

# SEASONS GREETINGS



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## 2008 MGCSA Calendar

Wednesday-Friday  
January 9, 10, 11, 2008  
**Minnesota Green Expo**  
Minneapolis Convention Center

Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
**MGCSA March Mini-Seminar**  
Topic: Water Conservation  
Speakers:

Dr. Bob Carrow, University of Georgia  
Dr. Berne Leinauer, New Mexico State University  
Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota  
Tom Ryan, Minnesota Golf Association  
North Oaks Golf Club, North Oaks  
Host Superintendent: Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Tuesday, May 12, 2008  
**MGCSA Spring Mixer**  
Coffee Mill Golf Club, Wabasha  
Host Superintendent: Jeff Normandt

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### About the Cover

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*My term is winding down, but my work within the Association is just beginning!*

By James Bade

Wow, my last Presidential column. Time goes fast when you have a writing deadline every month. These past two years have been a great experience. Serving on the board of directors is an experience that I would highly recommend. The camaraderie within our industry is unsurpassed.

**The MGCSA had some great outings this past fall**, one at the Jewel and the other in Le Sueur. The Jewel has a beautiful setting with lots of bump and run shots. Doug Mahal and staff had the place in great shape; if you're ever in Lake City I would recommend it. Tom Meier and staff were up to the challenge of hosting us during the fall moonsoon. I have never seen the fields so wet this time of year. I love the setting of Le Sueur C.C. just the drive down there was relaxing.

**I mention these events to show two things.** One the dedication of the Board members and two the willingness of member clubs to share their golf course for our events. Matt McKinnon drove all the way down to Lake City for a board meeting and didn't even stay for golf. Understandably so since he would have returned home at 11:00 p.m. at night. Most Board members like Tom Meier drive great distances to attend monthly meetings. With gas prices the way they are that is no small thing. In general, I believe the dedication of the whole Board of Directors reflects the members of the MGCSA.

**With irrigation systems blown out and the last fungicides put down** it is the signal of a new season. The one of tree removal, budgets, equipment repair, rest and education. I hope you are able to attend this years Minnesota Green Expo being held January 9-11. The education committee has put together a stellar line-up that you won't want to miss. Equally important is your attending our Annual Business Meeting being held Thursday at 1:00 p.m. The Board would love to see a full room of participants. One big topic we would like to discuss is the possibility of the MGCSA helping manage a golf course for the purpose of doing research. This would be a front-line cutting edge experience for our industry. And it could be a stepping stone to meet the pressures that face our profession.

**There is a Raffi song (my kids are 6 and 4 years old) titled "Thanks A lot"**, that is what comes to my mind as my term as President winds down. Thank you Board members for your wisdom, creative thoughts and leadership. Thank you Somerset staff (Kim, Jason, Josh, Jose and Sheree) for doing the little extra things while I have been gone, not to mention proof reading. I give thanks for my wife Stephanie and family for enduring my busyness. A big thank you to Scott and Jeff Turtinen who keep the nuts and bolts of the association well oiled.

**Even though my term is winding down** I have learned one thing; my work within the association is just beginning. Even though I won't have a monthly column anymore hopefully I will be writing some other articles. Even though I won't be leading the BOD meetings anymore, hopefully I will be keeping track of what goes on and lending a helping hand whenever needed. I didn't attend many business meetings before being on the Board; from here on in if, I am available I will be there. I guess my point is one person isn't indispensable if the membership as a whole is doing it's best to play a part within the MGCSA. Due to its history and the people who have gone before us, it is an organization to be proud of.

**May your winter be restful** and hopefully it won't snow on the weekends. Thanks a lot for listening to me for two years. The best is yet to come!

- James

**HOLE NOTES** (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly November/December, January/February for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 700 Twelve Oaks Center Dr., Suite 706, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, P. O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.

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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the MGCSA

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## Nolan, Pille, Keyes and Swanson Win Fall Mixer at Le Sueur Country Club

The MGCSA has not been rained out for an event in over 20 years. The October 8 Fall Mixer at Le Sueur Country Club came close to ending the streak but a nice, cool wind blew the rain away. The day turned out to be very comfortable with blue skies and white, puffy clouds. Carts were not available due to wet turf so everyone walked and got a nice workout in this year's final MGCSA golf event.

