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About the Cover

Many MGCSA members volunteered their services during U. S. Amateur week at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska in late August.

MGCSA Upcoming Schedule

2006

Monday, September 18

Harold Stodola Research Scramble
Medina Golf & Country Club, Hamel
Host Superintendent: Drew Larsen

Monday, October 9

MGCSA Fall Mixer
Oakdale Golf Club, Buffalo Lake
Host Superintendent: Mike Knodel

Tuesday, December 5

MGCSA Awards & Recognition Banquet
Rush Creek Golf Club, Maple Grove
Host Superintendent: Dale Hiebert

2007

January 3, 4, 5

Minnesota Green Expo
Minneapolis Convention Center

Thursday, February 22

Hospitality Night at the Golf Industry Show
Tortilla Jo's in Anaheim, California

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seasons of Change

By James Bade

"Summer and winter, spring-time and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above" I just love the seasons. Seasons keep us fresh and renewed. The fall season brings on the harvesting of cores and course improvement projects. Hopefully, this fall will bring some badly needed rain.

The Field Day at the U of M yielded lots of interesting information again. Dr. Horgan, Dr. Watkins, Larry Vetter and the research staff did a great job. I love seeing the velvet and colonial bentgrasses from year to year to see how they are performing. The Low-Input study for fairways was quite amazing. The varieties were cut at fl of an inch, and they had been watered and fertilized only once. To my eye a few of the varieties were surprisingly in good shape and acceptable for playing golf.

This study coupled with watching the British Open and our drought made me think, how much brown is acceptable on our golf course? As long as the members are having fun does every grass blade need to be a manicured green. Shot quality and having to use your imagination is what makes the brown British Open fun. At Somerset we have made the decision that if we are going to lose grass it is going to be Poa due to dryness instead of overwatering and losing grass to pythium.

A new research project, the MGCSA is helping to sponsor, has to do with water efficiency. Even though we are in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, water is a very precious resource or should I use the word commodity. The experiment is going to measure E.T. rates and use special tools for measuring drought stress. If you ever have the time, there are a lot of neat things going on at the TROE Center preparing us for change.

Neat things were going on at Windsong Farm Golf Club for the MGCSA Championship. Talk about having to use your imagination and the value of a properly played shot. Scottie Hines, CGCS and his staff had the place in great shape. With the new bentgrasses, like A-4, it was a surreal experience for me. The greens were faster than a pool table but not as flat. After three-putting a few times our group decided to start chipping in. Thanks to all who made that day happen and special.

It is the season where I am able to spend a little more time on the computer. Check out mgcsa.org if you have the time. Scott and Jeff Turtinen do a great job keeping us informed. On the site is a link to the GCSAA which is looking for feedback in regards to our dues. Kevin Clunis has graciously given his time to be our representative or delegate to the national association. The board of directors is always willing to hear what you have to say about all issues.

The U.S. Amateur took place at Hazeltine and the Chaska Town Course in late August. What a great place we live in with so much going on. Enjoy the season of change. I will be enjoying the fall colors and picking a few apples. Life is good.

-- James

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HOLE NOTES

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MGCSA Needs Your Feedback on Proposed GCSAA Dues Pricing Strategy

Kevin Clunis, CGCS, MGCSA chapter delegate, wants your feedback on the proposed GCSAA dues pricing strategy to be discussed at the 2006 GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting, Oct. 13-15. Kevin may be reached at kclunis57@qwest.net or by phone at 651-464-2300.

GCSAA members also will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments in an online chat with GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer David S. Downing II, CGCS, and Managing Director of Finance Cam Oury, to be scheduled in September.

After the last dues increase, chapter delegates asked GCSAA to develop an easy-to-understand dues pricing system that would (1) keep pace with increasing costs of providing member programs and services and (2) reduce or eliminate the negative impact that large, infrequent dues hikes have had on membership growth and retention, and facility budgets.

To date, GCSAA's board of directors, several GCSAA committees and participants in the 2005 Chapter Delegates Meeting have been involved in developing and refining the proposed "indexed" dues pricing strategy. GCSAA member feedback will be discussed at the 2006 meeting to gauge interest in a potential bylaws proposal to adopt such a system.

