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About the Cover

Jeff Vinkemeier and his wife Sheila made their dreams a reality with a trip to Hawaii. Photo credit to Jeff Vinkemeier.

2006 MGCSA Events

<p>March 7 MGCSA Mini-Seminar Mendakota Country Club Host Sup't: Robert McKinney</p> <p>May Spring Mixer The Pines at Grand View Lodge Host Sup't: Mike Bohnenstingl</p> <p>Monday, June 5 Scholarship Scramble Somerville Golf Club, Byron Host Superintendent: Casey Conlin</p> <p>July 17 BASF Fundraiser Tournament Albion Ridges Golf Course Host Superintendent: Brooks Ellingson</p>	<p>Thursday, July 27 U of M Troe Center Field Day U of M St. Paul Campus Hosts: Dr. Brian Horgan and Larry Vetter</p> <p>Monday, August 21 MGCSA Championship CALL IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST THE CHAMPIONSHIP</p> <p>Monday, September 18 Harold Stodola Research Scramble Rolling Green Country Club, Hamel Host Superintendent: Drew Larson</p> <p>Monday, October 9 MGCSA Fall Mixer Oakdale, Golf Club, Buffalo Lake Host Superintendent: Mike Knodel</p>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Warm Winter's Greeting To You

By James Bade

To quote Charlotte's Web, "salutations" a (literal) warm winter's greeting to you. I want to thank the MGCSA membership for putting their trust in me to be president of this wonderful association. I see it as a privilege and honor to serve in this capacity. The reason I volunteered was due to the fact of being surrounded by such good and experienced people. Thank you Rob Panuska for your strong leadership the past two years. It is reassuring to know that you are the Ex-Officio. As I see it the board consists of a group of individuals trying to make things happen for its members. The association has always been important to me but even more so since sitting on the board and seeing all that it takes to accomplish things.

I want to thank outgoing board members Rick Fredericksen, Jeff Johnson, James Gardner, Brad Zimmerman, and Dave Oberle for their service. They brought a lot of wisdom and fresh ideas to the table. Hopefully we can tap into your knowledge and resources again. And welcome new board members Scottie Hines, Tom Meier, Tom Proshok, Jeff Vinkemeier and vendor representative Dan Brown. I think you will find the experience of serving a rewarding one and enlightening.

The Minnesota Green Expo continued to buck the trend of declining trade shows. 7,833 people attended the show. I want to thank all of you who participated. A strong show helps to support turfgrass research, Dr. Horgan and Dr. Watkins at the U of Minnesota. Being in the new part of the convention center this year made things a little different. We recognize the need for some improvements so if you have concerns bring them to our attention.

Serving on the board makes you realize how important the vendors are. So I want to thank the sponsors of the 27-hole challenge. Next year the score cards will be distributed before the show and available at the vendors' booths. The reason we draw the prizes at the annual meeting is our strong desire to have you participate in the business affairs of the MGCSA.

The December Appreciation and Recognition Banquet at the Wilds Golf Club was a very nice evening. Congratulations to Steve Garske, Brad Peterson and Mike Sonnek for their achievements and awards. A big thank-you to Jeff Johnson and Brad Zimmerman for planning the festivities. We plan to have this as an annual event because it is an enjoyable way to see each other and involve our spouses.

Congratulations to Jack MacKenzie, Scott and Jeff Turtinen, and article writers for the *Hole Notes*. The publication received two awards from the GCSAA, the most improved publication and more importantly the top publication for 2005 in its category! Thanks gentlemen for taking the *Hole Notes* to the next level. Let's keep it going in 2006 with interesting articles from you the members.

And finally we hope to see you Tuesday, March 7 at the Mini Seminar being held at Mendakota Country Club. This year's featured speaker is Dr. Frank Rossi. Look for an inter-active engaging day. We also hope to have the Labor Department available to answer questions on the Child Labor law. So, let's saddle up our horses and blaze a trail in 2006.