Seventy-five members signed up for the event and 61 braved the early morning weather scare and played.

**Host Superintendent Tom Meier** and his staff had the course in excellent shape.

The MGCSA appreciates the efforts of General Manager Jerry Carpenter and his staff for providing excellent accommodations to hold our meeting.

**Our speaker was Molly Moriarty of Heart & Soil.** Her informative talk centered around garden design basics.

**Winners of the event** at Le Sueur CC were Pete Nolan and his two assistants, Erik Pille and Andy Keyes from The Meadows at Mystic Lake Golf Club, who teamed up with Jason Swanson, Hidden Greens Golf Club, to shoot a 19-under par score of 125 in the net two-ball format.

**Three teams tied for second place** at 17-under par: Jim O'Neill and Doug Daniel, Cycle Works of Minnesota, Eric



### FALL MIXER WINNERS AT LE SUEUR COUNTRY CLUB

*Pictured from left to right are Jason Swanson, Hidden Greens GC, along with Erik Pille, Andy Keyes and Pete Nolan from The Meadows at Mystic Lake GC.*

Peters, North Links Golf Course, and Nick Folk, The Minikahda Club; the Glencoe team of Jeff Vinkemeier, Marv Howe, Manley Vinkemeier and Dave Wendlandt, and the squad of Scott Melling, Par Aide, Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota, Rob Panuska, Waseca Lakeside Club, and Charlie Miller, Goodrich Golf Course.

**Closest-to-the-pin winners** were Manley Vinkemeier, Bruce Leivermann of Montgomery Golf Club, Eric Peters and Jason Swanson. Gary Rossi, Riverwood National/Vintage Golf Course, sank the longest putt. Scott Thayer, Legends Club, hit the longest drive of the day.

**Thanks again to all vendors** who sponsored our events this past summer. They were: BASF, Bayer Environmental Services, Cycle Works of Minnesota, Dow Agrosiences, HydroLogic, Lesco, Malmborg's Greenhouse & Garden Center, Mom's Garden

Management, Northern Turf Services, Par Aide Products, Prosource One, Superior Tech Products, Superior Turf Services, Syngenta, Tessman Company, Turfwerks and Yamaha.

**Our next event is the MGCSA Appreciation and Recognition Banquet** at Prestwick Golf Club in Woodbury on December 4. Invitations have been mailed.



**Tom Meier**

*Host Superintendent at Le Sueur CC*

### MGCSA FALL MIXER RESULTS

125	Brown, Keyes, Nolan, Pille
127	Melling, Miller, Panuska, Horgan
127	Peters, Folk, Daniel, O'Neill
127	Huwe, J. Vinkemeier, M. Vinkemeier, Wendlandt
129	Meier, Schmidt, Thayer, Leivermann
130	Eilers, Wethor, Edberg
133	Rostal, Johnson, Kelly, Provo
133	Mattson, Redmond, Raabe
138	Proshek, Swanson, Hendrickson, West
138	Martin, Sandvsky, Rossi, Webb
138	Hemquist, Schafer, Knox, Norby
140	Manske, Hubbard CGCS, Clunis CGCS, Ruehling
143	Mohr, Weineke, Wempen
144	Oberle, Burmeister, Langager, Ekstrom
144	Bertram, Tschida, Sedey, Ziemann
144	Colvert, Donovan, Malm, Dhan



# To Research and Beyond

By JAMES BADE

*President, Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association*

A year ago the MGCSA Board was working on the concept of managing a golf course in Forest Lake. While that opportunity did not work out, the foundation was being laid in case another opportunity arose. This past year the people of Mendota Heights voted "yes" to purchasing the Mendota Heights Par 3; this would keep the 15-acre site a golf course instead of becoming another housing development. Hence, another opportunity has come our way to try something bold and innovative as an association.