The Details: The proposed system is designed to make dues increases (Class A, SM and C) more manageable from a planning and budgeting perspective and more clearly tied to actual inflation factors. If adopted, the proposal would delegate authority to the GCSAA board to consider raising dues every two years according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Specifically, a maximum potential dues increase would be calculated using the published CPI for 24 months ending on August 31, and then rounded to the nearest \$5. At the GCSAA Plan and Budget meeting in the fall, the board of directors would determine whether to raise GCSAA dues by that amount, a lesser amount or not at all, taking into account other revenue sources, the association's financial position and other general economic and

political factors. The board-approved increase, if any, would then be communicated to GCSAA members so that they could adjust their budgets accordingly, and take effect the following January 1.

If, however, there were a future need for a dues increase exceeding the maximum tied to the index, it would require a majority vote of the membership at a

percentage points in the annual membership growth rate.

However, if the proposed strategy had been in effect for that entire time, dues would have increased only \$10 to \$20 every two years to reach only \$285 today - \$15 less than actual current dues. Even with the lower ending dues price and no additional members, the policy of "keeping up" instead of "catching up" would have had no negative impact on revenues over that time. Furthermore, an average annual CPI increase of 2.5% over the next 14 years would yield dues revenue similar to larger increases given every five years, with no potential negative impact upon membership growth and retention.

More on the Web:

Available Aug. 1 - Log on to www.gcsaa.org to explore a

detailed spreadsheet showing comparisons of the current dues pricing system and the proposed system, looking both back to 1988 and ahead 14 years and to review frequently asked questions and answers regarding the indexed dues pricing proposal.

The Impact -Between 1988 and 2005, GCSAA dues (Class A and SM) rose from \$175 to \$300, with the increases of \$35, \$40 and \$50 - although merited - yielding corresponding drops of 11.3, 6.9 and 6.7 percentage points in the annual membership growth rate.

GCSAA annual or special meeting. The average annual CPI increase over the last ten years has been 2.5%.

The Impact: Between 1988 and 2005, GCSAA dues (Class A and SM) rose from \$175 to \$300, with the increases of \$35, \$40 and \$50 - although merited - yielding corresponding drops of 11.3, 6.9 and 6.7 per-

GCSAA Dues Facts

Employers pay the dues for 97% of GCSAA members.

Large dues increases have had a significant negative impact on GCSAA membership growth and retention:

Year	Dues Increase Amount	Membership Growth Rate		
		Year Before	Year Of	Year After
1991	\$35	7.0%	5.7%	8.3%
1998	\$40	11.1%	4.2%	7.3%
2003	\$50	3.2%	-3.5%	-3.3%

~ Currently, changing the dues for Class A, SM and C members requires a majority vote at the annual meeting (Article II, Section 1 of the GCSAA bylaws). A bylaws change would be required to adopt an indexed dues pricing strategy.

~ GCSAA's membership dues revenue is about \$4.5 million, or about 25% of total revenues, compared to an average of 32% for similarly sized associations.

Garske Legacy Awards Funds Scholarships For 10th Consecutive Year

Named after the founder of Par Aide Products Co., the Joseph S. Garske Legacy Awards now are in their tenth year of funding two scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of MGCSA Members.

The Par Aide firm, located in Lino Lakes, contributes \$3,000 annually, divided into two grants. This year **Nicole Lohman**, daughter of Guy Lohman, received her second grant of \$1,500. Nicole will be a sophomore student majoring in Archaeology at the University of Wis.-La Crosse.

Awarded his first \$1,500 grant for the 2006-07 school year was



Nicole Lohman

Andrew Evenson, son of Brian Evenson, superintendent at Birchwood Golf Course. Andrew attended Pelican Rapids High School. He will be a sophomore student majoring in Accounting, Economics and Pre-Law at Gustavus Adolphus College. Andrew played on the Gustavus golf team and participated in the Gustavus



Andrew Evenson

Chapel Choir.