Sincerely, James Bade

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the MGCSA

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James Bade Elected MGCSA President

Brown, Hines, Meier, Proshek and Vinkemeier Join Board

James Bade, Superintendent at Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights, is the new president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Bade, who was vice-president the past two years and has served on the board for eight years, was elected at the Association's 78th Annual Business Meeting held on January 5, 2006 at the Minneapolis Convention Center during the Green Expo.

New Officers

Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello Country Club, Monticello, Vice-President; E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Heritage Links Golf Club, Lakeville, Treasurer, and Matt McKinnon, The Legacy Courses at Cragun's, Secretary.

New Directors

New directors elected were Dan Brown, Par Aide Products Co., Lino Lakes; Scottie Hines, CGCS, Windsong Farm Golf Club, Independence; Tom Meier, LeSueur Country Club, Le Sueur; Tom Proshek, Brackett's Crossing Country Club, Lakeville, and Jeff Vinkemeier, Glencoe Country Club, Glencoe.

Award Recipients

In 2005, we had 25 members of our association to honor for the dedication they have shown to the profession.

45-Year Service Award recipient: G.M. Jerry Murphy, CGCS;

35-Year Service Award recipients: George Jennrich, John Sniker and David Zimmer.

30-Year Service Award recipients: Randall Allen, Joseph Check, Thomas Fischer, CGCS, John Granholt, Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, and John Wiley.

25-Year Service Award recipients: Walt Braunig, Jr., Richard E. Carr, Timothy Commers, William S. Cox, Allan Fitz, Cary Femrite, John Ganske, James Gardner, CGCS, Michael Hoffman, Kurt Johnson, Tom McCann, Robert McKinney, CGCS, Marlin Murphy, Duane Slaughter, Richard Smith and Greg Spencer.

Steve Garske, Par Aide Products Co., received the 2005 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award.

Bradley Pedersen, University of Minnesota, received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.

Michael Sonnek, Spring Hill Golf Club, was the recipient of the 2005 Watson Award.



New MGCSA President James Bade, right, accepts the traditional President's Gavel from outgoing President Robert Panuska at the MGCSA Annual Meeting.

MGCSA Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Arrangements

Tom Proshek

Awards & Recognition Banquet

Tom Proshek

Bylaws & Historical

Tom Meier

Conference & Education

Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Tom Proshek

Editorial

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Environmental

Scottie Hines, CGCS

Fundraising

Dan Brown

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Human Resources

Tom Meier

Industrial Relations

Dan Brown

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Legislative

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Membership

Jeff Vinkemeier

MTGF

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Public Relations

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Research

Rick Traver, CGCS

Scholarship

Eric Peters

Note: If you'd like to participate on a committee, contact a Chair or Co-Chair.

Distance-Measuring Devices Allowed Through Local Rule

Effective January 1, 2006, the use of distance-measuring devices during a stipulated round will be allowed through the implementation of a Local Rule. Decision 14-3/0.5 allows the committee to establish a Local Rule permitting players to use devices that measure distance only. Since the announcement of this new decision, the USGA clarified its tournament policy going forward and announced it will not adopt the new Local Rule at USGA championships and qualifying rounds in 2006.

Given the interest surrounding the use of distance-measuring devices and the new Local Rule, the MGA felt it important to state its position on the adoption of Decision 14-3/0.5. On December 15, 2005, the MGA Executive Committee voted unanimously to follow the USGA's tournament policy and will not permit the use of distance-measuring devices in MGA championships and qualifiers for 2006. The MGA will review the matter annually.

* * * * *

(Editor's Note: Questions regarding application of this Local Rule at your club or for specific events should be referred to Doug Hoffmann, MGA Tournament Director, at 952-345-3963 or doug@mngolf.org.)

Watson Award Winner Michael Sonnek



Michael Sonnek, right, Assistant Superintendent at Spring Hill Golf Club, Orono, Minn., was the recipient of the 2005 Watson Award. This award is presented annually to a member who took time to write an article for the association's *Hole Notes* publication. His article, entitled "Beach Party at Spring Hill," was an informative article about bunker restoration at Spring Hill. Tim Johnson, Superintendent at Spring Hill, helped with the article's facts and figures while Michael related the human interest side of the project. Pictured on the left with Michael is *Hole Notes* editor Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club.

