

It's in the Hole



Joe Maloney, Assistant Superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club, stated that an interesting thing happened at Hazeltine shortly after hurricane Katrina went through the gulf states. A guy from Savage showed up and said he used to work here on the grounds crew back in the '70s. He then told Joe about the time he broke into the old shop and stole some things. A stringtrimmer, some tools, sockets, etc. So as he's watching the hurricane coverage and sees all the looting going on, he starts to feel guilty and wants to make up for what he did 30 years ago. He told Joe "I'm not like that, I don't do those things." He said he brought money and wants to know how much he should pay us. I brought him into the shop to get Ralph's (*Hazeltine's head mechanic*) opinion. Ralph and Joe felt that it's been so long and they really don't miss whatever it was that was taken so Joe told him that since it was the hurricane that made him want to come clean he should donate the money to the Red Cross or he could also just stop by Fox 9 TV station in Eden Prairie and contribute there also. Ralph agreed and we settled on a figure of \$250! So that's what he's gonna do!

You never know what's going to happen from one day to the next, do you?

The DuCharme's Announce Birth of Son Brady Thomas



Will and Rachel DuCharme are proud new parents of their first son Brady Thomas DuCharme. Born June 9. Brady is doing very well.

Van Natta and Spitzner Receive CGCS Status

Steven A. Van Natta, CGCS, at Owatonna Country Club, along with Jason Spitzner, CGCS, Moorhead Country Club have been designated as Certified Golf Course Superintendents (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Van Natta has been the superintendent at Owatonna Country Club since September 1991. Spitzner has been a MGCSA member since 1990.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. Approximately 1,900 golf course superintendents worldwide, currently hold "CGCS" status.

To become certified, a candidate must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific post secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. The candidate must then pass a rigorous six-hour examination covering: knowledge of GCSAA and its certification program; rules of golf; turfgrass management; pest control, safety and compliance; and financial and human resource management.

As part of the certification process, an on-site inspection of Van Natta's golf course operation was conducted by two certified golf course superintendents: Greg Hubbard, CGCS, Manitou Ridge Golf Course, Birchwood, Minn., and Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Tanner's Brook Golf Course, Mahtomedi, Minn.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 21,000 individual members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. For more information, visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.

Membership Report

*September 2005
New Members*

Jason Tresemer
Class A - GCSAA
Red Sky Golf Club
Wolcott, CO
W: 970-477-8477

Jesse Berg
Class B - GCSAA (pending)
Farmer's Golf & Health Club
Sanborn, MN
W: 507-648-3629

Philip N. Jones
Class B - GCSAA (pending)
Legacy Golf Course
Faribault, MN
W: 507-334-5701

Erik Pille
Class D
The Meadows at Mystic Lake
Prior Lake, MN
W: 612-281-2561

Daniel Crannick
Affiliate
Thein Well Company, Inc.
Spicer, MN
W: 320-796-2111

Troy Pettit
Associate
Castle Pines Golf Club
Castle Rock, CO
H: 602-770-1197

*- Respectfully submitted
by Eric Peters
Membership Chairman*



Pheasant Acres Assistant Dennis Perreault Wins 30th MGCSA Championship

to PGA Pro Ryan Hanford and his staff for their help in running this event.

Special thanks to Andy Hochmuth, Dan O'Brien, Mark Christianson, and Mark Goettig of Tiziani Golf Car for being our title sponsor of this year's championship and also to all Affiliate members who sponsored our annual MGCSA events this sea-

son. took Second flight honors with a net score of 77. Second place went to Jeffrey Johnson, The Minikahda Club, with a net 81.

Larry Thornton, Superior Turf Services, captured the Callaway flight with a net 73.

This year's Senior Champion is John Monson, Long Prairie Golf Club, who shot a net 70. Finishing in second place was the

On a great Minnesota fall day, Dennis Perreault, Assistant Superintendent at Pheasant Acres Golf Club, shot a four-over par 76 at Midland Hills Country Club to win the 30th MGCSA Championship on September 26. Denny carded a pair of 38s making five bogeys and one birdie during his round.

