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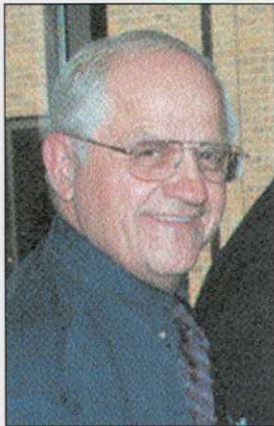


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RCTC Horticulture Instructor Vern Bushlack is Retiring

By ROBIN FRUTH-DUSTAD
RCTC Horticulture Program Leader

After 44 years teaching and inspiring thousands of students on the joys and challenges of working in the Horticulture



industry, Rochester Community Technical College Horticulture instructor Vern Bushlack is retiring. Vern grew up on a farm near Wells, Minn. He attended the University of Minnesota

from 1959 to 1963. Vern was better known as "Bruno" on campus. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education.

Vern started his teaching career at Kasson-Mantorville in 1963. Kasson-Mantorville had a traditional vocational agriculture program. Vern was probably one of the first high school agriculture teachers to develop curriculum for a horticulture class. He continued to teach at Kasson-Mantorville and develop the agriculture program until 1971.

In 1971, Vern accepted a teaching posi-

tion at John Marshall in Rochester, Minn. Once again he took a traditional vocational agriculture program and 'urbanized' the program. He developed curriculum in horticulture and natural resource manage-

"Vern was probably one of the first high school agriculture teachers to develop curriculum for a horticulture class."

ment. In 1974 Vern was instrumental in securing funds to build a unique two-level greenhouse located on a slope. This greenhouse still stands today.

(Continued on Page 23)

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Vern Bushlack—

(Continued from Page 22)

Vern started **Country Green**, a successful lawn and landscape business, in 1978. He continued to teach at John Marshall and operate Country Green until 1988. Vern states, "I came to a crossroads... teacher or business owner." In 1988 he accepted a position with the Farm Business Management office in Rochester, but the teacher in him was calling. After the University of Minnesota decided to close the Waseca campus Vern became an advocate for a horticulture program at the technical college in Rochester. He surveyed the horticulture industry and applied to the State Board of Technical Colleges and convinced the board that southeastern Minnesota needed a horticulture program. In 1991 a horticulture program was started in the old culinary arts kitchen at the technical college in Rochester. The program quickly outgrew the soup kitchen. The board guaranteed that if the program was successful, money for collegiate facilities would follow. Yah right! Vern spent nine years lobbying for a collegiate facility. Talk to some of the Rochester legislators from this time peri-

od, Vern became a ... I'll just say a squeaky wheel. Finally, in 2000, the legislature approved bonding for the new facility. In 2002 the RCTC Horticulture program moved into a state-of-the-art Horticulture Technology facility. The space included a 4,000 square foot greenhouse, two SMART classrooms/labs, a resource room, offices, attached garage, storage rooms, and an outdoor lab, which became Vern's next project. The SMART Garden, outdoor lab has a great start, thanks to Vern. I promise to do my best to continue to develop the space into a wonderful community garden.

Could there be any more accolades? But of course, 44 years of them! Vern completed a Masters of Education with a Horticulture Emphasis in the 1970's. He has been a member of MVAIA, now the Minnesota Association of Agriculture Educators, MAAE, for his entire career, serving on the Board of Directors for two years. He has an honorary state FFA degree and is a MN FFA Hall of Fame member. The RCTC Horticulture program was voted outstanding Post-secondary program by MAAE in 2003. We like to say that the program finished a close second at nationals. In 2004 Vern was voted outstanding teacher of the year by Region 8 MAAE. In 1994 the Committee on Urban

Environment recognized the program for its exceptional contributions to environmental and aesthetic enhancement within the City of Rochester. And I am positive that there are many more career achievements!

"Vern Bushlack has worked with colleagues and business and industry representatives to develop one of Minnesota's finest two-year college horticulture learning opportunities. The quality teaching and learning environment at RCTC provides students with the classroom instruction and hands-on experiences needed to meet the skilled workforce demands of employers," said RCTC President Don Supalla.

