

It's in the Hole

Dues are Now Overdue

MGCSA dues are now past due and therefore this could be your last issue of *Hole Notes*. Please mail your 2006 dues in as soon as possible if you plan to stay a member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Are You Advertising?

Affiliates are encouraged to place advertisements and inserts in *Hole Notes* which has become a well-read, attractive magazine going directly to Superintendents and staff. Ads may be placed at any time throughout the year.

Also, news from affiliates is always welcome and will be published in *Hole Notes*.

Joe Churchill Joins Rehbein Companies

Joe Churchill accepted a sales / marketing position with The Rehbein Companies in early March. Joe will be primarily responsible for growing their sod production, landscape and athletic turf businesses. Previously Joe was with Turfwerks.

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Are You at a New Course?

Are you at a new venue this year? If so, please contact the MGCSA and we will make note in a special section in *Hole Notes* regarding "Superintendents on the Move."



Lucas Michael Knox

Kurt and Maia Knox are the proud parents of their first child, a baby boy named Lucas Michael who was born on January 31, 2006. Lucas weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds, 13 ounces.

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Purple Hawk's Roughriders

By KATIE HUMPHREY
Contributing Writer

They come riding over the hill atop their red Jacobson lawn tractors. A morning's work done, the men dismount with smiles on their faces. One stops to hose down his trusty tractor, another gives his a good greasing, while two more make jokes. They are the "roughriders" √ the Purple Hawk's grounds crew.

Milt Carlson is the oldest, at 81, and Duane "Red" Olson, 66, is the youngest. At 70 and 77, Dick Anderson and Ray Nordin fall in the middle. But being senior citizens does not slow any of them down √ they are up and out on the course as early as 4:30 a.m. to get it ready for the golfers.

"We love to get up in the morning and watch the day start," Anderson said, speaking for the whole crew.

"I'm always up early in the morning anyhow," Nordin said, echoing Anderson's sentiments.

And it is a rare occasion when someone calls in sick, despite their ages.

"They have all had their ailments and surgeries, but they are



Milt Carlson makes hay.

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all in good health," said Ron Noyce. He added that they are more reliable and responsible than high school students, washing, greasing and oiling their machines after they mow each day.

"The main thing is oil," Carlson said softly, as if he were letting someone in on a secret. Carlson strolled into Noyce's office in 1989, looking for a part-time job after relocating to Braham. Previously, he had worked heavy construction in the McGregor area. Noyce said he knew right away that Carlson was just the person he needed on his grounds crew. Thus, the "rough riders" began.

"He is the head of the senior fleet," Anderson said jokingly.

"Well, they aren't tired of me yet," Carlson responded with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

Ray Nordin came along next, after retiring from Whirlpool. He already had a couple years of golf course maintenance at Town and Country Golf Club, an exclusive St. Paul course. He had decided to move up to Cambridge to be closer to his children, Noyce said. And with a shining recommendation from the St. Paul golf course, in 1992 he joined the grounds crew staff.

For years prior to his retirement from State Farm Insurance, Dick Anderson had had his eye on the part-time grounds crew job at the golf course. He pestered Noyce at every opportunity, reminding him to save him a spot amongst the "rough riders." He is in his fifth summer working at Purple Hawk.

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Roughriders—

(Continued from Page 22)

Anderson is the only golfer in the bunch, so he takes advantage of one particular grounds crew perk — free golf balls. “You get to keep all the golf balls you can find,” he said, waving two nearly new balls.

A former over-the-road truck driver, Duane “Red” Anderson has been on the crew for two years and is the newest member. He said he likes that his new job keeps him closer to home, but also gives him something to do.

“You can’t sit in the house and look out the window all the time you know,” he said.

On average, the crew works about 18 hours a week during the summer. They cut most of the 175-acres of grass on Monday and Tuesday mornings and then come back Fridays to work on the greens and tees.