The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a "good" ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began Par



Madalyn Ellingson

Aide Products Company.

The Garske scholarships were started in 1996 by Joseph Garske's son, Steve, who noted that his father "was an orphan with only a sixth grade education and was self-conscious about his lack of formal schooling, but he always wanted to help young people with their education."



Kelsey Phenow

"I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since for many superintendents, providing a college education for their children requires true sacrifice," Garske said.

"As a long-time member of the Scholarship Committee some years ago, it

(Continued on Page 8)

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Scholarship Winners—

(Continued from Page 7)

always bothered me that we had lots of scholarships available for turf students but nothing for the legacy of current members," Garske said. (Heeding the comments of a long-time Minnesota Superintendent that our committee was working to put him out of a job.) While Steve thought this was a bit of paranoid thinking, it did make him realize that supply and demand works in this industry as well, and if nothing else, an oversupply of eager new superintendents could definitely undermine salaries. However, it was the following that motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program: 1) Many Superintendents are underpaid, in my opinion, and they truly work a labor of love. Sending a child to college is likely a real hardship. These same Superintendents who now have college age children were the very ones who had been so responsible for supporting our company through all the years and had helped us attain our success. We wanted to thank them. 2) Our founder, Joe Garske,

did not have any formal education and was always conscious of that fact. He had quietly supported at least one young man in gaining a degree. 3) There were lots of turf student scholarships but few if any Legacy awards.

So it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program and it was discussed at numerous scholarship meetings. The problem was how to administer such a program. Suppliers to our industry did not want to be in a position of judging one potential recipient/customer against another, and Superintendent members were not comfortable with reviewing personal information and making judgments on each other either. The idea laid dormant until we discovered the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, now called Scholarship America, an organization that does nothing but review and award scholarships. It's completely impartial and considers all information confidential. The MGCSA quickly agreed to accept the cost of administration and the Joseph S. Garske Legacy was born. The idea was to provide two two-year scholarships to deserving legacy of current MGCSA Members. This program is

thought to have been successful by all and has been in existence since 1996, helping numerous sons and daughters of Superintendents pursue their college education.

Par Aide has continued to prosper and as an expansion of its Minnesota program it now also offers a similar program nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winner of this year's MGCSA Legacy Awards are Madalyn Ellingson and Kelsey Phenow. Madalyn is the daughter of Brooks Ellingson. Brooks is the Superintendent at Albion Ridges Golf Club. Madalyn attended Buffalo High School and was a winner of the 2006 Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition in the college winds division. She will be a freshman at the University of Minnesota and is majoring in Flute performance.

Kelsey Phenow, daughter of Donald Phenow. Don is with the Minneapolis Park Board. Kelsey attended Coon Rapids High School, was involved in the National Honor Society, played volleyball and basketball and will be a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She is majoring in Business.

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North Oaks G.C. Hole #2
Jack MacKenzie, Superintendent

UNITED STATES AMATEUR CHAMPIONS



MGCSA volunteers helped Hazeltine's Jim Nicol, CGCS, far right, during the United States Amateur Championship in late August. Hazeltine staff members are: Ralph Arnt, David Cambambia, Jorge Cambambia, Melissa Collin, Keith Conway, Amado Cortex, Edgar Cruz, Wade Degler, Blake Ervin, David Fischer, Roberto Marcial Flores, Jose Garcia, Steve Giesen, Matt Johnson, Lourdes Lara Solo, Jesus Mendez Chicatto, Dan Nestburg, Dave Nestburg, Darrell Nolden, Doug Pernula, Javier Robles Gonzalez, Jacob Ryan, Jeffrey Schmidt, Josh Simonson, Vince Soto, Tom Wheeler, Blair Hawkins, Brian Moesch, Matt Borrman and Assistant Joe Maloney. MGCSA volunteers included: Kurt Haugen, Nate Topp, Pat Walton, David Knudsen, Jeff Johnson, Kendal Larsen, Steve Kellerman, Jim Schmitz, Aaron Willing, Greg Brodd, Andy Keyes, Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, Chris Halvorson, Charlie Miller, Fernando Cruz, Miguel Aguilar, Keith Scott, CGCS, Dale Caldwell, CGCS, Scott Turtinen, Scottie Hines, CGCS, Kristen Leighton-Hines, Jeff Girard, Brad Johnson, Brian Maenke, Adam Beers, Pat Konold, Eric Pearson, Nick Morter and Bret Foster.

