

Class is in Session

By NATE USELDING
Assistant Superintendent
Dellwood Hills Country Club



Come one, come all, come join me for a presentation on making your home lawn look its best. This is my idea to help our membership at Dellwood Hills manage their lawns and my opportunity to meet more members at our club. It is my goal to connect and meet members who I may not be subjected to all the time while providing a subject matter they will find interesting. The big question for them will be, how do I get my yard to look like the golf course?

One evening this spring, I will host a presentation for members on how to manage their lawns and answer the most common questions. For example, how do I get rid of weeds in my yard, how and when do I treat for certain weeds, when and what kind of fertilizer to use and what is the best way to grow grass in bare spots? Also, winter kill and aeration are good subjects to touch on. By hosting this informational meeting, I will be able to answer these questions all at once and not out on the course.

After a warm welcome, I will start out my presentation with tons of pictures of home lawns, good and bad. You know the saying a picture is worth a thousand words? I believe this audience is going to take home more from the pictures than any data I will present. A picture will keep their attention far longer than my talking about growing grass.

After my introduction and brief overview of the subject being covered, I will start with what is on everyone's mind, weeds and how to control them. I don't want to over stimulate them with all the weeds out there, so I will concentrate on the 10 most common weeds a homeowner faces each summer. Let them know having weeds is normal; however, controlling them is easy. Broadleaf weeds are commonly found everywhere and for the best control, spray a post-emergent herbicide. Whoa, slow down, those are big words. Remember who your audience is,

they are not fellow superintendents, these are ordinary folks who have no clue what you are talking about. Cover your bases, explain anything that may be in question.

The other big weed infestation problem is from crabgrass. It is a pain in the rear to eliminate because of the large seed bank in the soil. The numbers are gigantic and they will always be in the soil. The seed is only waiting for the right conditions for it to flourish and that goes for all weeds. Use a specific crabgrass herbicide

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to eradicate it and it may take multiple applications.

To limit the amount of weeds, having a healthy stand of turf is your best bet. To achieve this we need to feed the grass with a fertilizer. Feeding them will encourage them to grow and fill in thin areas where weeds like to grow. You essentially want your grass to out-compete the weeds in those areas. So, what kind of fertilizer do you use? There are thousands of combinations to choose from; any one will be great to use, it all depends on how much you want to mow after applying. Home Depot now sells Lesco brand fertilizer and I bet you, if you tell your members you use it on the course, they will go home and buy it themselves. They are looking for advice from a professional and they can see the product work at the golf course. One thing to mention is the combination of using a fertilizer plus herbicide. It comes

down to personal preference and there are pros and cons to using them.

When applying your fertilizer there are two types of methods, a drop and rotary spreader. They both are very tricky to use and with some practice your lawn will be spot-free. Show them pictures of homeowners who have used a drop spreader; they are usually pretty easy to pick out in the spring with their dark lush lines. Sometimes, going down at half rates will make your lawn less noticeable if a problem does happen.

The next topic is my favorite, winterkill. Other than weed prevention, this is the top question asked about. Not only does Mother Nature help with this matter but Man's best friend can do a number on anyone's lawn. Homeowners will spend top dollar fixing their yards every year, why not help them out for a fraction of the cost? Tell them with a tiny bit of effort, you can save a lot of money. Rake it up, loosen the soil, put seed down, cover it and keep it moist. It is that simple.

The best product I have used is an all-in-one seed, fertilizer and mulch kit found at all home improvement stores. Remember, you want to keep it simple, they are not going to baby it like we will so don't make it complicated.

Each member who comes to the presentation will go home with a handout of common weed identification tips. The first part of May is a great time to host this talk because soil temperatures are rising and homeowners are thinking about their yards. The take-home message for your members is how to manage their own lawn. For you, it is putting together a presentation, help you with your public speaking and getting your name out there with the members. The good news is, with a topic like this, it won't be hard to talk about it once you get started because you know so much about it.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Former MGCSA Scholar Winner Jonathan Glader Receives Police "Rookie of the Year" from MADD

I would like to thank the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association for the scholarships that I received while attending college at the Alexandria Technical College.

These scholarships helped to allow me the time I needed to graduate with honors from Alexandria Technical College in May of 2004, with my Associates degree in Law Enforcement.

I was hired as a police officer with the City of Forest Lake on February 28, 2005 and just recently came off my one year probation period and am a full-time member of the police department.

The MGCSA has been a part of my father's (Kerry Glader) career for 30 years and I am grateful for this profession, his dedication to this organization and for your support.