“They have it down to a science, working as a team, each guy with his own territory out on the course,” Noyce said. “If one



Roughriding retirees ready to roll.

guy can’t make it, the others cover for him.”

But usually they all make it. Matter of fact, by the time the snow begins to melt in the spring, the “roughriders” are itching to get back out, Noyce said. They usually get together for a fish fry early in the spring to reconnect before they start cleaning and raking.

As for talk of slowing down, all four members of the crew said it won’t happen any time soon.

“They’ll have to pry us off the machines,” Dick Anderson said with a laugh. The other “rough riders” nodded with agreement, mounted their tractors and drove off into the pole barn.

GO ON GREEN

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Make plans to attend the
SPRING MIXER

Monday, May 15

THE PINES
at Grand View Lodge

Host Superintendent:
Mike Bohnenstingl

Country Joe International is the Most Unusual Golf Course In Minnesota

By MIKE O'BRIEN
Country Joe Racing

Country Joe International is unusual in many ways besides its outlandish name. It is probably Minnesota's only four-hole golf course replete with a driving range, sand trap, pond and a troublesome creek to challenge its players. It also shares its acreage with an 18-hole Disc Golf course and nine-hole Miniature golf. Probably the most unusual things about the 861-yard, par 14 course is that there are no green fees, no established tee times and it is played primarily by youngsters with no previous experience on a golf course at all. By the way it is kept in very good condition.

The Country Joe course is owned by Joe Miller and his wife Jane,

neither of whom actively play golf. (*I would say that's unusual*). The course is situated on their property just outside

Lakeville, Minn. Joe Miller is a home builder with his Country Joe Homes company in the area and also a major land developer. He purchased the property in 2002 as a base for his Country Joe Racing

that feeds drivers to the NASCAR Winston Cup Series. Three major buildings on the property house several race teams.

When the Millers purchased the property, one of their main objectives was to provide a place where youngsters of all ages and stations in life could be exposed to a different lifestyle. Jane Miller heads up this activity. There were four very non-descript golf holes on the property when they purchased it. There were two options open to the Millers at the time. Plow it up and forget about the golf aspect or revitalize the course and make it usable. They chose the latter.



From the course to learn about golf...

teams. The race teams compete nationally in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and also in ARCA, a major racing series

New tee boxes were built. An irrigation system was installed, the greens, with the help and advice of Tom Proshok of Brackett's Golf Course, were put in great, playable condition. New mowing equipment was purchased including a 14-foot Land Pride gang mower, seven-foot Steiner that is used for mowing the fairways and two Ferris mowers for the general mowing of the 40-acre property. They also purchased a National I-Stripe mower and John Deere greens mower. It was certainly a major investment for the couple.

The Fairway Foundation was having problems finding practice facilities for their groups and the Millers were looking for a way to make their property available to groups such as this and a partnership was formed. The Fairway Foundation had connections into Community Centers in the Twin Cities and the course was made available to those groups also. In addition Jane Miller contacted the churches and schools in the area and has made the entire property available to many of those organizations as well.

(Continued on Page 25)



...to the classroom with Mike Morris -- the kids get a well-rounded education.

Country Joe Racing—

(Continued from Page 22)

For the summers of 2004 and 2005 the Millers have hosted an average of almost 1,200 youngsters a summer. All the youngsters that visit are given the run of the entire property, fed (*we go through a lot of hot dogs at County Joe's*) and at times addressed by celebrities from the area. Former long snapper of the Minnesota Vikings, Mike Morris, pictured on Page 24 lower left, is a frequent speaker. The man is huge, he talks, the kids listen. An interesting sidelight is the behavior of the kids. In the first three years there has only been one instance of any damage done to the golf course. A little frustration (*anybody ever get frustrated on a golf course?*) got the better of a youngster and he took it out on one of the greens. Quite a record for the kids.