## **The City of Mendota Heights is looking for someone to manage their golf course.**

Why not the MGCSA? Isn't that what we do best? The overriding reason for this possible venture is, having a place to do real live research. For example, to my knowledge, all NTEP studies are done on University campuses. What if the U of M took promising grasses and put them on a golf course where people are walking and taking divots? What if we took three of the holes and used just organic fertilizer or took three holes and used less water or did a phosphorus study by the pond? The possibilities are vast and these are just some of the reasons why we have kept this idea alive.

## **The revenues from this operation would be split between the city and the MGCSA.**

The MGCSA, being a non-profit, would funnel the revenue right into research. With ever increasing pressures on the environment, recreational use of land is going to be on the forefront of legislative regulation. Therefore, research is going to be an indispensable tool for us. I truly believe that we, golf course superintendents, are environmental stewards. Wouldn't it be great if we had a place to take state legislators and show them the positives of golf course green space? To have a site that shows them we are on the forefront of technology and research is exciting to me.

Beyond the aspect of research, another objective or goal of this project would be to fund a turfgrass pathologist. Isn't that an exciting thought if this venture proved profitable enough? The MGCSA's own pathologist to make site visits when mutating diseases come our way.

**So here is what has transpired so far.** The Board formed a committee to ask philosophical questions as to why we might pursue this. We also asked ourselves the nuts and bolts questions of how this might all work. Satisfied that we could make this work, we called in the affiliates for a meeting since they are such an integral part of our association. The vendors' opinions and expertise proved invaluable last year so we, the committee, wanted to know if this is a path we should try and take or are there too many red flags that we should put this aside and not waste any time or money?

The vendor meeting was very well attended. Lots of tough questions were asked; at the same time there was a lot of support if we moved forward appropriately. So what is the next step? The Board is going to put a proposal together to present to the city. If the city thinks we are close and it is something that will work out, then we will vote on the measure as an Association. It is unrealistic to think this could happen before the beginning of the New Year, yet we hope to discuss the issue at the Annual Business Meeting.

As always, if you ever have any questions, feel free to call me (*James Bade*) or any other board member on this issue.

*Sincerely,  
James Bade*



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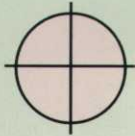
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IN THE CROSSHAIRS

## Autumnal Gleanings

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS  
Keller Golf Course

**Birds, Birds, Birds:** Not to brag but the bluebird trail at Keller Golf Course fledged 138 bluebird youngsters this year from 181 eggs. We continue to set new records every year, even with serious house sparrow and raccoon pressure. I actually have some golfers that are taking note of our large populations and expressing their sincere pleasure. This is very gratifying to me as for many years I thought I was one of few enjoying these beautiful creatures!

I can't emphasize this enough...golf courses provide INCREDIBLE habitat for bluebirds. They love trees, open spaces and short grass. With the investment of very little time and resources you can set up a modest trail of your own. I would recommend that you join the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota (bbrp.org) to help you get started. Check out the top ten tips for starting a bluebird trail on their website to see if you have what it takes to be a successful blue birder. Also, BBRP will be at the 2008 Green Expo along with Jack Hauser, BBRP liaison to golf courses. Jack can be reached at 952-831-8132. I am also more than willing to help out anyone interested in starting a trail. Give me a call or send me an e-mail.

### Redheads In Trouble

Speaking of birds, there is currently a movement afoot to assist Red-headed Woodpecker (RhW) populations in the state of Minnesota. A group calling itself the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program has formed with the intent of expanding RhW populations in the state. This is one of the first groups to form in the U.S. for this purpose. As one might expect, Jack Hauser is involved in this fledgling group as well.

Why Red-headed Woodpeckers? It seems that their numbers have declined 89% since 1967! It is speculated that the decline is due to the loss of oak savanna habitat, the removal of dead and dying trees (snags) and the suppression of wildfires. Many golf courses have the opportunity to provide nesting habitat via artificial nest boxes, allowing snags to remain standing in non-hazardous locations and by utilizing prescribed burns in appropriate woodlots. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Jack Hauser at the number listed above.