On March 8, I received a "Rookie of the Year" Award from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization.

Thank you to all the members of the MGCSA! Keep an eye out for me when you drive through Forest Lake. -- Sincerely, Jonathan S. Glader



Jonathan Glader received a "Rookie of the Year" Award from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization on March 8, 2006. Jonathan is the son of MGCSA member Kerry Glader of Plaisted Companies.

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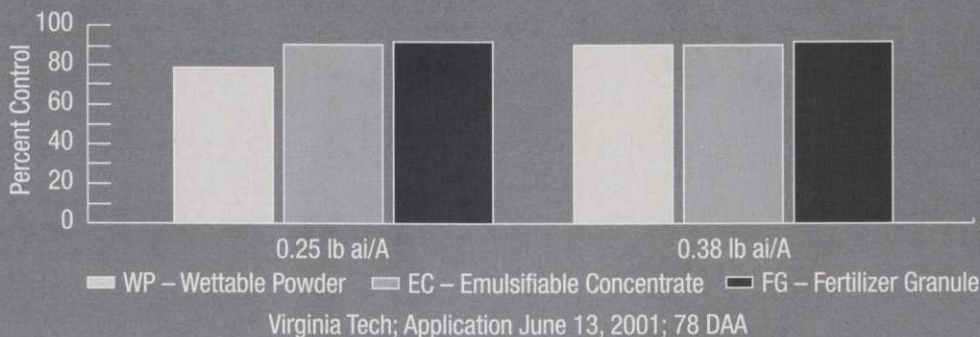
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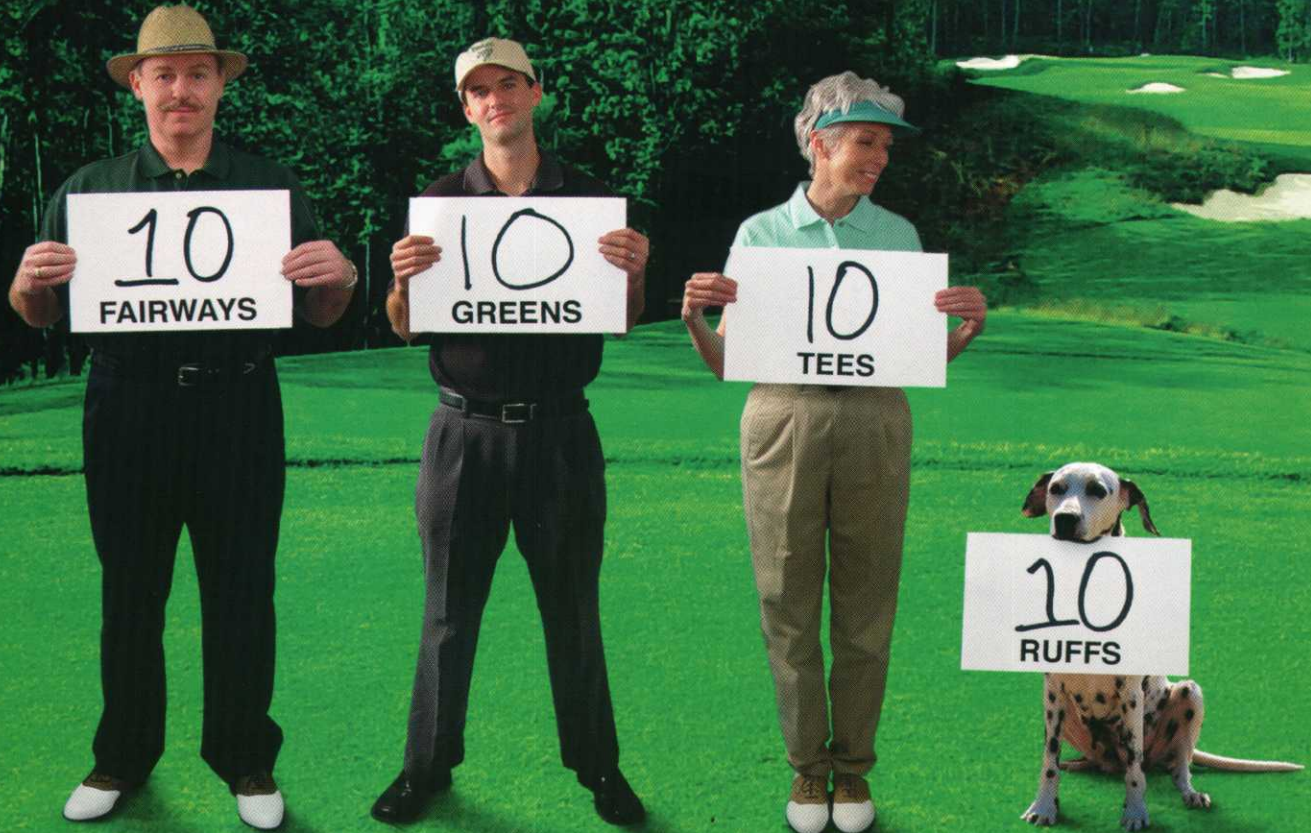
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Nature-Friendly Golf

