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About the Cover

It may be winter but the fun doesn't stop at Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club, Wayzata CC and Interlachen CC. See stories in this issue.

Upcoming MGCSA Events


<p>May 15 Spring Mixer The Pines at Grand View Lodge Host Sup't: Mike Bohnenstingl</p> <p>Monday, June 5 Scholarship Scramble Someryby 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 7 MGCSA Championship Windsong Farm Golf Club Host Sup't: Scottie Hines, CGCS</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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Disease & Plant Health Care Seminar Set March 22

Mark your calendar for a MGCSA, BASF and LESCO co-sponsored Disease & Plant Health Care Seminar. This free, GCSAA-accredited seminar will be held at Golden Valley CC on March 22. Speakers include Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State University, Dr. Rich Latin, Purdue University and Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota. Registration from 8-9 a.m., seminar takes place 9 - 1 p.m. -- lunch included.

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WHEREVER GOLF IS PLAYED



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good Times at GCSAA Conference In Hotlanta

By James Bade

The GCSAA conference in Hotlanta, well it wasn't exactly hot, actually it was cold, 28 degrees in the morning to maybe 50 in the afternoon. But when one is inside taking classes and seeing a trade-show, does it really matter what the temperature is outside? For me, psychologically, it is easier to be inside when it isn't sunny and 80 degrees outside. I heard about room reservation troubles, which is too bad, but other than that I thought the big show was fairly good. Especially considering the task of having to move from one city to another. I liked the way the Atlanta Convention Center is laid out for seminars and the trade show.

The GCSAA educational seminars are usually good because they bring in the experts. This year's research sessions came with a take-home message making them worth your while. Being able to talk to national representatives about their products and seeing colleagues in that venue are worth the trip. So if the show were in Atlanta again, I would go. But hopefully it might be 38 degrees to about 65.

At one session (*for argument sake let's say there were 100 people in the room*) I counted at least 10 people from Minnesota. That is a high percentage and speaks well of our association and educational interests. The turn-out for the MGCSA evening night out was well attended, especially for being bumped two doors down to Barley's Billiards. Thanks for your participation and camaraderie. It is nice to see and talk to people in a casual setting.

Congratulations to the U of M Turf Club team who finished 6th out of 80 some teams in the collegiate turf bowl. Mere points separated the top few teams and they finished only a point or two behind the 5th place team. Great job students and teachers. Plus, a thank-you goes to Kevin Clunis for being our Chapter Delegate and taking on all the extra duties that comes with it.

And one last story from Atlanta. On my way to the airport I ran into a vendor at the subway station. The salesperson commented on the fact that people were so well-dressed compared to other trade shows. Doesn't that speak well of our profession and all that we do? What an impression the GCSAA conference left with this first-time vendor. So it does make a difference when we wear our appropriate attire to meetings that we attend. Let's keep up the good work and strong image.

Edification is not a term we hear too often any more. What if we all took the time to build some one up or encouraged them. Edification literally means to instruct or improve someone else's disposition. If you feel there is anything you can do to help build up the MGCSA through volunteering, seek out any of the committee chair people. Right now we are looking for a venue for the '06 Championship and Annual Banquet. Furthermore, the Conference and Education Committee is in high gear for next year's Green Expo, GCSAA seminars and 2007 March Mini. If you can do your part to establish the MGCSA as an industry leader, it will be greatly appreciated and noticed.

For further information and scheduling visit mgcsa.org. Right now there are some links to Incident Response Plans and other regulatory issues. The mgcsa.org website is a great and helpful tool to keep you connected with all that is going on and worthy to be marked as one of your favorites.

*Edifying with you,
James Bade*

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Hole Location Sheets...Hassle or Helpful?

By JEFF GIRARD

Assistant Superintendent, Windsong Farm Golf Club

Cold, snowy winter days can be very beneficial for those of us in the golf course industry. While most are already planning for and looking ahead to the upcoming season, it is also important to look back on the past year and evaluate. What worked or didn't work? Did we try something new? Should we try something different? These questions can be asked of a wide array of topics, products, services and techniques. It's also a time to share these ideas and thoughts with others so that someone else may find some benefit from even just one thought or idea that they may want to implement in their plan for the upcoming season or years to come. The purpose of this article is to touch upon one aspect of our course set-up practices that we utilize on a daily basis that I feel provides a better overall product for our golfers and our golf course: hole location sheets.