One of the highlights for the groups are the tours of the Country Joe Racing shops. There are normally approximately 21 racing stock cars in various forms of readiness. They get to talk to drivers, get autographs and autograph cards and actually sit in the seat of an 800-horsepower 3,400 lb stock car. Some of these cars are being built, some repaired from the rigors of the racetracks and some are all ready to race. These cars race from Daytona International Speedway to the short tracks such as Elko and Raceway Park.



The Fairway Foundation enjoys the practice facilities at Country Joe's.

As the person that has assumed some of the responsibilities for the maintenance of the course, (*I was the only one that played*

necessarily well) I was made to realize just how difficult and expensive maintaining a course really is. Superintendent Tom

Proshok has been a great help as have the people from the various fertilizer and equipment companies in the area. I now have a great idea as to just how much I don't know. Any help from any of the MGCSA members would be more than welcomed and appreciated. Come visit Minnesota's most

"Superintendent Tom Proshok has been a great help as have the people from the various fertilizer and equipment companies in the area."

golf) joining the MGCSA as a Facilities member has been more than helpful. Having played golf for a long time (*not*

unusual golf course anytime. Remember, bring your kids.



Just a few happy faces of the over 1,200 youngsters who enjoy Country Joe's.

Product & Service News from MGCSA Affiliates

(Editor's Note: Affiliate members are offered the opportunity to write a short statement about any product or service news expected for the upcoming season.)

* * * * *

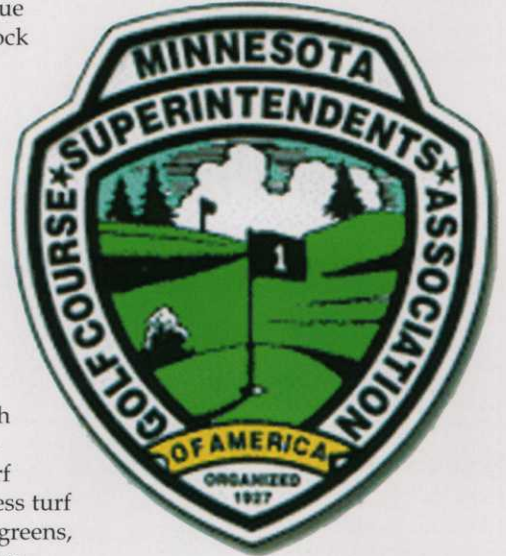
Aquatrols

Aquatrols is a specialty chemical company engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of uniquely effective products and technologies for the worldwide turf market. The performance of all Aquatrols products is backed by worldwide research and a team of experts in the field and at their New Jersey headquarters.

In 2002, Aquatrols introduced Dispatch™, a patented synergistic surfactant technology that dramatically increases water penetration through the thatch/mat of turfgrass and significantly reduces runoff on large turf areas like fairways and rough.

Last year, Aquatrols introduced Revolution™, another patented surfactant technology that balances air to water ratios in the

soil. Using a unique methyl-capped block copolymer molecule, Revolution™ creates thinner, more continuous films of water to form on the surfaces of soil particles and organic matter, giving roots more uniform access to both water and oxygen and improving turf health on high stress turf areas like putting greens, tees and approaches.



The Tessman Company

The Tessman Company is a wholesale distributor of golf, lawncare, landscape, greenhouse and nursery supplies. The following are a few examples of the different type of products we carry: Grass seed, fertilizer, herbicides and fungicides; landscape edging, fabrics, mulches, erosion control; athletic field products - Turface MVP and Quick Dry, line marking chalk; Greenhouse & Nursery growing media, plastics, containers, fertilizers; Professional Ice Melter

Please contact our experienced sales staff at any of our three locations: St. Paul, Fargo or Sioux Falls.

Twin City Hydro Seeding

In 2006 we've added a new single axle dump that has a 9" auger with chute on the rear. These attachments have proven to work well for walking and cart path construction. We're able to drive directly down the path dispensing soil along the edge. The attachments eliminate most of the handwork, saving on labor costs.