RCTC Student Life and the RCTC horticulture students are hosting a golf tournament and dinner honoring Vern Bushlack. The event will be held at the Rochester Golf and Country Club on Monday, April 30. Vern's legacy will continue with the creation of the Vern Bushlack Endowed Scholarship for Horticulture students at RCTC.

(Editor's Note: For more information on how you can participate and celebrate, contact Robin Fruth-Dugstad, Horticulture Program Leader, at 507-529-6112 or email robin.fruth-dugstad@roch.edu.)

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Musing the Minutes

MGCSA Board of Directors Meeting
March 5, 2007, Somerset Country Club

By MATT MCKINNON, MGCSA Secretary



The MGCSA Board of Directors met on March 5 at Somerset Country Club.

President James Bade reported that he had met with the Minnesota Golf Association and colleagues from Allied Associations on January 31 of this year. The meeting was to look at the needs of the various associations.

Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that the MGCSA's new accounting firm Larsen Allen currently is working on our 2006 taxes. They will also look at our '03, '04 and '05 taxes for more possible deductions. The current CDs we have will continue to be rolled until we need the money.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen reported that the Hospitality Night in Anaheim went very well. A profit of \$1,600 will be placed in an account to be used for next year's event. There were 109 attendees at the event. Industrial Relations representative Jeff Hartman said they would be booking the 2008 Hospitality Night in Orlando soon. Turtinen also reported that the dues statements were steadily coming in. *(As of this printing there were 129 Regular members who have not paid dues out of the 680 from 2006. Also, out of last year's 166 Affiliate members, 49 have not paid 2007 MGCSA dues.)*

Paul Diegnau, CGCS reported on the MTGF meeting that was held on January 30. There were 8,039 attendees, 420 companies that occupied 1,000 exhibit spaces at the Minnesota Green Expo. There is also an additional 20 to 25 companies on a waiting list for space on the floor. Another encouraging fact was that 65% of the attendees indicated that they were "decision makers" whereas normally this figure was ranging between 55 and 60%. This number will help make it more attractive for vendors to continue to support the Expo. The Spanish session had disappointing attendance. For those who did attend it was well-received. The instructor was very good and the attendees were very appreciative. The four-hour session went very well and will continue next year. Paul also reported that the MTGF has hired Readex to complete a

survey and an Economic Impact Statement.

Brian Horgan reported that the MGA came through with funding of \$10,000 for the TROE center. The original request was for \$20,000. Brian also reported that the Phosphorous report was submitted to the state on March 1st. For a copy of the report go to the MDA website.

Scottie Hines, CGCS reported that the deadline for scholarships was March 1st. At this time there have not been any applicants. The question was asked if we should extend the deadline for the scholarship to April 1? Rick Traver, CGCS, motioned to extend the deadline to April 1 and if no one applies by that time it will roll over to next year.

Under old business we discussed the 2007 MGCSA budget. Eckholm made the motion to accept the 2007 budget.

Under new business the Minnesota Golf Show was brought up that it was not well-attended and questioned the value of future participation. At this time we will table it until the next meeting so James can talk to Tom Ryan from the MGA.

The MGCSA will look into how to tap into Western Wisconsin for possible attendance at the Minnesota Green Expo.

Paul Diegnau, CGCS, said he talked to Todd Loecke from Syngenta and they

would like to take the MGCSA Board on an Educational trip of their facility sometime in December of this year. Diegnau will talk to Loecke about it.

The last item of new business was the possibility of having a national sponsor for the March Mini-Seminar. This national sponsor would be based from Minnesota, have the headline and pay for speakers and food. This could be something that could be a long term agreement. We will be sending a letter soon.

I hope everyone is having a good spring and getting ready for a very busy golf season.

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It's in the Hole

Jason and Pam Ruhoff are proud to announce the birth of Hailey Beth Ruhoff. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 o.z and was 21 inches on her March 1st birthday at 7:57 am. She's pictured above with her sisters Erica, 2, and Shelby, 4.

