

## Establishing a Plan-

(Continued from Page 20)

outside your budget, figure out why it happened and make changes." Use the ideas and utilize resources in a way that allows efficiency. To accomplish this don't compromise plans and objectives.

**Joel:** "At times of growth, like those we are in, assessing resource needs is challenging. We simply talk through the plans as we understand them and apply resources accordingly. It's important to note the words "apply"; it's not about adding in many cases but instead resetting priorities and reallocating existing resources."

Unrealistic plans can create more problems than they solve. For example, an impossible schedule set by one depart-

ment may eventually affect the schedules of many other departments, causing inefficient use of resources, late introduction to the marketplace of an advertised product, and a general sense that things are out of order.

### *What techniques do you use for evaluating project plans as a part of the planning process?*

**Jim:** For finances, make spreadsheets for evaluation and confront it with all possible things that could go wrong. Timing aspects are very important but very difficult. In his profession Jim says, "What I do is dependent on the weather. I plan everything out three days in advance to make sure we accomplish our tasks." Adapting to the weather tends to be a "hind sight is 20/20" situation. You can try to predict but don't plan on it.

Keeping track of the overall picture is the best way to avoid overcommitting yourself.

**Joel:** "Our approach to prevent problems is addressed by adhering to two rules: Have the right people in the room. Expect clear, direct, honest communication from each participant during the meeting."

I would like to thank Dr. Balogh and Mr. Conner for their time and hope everyone has taken something from this article. If you have any ideas for future "Management Matters" articles please feel free to email me at [jryan@northlandcountryclub.com](mailto:jryan@northlandcountryclub.com).

\* \* \* \*

(Editor's Note: Joel Conner's profile was gathered from Bellisio Foods, Inc. website. Lead-ins and questions are developed from "Successful Manager's Handbook.")

# CLASSIFIED ADS

#### FOR SALE

5-1998 Toro fairway cutting units (8 blades) Mod. 03509 in excellent shape, used as spares.

Fits Toro models 5100 or 5200  
Asking \$1250

5-1998 Toro fairway verticut heads Mod. 03516 in excellent condition  
Fits Toro models 5100 or 5200

Asking \$1250  
Contact: Keith Scott  
Oak Ridge CC  
952-938-6900

#### FOR SALE

6" Muesco pressure reducing valve. \$200  
Nema open motor starters.  
Size 3 - 240 volt coil.  
Size 4 - 120 volt coil.  
\$450 each obo.

Contact: Lynn Richert  
Angushire Golf Course  
320-252-9208

#### FOR SALE

GA 30 Ryan Aerifier (1990) - \$3,500  
(2) Ryan walker Aerifiers (1984) - \$1,500/units  
Jacobsen GK IV Triplex (Groomers) (1991) - \$3,500  
Jacobsen GK IV Triplex (Diesel) (1989) - \$1,500  
Jacobsen GK IV Triplex (Gas) (1987) - \$1,000  
Toro Fairway Mower Reelmaster 5300-D (1999) - \$5,000  
Toro Groundsmaster (2000) - \$3,500  
Jacobsen Rotary Turfcat (1999) - \$5,000

Contact: Tim O'Driscoll  
Rochester Golf & Country Club  
507/536-4487

#### FOR SALE

(3) 2005 Toro Reelmaster 5500 Verticut Units,  
Model 03872, New-still on pallet,

New price: \$1,450 each  
Sell all 3 for \$1,000

1994 Toro Reelmaster 5300, serviced, fresh ground cutting units, recent paint job, ROPSw/ suntop, basket kit, nice condition.  
\$4,500

Contact: Mitch Fossey  
Troy Burne Golf Club  
715-386-2902

#### FOR SALE

Toro VT4 Complete Satellites  
\$100 each.

Vari-time 4000 Central Control Station \$300.

Toro 690 Series Sprinklers and parts for sale.

These do not have side boxes but are electrically-controlled by the solenoid being attached to a Toro 3-way actuator.