One-shot back at 77 was Barry Provo, Deer Run Golf Club, to finish second. Wayde West, Hoyt Lakes Golf Club, Bill MacDonald, E-Z-Go Golf Cars, and Steve Busch, Blue Valley Sod, tied for third while shooting 78.

Midland Hills host Superintendent Ben Just had the course in tournament shape. The greens were rolling true and fast. The warm sunshine made a great day to play golf.

The staff at Midland Hills was very responsive and supplied first-class accommodations. The MGCSA expresses thanks

son.

Charlie Miller, The Ponds at Battle Creek, won First flight honors by netting a four-under-par 68 after firing an 82. Miller won by one-shot over Erik Pille, The Meadows at Mystic Lake, and two shots over Geoff Jordan, The Meadows at Mystic Lake.



Leif Erickson, MTI Distributing Inc., sends a chip shot towards the 18th pin at the 30th MGCSA Championship at Midland Hills Country Club.

Edina Country Club's Brandon Schindele

threesome of Walt Braunig, Thompson Oaks Golf Course, Jim O'Neill and Doug Daniel, both of Cycle Works of Minnesota. All three shot net 77s.

The Long Drive was won by Geoff Jordan. The four closest-to-the-pin winners were: David Oberle, BASF, Kevin Norby, Herfort-Norby Golf Architects, Terry Negen, The Crossings, and Jeff Backstrom, Cannon Golf Club. The longest putt was made by Mark Storby, Oneida Golf & Country Club.

Next up for the MGCSA is the Awards and Recognition Banquet on December 7 at The Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake.



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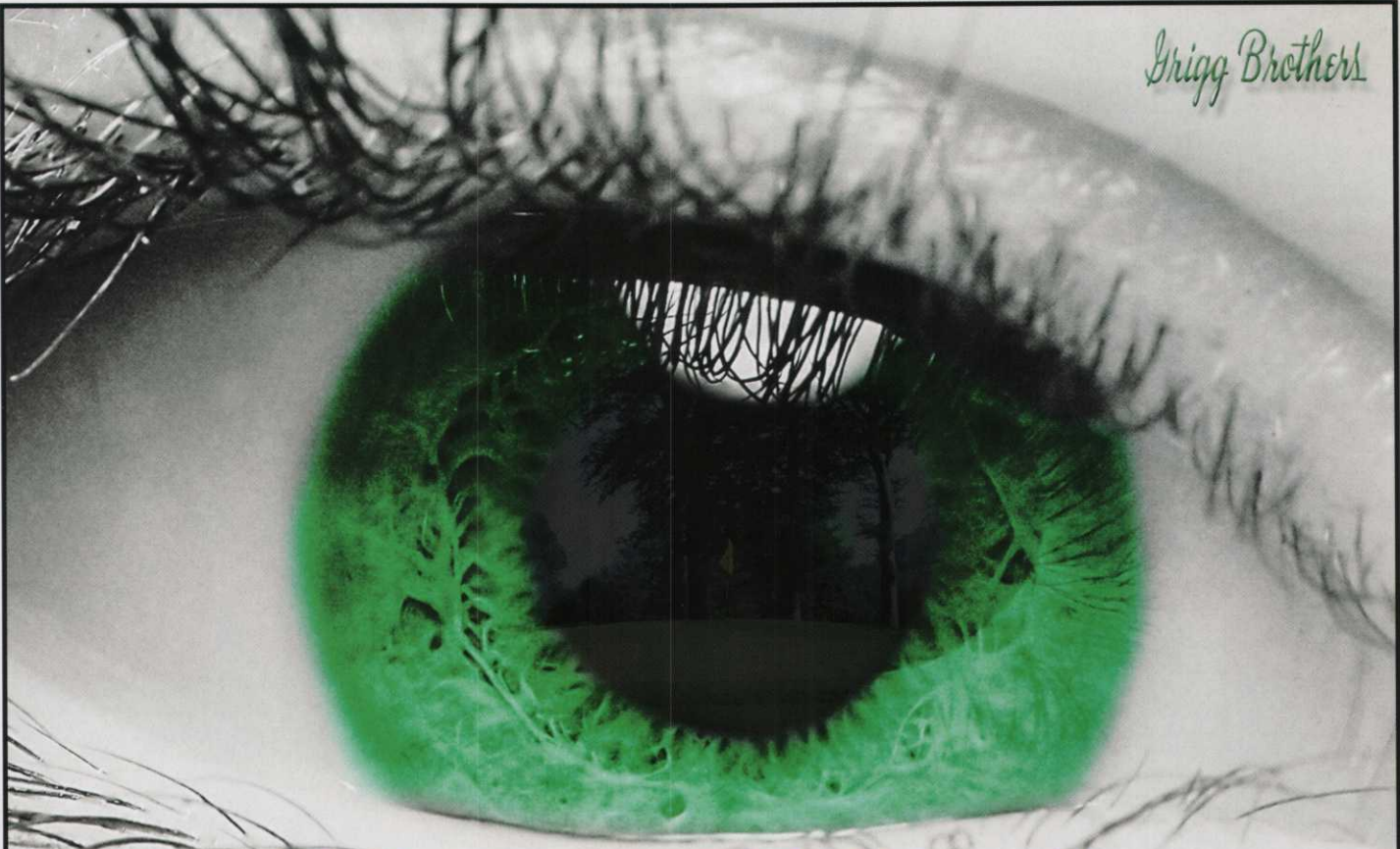
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brooks_b84@yahoo.com