Jeff Girard is the new Superintendent at Stoneridge Golf Club in Stillwater. Jeff formerly was an Assistant Superintendent at Windsong Farm Golf Club under Scottie Hines, CGCS.

Lee Maenke is the new Superintendent at Greystone Golf Club in Sauk Centre. Lee comes over from Wisconsin.

Birdies and Bees: How Superintendents Can Help Native Pollinators

Pollinators are in decline across North America and golf courses can play a role in their conservation. These are two of the findings of the recently released National Academy of Sciences report Status of Pollinators in North America.

Pollinators-including butterflies, bees, beetles, flies, and hummingbirds-are arguably one of the most important groups of animals. The work they do in moving pollen from flower to flower results in successful seed set and fruit production for over 70 percent of flowering plants. We rely on these plants for much of our food, and wildlife rely on them for food and habitat. Imagine spring without flowering meadows, summer without berry picking, and fall without pumpkins and you get an idea of how the work of pollinators impact our lives.

What can a superintendent do? The NAS report identified habitat loss and fragmentation as one of the main causes of pollinator declines. Golf courses can help significantly with reversing this trend by providing flowers and egg-laying sites. Even on the most compact urban golf course, flowering plants can be part of the landscape. On more extensive courses, out-of-play areas offer great opportunities for creating prairie-type habitats rich in native flowers. For greatest benefit, the flowers should bloom throughout the growing season. Add in some wooden blocks drilled with holes or create patches of bare ground in which solitary bees can nest, include hostplants for butterfly caterpillars, and your course can support healthy and diverse pollinator populations.

(Editor's Note: To learn more visit the Society's website at www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation.)

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Nasal Obstruction

By Deborah Rosin, MD

WebMD Medical Reference from "The Sinus Sourcebook"

(Editor's Note: This is Part II of a two-part article. Part I was printed in the March 2007 issue of *Hole Notes*.)

Anatomic Causes of Nasal Obstruction

Many anatomic factors cause nasal obstruction. You might suspect an anatomic blockage when your breathing always seems worse on one side of the nose, and if the blockage has been present for many months or years. Remember that the two major components of the nasal passages are the septum and the turbinates. Significant abnormalities of these structures will impair breathing. In addition to nasal blockage, they can lead to snoring (which can be disruptive to the individual if he has apnea or pauses in breathing, but is more often a nuisance to a sleeping partner). Additionally, areas that block airflow in the nose can also block mucous flow and sinus drainage, and lead to sinus infections. Much of the remaining portions of this article will examine these anatomic causes of nasal obstruction.

Deviated Septum

The nasal septum is the partition between the right and left sides of the nose. It is composed of both cartilage and bone. Figure 4.1 shows a normal midline septum compared with a septum that is severely deviated into the right side. A deviated septum is usually diagnosed when a physician looks inside the nose. One clue is to breathe in and out through each side of the nose while blocking the other nostril. A consistent difference in airflow between the two sides may indicate a deviated septum. If you have an obvious twist to the outside of your nose, this may also indicate a deviation on the inside.

Often, a deviated septum results from a nasal injury. Some of my patients who have septal deviations remember the exact incident when they fractured or broke their nose, and recall breathing problems beginning after this. Other people are unable to recall any nasal trauma. No one knows whether these individuals were born with their deviation, or whether they suffered some trauma to their developing nose while sliding down the vaginal canal

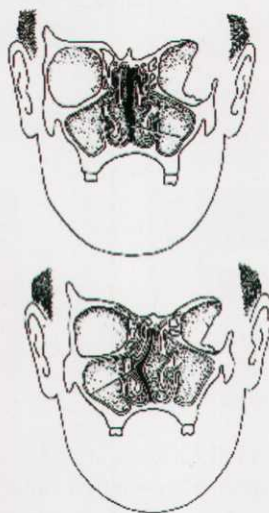


Figure 4.1
Normal Versus Deviated Nasal Septum.

during birth. If the twist of the septum does not seem to harm your breathing, then there is no reason to correct the problem. However, if the deviation is severe enough to warrant repair, you may need surgery. There may also be instances when the septum needs to be fixed not for breathing but because it blocks the sinus openings, leading to chronic sinus infection.