By KAREN I. SHRAGG Ed.d.
City of Richfield

People who love to golf also love nature. People who maintain golf courses love nature too. The traditional reputation of golf courses, however, is less than nature friendly. Golf courses are frequently shunned by those whose job it is to defend nature as places which demand too many natural resources in order to play a game.

I must admit to being one of those who long refused to pick up a golf club because I thought I was hurting the very nature I fought so hard to protect. My parents, aunts and uncles all loved the game that I dismissed because of my opinion that nature and golf were strange bedfellows.

That has all changed. It has changed because of the very fact that we now live in a time when golf courses are often the most undeveloped areas in a community. In a time of exponential human population growth, they are being threatened with being turned into housing developments.

I have come to realize that a fairway is much better than a driveway as far as the environment is concerned. A fairway maintained in the most sustainable way is even better. Enter the Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses. The ACSP outlines ways in which courses can enroll in a program which will support them in their quest to become more nature friendly.

It's an idea whose time has come. With over 2/ million acres dedicated to golf courses throughout the United States, there is a wonderful opportunity to save and protect waterways, make courses more wildlife friendly and improve the aesthetics for golfers all at the same time. Golf courses can become a more recognized part of the green corridors so desperately needed for migrating birds.

The ACSP program asks its managers to look at their entire course and come up with an environmental plan. It also asks for a special project to be done which can be anything from installing a butterfly garden to creating wildflower- laden prairies in out-of-play areas. Water quality monitoring, chemical control and wildlife monitoring are required.

To busy golf course managers this can seem like another daunting task on top of work weeks already bursting at the seams. I would argue that the best of courses are already doing most of what is on the list of things to do. I would also say that it is a tremendous opportunity to seek out your local naturalist to help you in your application process. That's what they did at the Braemar golf course in Edina and I am ever so grateful. My involvement in helping them to achieve their certification has opened my eyes to the great natural experiences that await on a golf course.

Since then I have been assisting over seven different courses with their certification and would love to add more to my list. It is great fun to make new friends with course managers and talk about the environment. As a nature center manager I find that we have so much in common. Whether it's buckthorn control, or prairie burning, water quality measuring or getting people to follow the messages on your signs, there is a lot to discuss.

Look out world, I have taken up the sport too. Though I will always be more excited to see a rare bird than to get an even

rarer birdie, it's given me new eyes and credibility as far as being able to give advice to golf course managers.

As an official steward for Audubon International, I would like to personally invite all golf courses, public and private, in Minnesota to get involved in this program. It will do the right thing, make new audiences and add new reasons to keep your course open in light of the pressure to have your land converted into yet another housing development. Your site will no longer be just a golf course, you will be a wildlife sanctuary acting to protect an open space for the benefit of all. Imagine bird hikes added to the list of what people can do on your courses!

Once certified, there are more opportunities to make even more positive changes to keep up the certification. I would personally love to see Audubon International courses look at their whole operations from an environmental perspective, from the greener paper products they could buy to the locally grown organic food they could offer.

To find out more about how to enroll in the program go to www.auduboninternational.com and hit programs. You can also contact me at kshragg@cityofrichfield.org. Happy golfing and happy birding and may they be all done at the same place, your golf course.

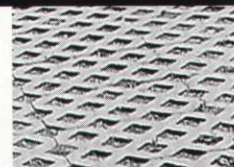


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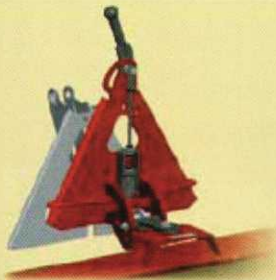
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MINNESOTA IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Education

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS
Keller Golf Course



Education is expensive. Just ask anyone with children attending college. But it doesn't always have to be. Look no further than the industry you belong to. Sure you can jet away to warm (usually), sunny (usually) locations every February and attend the always impressive Golf Industry Show. Sure, the educational opportunities are almost endless but the financial commitment can be a bit steep, especially for the smaller golf clubs or those experiencing budgets on the decline. There is an option out there that I think few are aware of and I know few have tried. I am, of course, referring to GCSAA Online Education, specifically the webcast offerings. It is truly one of the slickest ways to learn a thing or two while kicking back in the comfort of your office, without putting much of a dent in your budget.