Head with 3-way \$40, Head only \$30.

Spare Toro 3-way actuators with solenoid \$10

1997 Jacobsen Greensking V 11 Blade With Groomers - 4,000  
Par Aide Spherical Plastic Tee markers for sale.

46 total, mix of Gold, Red, White and Blue colors.  
\$100 for all of them.

Two 4' X 6' cocoa fiber drag mats. Used for three seasons, in very good condition. \$150 each.

Contact: John Koury  
or Jeramie Gossman  
Southview Country Club  
651-451-1666

#### FOR SALE

Set of 3 Toro 04416 verticut units, for GR3000 series.

Good condition. \$700.00 / make offer

Contact: Chad Braun  
Prestwick G C  
651-459-0288

#### FOR SALE

2003 Royal Lynx Beverage Caddy Express tow-style beverage cart in excellent condition.  
\$5,500 or best offer.

Contact: Jeremiah Niebolte  
The Crossings at Montevideo  
320-226-8812

#### FOR SALE

Jacobson Textron Hydro Lawn Mower/Sweeper, Turfcat T628D, with Kubota

Diesel Motor, Rear Wheel Steering, 5 Foot Wide Sweeper Attached to Front (Hydraulically Powered) and Mower Deck (not pictured yet), Enclosed Cab, Metal Rims with Good Tires, Parking Brake, Wipers on Front And Back, Exterior and Interior Lights, Heat and Fan Adjustment Controls, Pop Open Windows, Hazard Lights, Blinkers, Electric Key Start. Hours Indicated 872.

Contact: Jeff Weber  
Southview Country Club  
612-281-0508

#### FOR SALE

40 Standard Tour Smooth green composite handle bunker rakes, 3 complete sets of Great Lakes log tee markers, 2 HIO cup cutters, make offer.

Contact: Jim Temple  
Crystal Lake Golf Club  
952-953-3656

#### FOR SALE

(16) Yamaha Gas Carts with tops 1989-1993. Good Bodies, excellent mechanically. \$25,000 all or \$1,650 each.  
Contact: Harley Extsted  
Fiddlestix Golf Course  
612-390-6862 or 320-676-3327

#### WANTED

Box Blade attachment for a Sand Pro  
Contact: Jake Schmitz  
Olympic Hills Golf Club  
952-941-6139

#### FOR SALE

1964 Ryan Spikeaire  
1989 Gandy Sweep Master w/ Hydraulic lift, very little use: \$700  
(39) Par Aide Accuform (old style) rakes (good shape): \$400  
Contact: Ben Just  
Midland Hills Country Club  
651-631-1545

#### WANTED

Jacobsen LF 100 - 128 Series Fairway Mower for parts.  
Does not need to run.  
Contact: Steve Benson  
Grand National Golf Club  
320-266-8150

#### FOR SALE

Nolte BC1000 sand cleaner - late 90's model works great and in good condition.  
For sale or possibly to rent out: \$5,000.00  
1973 Toro Parkmaster, some extra parts available: Best Offer  
Contact: Kyle Fick  
Bully Pulpit  
701-623-2323

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# Understanding Cancer

Courtesy of the National Cancer Institute and Mayo Clinic

Cancer begins in cells, the building blocks that form tissues. Tissues make up the organs of the body.

Normally, cells grow and divide to form new cells as the body needs them. When cells grow old, they die, and new cells take their place.

Sometimes, this orderly process goes wrong. New cells form when the body does not need them, and old cells do not die when they should. These extra cells can form a mass of tissue called a growth or tumor.

## Tumors Can Be Benign or Malignant

- Benign tumors are not cancer:
- Benign tumors are rarely life-threatening.

- Generally, benign tumors can be removed, and they usually do not grow back.

- Cells from benign tumors do not invade the tissues around them.

- Cells from benign tumors do not spread to other parts of the body.