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Maximizing Your Irrigation System

By JUSTIN GUSTAFSON
Superintendent, Ely Golf Club

An irrigation system even in its most simple form is a very complex organism. It has taken me years to learn the chain of events that must happen for it to function correctly. Just when you think you have mastered all possible scenarios, you will be humbled at the worst possible time. I would like to share some of my tips and tricks that I have learned over the years in dealing with a system that was installed about the time I was in junior high school.

The Pump Station

Cleanliness is next to godliness. Keep your pump house clean of rodents and insect nests. Mice will crawl into conduit and into your pump controls, so check your panels for nests and set traps. Also, maintain a clean environment that discourages such activities. Sweep the floor and throw out all the old junk lying around. This will also prevent dust and dirt from contaminating station components. If you have a pressure tank, check for proper air pressure before you charge your system with water in the spring. It is possible the rubber bladder inside might be torn and need replacement.

Turn off the power and check your flow switch paddle. Note which posts the wires are connected to and remove them. Next, unthread it from your main line and check the paddle condition if it is still there. Mine was gone when it was inspected this spring! Make sure you select the paddle out of the kit that will not stick on the bottom of the pipe. Rethread in your flow switch with the arrow pointing in the direction of flow, hook up the wires and test it. There is a spring-loaded adjustment screw that may need tuning if the paddle flutters.

Check the condition of your foot valve. Better yet, rebuild it if it has been a while. I personally like to use the leather flapper and gasket replacement. The rubber types are also reliable, but are prone to dry rot during the winter months. Whichever type of replacement you choose, it is a simple job that can save you from losing your prime and your cool.

Another common and often overlooked problem associated with lack of sufficient water flow in your system is garbage clogging up your "Y" strainer. It is a good idea



Ely Golf Club

to pull it out and check its condition periodically. Also, backwash your strainer at least once a week during periods of heavy use to keep the water flowing unobstructed.

It is also a great investment to have a pump station technician give your pumps and controls a good check-up every couple of years. A good technician will test every switch, valve, electrical component and run a series of tests on your pumps to determine if problems are on the horizon. I found out this past spring that they are willing to share a wealth of expertise and are truly the experts at getting the most out of your pump station.

Heads

One of the simplest tips I can offer for sprinkler heads is to just observe them closely in operation. I took some serious time this past summer checking the time it takes for each one to make a revolution and checking distribution with rain gauges, but just watching them in operation alone told me that I needed to do some work. Years of topdressing greens and tees had substantially lowered the heads to the point where the turf was knocking the spray down and causing poor performance. Purchasing an upgraded internal conversion assembly for my existing heads eliminated most digging up and leveling since the newer sprinklers pop up 2" higher than the older types. I have almost completely replaced

all my old Toro 634s on greens and tees to the newer 834 conversion assemblies. The result was a dramatic improvement in overall turf quality and water delivery.

Check out your nozzles next. I was astounded at how many heads were all broken up from mowers chewing on them over the years. Just replacing the cracked or worn out nozzles, O-rings, covers and other miscellaneous parts restored my old 670's into virtually new condition. Also check to make sure the proper nozzle is used for its application. For instance, I am going to be bold and say that no two heads are spaced the same, there are elevated areas on the golf course, some areas are drier and windier than others, and your course is not a flat blueprint paper, right? Well, chances are good that if you have an older system all the nozzles are probably the same for the type of sprinkler used. Changing the nozzles in your typical problem areas of over/under watering will maximize your water usage and turf condition.

Another good idea is to check the condition of all isolation valves at least once a summer. More times than not, I have had to dig out a few inches of silt just to get to the valve handle. There is also nothing worse than having the valve handle disintegrate in your hand while trying to isolate a problem, so give them a turn to make sure they are operating freely.