Now if you've read this far, you might be saying to yourself, "I don't want to deal with those...they're a real hassle." But truth be told, they really are quite the opposite...a real help. I was first truly introduced to hole location sheets while working at Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey where we used them on a daily basis. No, they weren't a brand new concept to me. I had seen them used for tournaments and special events... special occasions that provided a nice little added touch to that day. But utilizing them on an every day basis seemed a bit over the top.

I had always thought that distinguishing between front, middle, and back with different colored flags for the golfers seemed adequate. Or placing the hole in one of six designated and numbered areas on the green for that day was another. But providing golfers with the depth from the front of the green and number of paces from the left or right edge of the green? To use these sheets everyday seemed like overkill. However, as my first season progressed at Baltusrol, I began seeing the benefits. A few of those that I will touch upon are time-saving, distributing wear

tolerance across the putting surface, benefits to the players and a couple of suggestions on how to put together your own hole location sheet portfolio.

When utilizing a hole location sheet, you are actually saving time for the person changing holes. All the person must do is look at the sheet for the hole they are

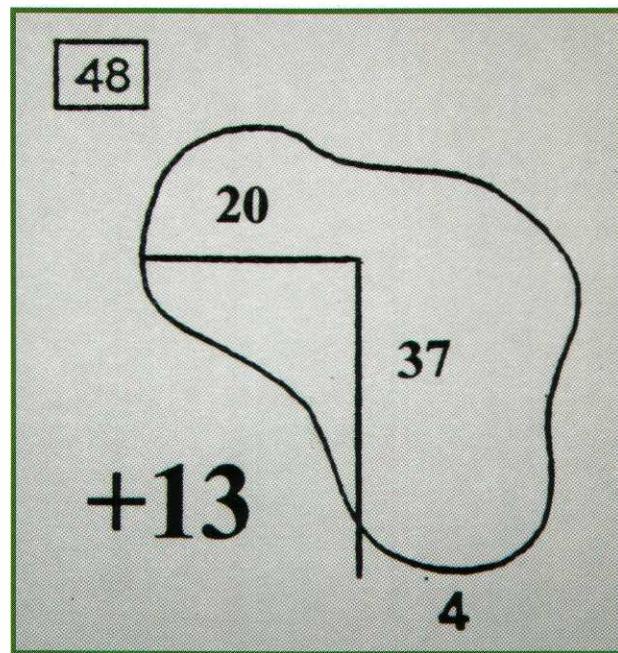
the putting surface endures in the over-used areas day in and day out. Taking the time to develop a hole location sheet system will help you spread out the locations of the holes on a daily basis and spread the amount of wear more uniformly across the putting surface. And, golfers enjoy using them.

Here at Windsong, I would estimate that between 70-80% of people use them on a daily basis. And it isn't just the low-handicappers that like them. Even the guy that's a 20-handicap, though he thinks he's a 12, likes to know that he has 184 yards to the hole which is a perfect 6-iron for him (actually a 4-iron). Next to each hole on the sheet is a number, designated with a (+ or -) telling you how many yards from the center of the green the hole is located. By utilizing the yardages on the sprinkler heads in the fairways and pacing your ball off, you can get a yardage to the middle of the green. Now just add or subtract the number on the hole location sheet and you have a yardage to the flagstick. In addition, if golfers don't have to waste time trying to figure out where the flag is located on the green, whether it's front, middle or back...and

how far back, it probably helps speed up the pace of play a bit.

The final idea I want to briefly touch upon is to offer a few suggestions on putting together your own hole location sheets. This all depends on how much time you are willing to put into it. In our first year of operation, we traditionally did not change holes on Mondays. So as I went around doing other tasks, I would select six new locations for the coming week. I still used the idea of breaking the green down into six sections (front left and right, middle left and right, and back left and right). I picked one of each six off each green to be used for that week. I did this each Monday for six or seven weeks until I had an adequate amount of hole location sheets (30-40). This worked fine

(Continued on Page 6)



about to change, walk up to the front of the green, pace it off, and you've found your location for the day. Oftentimes, the person spends a good deal of time wandering around looking for a good spot for that day. This still holds true even if you've already broken it down for him/her to be looking in the front, middle or back of the green.