Surgery for a deviated septum involves working inside the nose to reshape the cartilage and bone, either called a septoplasty or submucous resection. It is performed on an outpatient basis under either general ("all the way under") or local (sedation) anesthesia. The septum sometimes needs to be straightened during sinus surgery so that the surgeon can reach back to the sinuses. Correction of a deviated septum usually does not change the outer appearance of the nose. If someone says they had a deviated septum operation but they look like they have a new nose, they are probably covering up elective cosmetic surgery.

Hypertrophic (Enlarged) Turbinate Bones

There are three sets of paired turbinates in the nose: Inferior, middle and superior.

Inferior Turbinate Problems

Large inferior turbinates can lead to blockage in nasal breathing. While some physicians feel that turbinate swelling has a minimal role in nasal dynamics, others believe it is a major contributor to problems. There is still controversy among physicians as to how often inferior turbinate hypertrophy (the medical term for enlargement) needs to be treated. In addition, there is not even agreement as to the best method of treatment for enlarged turbinate bones. While some doctors will inject turbinate tissue with cortisone to decrease swelling, others believe in surgical cautery, laser or trimming. It is best to ask your doctor to delineate the pros and cons of this treatment if it has been recommended for you.

Middle Turbinate Problems

Middle turbinates can be abnormally shaped, which can lead to "nasal headaches." In addition, most of the important sinus drainage occurs just below the middle turbinate, and thus abnormal formations of the turbinate can lead to significant sinus problems.

A paradoxically shaped middle turbinate, instead of spiraling outward, curves inward, touching the nasal septum as well as narrowing the area of maxillary sinus drainage. When two structures, such as the septum and the middle turbinate, come into contact, this can set off pain fibers and result in headache. If the already large middle turbinate gets more swollen during an allergy attack, this can further block sinus drainage and cause an infection. Surgical trimming of the turbinate should correct the problem.

Normally, the turbinates are bony structures lined with nasal mucosa. If developmentally, the middle turbinate has air inside it (which is seen in Figure 4.2), sinus drainage can be altered and may result in recurrent infection.

This condition, in which there is an air cell inside the normally bony middle turbinate, is termed a concha bullosa and

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Nasal Obstruction—

(Continued from Page 26)

may additionally be associated with headache. If you have a concha bullosa, then the sinus problem may be alleviated by surgically opening up this air pocket inside the turbinate; this should lead to improved sinus drainage.

Last year, Betsy came to see me after she had gone to an allergist, neurologist and chiropractor for facial headaches. Because of some underlying nasal complaints, I ordered a CAT scan x-ray, which revealed a middle turbinate with air inside (the concha bullosa). I had Betsy come to my office during one of her headaches, and I injected her middle turbinate with a local anesthetic, after which her headache resolved. I next took her to the operating room, where I removed her middle turbinate. She has not had a headache since!

Nasal Polyps

Polyps are grapelike, inflammatory swellings of the nasal and sinus linings. Polyps are benign (noncancerous), can be on one or both sides of the nose, and are more commonly seen in adults than in children. By far, the most common cause



Figure 4.2
*Concha bullosa. Secondarily
Infected Maxillary Sinus.*

of polyps is allergy, followed by chronic sinus infection. Aside from causing nasal blockage, polyps may plug up the normal sinus openings (ostia) and contribute to the development of sinus infection. While nasal polyps in children are atypical, their occurrence before age sixteen may indicate cystic fibrosis.