- Malignant tumors are cancer:

- Malignant tumors are generally more serious than benign tumors. They may be life-threatening.

- Malignant tumors often can be removed, but sometimes they grow back.

- Cells from malignant tumors can invade and damage nearby tissues and organs.

- Cells from malignant tumors can spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body. Cancer cells spread by breaking away from the original (primary) tumor and entering the bloodstream or lymphatic system. The cells can invade other organs, forming new tumors that damage these organs. The spread of cancer is called metastasis.

Most cancers are named for where they start. For example, lung cancer starts in the lung, and breast cancer starts in the breast. Lymphoma is cancer that starts in the lymphatic system. And leukemia is cancer that starts in white blood cells (leukocytes).

When cancer spreads and forms a new tumor in another part of the body, the new tumor has the same kind of abnormal cells and the same name as the primary tumor. For example, if prostate cancer spreads to the bones, the cancer cells in the bones are actually prostate cancer cells. The disease is metastatic prostate cancer, not bone cancer. For that reason, it is treated as prostate

*"Usually, early cancer does not cause pain. If you have symptoms, do not wait to feel pain before seeing a doctor."*

cancer, not bone cancer. Doctors sometimes call the new tumor "distant" or metastatic disease

## Risk Factors

Doctors often cannot explain why one person develops cancer and another does not. But research shows that certain risk factors increase the chance that a person will develop cancer.

These are the most common risk factors for cancer:

- Growing older
- Tobacco
- Sunlight
- Ionizing radiation
- Certain chemicals and other substances
- Some viruses and bacteria
- Certain hormones
- Family history of cancer
- Alcohol
- Poor diet, lack of physical activity, or being overweight

Many of these risk factors can be avoided. Others, such as family history, cannot be avoided. People can help protect themselves by staying away from known risk factors whenever possible.

If you think you may be at risk for cancer, you should discuss this concern with your doctor. You may want to ask about reducing your risk and about a schedule for checkups.

Over time, several factors may act together to cause normal cells to become cancerous. When thinking about your risk of getting cancer, these are some things to keep in mind:

Not everything causes cancer.

Cancer is not caused by an injury, such as a bump or bruise.

Cancer is not contagious. Although being infected with certain viruses or bacteria may increase the risk of some types of cancer, no one can "catch" cancer from another person.

- Having one or more risk factors does not mean that you will get cancer. Most people who have risk factors never develop cancer.

- Some people are more sensitive than others to the known risk factors.

## Symptoms

Cancer can cause many different symptoms. These are some of them:


- A thickening or lump in the breast or any other part of the body
- A new mole or a change in an existing mole
- A sore that does not heal
- Hoarseness or a cough that does not go away
- Changes in bowel or bladder habits
- Discomfort after eating
- A hard time swallowing
- Weight gain or loss with no known reason
- Unusual bleeding or discharge
- Feeling weak or very tired

Most often, these symptoms are not due to cancer. They may also be caused by benign tumors or other problems. Only a doctor can tell for sure. Anyone with these symptoms or other changes in health should see a doctor to diagnose and treat problems as early as possible.

Usually, early cancer does not cause pain. If you have symptoms, do not wait to feel pain before seeing a doctor.

*(Editor's Note: Part II of Understanding Cancer will be printed in the May 2008 issue of Hole Notes.)*





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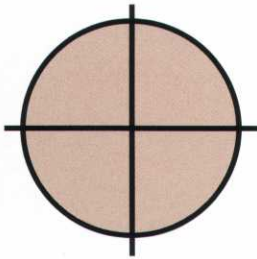
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In the Crosshairs

# pro-ak'tiv

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS  
MGCSA Education Chair  
Keller Golf Course

proactive (pro-ak'tiv) Having an orientation to the future, anticipating problems and taking affirmative steps to deal positively with them rather than reacting after a situation has already occurred.