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PART II

What Kind of a Toad is a Nematode?

By D. H. MacDonald, Department of Plant Pathology, and
D. B. White, Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

The study of plant nematodes by members of the Department of Plant Pathology at the U of M in St. Paul officially began in 1956 when Dr. Don Taylor was assigned to lead the effort. During the next several summers he and his students traveled extensively in the state collecting soil samples from around the roots of nine different field crops. The members of his research team identified a number of different kinds of recognized plant parasitic nematodes as well as some that in their opinions were "maybe" parasites. Of those that were commonly accepted at that time as being parasites, members of only 6 different genera were commonly present in the samples that they had collected. The common names of those nematodes are dagger, lance, lesion, pin, spiral, and stunt. All of these with the exception of the dagger will be or have been considered in detail in this series of papers dealing with nematodes that may affect cool season turfgrasses. Taylor's efforts dispelled the commonly-held and partially valid belief that plant nematodes could not tolerate the low temperatures to which they would be exposed when snow cover was minimal and Minnesota's soils froze deeply. Such conditions are definitely trying and for some plant nematodes at least only the most resistant stages, perhaps the egg or the adult female, actually do survive.

Efforts to prove that plant parasitic nematodes could do more than just feed on plants and could actually cause plant disease began shortly after the survey phase was completed. Data documenting the ability of Minnesota's indigenous plant nematodes to cause significant losses have been hard to obtain. Progress has been slow because plant nematodes often need the help of a combination of stresses including a crop-hostile environment in order to cause disease. For example, lesion nematodes are often abundant in the fertile corn-soybean soils of Southern Minnesota. If the nematodes are abundant beginning early in the season and the growing season is dry, then those lesion nematodes can reduce grain yields by as much as 20 bu/acre without conspicuously affecting plant growth. But if it is a good growing season with generous and timely rains, then the effects of the root rot

that the nematodes cause are overcome or masked because the plants growing in such fertile soils have ready access to all the nutrients and water that they need. As the result, progress in the process of proving that plant nematodes can actually cause plant disease has typically been slow with numerous dead-ends. That was very definitely the situation in 1969 when Don White suggested that the two of us study the plant nematodes that he presumed infested the greens of Minnesota's golf courses. His offer could have been considered enlightened, far-sighted, or perhaps even ludicrous depending upon a given person's point of view. I should have been "on the fence" when he made his offer. On one hand Don was suggesting that we study a plant-nematode system that provided the stability of a monoculture that many plant nematodes require. On the other hand, the superintendents were, as part of their job descriptions, providing the tender loving care that could mask any stresses that the nematodes could cause. The response of many of the superintendents whom Don approached was probably a bit more critical. The prevailing attitude then and perhaps even now is that plant nematodes are pathogens that are recognized as being of concern to superintendents of golf courses located in Florida and other really warm places but certainly not of concern for Minnesota's superintendents. As we considered what we wanted to say in these "What Kind of a Toad is a Nematode" chapters, Dr. White recalled that he proposed the golf green-nematode survey partially because he really did not know

much about plant nematodes. His graduate training at Iowa State University had not dealt with plant nematodes. But he felt that he needed to devote a portion of one of his classes to plant nematodes since some of his students would sooner or later end up in a warmer part of the world where plant nematodes can be a significant plant stress. And he felt that the best way to learn about plant nematodes was to study them!

We began in September, 1969, to evaluate the suitability of Minnesota's greens as habitats for the progeny of the indigenous plant nematodes. We are using the phrase "progeny of the indigenous nematodes" to emphasize the concept that most plant nematodes have wide host ranges. Although human activity has unfortunately been very successful in spreading plant

(Continued on Page 11)

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