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Grand View Golf
218/522-0812

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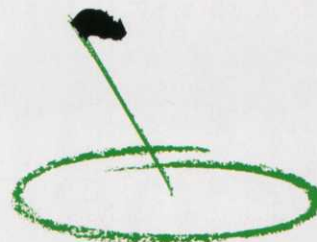
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Par for the Course

A preliminary look at the breeding success of Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds on golf courses

By TINA PHILLIPS and CAREN B. COOPER

The Birdhouse Network

There are more than 16,000 golf courses across the United States - open green areas that are attractive to aerial insectivores such as Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. In addition to feeding on insects around golf courses, cavity-nesting birds may find places to nest, thanks to the efforts of bird lovers who put up nest boxes. But are golf courses suitable for cavity-nesting birds, especially where pesticides may place them at greater risk of exposure to potentially harmful chemicals?

In 2001, The Birdhouse Network introduced the Pesticide Study to evaluate whether areas where pesticides are used, such as golf courses and agricultural fields, are good habitats for cavity-nesting birds to raise their young. The study asked participants to provide information about pesticide applications near nest boxes, in addition to data on breeding success. Given the documented negative effects of pesticides on a variety of animals, from frogs to birds to mammals, we expected that birds nesting in areas where pesticides were applied would have poorer nesting success than those in areas without pesticides, either directly from chemical-induced abnormalities or indirectly from lower prey abundance. However, a preliminary analysis of all reported habitats, including golf courses, indicates no significant differences in clutch size, brood size, or number of fledglings of Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebirds nesting in areas with and without pesticides.

Participants collected data for the Pesticide Study between 2001 and 2004 from across the continent and reported on the nesting success of 13 cavity-nesting species. Because of the small sample sizes for many of the species, we limited this initial analysis to Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, two of the most prevalent cavity nesters inhabiting golf courses. More than 400 nest-box monitors provide information about the presence of pesticides within 100 feet of nest boxes, the type of pesticide used, the frequency and

start of application, and the crop type, if any. Participants also reported standard data on breeding, such as the date when the first egg was laid and the number of eggs, chicks, and fledglings. We limited the analysis to nest attempts with a known first-egg date, a total of 1,399 attempts for Eastern Bluebirds and 866 attempts for Tree Swallows.