For those of you who don't feel proactivity with legislators/regulators (one and the same?) is in our best interest, just look to the east to see what has happened and is happening in Wisconsin. Similar to Minnesota, phosphorous is not banned in the state, but its use requires a soil test showing a deficiency. In addition, they have passed an administrative rule (NR 151) requiring a nutrient management plan for all entities that fertilize a minimum of five acres of turf. The rule excludes agriculture operations, sod production and community gardens. Non-compliance can result in fines from \$10 - \$5,000/day plus possible restoration / remediation costs and investigative/prosecution costs. Each day of non-compliance is a separate offense! The purpose of the rule is to protect water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment losses from agricultural areas, municipalities, large turf grass areas and transportation facilities. NR 151 regulates the amount, method, timing and source of nutrient applications on

turfgrass and is based on maintaining healthy turf at 70% cover. Check out the University of Wisconsin Turf website at: <http://www.turf.wisc.edu>. There is a great deal of information on NR 151 available here and you no doubt will be asking questions as you wade through this program. There is no shortage of gray areas!

**Why is NR151 important?** The Midwest precedent has been set. It is just a matter of time before this type of legislation shows up on our doorstep. How we respond will determine our fate. If you don't see this nanny-state regulation as a potential problem let me ask you - where does it end?

**Thank you to those attended the March Mini-Seminar** at North Oaks GC. There was some very good information shared by Drs. Carrow, Leinauer and Horgan on water conservation measures and the current situations in the southern U.S. I feel it is necessary that we, as an association and a leading member of the Green Industry in Minnesota, must deal with this issue now rather than later. That is why your MGCSA Board is forming a water conservation committee to get us on track. Several members have already stepped up and volunteered to serve on this committee. If you are interested contact Scott Turtinen or Rick Traver to get your name on the list.

I remember a conversation I had with James Bade right after he became the MGCSA President two years ago. He expressed his desire to initiate some action relative to our role in water conservation at the state level. My response at the time was less than enthusiastic, luke-warm at best. We live in the land of 10,000 lakes! Why should we be concerned about water? In the last two years, with the droughts in the south and the changing political climate, I have seen the light...the same light that visionary James Bade saw two years ago. Do you see the light?

**I have received many inquiries on the uses for VinylGuard** on the golf course. Most are using it to cover fiberglass bunker rake handles and flagsticks. We applied the product to our rake handles last year and will use the product this spring to cover our ball washer mounting posts. The product is available in many colors, sizes and finishes. The VinylGuard website is: [www.vinylguardgolf.com](http://www.vinylguardgolf.com). Philip Cowen is the President of the company and all contact information is available on the website. Where did this idea originate? A member of TurfNet.com came up with the idea and shared it with other members online. The company VinylGuard Golf soon followed.

Our Editor of *Hole Notes*, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, asked me to take a look at Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's) as an additional expose' on the environmental issues we face here in Minnesota and across this great country of ours. So here goes. To put this in proper perspective, over the past several years I have changed out 95% of the bulbs in my home to fluorescent lighting. For some unexplainable reason I jumped on the CFL bandwagon headfirst.


My family prefers the "natural" light version of this bulb and I will be the first to admit it takes some getting used to. The light

(Continued on Page 25)

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## In the Crosshairs-

(Continued from Page 24)

is a bit harsh initially and appears to have a slight blue tinge to it. With time your eyes become accustomed to it. These bulbs are definitely more expensive than incandescent lighting. I generally purchase them on sale in multi-packs at one of the big box stores for around \$2.00 - \$2.75 apiece. The manufacturers claim 8,000 to 10,000 hours for average bulb life. I have replaced at least six bulbs in the last 18 months that were nowhere near 8,000 hours of use. What is going on here? My research revealed - on the downside:

CFL's contain about 5 mg of mercury. That equates to 100-600x less than the amount of mercury contained in a fever thermometer.

Some people are unable to adjust to the "different" qualities of light emitted by a CFL.

CFL's are considered hazardous waste and should be recycled and not thrown in the trash. Check with your county hazardous waste collection center for recycling options.