Nasal polyps may be associated with asthma. I often see an asthma patient whose asthma has flared up because of nasal polyps and sinus infection. Scott is one of my typical asthma patients with nasal polyps. When he first came to see me, he was on a number of asthma inhalers and for the past four months had been using oral medications for worsening symptoms. Once I removed his massive nasal polyps, his breathing greatly

improved, and he stopped taking the meds. About once a year Scott will see me complaining of a flare-up of his asthma, when his nose and sinuses act up. I give him some oral cortisone, which shrinks the polyps, and he is back to normal.

In some patients, there is an association between asthma, nasal polyps and aspirin intolerance known as Samter's triad. Almost one out of four patients with nasal polyps has an intolerance to aspirin. In these people, ingestion of aspirin is followed by wheezing, excessive watery nasal discharge and swelling of the throat, which can be fatal if not treated immediately.

The initial treatment of nasal polyps is usually medical. Polyps shrink after a course of cortisone (or other steroid) pills, but few patients are kept on this medication for more than several weeks because of potential side effects. If there is significant shrinkage following the taking of cortisone tablets, then an extended course of a cortisone-containing nasal spray may keep the nasal passages clear and prevent reformation of polyps. Cortisone-containing sprays have rare, minor side effects, so they can be used safely in most people for many months under a doctor's supervision. They do not cause rebound

(Continued on Page 28)



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Nasal Obstruction—

(Continued from Page 27)

congestion as is seen with nonprescription decongestant sprays.

Despite appropriate medication, many polyp patients require surgery to remove the polyps and open the nasal passages. Surgical polyp removal, or polypectomy, can be performed in an office or outpatient setting. It can be done under either local or general anesthesia, and can be combined with other nasal and sinus surgery. Although most polyps are not cancerous, once removed, they are sent for pathologic examination under a microscope to ensure that there is no malignancy (cancer) present. While most patients notice marked improvement in their breathing after removal of polyps, they should be aware that polyps often recur. If they start to grow back in a matter of months, then a more thorough search for the cause should be undertaken. This usually includes an allergy workup and CAT scan x-ray if they haven't already been done. One way to prevent polyp regrowth after removal is to stay on topical steroid sprays for an extended period of time.

In general, polyps can be a nuisance but are rarely life-threatening. However, certain types of polyps have a predisposition to turn into cancer, and thus if you have polyps, it is best to have a physician fully evaluate them.

Enlarged Adenoids

Adenoid tissue sits at the back of the nose in an area called the nasopharynx. This tissue is similar to tonsil tissue, which is located on each side of the throat. The adenoids shrink and usually become insignificant by the late teens or early twenties. However, there are instances when this tissue remains enlarged in an adult and may be chronically infected; that causes bilateral (both sides of the nose) nasal obstruction. These large adenoids can also contribute to sinus infection. Whenever the adenoids are significantly enlarged in an adult, one must always be concerned about a possible tumor, and thus your doctor may recommend adenoid removal to obtain a biopsy of the tissue for lab evaluation.

The adenoids tend to play a more central role in sinusitis in children. I have many pediatric patients who have been diagnosed with recurrent episodes of sinusitis. Once their adenoids are surgically removed (known as an adenoidectomy), their sinus problems often vanish.

Foreign Body in the Nose

Every so often I see a patient like Ellen, a three-year-old girl whose pediatrician sent her in for what she thought was a sinus infection. The little girl had already been on four weeks of antibiotics but persisted with thick, yellow drainage from her right nostril. Upon close inspection, I found a small bead embedded in the right side of Ellen's nose. Once it was removed, her nasal drainage stopped. Foreign bodies should be suspected in an individual with one-sided nasal drainage. Typically, foreign objects in the nose occur in children or in mentally retarded individuals. Among the things that I have retrieved from inside the nose include buttons, crayons, small plastic toys, peanuts, raisins, popcorn and pencil erasers.

