

# An Adventure in Life—

(Continued from Page 20)

destructive insect is the Mole Cricket. This insect can produce a multitude of generations, and can do a lot of damage to the turf very quickly. The longer they are ignored, the larger they become and the more difficult they are to control. To stay ahead of the insect battle, it is essential to be on a good preventative, pre-emerge insect control program.

### Grassy weeds are the biggest weed problem that we face.

Goose grass can survive and flourish in a big way if not controlled. The warm, wet weather is ideal for the goose grass. A good pre-emerge program is essential if you want to have any luck in controlling the goose grass. Let unchecked, the goose grass will grow and enlarge as if it was on steroids. The mature plant can be very difficult to control; at times the best control for the mature goose grass is just physical removal.

Probably the single most important factor that affects the management programs as the relate to the warm season grasses is the weather, especially the heavy rainfalls that occur during the summer months. When the temperatures are in the 90's with humidity readings in the 80 plus range and abundant rainfall, scouting and timing are essential. Many times you may only have a one afternoon or one-day window to apply a pesticide when trying to work around rainstorms and other weather related factors. That scenario coupled with a lack of sunlight can at times be quite challenging.



*Zoysia grass maintained at two inches.*

On another note, ice damage and winter desiccation have not proven to be a major worry! Surprisingly, annual bluegrass is alive and well and persists in some poorly drained areas. An old friend stays around and keeps me company in Hong Kong.

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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.

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.

Local Competitor 15-5-10 (215 SGN)

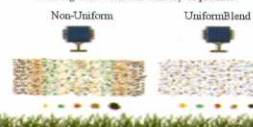


1 lb. of N per 1,000 = 290 lbs/acre = 2.0 particles per sq in.

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



POUNDS/ACRE	Particles Per Square Inch Matrix 20-3-20 Fertilizer with 55% Nutralene					
	SGN 125	SGN 150	SGN 175	SGN 215	SGN 240	SGN 300
100	3.9	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
125	4.9	2.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.4
150	5.9	3.4	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4
175	6.9	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	0.5
200	7.9	4.5	2.9	1.5	1.1	0.6
225	8.9	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	0.6
250	9.8	5.7	3.6	1.9	1.4	0.7
300	11.8	6.8	4.3	2.3	1.7	0.9

Avg. SG (g/ml) = 1.8

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- 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.
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# Three-Time Champion Jeff Pint Wins MGCSA Championship at Windsong Farm

On behalf of the MGCSA we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Windsong Farm Golf Club for hosting our Championship on August 7. The support from the club and the prime condition of the course made for a spectacular day to celebrate golf.

**Jeff Pint, New Prague Golf Club, had a hot start**, by making birdie on his first two holes enroute to an even par 71 to win the 2006 MGCSA Championship. Denny Perreault, last year's champion from Pheasant Acres Golf Club, was runner-up a 75. Mark Christianson, Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota, shot 77 to finish third.

**Erik Pille, The Meadows at Mystic Lake, won the First Flight** with a net 65. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota, finished with a strong backside to shoot a net 71. Brian shot a gross 36 on his second nine, captured three skins and won a closest-to-the-pin hole to quietly make out like a bandit. Jamie Bezanson, Prestwick Golf Course and Harley Exsted, Fiddlestix Golf Club, tied for third with net 72s.

**This year's Senior Champion is Jim**

**O'Neill, Cycle Works of Minnesota.** Jim shot a net 72. Jerry Webb, Riverwood National, and Doug Daniel, Cycle Works, tied for second with net 74s.

**Winning a scorecard playoff for the Callaway Flight was Greg Simon,** Whispering Pines Golf Club, shooting a net 74. Jeff Whitehurst, Twin City Hydro Seeding, finished second. Nathan Peters, Minneapolis Golf Club, finished third with a net 75.

Our 2006 Long Drive champion is Brett Wenzel, Keller Golf Course. Jerry Webb sank the longest putt of the day on number 18. Closest-to-the-pin winners were Dave Kirscht, David A. Kirscht and Associates, Brian Horgan, Dan Hinton, Jackson Golf Club and Ben Just, Midland Hills Country Club.

**Host Superintendent Scottie Hines, CGCS, and his staff had the course in mint condition** and the greens rolling over 11 on the stimpmeter. Clubhouse manager Cathy Brown and her staff were very helpful in pre-tournament preparations. Windsong Farm director of golf

Jamie Alderman and his staff scored the event and helped the Championship run smoothly.