Another area of interest to consider is that people tend to gravitate to the same places or locations over and over, and I can speak from experience on that. Tucking the hole behind the left greenside bunker or close to the water on the right is always more intriguing than an easier, more friendly location closer to the middle of the green. This is definitely the case if you have the same person change holes on a daily basis. By using hole location sheets, you increase the amount of wear

Hole Location Sheets—

(Continued from Page 5)

for year one, but I still noticed some repetition in some of the locations. As I mentioned previously, people tend to gravitate to the same areas. So the following winter I took it a step further and picked 48 new locations for each green (8 FL, 8 FR, 8 ML, 8 MR, 8 BL, 8 BR) off the top of my head. Now having been basically the only person changing holes on the course, I became very familiar with what would and wouldn't work on each green. Having already been pacing off each green on a daily basis, I knew areas and paces that were fair and unfair. This gave me 48 new locations per green that were all different and probably at a minimum of 5-10 feet from the next closest one. By, in a way, randomly picking hole locations, I was able to spread the wear and traffic throughout the green. In

addition, I uncovered a lot of locations that I would have never looked at in the past. Many of which were very good...tough but fair.

If creating a hole location sheet portfolio sounds like a lot of work, it is. But I also worked on it primarily during the

sheet #1 will have two months to heal up until I am using that sheet again. The golf shop also has a binder with the same numbered sheets. All I have to do each morning is call them up, give them the sheet number for the day, and they make the copies and place them in the starter's box on the first tee.

In the end, when looking at all the benefits that hole location sheets can provide, the most beneficial is probably for the golfers experience. There are so many things, large and small, that we all try to do to improve the golfers experience on our courses. While many of the things we do to satisfy the golfers

often times take away from what we are trying to achieve, hole location sheets are one item that can better their experience and help us maintain and improve on what we are trying to do...provide better conditions and a better golf course for our players.

"Taking the time to develop a hole location sheet system will help you spread out the locations of the holes on a daily basis and spread the amount of wear more uniformly across the putting surface. And, golfers enjoy using them."

winter. I took the idea a lot further than I had initially planned, but it paid off in the end. I now have a three-ringed binder with 48 hole location sheets numbered 1-48. With that being said, if I use six sheets per week, it will take me eight weeks until I have completely cycled through the portfolio. That means those holes I cut using

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Product & Service News from MGCSA Affiliates

(Editor's Note: Affiliate members were offered the opportunity to write a paragraph about any product or service news happening for the upcoming season.)

Hartman Companies

Hartman Companies continues to grow and enhance our services to the sports turf industry. We have expanded our irrigation division to all sizes of golf and sports turf applications. Drainage is an ongoing expansion within Hartman. We have purchased new slit drainage equipment to serve our customers better. Hartman Companies will continue to strive for the highest quality and customer satisfaction in all of our projects.

Hartman Companies would like to thank our clients for contributing their time and photos for our presentation at The Minnesota Green Expo this year. We would like to thank all of you who stopped at our booth. We hope you will think of our company for all of your renovation and irrigation needs.

Superior Concrete

Superior Concrete, founded in 1949, manufactures a variety of dry-cast and wet-cast concrete products.

Three of our major products are concrete block for the residential and commercial marketplace, Keystone brand segmental retaining wall block and agricultural pre-cast products for hog and cattle confinement buildings.

Since 1999, Superior Concrete has also become a major player in the marketing and manufacturing of concrete erosion control products such as Armorflex, Geolink and A-Jacks. These products have proven to be an aesthetic and functional alternative to riprap, gabions, structural concrete and other heavy-duty durable erosion protection systems. Some common applications for these products are: canals and channels; river and stream embankments; culvert and pipe outlets; bridge abutments; holding ponds; ramps and walkways, and ATV trails.

Our future success is tied to the health of the natural environment and the resources upon which we depend. Superior Concrete is looking for new ways to address the water quality and erosion control issues that golf courses face. We are committed to providing golf course superintendents with quality products and comprehensive customer service.

Paskvan Consulting

Paskvan Consulting is an independent company that has been specializing in balancing soil nutrients for golf courses and sports turf for nearly 15 years. My company provides complete soil consulting services in the States as well as internationally.

Along with general and specialty testing for established golf courses, we also offer physical testing for new greens construction and reconstruction of older greens. We consult with sod producers who have over 2,000 acres of sod fields. We help golf course superintendents solve stubborn grounds maintenance problems the fertilizer companies and universities can't or won't treat.

We do not sell chemicals based on perfunctory tests. We sample and analyze soil and water to establish a thorough profile. Based on that profile, we make recommendations that seek to bring soil nutrient elements into balance and present them to the plants in a way that increases plant uptake and leads to healthier turf. We personally review the program of recommendations with you, the superintendent, because you are the one who will implement it.

