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Inside This Issue Of Hole Notes

- 4 **President's Message** - Richard A. Traver, CGCS
- 5 **Minikahda Excited to Host Championship**
- Jeff Johnson
- 9 **Disability Insurance** - Jim Wahl
- 10 **The American Elm "It's Back"** - Mark Stennes
- 13 **2008 MGCSA Survey Results** - Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
- 18 **Management Matters: Motivation** - Jake Ryan
- 20 **It's in the Hole**
- 21 **Peer-to-Peer: Employee Play**
- 22 **Microbiology of Turfgrass Soil** - Pro Turf Consulting
- 24 **An Adventure in Life: The Olympic Games**
- Randy Witt, CGCS
- 26 **Garske Scholarships Awarded for 12th Year**
- 28 **Musing the Minutes** - Matt McKinnon
- 29 **Field Day** - Kathy Aro
- 30 **In Bounds: Anticipation** - Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

August Advertisers

BASF Corporation	10
Bonestroo	30
Classified Ads	27
Country Club Turf	28
DBI Golf	BC
Excel Turf & Ornamental	5
Glenn Rehbein Company	27
GreenImage LLC.....	8
Hartman Companies	29
Herfort-Norby	24
HydroLogic	19
John Deere	10
Leitner Company	11
MTI Distributing, Inc.	3
MTI Distributing, Inc.	16
MTI Distributing, Inc.	17
MTI Distributing, Inc.	26
Precision Turf & Chemical	2
Seed Solutions	25
Superior Turf Services, Inc.	20
The Tessman Company	7
Turfwerks	31
Twin City Seed Company	9

About the Cover

Pictured on the cover, the 13th hole exemplifies the recently remodeled golf course at The Minikahda Club. Minikahda hosts the MGCSA Championship on September 8.
(See article on Page 5)

2008 MGCSA Calendar

Monday, September 8
MGCSA Championship
The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis
Host Superintendent: Jeff Johnson

Thursday, September 11
University of Minnesota Field Day
The TROE Center
U of M Host: Dr. Brian Horgan

Tuesday, October 7
MGCSA Fall Mixer
Pheasant Acres Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Dennis Perreault

Monday, December 8
MGCSA Awards and Recognition Banquet
Windsong Farm Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Scottie Hines, CGCS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did You Know Golfers Live Longer?

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

In one of the more recent issues of *Golf Course Management* magazine there was a short article stating that golfers live longer. This was a study done in Sweden and I have no doubt, based on the way the article was written, that people walk more than ride in Sweden. However the study also considered the social and psychological aspects as well as the physical benefits. Needless to say it is good to know that golf has such a positive affect on someone's health, and it may assist in ensuring that someone might be around to play with their grandkids a little longer. Kind of makes the job seem a little more important somehow.

* * * *

I would like to congratulate Matt Rostal one more time on the great job he, his staff and his volunteers did in presenting a great product for the U.S. Womens Open. It was a great tournament and I heard a lot of positive comments from guys who volunteered. Sounds like everything was running like a well-oiled machine. As a side note, I was amazed at my 11-year-old daughter. I hesitated at bringing her to the tournament, as she hasn't totally taken to the game. However, it was tough to get her to leave; maybe there is still hope.

* * * *

During the past month we held a Vendor Meeting at Brackett's Crossing. There was a lot of great input and I would like to thank all those that attended. I would also like to remind all the members of our association that the vendors are an integral piece to our puzzle. The vendors' participation in advertising in *Hole Notes* allows us to have a top quality magazine, and their support of our tournaments allows us greater flexibility to donate money to the research and scholarship programs.

* * * *

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the MGCSA Internet Survey. We had a great response. The Board collaborated on evaluating the survey. Go to Page 13 of this issue for an evaluation article about the survey.

* * * *

Here's hoping everyone has been getting more rain in his or her areas that I have in mine. Have a great month!!

Respectfully,
Rick Traver

HOLE NOTES

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The Minikahda Club Prepares to Host MGCSA Championship on September 8

The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, was established in 1898. Jeff Johnson has been the Superintendent since 2002.

