

MTI DISTRIBUTING, INC.
4830 AZELIA AVE. NO. #100
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429
763-592-5600 800-362-3665

MTGF Funding-

(Continued from Page 28)

The next request was made by Bob Mugaas, Regional Extension Educator - Horticulture, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Extension Regional Center-Farmington, for a summer Horticulture Technician at UMORE Park.

Bob requested funding to hire a person to be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance needs associated with the four existing and two or three newly planned turfgrass research trials being conducted at UMORE Park. In addition, they will be involved with providing supplementary maintenance as required for the Plant Research Evaluation Program trial gardens as well as assisting with the initial installation and early establishment of the planned woodland edge teaching gardens near the UMORE Park Administrative offices. The person will also be involved with the ongoing development and implementation of IPM plans initiated in 2004.

This funding, combined with matching funds from the applicant, UMORE Park

and Dr. Mary Meyer's research grant, will be invaluable in being able to support a summer technician that can provide the kind of consistent care and management of the applied turfgrass research plots and teaching gardens. The Board unanimously approved Bob's request for funding.

Given all requests that were approved for funding in 2005, the MTGF has committed to an expenditure of up to \$109,000⁰⁰ for the coming year.

Additional requests were made by Brad Pedersen in the MTGF's *Clippings* newsletter. The final funding proposal was presented by several members of the MTGF Board. This proposal was for funding an Economic Impact Study. While this need has been discussed for several years, members felt that conducting such a study would give the MTGF much-needed leverage when dealing with partnering efforts for our activities. Such a study would not only be beneficial for the MTGF but would also provide information for our Allied associations.

It was felt that such a study would not

only be useful as a stand-alone source of information but would also be useful when combined with similar studies that are in existence. We know that our portion of the Green Industry has a huge economic impact. However, being able to reliably quantify that with any degree of certainty is virtually impossible at the present time.

Given the value of the information to be gained, the Board unanimously approved funding such a study. To facilitate this study, a committee consisting of MTGF Board members was established. Volunteering to serve on this committee were

Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota; Greg Hubbard, CGCS, MGCSA, Mark Stennes, MSA, and Dave Kemp, MAC. The MTGF Executive Director will assist as needed.

Given all requests that were approved for funding in 2005, the MTGF has committed to an expenditure of up to \$109,000.00 for the coming year. This level of funding is something that all of our members should be very proud of. A great deal of useful information will be generated and it will all benefit you as a member of the MTGF.

HEDBERG

THE MIDWEST'S LARGEST SELECTION OF LANDSCAPE HARDGOODS

"Built on Service"

Featuring Concrete Products By: **INTERLOCK** CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC.

LANDSCAPE HARDGOODS

With the Midwest's largest selection of landscape hardgoods, Hedberg Landscape Supplies can help you with any project.

Erosion control Turfstone is a great option that allows grass to grow while reinforcing soft ground areas that are subject to traffic.



SITE FURNISHINGS



Planters



Benches



Tables



Containers

POND SUPPLIES & FOUNTAINS

We offer a complete line of pond kits, pond maintenance products, and fountains.




Plymouth
1205 Nathan Lane North
Phone: 763-545-4400

Farmington
4375 170th Street West
Phone: 651-423-5048

Stillwater
8400 60th Street North
Phone: 651-748-3158

www.hedbergaggregates.com

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



HERFORD ■ NORBY

Golf Course Architects

6452 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
 Phone: 952.942.0266 Fax: 952.942.0197
 e-mail: golfnorby@eschelon.com
 web: herfortnorbygolfarchitecture.com



INSIGHT: *One Superintendent's Perspective*

By **MATT MCKINNON**
The Legacy Courses at Cragun's

The Legacy Courses at Cragun's has two 18-hole courses and a reversible par 3 located in Brainerd, MN. The courses were designed in 1998 by Robert Trent Jones Jr. The Legacy Courses at Cragun's is also an Audubon Certified Signature Sanctuary certified in July of 1998.

I started working on a golf course in 1989. My first job was at Oxbow C.C. in Oxbow, ND. I went to turf school at Anoka Hennepin Technical College from 1992 to 1994.

Why did you enter the turf management industry?

One of the reasons for going into this industry is being able to work outside and not in an office all day. Another reason is working with the irrigation system. I learned a lot those first couple of years and really took an interest in it. Working in North Dakota the clay was not fun to work with but I loved working on the irrigation system so that made the difference for me.

Who was your professional mentor?

The first superintendent I worked for was Tom Feriancek at Oxbow Country Club. He was a very hard working guy and expected you to work as hard but also made work fun for the crew. I feel his work ethic was instilled in me. I also worked for Tom Johanns as his assistant at Bemidji Town & Country Club for three years (1995-1998). Tom gave me the knowledge and experience that made me feel comfortable to move to the next stage in my career.

What has been the highest point in your career?

My high point came when Tom Kientzle gave me the superintendent position here at the Legacy. I never thought that I would become a superintendent of such a large facility before I had ever been a superintendent at an 18-hole facility.

What has been your lowest point?

The low point I had was the year of 2002. It was a very wet and difficult year to grow grass.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

I think all three are big challenges. There is not a day that goes by where you do not deal with one or more of them. With a crew this size, managing people is always going to be a big challenge. I give a lot of credit to my assistants Joe Gellerman and Jim Zylstra. They do a great job with the crew. I think if you ask them, managing people is the hardest part of this profession.

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

It seems like the last couple of years it has been snowmold that has been the most difficult to manage. Each year I network with fellow superintendents and try to put together a solid program. However, even with a solid program, Mother Nature does not always cooperate.

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

I have a very good crew but with a crew this large you usually do not have 100% of the crew return each year. We start looking around January for staff to replace anyone that is not going to return for this season. It is hard to find good help so we have to do a lot of interviewing before making any choices.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

Not at this time. I think very soon we will need to hire one.

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

I think we will be doing the same thing but under a bigger microscope. At the Legacy Courses at Cragun's it seems like we are testing water and soil all the time to make sure we are not harming the environment. I also think, with land prices and the world growing so fast, a lot of courses will be closed for development.

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

I enjoy working for Dutch and Irma Cragun. They have taught me a lot about the business part of this industry. In 10 years I hope to be still working at the Legacy Courses at Cragun's.

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

Minnesota has a great association but it seems to be more centered on the Twin Cities. Being on the board has opened my eyes to a whole new part of the association. It is very important to be active in the association, but very hard to do when you do not live in the Twin Cities. One change I would like to see for example is the March Mini-Seminar. I would suggest having two sites, one in northern Minnesota and one in the Twin Cities area. This would allow more people to attend without having to travel a great distance.

Name your foursome?

Tom Johanns, Bill Cox, Mark Fossum and myself. I do not get a lot of time to play golf and when I do it feels like work to me. When I play with Tom, Bill and Mark they remind me that work and being on the golf course do not always have to go hand and hand. Oh, and where is the beverage cart?

Quality since
1972



Specializing in • Restoration • Renovation
• Drainage Problems • Slit Drainage • Greens
• Bunkers • Laser Leveling • Grading • Irrigation

Jeffrey Hartman
952-443-2958

GOLF DIVISION

8011 Bavaria Road
Victoria, MN 55386