The next time you want to soil test and have a complete, independent analysis of your golf course, please look to us.

BASF

BASF invests millions in R&D each year, applying for 1,000 patents a year and literally creating innovations on a daily basis. These innovations, such as Insignia and Emerald fungicides, are helping superintendents in the Upper Midwest tackle the region's toughest pathogens. BASF has a young portfolio with a high proportion of patent-protected products as well as a strong late-stage R&D pipeline. BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals is a division of BASF. Based in Research Triangle Park, N.C., the BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals business group develops and markets chemical solutions for improving turf quality through pest management, which includes weed, disease and insect control. Our goal: to bring you the most effective solutions available, helping solve turf problems with a mix of branded and post-patent products.

VERSA-LOK

New from VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall Systems in 2006 is Mosaic, a random-pattern system designed to build freestanding walls up to 24 inches tall. It's ideal for use as borders around tee areas, walkways and clubhouses. Mosaic also may be used as a lightweight retaining wall up to 18 inches.

VERSA-LOK Standard is the original solid, pinned segmental retaining wall system and is unmatched in its versatility. Walls, curves, corners and columns are all possible with VERSA-LOK Standard. Available in a variety of colors and both standard split-face and weathered textures, it's the ideal solution for controlling erosion and drainage while beautifying your golf course at the same time.

VERSA-LOK Mosaic is capable of build-

ing random-pattern tall walls of unlimited height. Each Mosaic wall panel comprises three different VERSA-LOK units in a random four-unit pattern. Mosaic panels are 10 inches in height, allowing for easy accommodation of soil reinforcement.

Midwest Putting Greens

Midwest Putting Greens & Sports Turf is in its fourth year of designing, selling and installing quality synthetic turf products in Minnesota. Along with synthetic golf greens and Standard Golf Products for residential use, target greens and tee lines for golf courses, MPGST now has a complete line of barrier netting for driving ranges and backyard practice nets. New for driving ranges this year is our EzTee nylon turf. EzTee is a non-infill nylon turf that can be used as mats or a continuous tee line. Installation can be over concrete, asphalt or a class 5 base. We have also expanded our line to include ball field items including Diamond-Dry, bases, portable fencing, tarps and netting. Contact Midwest Putting Greens & Sports Turf at 507-625-4855, e-mail sales@midwestputtinggreens.com or visit our web site www.midwestputtinggreens.com for a free site review on any of your synthetic turf or netting projects.

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source™

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source is a full-service platform bringing together equipment, agronomic products and other services to better serve the expanding needs of golf course superintendents, owners, architects and management companies. The program offers a full line of industry-leading precision greens, fairway and rough mowers, aerators, bunker rakes, rotary cutters, utility vehicles and compact utility tractors, including certified pre-owned equipment through the John Deere Assured program. As the official golf course equipment and One Source supplier to the PGA Tour, John Deere can be trusted to provide superintendents the tournament-level quality needed on today's golf courses.

Additional products offered through the One Source program include seed, fertilizer, landscaping supplies, irrigation, fertigation, drainage and golf course accessories, all available for purchase through a local John Deere distributor. With the only credit, lease and financing program created specifically for golf course equipment and a dedicated distributor network, John Deere provides unmatched parts and service support.

John Deere is noted for more than 165 years of innovation, the highest-quality products and its product and operator safety initiatives.

(Continued on Page 8)

Affiliate News—

(Continued from Page 7)

Along with One Source, GreenImage and Turf Supply Co. have become partners. This means that between us we can meet all of your fertilizer, chemical, seed, and soil amendment needs.

AGROTAIN International

Who is AGROTAIN International? We are the manufacture of UMAXX and UFLEXX fertilizers. UMAXX and UFLEXX are stabilized nitrogen products. They are stabilized with two different inhibitors. Both have urease inhibitors in them that stop the hydrolysis of urea for up to 14 days. A typical fertilizer, if not irrigated into the soil, will hydrolyze, giving off ammonia (nitrogen) and CO₂. Both also have different amounts of a nitrification inhibitor that keeps that urea molecule in the ammonium form (a positively charged ion). That positively charged ion adheres to the negatively charged soil particle until the plant utilizes it or the inhibitor wears off. A typical fertilizer will quickly convert the ammonium ion into a nitrate ion and can be leached away into the ground water. At a one pound rate UMAXX will last 12 to 16 weeks and UFLEXX will last 6 to 8.