The par 73 course measures 6,775 yards.

Willie Watson and Robert Foulis were the original architects. In 1917 the club hired Donald Ross to complete a redesign of the existing layout.

In 2002 the club hired Ross expert, Ron Prichard, to complete a total course restoration.

Greens were re-established to the original fill pads, fairways were widened, all bunkers were rebuilt, all tees were rebuilt, over 350 trees were removed, and a new Toro irrigation system was installed.

Prior to our restoration, this golf course was beginning to look like so many other clubs throughout the Midwest. The golf course had been over-planted with trees, the greens had become your basic round greens, and the bunkers were in dire need of being rebuilt.

The greens had lost much of their original shape due to years of triplexing as well as trees planted too close to the green surfaces which caused competition between the turf and the trees. It was easier to bring the greens in than to deal with the removal of a tree, thus the surfaces had shrunk considerably. Now green surfaces have been pushed to the edge of the fill pads and we have reestablished many hole locations that were once a thing of the past.

Since the club had the original Donald Ross plans many of the bunkers that were once removed were added and the original classic look of steep bunker faces with flat bottom bases were reintroduced. Prior to the restoration there were 78 bunkers and now a golfer must navigate over 99. One of the most unique features to these bunkers is when they were built, Ron Prichard insisted on having all bunkers sodded with a fescue/bluegrass blend. By using fescue as the dominant

grass species we have been able to virtually eliminate the need for fertilizing the green surrounds and the bunker faces. We have also been able to greatly reduce the amount of water that is applied to them. Another unique feature has been the fact that during the past three years we have allowed the fescue to grow on the bunker faces. Although this has been a bit controversial and we have had to make some modifications throughout the management of these areas, it does give the golf course a traditional look.

Additionally, when it comes to bunker maintenance you will not find a crisp, clean, perfectly edged bunker at Minikahda. In order to maintain the classic look and feel we allow the turf to grow in and create a laced edge. When we feel it is time to "edge" a bunker, a four pronged pitchfork is used to rip an edge.

(Continued on Page 6)

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The Minikahda Club-

(Continued from Page 5)

Power edgers would destroy the integrity of the design and in a short period of time the bunkers would be back to the same situation they were in prior to the restoration. Mechanical power edgers are not allowed in the bunkers.

The club prides itself in its long standing tradition of golf and involvement within the golfing community. The Minikahda Club has played host to the 1916 U.S. Open (won by Chick Evans who started the Evans Scholarship program), 1927 U.S. Amateur (won by Bobby Jones), 1957 Walker Cup, 1988 U.S. Women's Amateur, the 1998 Curtis Cup, and numerous Trans-Mississippi Championships as well as State MGA events.

Minikahda also provides a strong caddie program. Since the course is very walker friendly a third of our rounds are by golfers carrying their own bag, a third hire the use of a caddie and only a third of our membership utilizes the use of electric carts.

Superintendent Jeff Johnson

Married to my wife Sue for 12 years. Sue is an elementary school teacher in Edina and runs the show at home. We have two boys, Owen 4 fi and Eddie 20 months. I graduated from the University of Minnesota, Waseca in 1991 and the University of Minnesota in 1994. My career began at the St. Cloud Country Club working for Kerry Glader, I then worked for Scott Austin at Midland Hills Country Club, first as technician for two years and then as Scott's first Assistant for two years. I also had one summer at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana, working for Chris Hague.

I became the Assistant Superintendent at Minikahda in 1996, where I had the pleasure of working with Doug Mahal for six years. Following Doug's departure in 2002, I was hired as the Superintendent.

First Assistant Nick Folk

I have the privilege to work with an extremely experienced and talented staff. Nick Folk, First Assistant (the rookie of the group) is only in his second year at Minikahda, and has a strong background with some top notch clubs. Nick has had the opportunity to work at both Oakland Hills Country Club and Olympia Fields Country Club. Nick has been able to bring his experiences at these clubs to



The Grounds Staff at The Minikahda Club

Minikahda, incorporating much of what he has learned toward keeping the crew operating smoothly. Nick is engaged to be married later this month to his fiancée Valerie. He enjoys hunting with his yellow lab, Cooper, fishing, golfing and spending time at his in-laws' cabin in northern Minnesota. Nick has been in the golf business since 1998.