What is BFM? Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM) is used for temporary erosion control, where erosion blankets are impractical and/or too expensive, and other mulching methods are inadequate to do the job. Bonded Fiber Matrix is proven to hold even on the steepest slopes. No hill is too steep. Bonded Fiber Matrix is formulated to endure the harsh conditions of heavy rains and snow, giving plants time to establish themselves.

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When Every Square Inch Counts

Experience the Andersons formulation advantage on your fairways

The photos below illustrate the difference in particle size and uniformity between the Andersons small and mid-size fairway fertilizer and a competitor's product. Notice no nutrient segregation with Andersons mid-size due to uniform particle sizing versus significant nutrient segregation with competitor.

Andersons 25-3-9 + 2% Fe (150 SGN)



1 lb of N per 1,000 = 175 lbs./acre = 3.7 particles per sq. in.

Local Competitor 15-5-10 (215 SGN)



1 lb of N per 1,000 = 290 lbs./acre = 2.0 particles per sq. in.

The matrix shown below demonstrates a dramatic increase in particle coverage (PPSI) by using smaller particle products versus increasing the rate (lbs.) of a larger particle product.

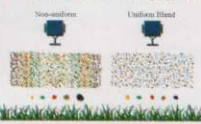
POUNDS/ACRE	Particles Per Square Inch Matrix 20-5-20 Fertilizer with 5% NutriNova									
	80	100	125	150	175	215	240	300	SGN	SGN
100	15.0	7.7	3.9	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3		
125	18.7	9.6	4.9	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.4		
150	22.5	11.5	5.9	3.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4		
175	26.2	13.4	6.9	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.5		
200	30.0	15.4	7.9	4.5	2.9	1.5	1.1	0.6		
225	33.7	17.3	8.8	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6		
250	37.5	19.2	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.9	1.4	0.7		
300	45.0	23.0	11.8	6.8	4.3	2.3	1.7	0.9		
Avg. SG (g/ml) = 1.8										

The illustration below shows the effect of using a non-uniform fertilizer product. Note the severe skewing and banding of different nutrients.



Uniform Particle Distribution
Spreadability - Particle Flight

Varying particle sizes and density cause irregular ballistic behavior resulting in inconsistent delivery of product.



"Get the Andersons small or midsize particle advantage"

- Andersons small and mid-size fertilizer blends provide a uniform application of nutrients across the entire spreader swath.
- Andersons fertilizer blends provide up to 7 times more particles per square inch (PPSI) than typical fairway grade products.
- Avoid inconsistent turf response by experiencing the Andersons formulation advantage. Compare Andersons SGN advantages and discover true performance and value.



CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED
Lastec Articiulator 721.
Any condition.
Contact: Bill Whitworth
Northfield Golf Club
507-645-6879

FOR SALE
(1) 150 gallon blue pressure tank
with bladder, \$100
(1) 2hp vertical jockey pump
\$500 -- never used
Contact: Robert Steele
Hickory Hills Golf
715-878-4543

FOR SALE
2002 Jacobsen LF 3400
1100 hrs -- \$12,999
Contact: Matt Rostal
Interlachen Country Club
952-924-7420

FOR SALE
Sand Shaker Divot Bottles.
Used 6 months.
71 complete used units
(bottles/brackets)
11 complete new units -- \$300
Par Aide Flag sticks (18)
1-inch Aluminum Tour Flagsticks,
Black/White -- \$275
Contact: Tim or Ben
Rochester Golf & Country Club
(507) 536-4487

FOR SALE
2 sets of Greens King IV reels, \$150.
1996 National 68", electric start, \$250.
Contact: Bill Brooks
Rose Lake Golf Club
507-235-3981