(Continued on Page 9)

Bradley Pedersen is Recipient of MGCSA Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award



Bradley Pedersen, professor at the University of Minnesota for the past 33 years, is the recipient of the MGCSA Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, for his contributions to the turf industry in general and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association in particular. Many past students of his were in attendance at the MGCSA Awards & Recognition Banquet to honor Mr. Pedersen.

Thank You from the U of M

This past season at the University of Minnesota TROE Center has been a very exciting one. The 2005 Field Day was well received with many favorable comments from those in attendance. The TROE Center is continuing to grow and develop as was envisioned.

The University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research Team would like to thank you for your contribution to our program this past year. Without the MGCSA's support and commitment, we would not be able to obtain the research results we have. If you are ever in the vicinity of the University, please feel free to stop in, visit with us and see the research in progress.



Dr. Brian Horgan

On behalf of the Turf Research Team, thank you to the following: Izaty's Golf and Yacht Club; MTI Distributing; Midland Hills CC; National Sports Center; North Oaks GC; Plaisted Companies Inc.; ProSource One; Ramy Turf Products; Somerset Country Club; Tiziani Club Car; Turfco; TurfWerks, and the University of Minnesota Golf Course.

- Brian Horgan

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Maximizing Irrigation—

(Continued from Page 7)

Last but not least, keep your quick couplers uncovered and free of debris. If you are not sure where they all are, use a metal detector. When I first started here at the course, 14 of mine were buried with up to 6" of material and they were not at "X" marks the spot on the irrigation map. Using just a plain quick coupler key, flush out any sand or rocks that may be in the quick coupler so they will not end up clogging a hose end watering device.

Updating Controllers and Adding Zones

A few years ago, our system took a direct lightning strike and I remember how bummed out I was seeing smoldering plastic and charred steel boxes that were once my old VT12 satellites. Looking back, what a blessing in disguise! We were able to immediately update most of our system to Network LTC that summer. The remaining controllers were replaced the following season after we found out how far behind times we were. The ability to run cycles, turn multiple

heads on at once, syringe and have almost endless programming options is now something I cannot live without. The best part of the whole deal was it was not really an expensive capital purchase especially since we installed them totally with in house labor. Also, having a 64- station controller opened up even more opportunities for adding on to my system.

I started looking into adding zones to my single row system in areas that needed help a few years ago. For example, I was watering my practice green and several tees with hoses run from quick couplers. I would also watch in desperation, as the right side of my second fairway would turn into a desert whenever it went 2 days without rain. To make a long story short, my board of directors said there was no way we could pay for such improvements. After going back to the drawing board, I came back a week later and had a plan to get all the projects done in 2 years at about 1/3 the cost if we used in house labor to do the work. Not only was I able to rally the board, but also quite a few of the members! One of the leagues donated all of the materials and one of the members donated heavy equipment that we needed for the project. I can now laugh thinking

back at all the boulders we dug up, wondering if I really knew what in god's name I was doing, and the moment of truth when I fired up the new zones. Was it a failure? No way. Everything worked like a Swiss watch. I have been able to eliminate many labor hours hand watering and improve turf conditions 100% in those areas. Having a double row down my second fairway completely changed the way the hole plays and my members could not be happier.

Adding zones to your system is not something you need a large staff to do in house. For example, we were able to install 1,200 feet of pipe, wires, heads and have everything cleaned up and sodded back together in one week with two staff members and myself.

In conclusion, taking some serious time to really change the weak links in your irrigation system will have one of the biggest positive impacts on your turf. Adding new zones and changing out the controls was one of my most challenging and rewarding projects that I have taken on. However, just taking an hour a week to make minor improvements to your system will have noticeable results almost immediately.



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UP-TO-CODE

Lighting Improves the Bottom Line and the Utilities Pay

By ROGER JACOBS, Focus Lighting & Controls, Inc.