Second Assistant Rick Krause

Rick has been at Minikahda since 1986. His main focus is on irrigation upkeep as well as any construction project. Due to Rick's years of experience he has a great depth of knowledge regarding the irrigation system. When it comes to digging an irrigation head, I have never seen anyone do it faster or cleaner.

Third Assistant Johnny Jarosz

Johnny also has been on the staff since 1986, but has really grown up at the club as he began his career here as a caddie at age 12. His father, Serge, was the pastry chef here for over 30 years. Johnny's main duties include fertilizer and pesticide applications as well as operating the Skeet Shooting range in the winter. Johnny has the uncanny ability to complete almost

every application "right on."

Head Mechanic Ken Diethert

Our full-time staff also includes Head Mechanic Ken Diethert who has been here since 1989 and newly acquired Assistant Mechanic Ryan Parris. They do an excellent job maintaining our large fleet of equipment and keeping the staff going on a daily basis. The last long time member of our staff is our Gardener, Dick Axum, Dick has also been on staff since 1989. Take some time to admire the roses at the 10th tee house and outside the main ballroom -- that's Dick's handy work.

2008 MGCSA Championship

We are extremely proud to be the host site of this year's MGCSA Championship. I think everyone will find it to be a very enjoyable golf course to play. I would also encourage those of you that are able to walk, to leave the golf cart at the hole you drive it to and carry your bag. Minikahda is a very walkable golf course and there is really no better way to enjoy a round here than to walk it. On behalf of the Grounds Department at Minikahda, welcome to all that attend our association's Championship. -- Jeff Johnson



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Does Your Lifestyle Depend on Your Income? Plan Ahead to Protect Your Greatest Asset

Courtesy of JIM WAHL
Principal Financial Group

Your ability to work and earn a living may be your most valuable asset. Would you be able to maintain your current standard of living if you became too sick or hurt to work? Most likely not. Few people have adequate savings to support themselves if their income stops for a prolonged period of time.

Your chances of becoming disabled prior to age 65 may be higher than you'd expect. Just look at the statistics:

Chances of experiencing a disability that lasts 90 days or longer:

Age	Probability
30	51%
35	48%
45	40%
50	34%

(Source: Commissioner's Individual Disability Tables, CSO)

And if a disability has lasted one year, the chances of it lasting longer are even greater:

Age	1 More Year	2 More Years	5 More Years
25	67%	57%	47%
35	76%	67%	57%
45	79%	72%	62%
55	81%	73%	62%

(Source: Commissioner's Individual Disability Tables, CSO)

Although many people think they can rely on workers' compensation or Social Security, this often isn't the case. Workers' compensation only covers those diseases and injuries suffered on the job, or related to work. To qualify for Social Security benefits, you must be unable to perform any substantial gainful activity, with your disability expected to last at least a year or result in death.

A logical solution to this problem is individual disability income insurance. Individual disability income insurance prepares you for the unexpected and protects your income if you become disabled and can no longer work.

When comparing disability income insurance policies, look for a policy that offers:

- **Non-cancelable, guaranteed renewable coverage.** Most experts recommend a policy that can't be canceled for any reason other than non-payment of premium. Also, make sure that premium rates are guaranteed never to increase unless you request an increase in your coverage.

- **An "own occupation" definition of disability.** It's in your best interest to avoid disability policies that have an "any occupation" definition. These types of policies pay only if you are unable to perform any occupation. Instead, look for a policy that considers you disabled if you cannot perform the duties of your regular occupation. This type of policy is called an "own occupation" policy.

- **Future insurability.** You should have the opportunity to increase your coverage periodically (annually or every few years) without proving medical insurability. This helps keep your disability protection in line with your rising income.

- **Rehabilitation assistance.** No matter how good your disability policy may be, it is not a substitute for your ability to work and earn a living. Make sure your policy contains a rehabilitation clause. Some policy rehabilitation clauses limit the amount of money paid for rehabilitation, and some are based on a mutual agreement. Make sure you read the fine print and understand the insurance company's responsibilities and yours.