When we analyzed all habitats together, we found no differences in clutch size, brood size, or number of fledglings of Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds in areas with and without pesticides. In this crude analysis, failing to detect any overall negative effects of pesticide application near nest boxes is not altogether surprising, because many factors influence breed-

"When we analyzed all habitats together, we found no differences in clutch size, brood size, or number of fledglings of Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds in areas with and without pesticides."

ing success. For the effects of pesticides to be obvious, we must detect variation above and beyond that caused by factors such as latitude, season, and habitat. Yet, even after controlling for latitude and season, we find equal reproductive performances in areas with and without pesticides.

Habitat is an important confounding variable in interpreting results of the Pesticide Study. We looked at the reproductive performance of Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows in four different habitats-agricultural areas, golf courses, parks and fields, and residential areas. We found that fledge rates and hatch rates were slightly higher on golf courses. This indicates that the larger variation arising from differences in habitat may override the smaller variation potentially created by pesticide application.

Why do golf courses appear to be such good habitats for some cavity-nesting birds-a finding noted by other researchers

as well? A recent study conducted by Dan Cristol at the College of William and Mary in Virginia examined the nesting success of Eastern Bluebirds on and off golf course and also found that overall productivity was about the same. Interestingly, in Cristol's study, golf course birds laid slightly more eggs and produced more fledglings, but also experienced more nest failures. A study by Mark Stanback at Davidson College in North Carolina found slightly, but not significantly, poorer reproductive performance of birds nesting on golf courses, with the exception of chick condition, which he found to be significantly poorer on golf courses. Although preliminary, our study spans the entire breeding ranges of

Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows and corroborates the findings of the local studies by Cristol and Stanback. On golf courses in any region, some combination of currently unidentified features may override significant detrimental effects of pesticides. Stanback suggested one feature that might make golf courses partic-

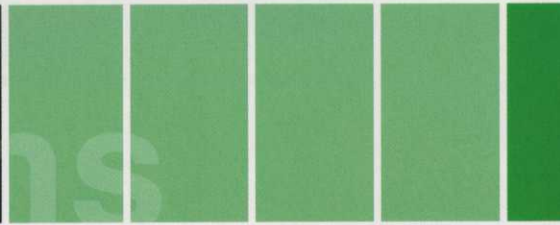
ularly attractive to Eastern Bluebirds: insects might be easier to find in the short grass of golf courses than in the tall grass of hayfields.

Another reason may have to do with predation. We found that in boxes with at least one egg laid; nearly 80 percent of all nest boxes occupied by Eastern Bluebirds on golf courses were equipped with predator guards, compared with only 50-60 percent in the other habitats. We found that nest boxes with predator guards in agricultural areas, parks, and residential areas fledged more young than those without guards. We could not make a similar comparison for golf course because of the small sample size for boxes on golf courses without guards. These results underscore the importance of providing boxes with predator guards, especially in predator-prone areas such as parks. They also point to the difficulty of testing apart

(Continued on Page 24)



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Caught Up in the Wrath of Summer 2005

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS
Keller Golf Course

It was a doozy, the summer of 2005. Notice I used past tense. One can only hope, that by the time you read this, it is over. I know my good friend, Jack MacKenzie, embraces the challenges of a tough season. I, on the other hand, prefer the calm and tranquillity of seasons such as 2004. Life is tough enough without disgruntled golfers. Can someone please explain to me the thought process of the typical American golfer? As if we, the dedicated keepers of the turf, are satisfied with golf course conditions below our own expectations!

Thank you to all 27 clubs who returned the survey pertaining to TAP (Take-All Patch), PCNB, and nematodes. This survey was an unscientific "study" designed to look at several relationships between the above-mentioned topics. My initial interest was piqued after a conversation I

had with Fred Taylor at Mankato GC. He wondered if the reduced use of PCNB over the past five years, due to "perceived" root pruning issues associated with the product, had any correlation with the outbreak of TAP on older, established greens. Ever since mercury was removed from our winter plant protection arsenal, pink snow mold can now be experienced almost every month of the year in this region. I don't recall that being the norm twenty years ago. Is the relationship the same between PCNB and TAP? I was also intrigued by research literature that suggests a possible synergism between plant parasitic nematodes and certain plant pathogens. This combination may form a "super complex", of sorts, that is more effective at injuring and decimating *Poa annua* and bentgrass communities.