CFL's require 30 seconds to 3.5 minutes to warm up to maximum light output and energy efficiency.

Repeated on/off cycles during the course of a day will shorten lamp life (I believe this is the reason for my reduced lamp life).

CFL's cannot be used with dimmer switches unless their packaging says "dimmable".

### On the upside:

CFL's use 30% of the electricity required by a filament bulb of the same light output. Consumer Reports lists average savings for a 60W equivalent CFL at \$5.00/bulb/year if used an average of three hours/day.

Life expectancy is listed between 6 and 10 years (average of three hours per day) depending on the brand of bulb.

Quality is improving while pricing continues to drop.

Currently, compact fluorescent lamps definitely offer a "green" alternative for lighting your home. Hopefully recycling options will catch up with increasing consumer usage.

\* \* \* \*

*(Editor's Note: If you have a rebuttal, addition, or comments on any In the Crosshairs column, feel free to submit to the Hole Notes magazine for publication. After all, isn't that what makes America great?)*

## It's in the Hole....

### Assistants: It's Important To Submit Your External Education Approval Codes

Assistant Superintendents: Are you submitting your external education approval codes? By submitting those approval codes, you are jump starting your advancement through GCSAA membership levels by recording points that count towards entry requirements into Class A. It's not too late to record those approval codes: Simply submit them via the online education point affidavit found in the **My Points** section of the website.



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# PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING



## MGCSA Superintendents were asked:

*How are Superintendents/Staff using e-mail for accepting or applying for jobs?  
Are emailed resumes acceptable or do you prefer the hard copy variety?*

I used email to apply for my new job, and it worked very well sending my resume electronically. However, it is possible that some Superintendents do not have access to online services at work, so in those cases applicants for staff positions may need to send hard copies of their resumes. - Ron Noyce, Sundance GC

When I have applied for jobs if an email address was provided I sent my application by email. One suggestion I have is to convert your documents to a PDF file and email in that format. This will make sure the person you send the document to views it exactly the way you want them to, regardless of what word processing program was used. When a document created in Word gets opened by another word processing program, the results might not be pretty.

When accepting resumes I prefer to receive them by email. It's easier to save the documents and they can be printed or emailed to others involved in hiring if necessary. People should not be afraid of an email or digital format being unprofessional. In my

opinion the formatting and writing skills of a candidate are enough to show professionalism. I don't need fancy paper or priority postage to tell me someone is a professional. - Chris Tritabaugh, Northland CC

At Southview Country Club we do all of our job advertising electronically. We have had good success posting job openings with the MGCSA and will continue to do this for future openings. We are willing to accept resumes through email but also list our mailing address. In my opinion it is acceptable to email resumes, especially if you are getting the posting through an email. -Jeramie Gossman, Southview CC

At Coffee Mill Golf Club, I prefer to receive resumes via e-mail although paper copies are welcomed.

E-mailed resumes are sent directly to me, rather than to our combined facility mailbox. This makes e-mailed versions available to me more quickly. E-mailed versions can also be immediately and easily replied to making additional data gathering and follow up much more convenient. Electronic versions are easier to store and retrieve from various locations (depending on your network) eliminating the need to carry paper copies around or work from the office. The content of the resume is important, not the method of delivery. - Jeff Normandt, Coffee Mill GC

I like the hard copy version. Using the hard copy version allows an individual to set up the cover letter, resume and references appropriately. It also allows one to use the type of paper they want to use, and there is a difference in paper quality. The information should come in an envelope unfolded. Having received emailed resumes, I find them to be less organized and less professional as compared to the hard copy versions and with 30 or more applying for assistant positions, one must separate themselves from the pack and get an interview. As for offering a job to a candidate, I'll call them as opposed to offering them the position via email. Again, it's more personal. -Ben Just, Midland Hills CC