Thein Well

Thein Well is a family-owned well company that has served customers in the upper Midwest since 1893. Thein is a full service well company who constructs and rehabilitates wells of all kinds and capacities and services pumps and motors of all makes and models. Thein Well's preventive maintenance program is designed to monitor the health of your water supply system in order to maintain peak productivity and identify potential problem areas. Water quality can and does impact the condition of your system, so we will test your water, when indicated, to tailor a treatment specific to your supply. Thein Well offers 24 hour service seven days a week, and we carry a large stock of standby pumps and motors which we can access to get you back on line while waiting for repairs or replacement parts for your system. Call us at 800-450-8000 to schedule a personal visit to discuss your system and your long term needs.

Hedberg Aggregate

Are you struggling with water quality issues in ponds and other water features? Hedberg Landscape Supplies can help. Hedberg is the largest provider of pond supplies in the metro area, with four yards to serve you and a full line of aeration and wetland filtration equipment designed to turn eyesores into sparkling jewels. We specialize in treating problematic water features with simple yet effective techniques that improve water quality. Our fountains and bottom aeration systems will beautify your ponds and improve their overall health. Call us today to design a custom aeration plan for your ponds and water features. West Metro 763-545-4400, North Metro 763-413-8330, East Metro 651-748-3158, South Metro 651-423-

5048. Visit us online anytime at www.hedberglandscape.com.

Fahey Sales Auctioneers and Appraisers

Fahey Sales Auctioneers and Appraisers was founded in 1947. We are now in our third generation of auctioneers specializing in Real Estate Auctions; Commercial Turf and Golf Equipment; Ag and Construction Equipment. In addition to our 7 regular consignment auctions at our lot 6 miles west of New Prague, Mn on Hwy 19, we conduct two of the largest Commercial Turf and Golf Equipment consignment auctions in the nation each year. The Iowa Commercial Turf and Golf Equipment auction is held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines on the first Saturday of March. The Minnesota auction is held the last Saturday of March at our New Prague lot. We also conduct a Minnesota Municipal and County Services Equipment and Vehicle auction at the New Prague lot in September. If you would like to sell or are looking to buy a full line or one piece, please check out our website for upcoming opportunities. www.faheysales.com

Headway™/Syngenta

Headway™ fungicide from Syngenta provides a potent and efficient means to control turf diseases on fairways.

Headway uses two active ingredients to deliver broad-spectrum disease control against dollar spot, brown patch, and many other turf diseases. Using dual modes of action helps ward off disease resistance and allows Headway to control a wider range of diseases than any other registered product.

Headway is expressly formulated to balance each active ingredient for control and optimal efficacy. In addition, Headway provides all the benefits of MAXX® technology. It has no odor and offers excellent tank-mix compatibility. It also won't settle out of solution or clog filters, and mixes into a clear solution with other products.

Headway is available in a one-gallon container or a 10-gallon LinkPak™. For more information about Headway, contact Syngenta representative Todd Loecke at (515) 987-0293 or the Syngenta Customer Resource Center at 1-866-796-4368.

Par Aide Products

Par Aide begins 2006 following a record year in 2005,

capped off by the MGCSA's Distinguished Service Award to Steve Garske and Par Aide. "We are extremely proud of this recognition and we are just thankful to be a part of such a great industry." New for 2006 is the launch of Professional FieldCare, products geared towards the sports turf side of our industry.