Causes of Nasal Obstruction

Nonanatomic

- + chronic sinusitis
- + overuse of nose sprays
- + hypertension
- + allergies
- + birth control pills
- + thyroid abnormality

Anatomic

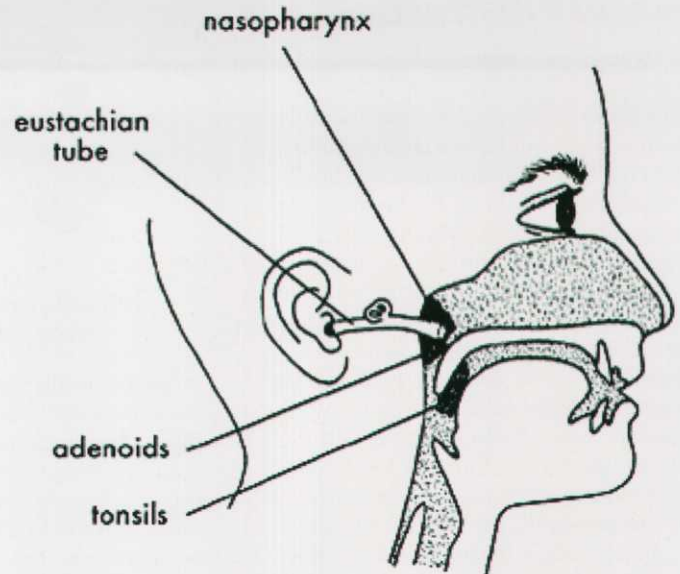


Figure 4.3
Adenoids and Tonsils, side view.

- + deviated septum
- + large adenoids
- + hypertrophic
- + nasal polyps
- + nasal foreign body
- + turbinate bones

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Steve Abler, Syngenta gave a talk on product development from molecule to market.



Dr. Karen Plumley, Pamela Rice and Dr. Clark Throssel. Dr. Plumley spoke about EPA's New Pesticide Review Program and its impact on golf course management. Pamela Rice talked about pesticide fate in the golf course environment, and Dr. Throssel, handling the afternoon part of the program, spoke on retaining pesticides for golf courses and turf management with reduced pesticide input.



Stacy Pine, Director of State and Local Affairs, RISE, spoke about dealing with the environmental movement in Minnesota. MGCSA Education Chair Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller GC, center, was instrumental in organizing the successful Mini-Seminar. Charlie Miller, Superintendent at Goodrich GC, was one of 94 attendees.

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In Bounds: Wood Hoarding: A Natural Compulsion

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

Last week over a cup of English Breakfast Tea, my father, 79 years young and I discussed life, growing old and the gradual decline of our physical attributes. We do enjoy each other's company and I am fortunate to visit with a close friend of his sage wisdom.

This particular meet and greet was prompted by the removal of a large cancerous growth in his scalp. Indeed the scar is ugly, but he took the surgery in stride and proclaimed a secondary success as the closure required some skin stretching to eliminate the excavation. In turn, this removed several wrinkles from his face. Every cloud has a silver lining I guess!

Some other news shared that day was not so bright. Recently while splitting wood with wedge and sledge hammer, he strained his left knee. Discussions with his doctor broke his heart as he was told to stop mauling wood. I can empathize with my father's disappointment for I too share with him and suffer from a common though rarely discussed compulsion. We are both wood hoarders.

Growing up on a five-plus acre wooded lot exposed me to my father's malady from an early age. It was not uncommon for him to announce on a Friday evening that, "Tomorrow we are going to split some wood!" Of course this meant that he was going to use the chain saw to down a tree and trim branches while my siblings and I hauled the brush to the burn pile. Then the Big Guy would chunk the trunk into 20-inch pieces and the labor reserves carried the sections to the splitting area.

Stacked between two live trees, the logs would be allowed to dry a bit, perhaps even into the winter when a cold snap froze the wood and facilitated splitting. Easier for my father to split that is, because the hauling and stacking of split wood were children's chores. He was exempt because he was the Wood God of Pine Tree Lake Road. We had two fireplaces in our house, and it seemed our "chore" was never completed!

My father had a "thing" about wood, wood potential, wood accumulation and wood piles. On drives through the neighborhood he would comment on declining trees and the opportunities to add to his accumulation of timber. Vacant lots were uncharted territories where we could

watch while he dropped the dead tree. And sweat as we, the child labor force, loaded the back of the "woody" station wagon with prime oak, ash or maple.