Call me old school, but I still prefer a hard copy mailed by the applicant. It is too easy for a person to click on the "send" button at their computer. The person who mails a resume is forced to put more time and effort into the process. The person doing the hiring also has an obligation to respond in writing to all applicants as soon as the position has been filled. Professionalism and etiquette should be demonstrated by both parties! - Jeff Ische, Golden Valley Golf and CC

I personally do not mind if an applicant sends an e-mail with their application or resume. It does, however, really bother me when I get an unsolicited e-mail asking if there are jobs available and then asking me to send them an application. I am not the one looking for the job, why should I have to do the work to get them to apply. - E. P. Eckholm, CGCS, Heritage Links GC

(Continued on Page 28)

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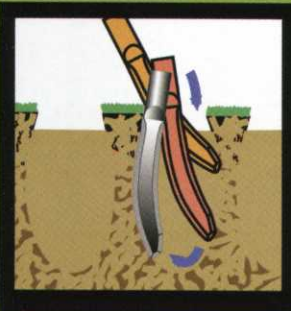
Sealed off greens create a number of problems including: fungus growth, algae growth, isolated dry spots, over heated surfaces (due to ponded water), and oxygen depleted root zones that cause summer root decline.

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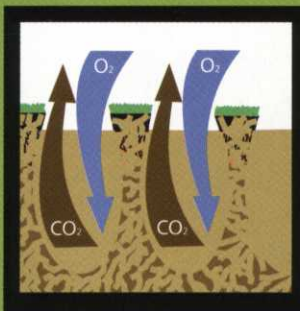
Our shatter knife technology - combined with our patented planetary motion - creates pore space throughout your root zone, eliminating compaction.



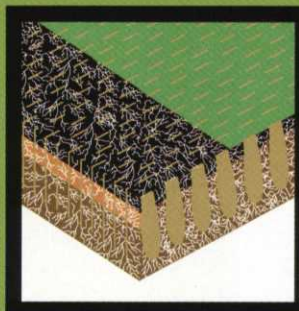
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## Peer-to-Peer-

(Continued from Page 26)

I prefer hard copies but will accept email forms but it also depends on the position. If it is an Assistant Superintendent position I am looking at filling, I prefer a hard copy. I like to see how much time and effort went into their presentation (i.e., paper selection, their handwriting detail on the envelope, etc.) With lesser positions, I just prefer the email form of resumes. One thing I have noticed in recent years is the lack of a professional cover letter when applicants email their resumes. Cover letters are a great example of how well an individual communicates their thoughts. I make it a point to always request a cover letter no matter how the resumes are sent.

-David J. Soltvedt,  
The Ridge at Castle Pines North

I personally like the hard copy, but will except an e-mail. The interview is the biggest part for me. Your resume may get you in the door, but I want to know about the character of the person.

-Walt Braunig  
Thompson Oaks GC

I just went through this situation for the first time two weeks ago. I gave the option of e-mail, fax or sending the resume to me. In my opinion, the vehicle for resume delivery is inconsequential. I would print any resume I get as hardcopy from an e-mail I am intersted in. I would think e-mailing would benefit the applicant even more than the person hiring from a time/money aspect. Of the 15 or so applicants I beleive every one came in via e-mail. Also, obviously, the process is much faster and response simpler.

- Dave Kazmierczak,  
Prestwick GC

In my opinion, email is one of the greatest tools available to us as outdoors tradesman. First and foremost it allows me a chance to develop a line of communication to set up appointments or what have you to negate the problem of phone tag across time zones and schedules. By getting an emailed version of a esume/application, it allows me to at that point tell the candidate that I've gotten their information, am looking over it and ask for a best time to talk to them over the phone, etc. I know when I was younger and applying for jobs, I hated not know-

ing if my letter got to a prospective employer, or to not have any contact or communication at all. As long as documents are in a standard word processor form, it's just as easy for me to open and print it, rather than wasting postage and envelopes.

-Kyle Fick  
GCS, Bully Pulpit GC

I think its great that we use the web for applications, thats what we know and I think everyone prefers except the old timers.