**Special thanks to MGCSA Championship Title Sponsor Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota.** Tiziani also was the title sponsor of last year's event. Dan O'Brien and the rest of the Tiziani company donated some of the prize money and also 35 extra carts for the MGCSA to use at the Championship. Kendall Larson, Shemin Nurseries, donated two dinners to David Kirscht and Charlie Miller, The Ponds at Battle Creek, for being the two shots closest-to-the-pin winners on the fourth hole. Todd Loecke, Syngenta Turf & Ornamental, donated a chance to go into a drawing for a trip. The winner of this opportunity was Dan Hinton for his shot on the par three, 10th hole.

Also, thanks to all our sponsors for the Championship and all other MGCSA events throughout the season.

*(See Championship results on Page 23)*

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# MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP

Windsong Farm Golf Club, Independence, Minnesota

August 7, 2006

## CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT GROSS SCORES

Jeff Pint, New Prague Golf Club	71
Denny Perreault, Pheasant Acres GC	75
Mark Christianson, Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota	77
Barry Provo, Deer Run GC	78
Dan Hinton, Jackson GC	78
Mike Hilliard, Par Aide Products Co.	78
Troy Lang, Minnesota Valley CC	79
Wayde West, Hoyt Lakes GC	79
Dave Johnson, Greystone GC	79
Shane Andrews, MTI Distributing Co.	80
Chris Momborg, Willingers GC	82
Scottie Hines, CGCS, Windsong Farm	82
Arik Hemquist, Brackett's Crossing CC	83
Tim Johnson, Spring Hill GC	84
Tom Proshek, Brackett's Crossing CC	84
Jeff Schmidt, Pro Source One	84
Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller GC	85
Jeff Backstrom Cannon GC	85
Dan Brown, Par Aide Products Co.	85
Dave Newinski, Herfort Norby	85
Steve Busch, Blue Valley Sod Co.	85
Brooks Ellingson, Albion Ridges	87
Duane Slaughter, Stonebrooke GC	88
Joel Metz, Inver Wood GC	90
Scott Paquette, Heritage Links GC	90
Mark Kamish, Siren National GC	90
Tom Notch, Bent Creek GC	90
Tom Meier, Le Sueur CC	91
Michael Brower, Minnesota Valley CC	91
Jeremy Dahlen, Burl Oaks GC	91
Steve Makowske, Interlachen CC	95
Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello CC	98

## FIRST FLIGHT NET SCORES

Erik Pille, The Meadows @ Mystic Lake	65
Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota	71
Jamie Bezanson, Prestwick GC	72
Harley Exstad, Fiddlestix GC	72
Craig Hendrickson, Oak Ridge CC	73
Dan O'Brien, Tiziani Golf Car of Minnesota	73
Kevin Norby, Herfort Norby	73
Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS, Prestwick GC	74
Jeff Schaeffer, North Oaks GC	74
Dennis Salwei, Reinders, Inc.	74
Leroy Wurm, Albion Ridges GC	74
James Bade, Somerset CC	74
Gregg Paulus, The Ponds @ Battle Creek	75
Charlie Miller, The Ponds @ Battle Creek	75
Walt Braunig, Thompson Oaks	75
Donnacha O'Connor, Alexandria CC	76
Brad Melsa, Prestwick GC	76
David Kirscht, David Kirscht Associates	76
Zach Wignall, The Meadows @ Mystic Lake	76
Michael Sonnek, Spring Hill GC	76
Mike Knodel, Oakdale GC	77
Eric Ritter, Spooner GC	77
Larry Gorman, Green Image LLC	77
Kurt Knox, Island View GC	77
Ben Just, Midland Hills CC	77
Wes Stoneback, The Wilds GC	77
Brandon Schindele, Edina CC	78
Justin Kramer, Hillcrest Golf & CC	79
Jeff Fitzmorris, Elm Creek Golf Links	79
Chad Snuggerud, River Oaks GC	79
Marlow Hanson, Forest Hills GC	79
Brett Wenzel, Keller GC	79
Paul Wohler, Monticello CC	80
John Meyer, Agrotain International	81
Mark Simeon, Green Image LLC	81
Jon Almqvist, MTI Distributing Co.	81
Troy Tschida, Medina Golf & CC	82
Scott Melling, Par Aide Products Co.	82
Matt Rostal, Interlachen CC	83
Tom Bjornberg, Hydrologic	83
Cliff Cline, Hillcrest Golf & CC	83
Shane Stieve, Oak Ridge CC	84
Jeff Vinkemeier, Glencoe CC	84
Jim Riekema, Dwan GC	86
Dan Trudeau, Forest Hills GC	88