Overall, look for an insurance company that is financially strong and has a track record of exceptional customer service and claims handling. If the unthinkable does happen, you'll appreciate the quality of the service you receive when you need it the most.

(Editor's Note: Jim Wahl, Principal Financial Group, may be reached at 763-458-1438 or Wahl.jim@principal.com. More information can also be found at www.principal.com)

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The American Elm: "It's Back"

By MARK STENNES

Plant Pathologist, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist
S & S Tree Specialists

It's gratifying for this old arborist and shade tree pathologist to be able to report that American elm (*Ulmus americana*) is once again showing up on our pallet of trees to choose from when we have a suitable space.

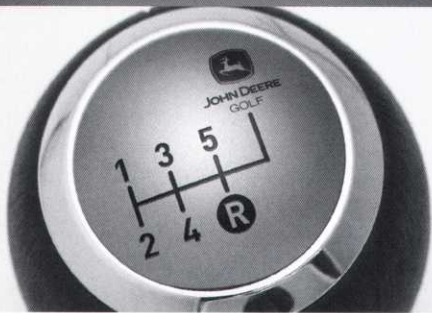
The quest for dependable resistance/tolerance to Dutch elm disease (DED) in American elm was long and hard, and failure a repeated occurrence. Even the best pathologists, like the late Dr. Eugene Smalley from the University of Wisconsin, could not identify dependable resistance within the species by selective breeding. Because of complicating genetic obstacles, it is very difficult to cross it with any other species of elm.

With the relentless selection pressure exerted by Mother Nature in the continuing epidemic of DED across the natural range of American elm, highly unlikely survivors began to appear. While it is true that the vast bulk of "survivors" have been just plain lucky and somehow escaped infections, some rarely occurring individuals seem to possess the necessary combination of genetically inherited defensive strategies to have a high level of tolerance to the disease. Along with some collaborating scientists, Dr. Alden "Denny" Townsend, a geneticist with

the National Arboretum, identified three such individuals by employing extraordinarily intensive artificial inoculation tests on some promising clones. When reporting his results, Dr. Townsend suggested that the likelihood of such tolerance in wild American elm was probably less than one in every 100,000 individuals, hence the difficulty in finding them by breeding. Of the

"A most exciting development for me may be happening right here in Minnesota. There is an individual American Elm in Afton, Minnesota that is 75 inches in diameter with a crown spread of 110 feet by 115 feet. It is between 70 and 80 feet tall and has been living in the midst of a crown fire of DED for at least 35 years without exhibiting any evidence that it has ever been infected... the species is still an aggressive member of the plant community, and younger, smaller trees continue to become infected and die in the woods all around this tree."

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three clones Dr. Townsend identified as highly tolerant to DED, 'Princeton' already had a name and an interesting history; its tolerance to DED a delightful accident. 'Valley Forge' and 'New Harmony' were products of his own research at the National Arboretum. All three are available for propagation without restriction.

The only personal experience I have is with 'Princeton' and 'Valley Forge.' Both are standard American elm in every way that can be described botanically. From a structural habit of growth point of view, the 'Princeton' is better disciplined and easier to handle in its youth. I got 120 inches of growth out of one individual during the summer of 2006. With aggressive pruning in its formative years, 'Valley Forge' also develops into a very nice, fast growing tree.

A most exciting development for me may be happening right here in Minnesota. There is an individual American elm in Afton, Minnesota that is 75 inches in diameter with a crown spread of 110 feet by 115 feet. It is between 70 and 80 feet tall and has been living in the midst of a crown fire of DED for at least 35 years without exhibiting any evidence that it has ever been infected. When DED started there, American elm was the dominant member of the woody plant community, and a DED conflagration ensued. The species is still an aggressive member of the plant community, and younger, smaller trees continue to become infected and die in the woods all around this tree. The odds of a "lucky escape" for such a large old tree under circumstances like these are incalculably low. Something else has to be at work here.

(Continued on Page 11)