As a current member of the GCSAA Online Education Task Group, I have been exposed to the vision that our national association has for this technology and its membership. The potential seems unlimited. Having participated in

at least a half-dozen web-based seminars and several web-based meetings, I can honestly say this communication medium is amazing! It is truly convenient, yet powerful, and something that everyone should experience at least once. Once you try it you will be impressed and probably will try it again. All you need is a PC with an Internet connection, either a dial-up or high-speed connection will do. Log into the GCSAA education section and click on the webcast link. On this page is a link to a site that will verify if your PC is up to the task. This site will also install the webcast software that makes this entire process possible. PC requirements are minimal and, of course, you will need speakers. Communication among seminar participants is achieved either by typing or by using a microphone. There is one drawback...as of right now, the webcast software will not work on Mac machines.

The seminars last 1.5 hours and are presented by many of the same professors and researchers that present at our local and national educational programs. These

e-learning sessions cover a variety of topics and deal with current issues, problems, and research and are offered in real time. Currently on the docket are seminars by Dr. Bruce Clark and Dr. Mike Agnew on managing Basal Rot Anthracnose, Dr. Thomas Nikolai on green speeds, resume writing for the green industry, coaching your team with positive feedback and many more. New seminars are constantly being added. In addition, you receive education points for participating and members of your staff can participate at the same time as well. Best of all...it only costs \$30! So, check it out. You won't be disappointed!

On another note, the child labor law session that was held during the March Mini-Seminar proved to generate a great deal of interest among members of our association. As was suggested at the seminar, we have put together a committee of MGCSA members to work with the Minnesota Department of Labor to further define the role of the teenager in MN golf course maintenance operations. Our main meeting will be held on March 30, which will already have occurred by the time this issue of *Hole Notes* reaches your door step. We will keep all members informed of the outcome of this meeting. It only makes sense that the less we leave open to interpretation by Department of Labor inspectors, the more clear our responsibilities become as employers.

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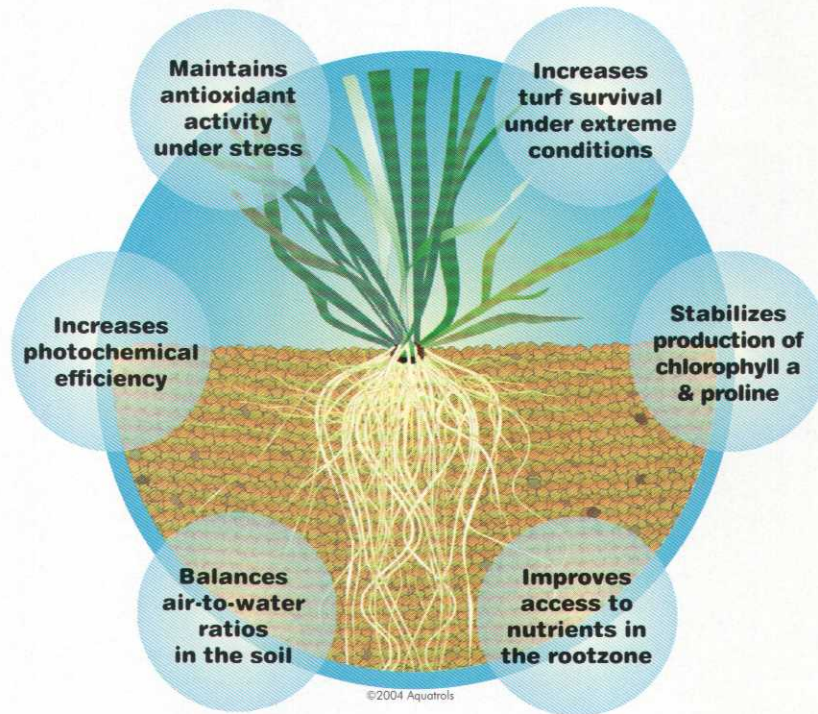
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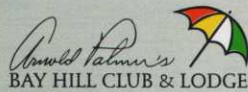


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