## SENIOR FLIGHT NET SCORES

Jim O'Neill, Cycle Works of Minnesota	72
Doug Daniel, Cycle Works of Minnesota	74
Jerry Webb, Riverwood National	74
John Monson, Long Prairie CC	75
Lester Reiff, Minneapolis GC	75
Mike Redmond, MTI Distributing Co.	77
Mike O'Brien, Country Joe Racing	78
Dale Caldwell, CGCS, Minneapolis GC	80
Ron Maske, Versatile Vehicles	82
John Queensland, Cedar River CC	86

## CALLAWAY FLIGHT NET SCORES

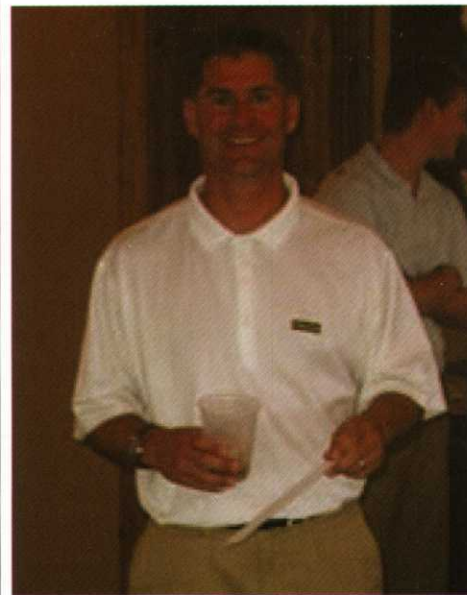
Jeff Whitehurst, Twin City Hydro Seeding	74
Greg Simon, Whispering Pines GC	74
Nathan Peters, Minneapolis GC	75
Jay Hudson, Glenn Rehbein Companies	76
Edwin Lahr, Greens at Howard Lake	77
Bill Gullicks, Bellwood Oaks GC	78
Kendall Larson, Shemin Nurseries	78
Brad Smith, Precision Turf & Chemical	78
Chris Bach, Mulligan Masters	78
Rick Carson, Interlachen CC	78
Brian Boll, Interlachen CC	79
Joe Churchill, Glenn Rehbein Companies	79



Jeff Pint  
3-time MGCSA Champion



Scottie Hines, CGCS, Windsong Farm GC  
with his wife Kristen Leighton-Hines.



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# Turf & Grounds Field Day

*At the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus*

By **LARRY VETTER**  
*MTGF Executive Director*

The 7th Annual Turf & Grounds Field Day was held on July 27, 2006 on the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Two separate educational tracts featured turf-related research and grounds activities.

Registration featuring networking opportunities and refreshments was from 7:45 to 8:45 in the Display and Garden area on campus. At 8:45 there was a brief "Welcome" by Larry Vetter, Dr. Beverly Durgan, Dean of Extension, and Dr. Brian Horgan, Turfgrass Specialist, University of Minnesota.

At 9:00 a.m. the attendees were invited to choose a tour, one featuring turfgrass research and the other featuring a variety of non-turf plant materials. The turf program attendees were divided into three groups that circulated between nine different stops featuring a variety of reports and demonstrations conducted by faculty and staff of the University. Dr. Don White discussed his ongoing creeping bluegrass research. Don has been breeding and selecting different cultivars of creeping bluegrass for a number of years and has had the product of this work planted on a number of sites.

**Andrew Hollman presented the latest data on the "Low-Input Turfgrass Species Evaluation for Fairway Use"** research being conducted by himself, Dr. Brian Horgan and Sam Bauer. As budgets are cut, environmental concerns and traffic on turf sites increase finding grasses that will maintain quality under lower management - higher use has become extremely important. Increasing restrictions on the use of fertilizers, pesticides and water are a concern to all turf managers. At the same time, facilities are experiencing increased use (traffic) on their sites. This combination poses major problems since most newer cultivars are being developed under high management conditions.