- Will DuCharme  
Rum River Hills GC

I have had success looking for an assistant gardener via the internet and receiving their information online. It is easy to respond to them as well. So for that purpose the internet has worked well. If looking for an assistant I might lean towards a hard copy mailing but certainly wouldn't exclude an email.

-James Bade  
Somerset C.C.

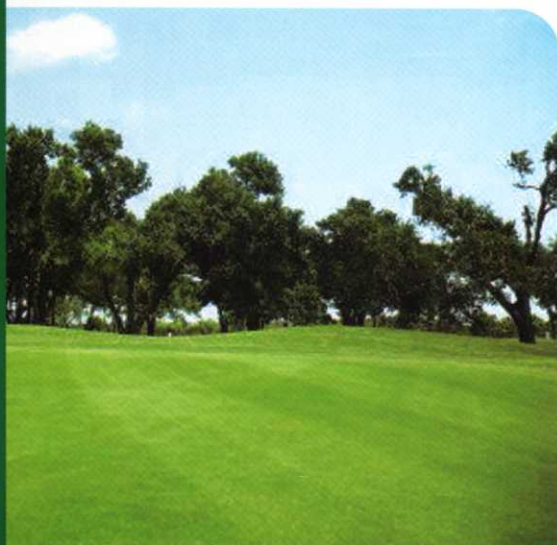
Hard copies can send more info such as employment recomendation letters, etc. which I think is valuable, and is easily looked over and not downloaded so easily and willingly.

-Erik Lemke  
Pomme de Terre GC

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## Musing the Minutes

By Matt McKinnon, MGCSA Secretary  
*The Legacy Courses at Cragun's*



The MGCSA Board of Directors met on March 6 at Heritage Links GC.

President Rick Traver, CGCS welcomed Brian Brown to the Board. Rick also reported that some Superintendents from Minnesota had participated in the Solutions Challenge during the GIS and won prizes.

**Executive Director Scott Turtinen reported that 507 superintendents** have paid dues compared to 654 last year and 115 Affiliates have paid dues out of 152. All information that the GCSAA has requested for annual reporting requirements has been filled out and sent in. Larsen Allen has finished our 2007 taxes. Forms have been mailed out. MGCSA had to pay \$2,800 in taxes. Our 2008 quarterly estimated tax payments will be \$1,190 to Federal and \$776 to Minnesota. This year we had 53 attendees for the GCSAA seminars. MGCSA has taken in \$3,375 in Research Donations so far. Sponsorship totals \$8,250 in tee signs, \$1,000 for 2009

18 Hole Challenge and \$500 for the Hospitality Night in New Orleans. At this time we only have one Scholarship application in and we are looking for more. We have nine Turf Tourney Clubs: Olympic Hills, Stillwater, Midland Hills, Rochester, Dellwood Hills, Windsong Farm, Medina, North Oaks, TPC and maybe White Bear Yacht Club. At the Hospitality Night in Orlando we had 150 people attend. The total bill was \$15,500 and using the leftover funds from 2007 we still have \$600.

**James Bade reported for Tom Proshok** that he is having a hard time filling the June, July and August events for 2009. James said that courses have a hard time committing to events that far out.

**Scottie Hines, CGCS** reported that the MGCSA Awards & Recognition Banquet would be at Windsong Farm this year.

**Paul Diegnau, CGCS** reported that the Fall Mixer will be at Pheasant Acres Golf Club. There will be a program called Greens Management Academy, presented

by Turf Net.

**Jeff Vinkemeier** reported he is working on an Environmental Leader Award. This award will be given out at the annual meeting.

**Jack Mackenzie, CGCS** reported that the MTGF is continuing to look for an Executive Director. MTGF also sent out the Environmental Impact Study to the Legislation. Jack was also happy to report that the MTGF gave out \$94,000 to the U of M, \$61,000 for Brian Horgan, \$27,000 for Elm Tree research and \$6,000 went to Rob Golembieski at the U of M Crookston. Jack also reported that the feedback for the Minnesota Green Expo was outstanding.