Side-note: Back in the late '80s and early '90s, I had the opportunity to observe several of these avian wonders on a regular basis over a period of several years on a golf course where I was previously employed. These birds are stunning to see in person!

### PCNB Status... Going, Going, ???

I have heard rumors from multiple sources over the past several months that PCNB will continue to be available for use on golf courses. Comments I have received from industry representatives on the manufacturing and distribution sides of PCNB all seem to indicate an exception will be allowed for snow mold control on fairway turfgrass. The problem is no one is able to confirm this speculation. I spent an hour of frustration on the U.S. EPA website searching for any current information on the status of PCNB. One document I came across seemed to indicate that additional test results were still being analyzed this past summer. The third public comment period ended back on January 8, 2007. I e-mailed the EPA supervisor who is managing the re-registration of this product. I eventually received a response from her as follows: "It is possible if we determine that the public comments don't provide enough substantive information to support a change in the decision, that the registrants will use the rights of

appeal allowed by pesticide law to challenge the decision. Therefore, it is not possible to determine when the decision will be final. We do hope to complete our response to comments late this calendar year or early next year." There you have it from the horse's mouth!

### A Message From RISE

The following is an October excerpt from a Minnesota Grassroots Alert sent by Elizabeth Grotos, the new Grassroots Manager from RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment):

"I am writing to make you aware of a pending pesticide issue in your state. Rep. Ken Tschumper (DFL-Houston and Fillmore Counties) is hosting a hearing tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. in Wadena Memorial Auditorium to discuss efforts to broaden Minnesota's pesticide-right-to-know law and to hear from area citizens concerned about possible human health effects of pesticide exposure.

The hearing will be held in rural Wadena, a hotbed area for anti-pesticide activity, which is not located in his district."

(An update from the hearing in Wadena...Theresa Ambroz, lobbyist for MN PIE (Pesticide Information and Education) attended the meeting. In a communication with Elizabeth Grotos of RISE, she stated that the meeting was anything but informal. It was a well-planned event that turned out to be an opportunity for anti-pesticide activists to raise unsubstantiated claims about pesticide drift from aerial applications.)

It is probably safe to assume that Rep. Tschumper, chair of the House Subcommittee on Environmental Justice and Healthy Housing, will be introducing new legislation when the Minnesota State Legislature reconvenes in February of 2008. He will be pressing for possible banning of aerial pesticide applications, pre-spray neighbor notification laws, monthly pesticide report submittals to the MN Dept. of Agriculture and opening up restricted-use application records to the general public. Keep your eyes and ears open. Get involved. You have a voice. Use it! Let YOUR representatives know how these issues affect you.

The new contact information for RISE is: Elizabeth L. Grotos, Grassroots Manager, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), (202) 872-3869 or egrotos@pestfacts.org and www.pestfacts.org.

### Bye-Bye "P"

Wisconsin recently passed new anti-phosphorous fertilizer legislation that includes golf course properties. As of March 10, 2008, anyone applying fertilizer to five acres or more will be required to have a written site-specific nutrient management plan based on soil tests. Phosphorous applications are prohibited unless deficiencies are indicated via soil testing.

### On the Other Hand

Six years of research conducted at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Wayne Kussow has shown that:

~ Banning phosphorous in fertilizer does not reduce phosphorous runoff into water bodies.

~ Lawns treated with phosphorous fertilizers produced less phosphorous runoff than those where no phosphorous was applied.

~ On the average, runoff was 78% greater from unfertilized plots than from fertilized plots.

Go figure!

### Green Expo Keeps On A Rockin'

The 2008 Minnesota Green Expo Trade Show officially "sold out" on November 16. This is especially impressive in that 17 additional booths were added to the 2008 floor layout. While most turf and grounds conferences across the U.S. continue to decline in size, our show gets bigger and better every year! I hope to see you there.