Not only did he have the eagle eye for trees, but my Dad ruled when it came to dumpster diving for kindling wood. Every home under construction held vast quantities of scrap to be surveyed, sorted, stacked, hauled and restacked at home to be used to ignite the hoarded and worshipped firewood. Sometimes these pieces were large enough to do home projects

"His doctor broke his heart as he was told to stop mauling wood."

and perhaps not scraps, but I wasn't going to be the one to mention that to my Dad for he was the timber baron in our house.

After I began working at White Bear Yacht Club, a new initiative in wood hoarding took place. Under paternal mandate I was directed to seize any and all split able wood taken from the course. This to be added to the now very well-aged stacks and stacks of wood wedged between trees in our backyard. The directive was modified to exclude any and all elm wood as, and I can still see his hand description, "That wood is damn hard to split because it twists as it grows."

Soon I was scouting the WBYC property to supplement his desires. Cushman loads of bounty were carted to his property much to his delight. Some was burned, some was stacked, some was stored and to this day I still can identify logs imported for the creating of a retaining wall system of sorts. At the time I was becoming indoctrinated into the wood-hoarding compulsion and ever since I have been looking for dry timber to remedy my own addiction for firewood.

My former house had a wood-burning furnace inside. Not one of those supplemental heaters, but a grand daddy unit capable of consuming five-foot long pieces of wood, I even think I drooled when I realized the potential for woodsmanship in such a grand scale. Impressive to say, but considering the furnace was in my basement, I had no good indoor location to store daily supplies of firewood of that size. So I logged my wood into 20-inch lengths and to take my production to the next level, I purchased a log splitter.

With this investment I had made it pos-

sible to split massive amounts of firewood. Cords and cords graced my yard and created an indescribable personal pride for surely my neighbors or anyone else observing my arrangement developed wood envy (however, I think it was one of the issues that led to my first divorce). I had become my father's son, a full-fledged wood hoarder.

Actually, we are everywhere. Just drive around town and you can pick us out. Typically we have an outdoor fire pit in the back yard and a fireplace stack protruding from our roof tops. Between trees or stacked next to the garage, perhaps under an old canvas tarp, an aging half-cord waits for the beckoning of a chilly fall evening or the urge to make a smore.

Wood hoarders don't belong to any club, but we appreciate a dead or dying tree and size up amateur removal probabilities voyeuristically. Northern

Hydraulics catalogues capture our gaze as we reminisce about logs so large they defied our meager homeowner splitters and remain in

the "too big too split" pile. We ponder the value of our log piles, envy bigger hoards and consider the potential of actually selling or bartering our laborious hobby, NOT. And with mild embarrassment we look away when a non-hoarder purchases a net wrapped bundle of three logs from the gas station for five dollars

Currently I have two log piles nestled in the woods of my yard and one paltry stack by the deck door. All quite diminutive compared to my historical standards because although my wife is the most understanding person in the world, she doesn't appreciate my natural fetish. Also, I am very interested in maintaining a healthy relationship with her. What she doesn't know is that I have a monstrous pile, at least eight cords big (full man cords) behind the shop from which I supplement my deck stash! Actually I feel sad for her as she just cannot enjoy my fetish.

Alas, someday I too will be told that I must curtail my wood-hoarding habits. Like my fathers, my body will rebel against the back-breaking toil of creating an ever larger wood pile. The doctor will prescribe activities not including tree removal, log splitting and the accumulation of wood for future consumption. But you will never be able to keep this wood hoarder from dreaming of creating vast piles of drying logs. The splinter, the chaff of skin and the near miss of the hydraulic ram; the smell of exhausted petroleum, wet wood and bark fungus; the sound of crashing timber, splitting logs and the muffled chainsaw; the production of neat rows or conical piles of wood, split 20-inch pieces of wood. In my mind's eye, the wood hoarder's Mecca.