FOR SALE
Foley Bedknife Grinder M 384 (\$350)
3, Jac IV groomer reels
(75% life) all (\$300)
72, Par Aide "Bunker Pro" rakes, green
fiberglass handles, 2 yrs old (\$5.00 ea.)
50, Toro Sprinklers, 650 series, drive
assemblies (\$10.00 ea)
10, Rubbermaid coolers,
10 gal (\$10.00 ea.)
1988 Core Master(pto), aerator
(5 sets of tines including needle tines)
-- (\$500 OBO)
Contact: Tom Proshek
Brackett's Crossing CC
952-435-2543

FOR SALE
Charterhouse Turf Tidy Sweeper
Purchased 1999, used two years
-- flail, scarifier
and brush attachments, 2.5 cu metre
capacity -- Offer
T.I.P.GS 48 Spiker/seed, pull type-
electric lift, purchased 2001 -- \$2,000
Jacobsen Aero King 1321 Walk-behind
drillseed, electric start,
purchased 1998 -- \$500
Greens Iron Speed Roller with trailer,
purchased 2002 -- \$1,500
15 Toro 5200 or 5300 reel replacements.
2-3 year life remaining
@.500" -- \$50/reel

New Sand Pro Tires for 8" rim
-- 3 @ \$50/tire
Standard Tour Smooth Rakes
-- 75 @ \$2.00/rake
Contact: Tim Johnson
Spring Hill Golf Club
952-476-4875

FOR SALE
Toro 450 Fairway mower, engine
runs good. \$1500.00
1993 Jacobsen 5111 rough mower,
4 wheel drive, engine runs great
may need a new drive wheel motor.
Good for a flat course.
Contact: Terry Negen
Atlantic Golf and Country Club,
Atlantic, Iowa
712-254-1136 cell
712-243-2737 shop

WANTED
Toro Hydroject -- low hours if possible.
Contact: Mike Kelly
Edina Country Club
(952) 922-9012

FOR SALE
2 complete sets of Greens King IV 9-
blade reels -- ground and ready to cut.
Vicon spreader with accessories. 3 pt.
or truckster mount.
Excellent condition! Make offer.
Contact: Jeff Weiss
Redwood Falls Golf Club
(507) 430-1125

FOR SALE
1997 Terra Topper spin-type topdresser.
Excellent Condition! ...\$2,400
Toro (Olathe) Core Pulverizer for Toro
Groundsmaster (includes set of new
rubber fingers) Make offer.
Contact: Mark Lindberg
Edgewood GC-Fargo Parks
701-293-5493
edgewood@misc.fargoparks.com

FOR SALE
(9) "Standard" Kooler-Aid
Water Stations,
including stands and other misc.
parts. (green) \$25 ea.
Contact: Marlow Hansen
Forest Hills GC
651-464-3097, ext. 18

FOR SALE
15 Toro 5200D reels, reelstock only,
part # 14-0649
5 with 7 grinds, 5 with 10 grinds,
5 with 11 grinds.
The only reason these reels were
replaced was because I couldn't achieve
the low height of cut that was desired.
I prefer to sell as a set of 5, but will con-
sider selling individually. Best offer.
Contact: Matt Johnson
Stoneridge Golf Club
651-998-0698

FOR SALE
+ Foley Model 384 Bedknife Grinder
In good working order \$200
Contact: David Kohlbray
Northland Country Club
218-525-1941, ext. 121

FOR SALE
1995 Toro 5300D fairway mower, serv-
iced, sharpened and ready-to-cut.
5,821 hours, well-maintained and in
excellent condition. No ROPS.
Contact: Rob or Seth
Waseca Lakeside Club
507-837-5996

WANTED
Jacobsen LF-100/LF-123 for parts.
Need not run or be complete.
Contact: Steve Benson
Grand National Golf Club
320-384-7084 or 320-266-8150

FOR SALE
Manuel Foley Reel Grinder M-388,
\$500.00
Manuel Foley Bedknife Grinder M-384,
\$500.00
3 Reels for National 84 Tri-Plex--7 Blade
\$\$Best Offer
3 Pt. Spreader Lily P.T.O. \$650.00
Contact: Brian Rancour
Izatys Resort
320-532-1144