**Brian Horgan** reported that the TROE Center is safe and everything seems positive. The School of Turfgrass Management went well. There were 37 students that attended at Somerset Country Club, Brian also presented a letter to the MGCSA from the Turf Club.

James Bade reported he is still communicating with the City of Mendota Heights about MERGE. The MGCSA needs to look at getting them a proposal but would probably not look at running the course until 2009.

- Respectfully submitted  
by Matt McKinnon

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## In Bounds: The Miracle Cure?

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

"Your blood pressure is a tiny bit up," the nurse said as she adjusted her snowflake tattooed smock, "are you a little nervous about your visit today?"

Damn straight I was. A crimson blood red message written on bright white tissue paper had gotten my attention earlier that day after my morning constitution. Yes, my blood pressure was a bit up. Yup, today was beginning to rate right up there with the time my siblings fed me dog worm pills in my youth to see what would happen.

"But your pulse is just fine," the perky blonde nurse said with a smile. Soon my doctor arrived and after a short interview about

family history, length of symptoms, current pain and color of blood, my doctor he told me I was to get a colonoscopy sooner rather than later but not until after he and I developed a closer relationship which after a bit of probing showed the blood was from a deep recess within my digestive system, a sure sign that something may be wrong with me.

Two weeks later, and following thorough education about cancer, the colonoscopy....

**What an experience.** The colon cleanse wasn't as bad as I had expected, although I did heed the advice to stay near a toilet. But I am either resistant to the meds or perhaps the IV missed because the chemical punch didn't put me down for the count at any time during the invasive photo session! In fact, I had the uncomfortable pleasure of watching the whole procedure on the 32-inch flat screen monitor located three feet in front of my face. Regardless of my extreme surprise and discomfort, the conclusion of the show turned out pretty good as the physician and I didn't

*"Are seaweed extracts the "miracle cure"?  
During a time when fast and firm describe optimum  
playing surfaces and expectations demand turf  
managers to be at their best, it is only logical to look  
into alternative options to achieve these goals  
and limit dramatic inputs such as super low  
mowing and continuous hand watering."*

see polyps or anything else abnormal.

On the flip side my now too familiar doctor friend has encouraged me to revisit the removal of my gallbladder, an organ I am intimately fond of as it is a part of my total package, as it could be the cause of my issues.

Whoa Brother! Maybe before going under the knife and exposing myself to potential damage maybe I should look for alternative and perhaps unconventional methods of improving the plumbing of my temple. Thus after thorough investigation and consultation with several people whom I greatly respect, I underwent the process of a parasite purge in conjunction with a liver and gallbladder cleanse. This naturopathic method of killing the bad bugs and flushing my system with Epsom salts solution followed by olive oil and grapefruit juice did indeed produce an end product worthy of my total amazement...a whole boat load of black and dark green pellets, some larger than peanut M&Ms.

The pressure release in my lower right quadrant is dramatic and noticeable. Also I have lost weight and feel much more energetic. Now that my liver and gallbladder are doing a better job my constitution is much easier to deliver; no more reading material for me! Can this personal situation possibly have anything to do with golf course management? Sure, just follow my train of thought.

The fine turf areas at North Oaks Golf Club are really pretty good. Typically the turf is dense, healthy, blemish free and playing nice. However to get to this ultimate quality many inputs are necessary. Plant protectants, growth regulators, macro and micro nutrients and consistent irrigation procedures are important applications introduced to my stand of turf. Cultural practices such as aerification, spiking, vertical mowing combined with sharp and well-maintained equipment also help to produce a product that looks really good. During a time when expectations continue to increase are there other practices I can implement to improve my playing surfaces?

In the adolescence of my turf management years I recall advertisements on the back cover of several professional

*(Continued on Page 31)*

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