**This project includes 20 turf species being evaluated under two heights of cut with clippings removed.** Plots are mown three times per week at 1/2 inch and one inch and are fertilized with a total of one pound of nitrogen and potassium. Compaction treatments to simulate golf cart traffic are split into three levels: Control (no traffic), Medium - one pass Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Heavy - two passes Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**The goal of this study is to establish one or two species that excel under low inputs, compaction and fairway heights of cut.** The best performing species will move on to further trials and breeding efforts in the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Breeding Program.

The next stop was hosted by Brent Hulke and featured the "Perennial Ryegrass Breeding Program at the University of Minnesota." Since 2004, turfgrass breeders at the University of Minnesota have been testing previously underutilized perennial ryegrass lines that could be useful in improving the winter hardiness of perennial ryegrass. In this study, 300 of these lines were tested for winter hardiness and turf quality traits. This study involves field exposure as well as freezing tolerance tests in the lab. The most winter hardy lines will be included in future vari-

ety development efforts.

**Another project has been started to improve the turf breeder's ability to select and integrate useful endophyte strains into grass varieties.** A breeding method is being developed that will help study the interaction between specific endophyte strains and specific grass genotypes. If developed successfully, this will enable researchers to be able to select both the best grass genotypes and the best endophyte strains to include in a variety. This would greatly increase the value of these new varieties.

A new study was introduced this year which is being conducted by Dr. Joe McFadden on "Carbon Budgets of Turfgrass in Urban and Suburban Ecosystems." Joe reports that "vegetation is recognized as a possible mechanism of carbon storage sink - through photosynthesis because atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is converted into biomass. At the same time, decaying plant material and soils are a source of carbon dioxide that is released during decomposition." A recent study estimated that lawns cover

*(Continued on Page 25)*

163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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## Field Day—

(Continued from Page 24)

163,800 square kilometers of the continental U. S. This is three times larger than the area covered by any other single irrigated crop. The potential impacts of this research will: (1) Inform regional land use planning and management in minimizing carbon sources and maximizing sinks, and (2) Provide a data set for the future development of carbon exchange models that will allow carbon budget estimation over the Upper Midwest region.

**Next on the agenda was "Technology to Improve Water Use Efficiency" presented by Aaron Johnsen.** This work is being done by Aaron, Dr. Horgan and Van Cline of the Toro Company. A new technology used in agriculture to determine drought stress involves shining red and infrared light on the plant canopy and using reflective meters to measure the light reflected off the canopy. The data collected provides an indicator of a stress imposed on the plant. The goal of this research is to evaluate the use of reflectance meters to predict drought stress in a bentgrass fairway. The objec-

tive is to develop a reliable method of detecting drought stress prior to visual symptoms appearing. This technology could be of great use to turfgrass managers because it will provide the ability to use a wilt-based irrigation strategy more effectively and with confidence.

**"Understanding Nutrient and Pesticide Loss with Runoff from Fairway Turf" was hosted by Dr. Pam Rice, USDA-ARS.** This work is being done by Drs. Rice and Horgan. We are all aware of the environmental issues concerning fertilizers and pesticides in surface water. This experiment was designed to measure the quantity of these materials transported with runoff from fairway turf and to evaluate the ability of turf management practices to reduce the transport of applied chemicals with runoff. Both chemical application strategies and cultural practices were evaluated. The overall goal is to identify management practices that maximize fertilizer and pesticide retention at the site of application. Results of this research will provide information that will allow for informed decisions on best management practices that are both environmentally responsible and provide quality turf. This is an ongoing study that will

provide updated data at next year's turf and grounds field day.

**"Selecting for Improved Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars" was presented by Dr. Nancy Ehlke.** This work is being conducted by Drs. Ehlke, Watkins, Wyse and Vellekson. While Kentucky bluegrass is apomictic which makes breeding new varieties very difficult, there are certain plants that are capable of sexual reproduction. When these plants are used as females, from 0 - 17% of the seed produced on the plant may be a hybrid and potentially have different characteristics from the mother plant. These progeny are evaluated for improved traits such as disease resistance, seed production potential, overall turf quality, color, leaf texture and growth habit to determine if the progeny are distinctly better than the original parental sources.

The University of Minnesota recently initiated a hybrid breeding program that should be able to produce high quality cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass with better turf quality and disease resistance with high seed yields in northern Minnesota. These new cultivars will benefit both the turf and seed producers in the state.