FOR SALE
*2000 John Deere 3215b.
2,400 hrs, \$8,000
*2000 Ransome AR250.
2,200 hrs, \$9,500
*1997 National Hydro 70.
900 hrs, \$1,200
*1994 Cushman 3 wh.
6,800 hrs \$1,500.00
*1990 John Deere 2635a.
2,100 hrs \$7,000.00
*1990 Toro 322-D Groundsmaster.
3,100 hrs \$1,200.00
*1989 Toro 216. 2700 hrs \$300.00
* Turfco Meter Matic. Make offer.
Contact: Rod Hanson
Fox Hollow Golf Club
763-428-8449

FOR SALE
2004 dmi Speed Roller. Ride-on
greens roller with trailer.
Like new condition, 103 hours. \$7,000
Contact: Eric Ritter
Spoooner Golf Club
715-635-6438

FOR SALE
Rebuilt 14 hp Kohler engine with
hydraulic
pump to fit GK IV. Make offer.
Contact: Kevin Clunis, CGCS
Tanners Brook GC
651-210-5309

FOR SALE
(2) Light weight Toro Fwy cutting
units, ready-to-cut, \$650.00 ea.
(1) Jacobsen 526 26in. walking greens
mower, excellent shape.
Ground and ready-to-cut, \$2825.00
Contact: Scott Wersal
Ridges at Sand Creek
952-492-2644, ext. 24

FOR SALE
\$7,995 1995 Jake HR5111 4wd, 2200+hr
\$7,995 1996 Toro 455D 4wd, 4150hrs
\$ 750 1986 Toro Sandpro 3wd, 1950hr
\$ 200 19 Standard waste can w/spike
\$1,500 Ryan Greensaire 24, B&S 8hp
\$2,995 Turfco Metermatic 3, like new
Contact: Guy W. Leach
Spring Valley Golf Course
715-778-4519

FOR SALE
Two (2) - Wittek Tee King Dispensers
Capacity 4,700 balls
Dimensions H (60") W (30") D (30")
Adjustable ball count 25 to 50 per dump
Both bill acceptors refurbished
within the last year
Good condition - both units have
been operated from inside our range
building \$1,500 for one unit or \$2,500
for both units.
Contact: Dan Moris
Eagle Valley Golf Course
651-714-3753

FOR SALE
Wittek Ball Dispenser, Model 74200.
Electric, accepts tokens only.
10,000 ball capacity. Dispenses in
increments of 25,30,35,40,45,or 50
balls. Recently repainted h
unter green. \$500.00
Contact: Thomas Fischer, CGCS
Edinburgh USA
763-315-8575

FOR SALE
1997 Toro 5300D Reelmaster
2,700 hours-excellent shape-all records.
\$6,300 OBO
Contact: Harley Exsted
Fiddlestix Golf Course
320-676-3327

FOR SALE
Gently used orange,
plastic snow fence. 5000+ feet.
Make an offer.
Brad Zimmerman
Boulder Pointe Golf Club
952-461-4909 |
bpgrounds@integraonline.com

FOR SALE
40 VT-4 Toro Controllors
Includes clocks and pedestal.
Asking price: \$325 or best offer.
Reconditioned VT-4
(never been used) - \$300
Vari Time 2 Toro Central - \$500 or best
offer (used for two months)
Contact: Brad Hable, Superintendent
Bunker Hills Golf Course
763-755-4150

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scott@mgcsa.org AFTER ITEMS
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- The Minikahda Club
- The Refuge Golf Club
- The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Casino
- Windsong Farm

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WHITE BUNKER SAND - VERY FIRM PLAYABILITY

- Northfield Country Club

13th Hole at The Minikahda Club. Photo is courtesy of Jeff Johnson, Golf Course Superintendent.