**Happy Holidays!**



*Thanks for another great year.  
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in 2008!*



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# MTGF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mark Stennes, Plant Pathologist  
President, Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist #MN-0147B

My Swedish weather rock was swinging a few times this summer, but it did not get wet very often and our ornamental landscape plant materials were forced to take notice, often with very unfortunate results. Landscapes with sufficient irrigation, and the trees within them, held up pretty well, but the drought was severe and extended and happened at the height of the evapotranspirative demand for water in trees. While many hackberry, silver maple and boxelder trees dried up completely, even the normally drought-tolerant burl oak suffered. The rains have fortunately returned, the grass has greened up again, and there seems to be evidence of

recovery in some trees. You can bet that energy budgets have been stressed, and maybe even strained to the breaking point in some cases. My crystal ball has failed me so often recently that I had to put a towel over it, but I fear for the fate of many invaluable old shade trees that did not get to benefit from any form of supplemental water.

On a more positive note the Economic Impact Survey (EIS) the MTGF commissioned in 2006 is completed. Readex Research conducted the survey, which was reviewed and statistically verified by the UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research in 2007. The green infrastructure maintenance industries we represent pump over \$8.2 billion through the Minnesota economy every year. That's billion, with a "b." We represent more than 54,000 jobs, more than the number of principal operators in farming (51,000), and manage over 508,000 acres, the 8th largest of individual agricultural commodities. The message is that we collectively have a major impact on the economic well-being of the State of Minnesota, and have dependable figures that show it. The challenge now is to take it to the bank.

**Our mission to promote the green industries in Minnesota** through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere remains unchanged. Our challenge is to

accomplish our mission more effectively, and our hope is that the EIS can substantially assist us in that regard. We are in the midst of preparing a white paper summary of our EIS to share with legislators, researchers, educators and other policy

*"Our mission to promote the green industries in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere remains unchanged. Our challenge is to accomplish our mission more effectively."*

makers who can and do influence research, education and outreach priorities at our public institutions of higher learning. It's all about the money, and there is nowhere near enough of it. We granted over \$100,000 this year, enough to keep critical turf research and teaching programs at the University going that could not go on without it, but it was barely one third of the requests. We need a larger and more dependable revenue stream for our researchers and educators and believe we now have a powerful new lever to employ.

**"Yes," you say, "but how or why does all this matter to me?"** At a recent board of directors meeting with executives and officers of the associations affiliated with the MTGF we learned that due to a lack of effective reporting to the affiliates we have not adequately answered that question. While it always seems to be true that there is more need than money, the foundation has substantial success to report. Including more than \$408,000 the MTGF has directly granted since it was founded in 1993, more than \$1.15 million in cash and in-kind contributions have been made by our members in support of our mission. Grantees have included the departments of horticulture and plant pathology, the College of Natural Resources (CNR), the Landscape Arboretum and UMore Park, among others. The foundation has

funded teaching, research and outreach at the Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education (TROE) Center and the TRE Nursery. There are too many projects to enumerate specifically, but close to me personally are experiments on planting depths for trees and research on Dutch elm disease tolerance in both hybrid elm trees and specific cultivars of American elm. We have reason to hope that we will some day have a local provenance, disease-tolerant cultivar of American elm, and a reason to be proud of the foundation's role in funding the research. The MTGF even helped the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture fund the development of a video on

preventing stem girdling roots of trees that went on to win an award at the International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference in Seattle, Wash. in 2003. For the reasons cited above among many others, the MTGF and its actions and efforts matter to you.

**At this point, and probably for the very long term, the Minnesota Green Expo is our principal source of revenue.** Fortunately this collaborative effort with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association has been an outstanding success, getting bigger every year with every new year being more promising than the last. Green Expo '07 drew more than 8,000 paid attendees, each of which contributed to the pool of money we were able to grant for the purpose of advancing our mission. Expo '08 will be bigger and better than ever. The two largest domes are already spoken for by our loyal industry vendors, and the educational programs promise to be stronger than ever. There are few, if any, better learning opportunities for green industry professionals than provided during the Green Expo, and now we get to use the Minneapolis Convention Center's newest facilities. So please set Wednesday, January 9 through Friday, January 11, 2008 aside on your calendar for the grandest green industry exposition ever. Pick a reason, any reason, you will not be disappointed.