(Continued on Page 26)

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## Field Day—

(Continued from Page 25)

The next stop featured "Pesticides for Turf: Updated 2006" and "Pesticides for Home, Nursery and Landscapes: Updates 2006" presented by Dr. Vera Krischik. Recently several commonly used insecticides for the control of insects on landscape plants were removed from sale. EPA is phasing out the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons, organophosphates and carbamates due to safety concerns. Insecticides that have lost their registration for turf include bendiocarb, chlorpyrifos (only for nursery production, golf courses and road medians), diazinon and endosulfan. In addition to these, the following also have their registration for trees and shrubs: dimethoate and lindane. Dr. Krischik handed out guides containing various insects along with recommended insecticides recommended for their control, indicating their targets, active ingredients and trade names.

**The last stop on the turf tour was "Mowing and Dew Removal to Minimize Dollar Spot Disease on Creeping**

**Bentgrass"** presented by Dr. Brian Horgan. The study has been conducted by Dr. Horgan and Alex Ellram. "Dollar spot disease on bentgrass can be greatly reduced by mowing and other cultural practices which reduce leaf wetness duration." Three different mowing times, different methods of dew removal and frequency have been studied for the past two plus years. The severity of dollar spot was also studied in laboratory experiments. Results indicate that dew removal reduced the incidence of dollar spot on field test plots when mowed at 0400 h when compared to those plots mowed at 2200 h and 1000 h. Dollar spot incidence was also lower when dew was removed daily than when dew was removed on alternate days. Disruption of leaf moisture at a time that minimized uninterrupted leaf wetness duration appeared to be the most effective in reducing dollar spot incidence and severity.

**The grounds trac began at the Display and Trial Gardens and was hosted by Manager Karyn Vidmar.** She discussed the purpose and history of the garden as well as the most recent design change and construction techniques. Faculty and staff

involve students in all aspects of Garden development and use. The Garden has been designed and installed by students through assignments associated with graduate and undergraduate classes, and individualized directed studies. Horticulture work-study and other students maintain the garden during the growing season and students aid in the development of the management plan for the Garden. Sixteen courses within the Department of Horticultural Science are associated with the Garden.

**The next stop on the grounds trac was hosted by Dr. James Calkins.** During a walking tour of campus, site survey and analysis were discussed as they relate to a number of factors in the development process. The ultimate goal for any landscape should be sustainability. Sustainable landscapes are functional, maintainable, environmentally sound, cost effective and visually pleasing. As part of this tour, Dr. Calkins pointed out some of the unique plant materials on campus including a number of very interesting shrubs and trees.

(Continued on Page 28)



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## Field Day—

(Continued from Page 26)

The last stop on the grounds tour was hosted by Dr. Jeff Gillman. Elms for the Twin Cities was the primary focus of this session.

Dr. Gillman presented data on sixteen different elm selections that he is studying with reference to Dutch Elm Disease resistance. A number of characteristics of these selections were discussed, including DED resistance, growth rate, hardiness, insect resistance, form, maintenance requirements, storm breakage and their adaptation to boulevard use.

**Overall there was a great deal of timely information presented for all turf and grounds professionals.** There are many companies that support this research,

either with direct cash contributions or in-kind donations. Those companies deserve consideration when members are making their buying decisions for their turf and grounds activities. While space does not allow listing all of these supporting ven-

tor companies in this article, a complete list can be found on the MTGF web site which is [www.mtgf.org](http://www.mtgf.org) under "Field Day."

**Also, the MTGF is sponsoring a Pesticide Recertification Workshop and a Power Limited**

**Technician Workshop this fall.**

Complete information on these workshops can also be found on this web site. In addition, complete information on the Minnesota Green Expo can be found at [www.minnesotagreenexpo.com](http://www.minnesotagreenexpo.com). I look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of these events.