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Membership Report

March 2006 - New Members and Reclassifications

Jamie Plomedahl
Class A - GCSAA
The Bridges Golf Club
Winona, MN
507-454-4009

Brian Ernst
Class C
Woodhill Country Club
Wayzata, MN
952-473-5811

Dennis Frick
Class C
Mississippi National Golf Links
Red Wing, MN
651-388-6482

Steve Giesen
Class C
Hazeltime National Golf Club
Chaska, MN
952-556-5410

Josh Olson
Class C - GCSAA
Somerset Country Club
Mendota Heights, MN
651-457-1161

Gregg A. Paulus
Class C
The Ponds at Battle Creek
Maplewood, MN
651-266-1505

Andrew Sikora
Class C - GCSAA
Bluff Creek Golf Course
Chaska, MN
612-445-5588

David Thalberg
Class C - GCSAA
Island View Golf Club
Waconia, MN
952-442-6116, ext. 234

Adam Hoffman
Class D - GCSAA
Golden Valley Golf & CC
Golden Valley, MN
763-732-4153

Jeff Mold
Class D
Edina Country Club
Edina, MN
952-922-9012

Jason Raabe
Class D
Dwan Golf Course
Bloomington, MN
952-563-8851

Joel Sperial
Class D
Rose Creek Golf Course
Fargo, ND
701-241-1350

Brandon Young
Class D - GCSAA (pending)
Spring Hill Golf Club
Wayzata, MN
952-476-4875

David Forrey
Student - GCSAA
Anoka Technical College
Bellwood Oaks Golf Course
Hastings, MN
651-437-6195

Bradley Johnson
Student
Iowa State University
Windsong Farm Golf Club
Independence, MN
763-479-7161

Nick Peinovich
Student - GCSAA
University of Minnesota
Interlachen Country Club
Edina, MN
612-799-1778

Birl Lowery
Class E
Badger Turf & Grounds Club
Dept. of Soil Science
Madison, WI
608-262-2752

Tim Keating
Affiliate
Cleary Chemical
Geneva, IL
630-885-7587

Brian Shaul
Affiliate
Turfwerks
Eagan, MN
651-484-8411

Joey Kodet
Facility
Stoney Creek Golf Course
Renville, MN
320-329-8400

Reclassifications

Dennis Owen
Class A to Retired
507-625-2577

Mark Fossum
Class A to Inactive
Park Rapids, MN

John Queensland
Retired to Life
Elkton, MN

Mark Poppitz
Class A to Affiliate
Turf Supply Company
Eagan, MN

Chad Bohnenstingl
Class B to A - GCSAA
The Preserve Golf Club
Nisswa, MN

Casey R. Flatten
Class B to A - GCSAA
Hollydale Golf Club
Plymouth, MN

Jeff Hanson
Class C to SM - GCSAA
Tartan Park Golf Course
Lake Elmo, MN

Scott Wersal
Class B to A - GCSAA
Ridges at Sand Creek
Jordan, MN

- Respectfully submitted by
Jeff Vinkemeier, Membership Chair

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In Bounds: MGCSA Benefits

By JOHN "JACK" MACKENZIE, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

Two weeks ago I had an interesting conversation with an industry friend of mine. We were talking about the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association and he piped in, "yeh sure, but what have you guys done for me recently?"

Left speechless (*something sort of new for me*) I composed myself, took a deep breath and said I would get back to him later. Today is later and here is my response.

Straight from the play book, the objective of the MGCSA is to advance the art and science of Golf Course Management, to collect and disseminate among member superintendents practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession. All for a 'C' note. Not too bad, but the mission statement only scratches the surface.

Education, education and more education is perhaps the greatest thrust of the MGCSA. Every year the Education Chairman scouts high and low to find stimulating and current information regarding the state of our industry for four sessions: The March Mini, Spring and Fall Mixers and the extended big show, The Green Expo. This is not an easy task. Competition for the presenters is fierce. Coordinating the topics and procuring the professional speakers takes lots of volunteer time. That's right, the investment the Education Chair puts into your education is done for free.