(Editor's Note: To continue the theme of energy costs, David Harchanko asked an associate to comment on energy savings with regard to lighting systems. Roger Jacobs has extensive experience with the development, manufacturing and installation of energy efficient lighting solutions. He has had great success finding savings through the use of rebates from the utility companies to pay for these improvements. This stuff really works, especially now with energy costs so high and technology so cheap, it is finally efficient to combine some sophisticated controls to electrical and heating/cooling operations that the utility companies will even help to pay for the improvements. Roger Jacobs may be reached at 952-474-9077 or e-mail at rjacobs@focusalt.com)

We are all clearly aware the energy crisis will be one of the main issues and expenses business owners are facing today and will continue to face in the coming

years. It's a safe bet for any business owner, utility costs will continue to increase operating expenses and erode the "Bottom Line" if corrective action isn't taken.

The "GOOD" NEWS is, through the proper application of Lighting Equipment now available, facility owners can improve worker productivity and, at the same time, "improve" the Bottom Line through Reducing Energy Costs.

One recent example of the above is a 250,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in St. Paul, Minnesota that recently received a lighting remodel for its manufacturing and warehouse areas. The lighting remodel used a combination of new fluorescent lighting fixtures and the retrofitting of some existing lighting fixtures, as well. Occupancy detection was effectively applied in warehouse and manufacturing in low activity areas to automatically con-

trol lights. The new lighting fixtures use fluorescent High Color Rendering lamps and Reflector Technology designed to specifically control lighting performance and levels in specific warehouse and manufacturing areas.

In the warehouse areas with 30' high ceiling and narrow merchandising aisles, the new Lighting Fixtures used Reflectors that distributed much higher vertical and horizontal visual task lighting levels than previously experienced on aisle shelving and floors, in turn increasing employee safety and productivity as a result. Occupancy detection was also effectively used in the warehouse aisles, further reducing energy consumption when specific aisles were not in use.

The manufacturing area also used fluorescent fixtures using reflectors designed to greatly increase both vertical and

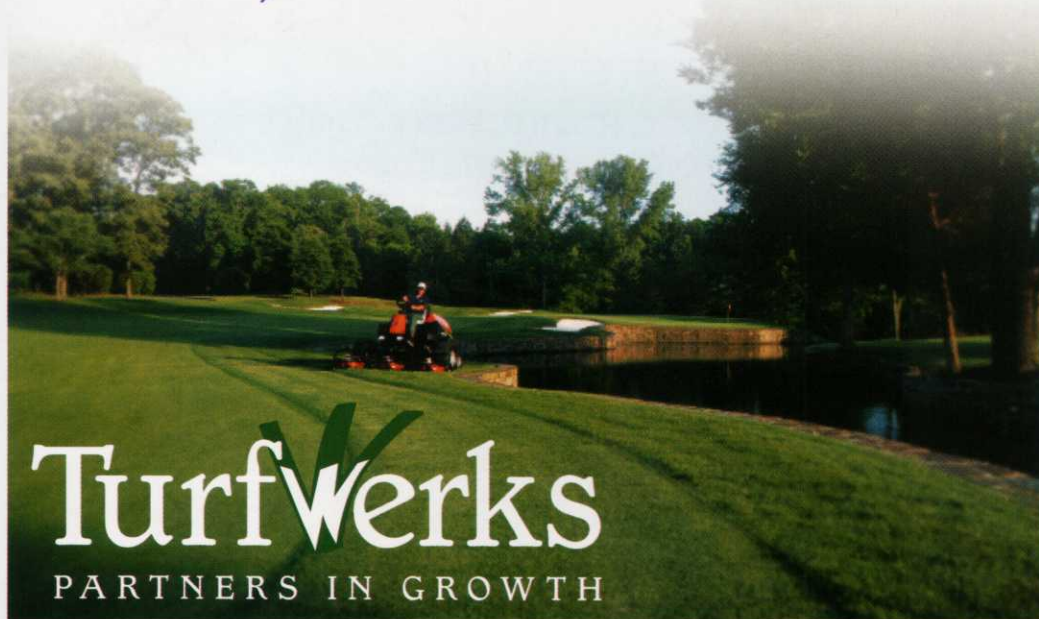
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