*The MTGF is sponsoring a Pesticide Recertification Workshop and a Power Limited Technician Workshop this fall.*



*Aaron Johnsen was a featured speaker at the Turf & Grounds Field Day.*



*Charlie Miller, Goodrich Golf Course, was one of many grounds staff volunteers during the U.S. Amateur at Hazeltine National Golf Club in late August. Hazeltine's neighbor, the Chaska Town Course, was also utilized for qualifying rounds. All matches were played at Hazeltine.*

PHOTO BY GREG BRODD

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**John Malloy Qualifies for BASF Tournament**



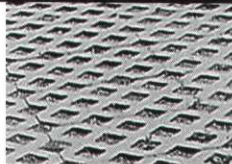
*Bearpath Golf & Country Club Superintendent John Malloy, CGCS shot a net 69 at Albion Ridges Golf Course on July 17 to qualify for the BASF People vs. the Pros golf tournament. The 2006 People vs. the Pros golf tournament, presented by BASF, provides a national platform to recognize the professional dedication that the superintendent brings to the game of golf.*

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## *In Bounds: I Love What I Do*

By JOHN "JACK" MacKENZIE, CGCS  
*North Oaks Golf Club*

The days have begun to cool and hours shorten as I prepare to shift gears toward a slower pace. And as I begin the slow slide into fall I am afforded the time to reflect upon the successes and failures of the previous summer. What started as a season of blissful harmony became perhaps one of the most challenging summers of my career.

Opening to near perfection can have an interesting effect on the psyche of many superintendents, me included. Rather than play catch up and recovery, it was balls to the wall, summer time is here! And rather than gradually waltzing into summer expectations, it seemed that the lush turf accelerated the demands of many players.

Of course, I have even higher expectations than my worst critic! Through early July turf management was pleasant, however the tempest of Mother Nature disguised as drought and intense heat seared my course and challenged my superintendent skills. Early days and late nights were the norm and at times I wondered why I torture myself on such a continuous basis.

**Simply put, I love what I do.** But to pinpoint the reasons is somewhat elusive. It has to be more than the rainbows and sunrises. The smell of fresh-cut grass and the sound of morning silence.

Upon reflection, having the autonomy of being my own boss is perhaps the greatest allure of my position. Of course I have a General Manager and Board of Directors who think they control my destiny, but in reality I set the stage for each day of operation. I schedule the day board and manage a team of up to 29 individuals as they create their magic upon the course, plan the nutrient and plant protectant applications and decide the irrigation cycles.

There is no one else to direct me to have additional projects ready as my team comes off the course. There isn't anyone who decides the best course of action after a violent weather event or in the preparation for a big golf event. On the flip side there isn't anyone there to take the fall for me if my management style misses a beat during a crisis situation.

I guess that is why I get paid "the big bucks."

**Another reason I love my job is the**

**enjoyment I get out of my staff.** Of course there are minor frustrations such as when a triplex mower completes his chore with one of the reels shut off or the water service personnel forget to restock the cone cups. And I can't forget the annoyance of a lad dumping a utility truck in the pond, bending the shaft of a straight shaft line trimmer or watering three of four flower urns on a hot summer afternoon. Then there is that pesky hydraulic leak that does eventually go away, when the tank has been run dry! Enough already! I do love my staff.

**The young team members, the rookies, bring back memories of my youth on a daily basis.** My Hispanic associates make me smile because (1) they work

hard, (2) they work as a strong team, (3) they appreciate having a job. And I get joy from my experienced (senior) staff because they are dedicated individuals enjoying retirement, yet keeping productive, something I am sure to aspire to be when I collect my gold watch.

I like the mysteries in my line of work. Beyond identifying a serious disease, which club house employee is responsible for the knees and toes and knees and toes and palm pattern on the seventh green and why there is play on a day we are closed for aerification, I like to have my mind challenged for I have an inquiring mind.

Once I deduced correctly that we had a mystical ritual performed on the fifth green by the circular pattern of the candle

wax left behind. Early on another morning, I tracked a youth to his nearby house after he drove across the sixth fairway for the final time. The latent heat felt rising from the hood of his car at 5 a.m. gave him away, and one rise and shine knock on the door alerted his whole family that somebody wasn't happy with his choice of shortcuts. Problem eliminated!

And finally I like the appearance of a smart looking and well-playing golf course. Not because I am an aficionado of the game, for I find it tough to dedicate another five hours away from my family, but because a well-tuned piece of property soothes my soul. As a craftsman of the turf management trade, a beautiful setting, green grass, manicured greens and defined bunkering make for complete presentation. I don't thrive in this business to create a course for me to play upon, but rather a course to accentuate my skills as a Golf Course Superintendent.

Work was a living hell for a very short period of time this summer. But I survived because I love what I do. My management possibilities, my staff, my mental challenges and the opportunity to ply my trade bring me back long day after long day.

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