Sometimes the speakers are total flops. Even the "institutions" in our industry can give a dry program or be off for that day. But we go anyway and hope to glean a small bit of information. Most of the time however, the educational sessions are conducted by upbeat professionals and provide the attendees with ample information, that is if they are attentive and participate through active listening. Maybe a little less gabbing and distracting side conversations would improve the experience for all participants, in my humble opinion of course.

I also opine that there isn't a better state publication generated on a volunteer basis than the Minnesota Hole Notes. This publication takes time and

effort to generate pertinent ideas worthy of a very professional and demanding readership. During a time when the dues structure of the MGCSA has not flinched, the *Hole Notes* has gone from a black and white publication perused at one's leisure to a must-read color rag full of relevance, facts and fun. Articles written by your peers and professionals in the industry, and articles full of experiences which could be used to collaborate your own ideas or stimulate new theories and methods of turf management. It is a good read

"Your kids will be going to college and may be hoping for a little help -- that's why industry scholarships are available. Perhaps you might use the employment services provided by the MGCSA website and maybe you will pick up your directory and call a buddy to discuss agronomy."

and alone worth membership in the MGCSA.

Another valuable asset of belonging to our organization is the chance to play golf at some of the finest tracks in the area. But somebody has to organize these events for your enjoyment. Somebody has to locate the venues. Somebody has to contact the associates who own cart fleets to transport the participants at little or no cost. Somebody has to promote the event. And somebody has to decide the distribution of the proceeds. That somebody is the Arrangements Chairman and again, his is a volunteer position.

Without the Arrangements Chairman, the Scholarship Chair and the Research Chair would have a tough time doing their volunteer jobs. These two association positions are dedicated to the generation and distribution of funds accumulated through golf tournaments and voluntary membership contributions. No small tasks as there are many individuals who are entitled to apply for the scholarship funds and even more requests for research funding.

Another avenue of interest is the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, the warehouse for research funding monies generated from the Minnesota Green Expo. The MGCSA has two repre-

sentatives on that Board to be sure our voice is heard. The volunteers work on various committees to direct funding accordingly, participate in the recruitment of presenters at the Green Expo and stream lining of the relatively new organization.

One more novel benefit of belonging to the MGCSA is the active representation of the Superintendents Association at the Legislative level. It wasn't too long ago that golf courses were not on the radar of the "powers in the Big House." But in recent environmental awareness, water regulations and even industry standards came to the forefront. In an effort to keep abreast of the ever-changing regulations the Legislative Committee was formed to represent and educate both the public representatives and the green industry as to proper turf management practices.

This volunteer position is manned annually by a dedicated chairman who spends many hours actively lobbying the legislature about key trade issues and their impact upon our business. Topics such as low voltage electrical power, fertilizer impacts, worker safety concerns and water cleanliness have become hot agendas and the MGCSA representatives have been there to discuss the cause and effects of legislation. On some issues we have been overruled, on other topics our presence has been witnessed and we have

changed the course of actions that would be detrimental to our industry.

The Environmental Chair, another voluntary job, is actively recreating a CD providing updated information about our impact on the macro and micro aspects of our small corner of the world. Public awareness has demanded that we create a "paper trail" of projects intended to educate our industry so we are not blindsided by accusations of a disconnect with our surroundings.

So my friend, have I connected with you regarding just how important our association is? I know your kids will be going to college and may be hoping for a little help -- that's why there are industry scholarships available. Perhaps some day you might use the employment services provided by the MGCSA website, and maybe you will pick up your directory and call a buddy to discuss agronomy, the weather or club politics. And here is one idea right from left field, conceivably you too might volunteer to run for the Board and participate beyond sending in your annual dues. I know it's a long shot, but you have all the qualities of becoming the next great participant.

By then I will have retired my slot on the BOD and can ask you, "So what have YOU done for me recently?"