The results of the survey revealed some

interesting trends. Of the 27 respondents, seven had outbreaks of TAP this season. All seven of these golf courses experienced the disease on putting surfaces only and six of these greens were nine years or older. The only green less than nine years old was between six and eight years of age. This is interesting in that TAP, up until now, was thought of as a disease of new, sand-based putting greens. Of the fifteen golf courses that treated their greens last year with PCNB, only two experienced TAP infections. Of the five golf courses that have confirmed plant parasitic nematodes in their rootzones, four experienced an outbreak of TAP. Coincidence? I don't know. I do think that the numbers obtained in this survey reveal some possible relationships that warrant further investigation.

(Continued on Page 20)

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In the Crosshairs –

(Continued from Page 19)

On that note, Keller GC, Forest Hills GC and Mankato GC have teamed with Dr. David MacDonald, a nematologist at the University of Minnesota, to further explore some of these relationships in a multi-year study. Several TAP infected greens from each club will be studied to determine if plant parasitic nematode populations correlate with TAP or other root-infecting fungal activity. In addition, PCNB will be added as a parameter to the study.

Three greens at Keller GC will be sampled at the same 12 locations on each green at least three times per year. Sampling procedures at Forest Hills GC and Mankato GC will most likely not be as intensive. The study will also look at vertical distribution of the nematodes in conjunction with root length throughout the growing season. Sections of each green will receive a spring application of a nematocide, most likely Nemacur, to evaluate pesticide effectiveness relative to plant health. Clipping yield will also be examined.

I realize that some who are reading this are skeptical, believing that nematodes are

a "southern" problem and not an issue in the northern climes. I was of the same mind set ten years ago. Nematodes??? Get serious! Well, after countless sampling sessions over the past ten years with Dave MacDonald, I can tell you that parasitic plant nematodes do exist in Minnesota and often times at detrimental population levels. My theory has always been that any damaged inflicted by nematodes can be overcome with proper cultural programs and by maximizing plant health. That is until this year...I have a feeling that the extremes of the current golf season brought nematode damage to the forefront and under the spotlight. I find it hard to believe that the quantity and variety of chemistries that we - and others - threw at our TAP outbreak were so ineffective in arresting this pest. There must be other factors at work here. Instead of "grasping at straws," I am hopeful this study will provide some answers.

Being that we are fortunate enough to have a nematologist on staff at the University of Minnesota, it might be worth your while to submit several samples from that perennial problem green on your golf course. If you are interested in checking out your microscopic roundworm populations, there are several recommended procedures that should be fol-

lowed to ensure accurate results. All testing should keep the following nematode facts in mind:

+ Nematode populations can vary dramatically, depending on the time of the year. Optimum soil temperatures for these invertebrates range from 68 - 86 degrees F.

+ Nematodes are not very mobile in the soil, generally moving less than one foot per year.

+ Populations tend to be very erratic in their distribution across a putting green.

Therefore, multiple samples should be taken from each green. Samples should be taken to a depth equal to that of the root system, generally 4-6 inches. Minimum sample size is 100 cc's of soil or approximately one-half cup. A one-inch diameter soil probe is ideal for sampling though a cup cutter can be used. If you are sampling suspect areas on a green, take samples from the margins of these areas. And finally, keep samples out of direct sunlight and away from high temperatures. Ship samples immediately or refrigerate until samples can be submitted to the lab. Diagnostic fees are \$17 for the first sample and \$7 for each additional sample from the same green.

(Editor's Note: Dave MacDonald can be reached at 612-625-9274.)

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