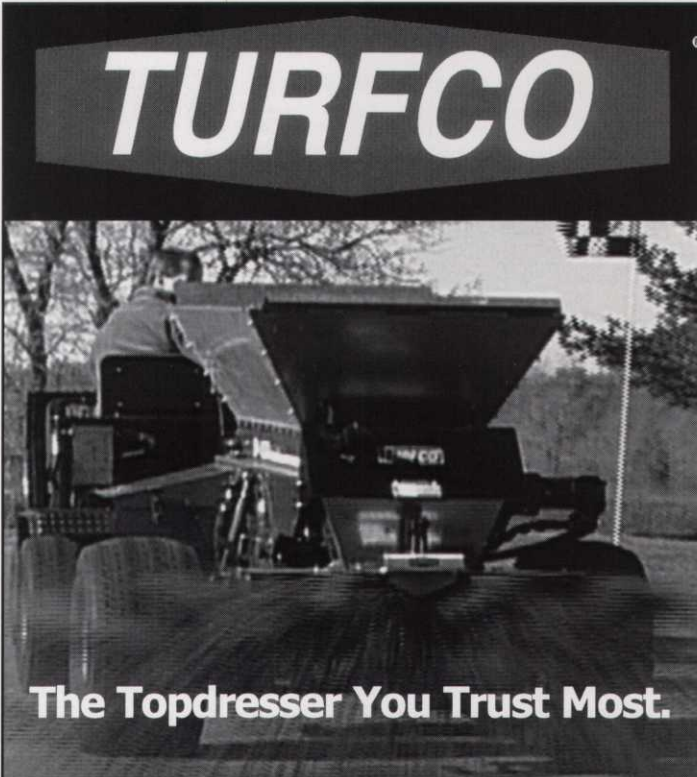
Professional FieldCare offers a more complete array of shovels and rakes as well as some golf products which lend themselves to other green grass customers. For golf, 2006 seems to be the year for aerification related products, including the Core Hog, essentially a plow for quickly and cleanly moving cores to a single pile, and the Cup Plug (suggested by Roger Kisch) which is used to fill hole during the aerification process. Both garnered a lot of attention at the GIS.

Twin City Seed Co.

Twin City Seed Co. sprouted its roots in Minnesota on November 1992. Over the past 14 years, we have developed products that will meet the needs of the Golf Course Superintendents, such as low cut Kentucky Bluegrasses and New Bentgrass varieties from Tee-2-Green Corp. We can also custom blend seed mixtures for your specific application. New for '06. The F4 "Netless" Erosion Blanket.

State of the art technology combining Wood fibers and Dacron to form an Erosion Blanket that will biodegrade in less than 4 months.

(Continued on Page 29)



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Hole Notes Wins Two GCSAA Awards

Minnesota GCSA's *Hole Notes* was honored by GCSAA in two categories in the annual Chapter Publication Contest: Most Improved and Best Overall in Category II (see below). GCSAA divided the entries based on budget and editors.

GCSAA-affiliated chapters were encouraged to submit one entry of its chapter publication in the annual Chapter Publications Contest.

Any publication was eligible that generally supports the objectives, goals, purposes and ethics of the association, profession and industry at all levels and is produced by a GCSAA-affiliated chapter on a regular basis. GCSAA reviews the contest guidelines, selection of judges, evaluation process, awards and contest categories on an annual basis.

Chapter publications are diverse, and GCSAA recognizes the service that chapter newsletter editors, editorial/publication committees and staff provide to the association, to the profession and to the industry.

The Chapter Publications Contest provides a friendly competition, as well as an

opportunity for editors to receive written evaluation and critiques about their publication's content and design. Editors who have made significant changes to their association's publication in the past year were also eligible to vie for a most improved award in each category.

Following are the winners:

Category I: Publications with a total expense budget of less than \$20,000.

Winner: *The Perfect Lie*, Peaks & Prairies GCSA, Lori Russell, editor.

Most Improved: *Heartbeat*, Heart of America GCSA, Tony Bertels, editor.

Category II: Publications edited and produced primarily by practicing member golf course superintendents who work as editors/publishers without pay, or for a nominal fee (less than \$500) as a service to their profession. Superintendents must be responsible for more than 50 percent of the editing and management of the publication.

Winner: *Hole Notes*, Minnesota GCSA, John (Jack) MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS, editor.

Most Improved: *Hole Notes*,

Minnesota GCSA, John (Jack) MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS, editor.

Category III: Publications edited and produced primarily by practicing golf course superintendents who serve as editors/publishers with pay. Superintendents must be responsible for more than 50 percent of the editing and management of the publication.

Winner: *TURF*, Northern Ohio GCSA, Michelle Frazier-Feher, CGCS, editor.

Category IV: Publications produced primarily by professional editors/publishers or paid chapter executives.

Winner: *On Course*, Midwest Association of GCS, Cathy Miles Ralston, editor.

Most Improved: *Cactus Clippings*, Cactus and Pine GCSA, Lynn Cannon & Brian Whitlark, editors.

Category V: Publications with a total annual budget in excess of \$50,000 that are distributed quarterly or six times per year.

Winner: *Carolinas Green*, Carolinas GCSA, Trent Bouts, editor.

Most Improved: *Carolinas Green*, Carolinas GCSA, Trent Bouts, editor.



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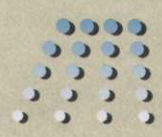
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