

Join The Industry's Top Researchers

Free Research Update Seminar Best Practices: Disease And Plant Care

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Golden Valley Country Club
Golden Valley, MN



As a golf course superintendent, you are invited to a research update seminar on best practices in disease and plant care sponsored by BASF and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. Please join us February 19 at the Golden Valley Country Club for this free seminar with nationally known researchers and superintendents. This program is designed to provide you with relevant, up-to-date disease research and practical strategies for maintaining healthy turf. This seminar has been approved for GCSAA continuing education credits.

Space is limited, so please RSVP to David J. Oberle at 651-681-8050 by February 12, 2008.

 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

Free Research Update Seminar Best Practices: Disease And Plant Care

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Golden Valley Country Club
7001 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427
www.gvccclub.com



External Education Provider



8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:30 am	Dr. Bruce Clarke
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 11:30 am	Mr. Pat Jones
11:30 – 1:00 pm	Dr. Joe Vargas
1:00 pm	Lunch



Dr. Bruce Clarke,
Rutgers

As director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, Dr. Clarke provides leadership to foster internationally recognized research, undergraduate, graduate, continuing professional education, and service programs for the turfgrass industry. He is an authority on root-infecting fungi associated with patch diseases of turf and is known for his work on the development of integrated disease control strategies to reduce pesticide usage. Dr. Clarke has published two books on turfgrass pathology and numerous articles.



Pat Jones,
Flagstick, LLC & Golf Course Industry

As president of Flagstick, LLC, Pat Jones works with companies and non-profit associations in the golf and turf industry to help them succeed in their marketing and sales efforts. He currently also serves as chief columnist and editorial consultant for *Golf Course Industry* magazine. Previously, Jones published *Golfdom* magazine from its launch in 1998 until the end of 2004. Jones began his career in the golf business in 1987 on the staff of the GCSAA in Lawrence, Kan.



Dr. Joe Vargas,
Michigan State

Dr. J. M. Vargas has been a professor of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University for the past 35 years where he has been involved in teaching, research and extension. He has published over 300 articles on turfgrass diseases and related subjects and has given over 1,000 presentations at various turfgrass conferences throughout the world. Dr. Vargas has also published the most widely used turfgrass disease book, *Management of Turfgrass Diseases*, and co-authored a second book, *Poa annua: Physiology, Culture, and Control of Annual Bluegrass*.

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About the Cover

The cover photo relates to affiliate member Kevin Norby's article entitled *Golf Course Master Planning* on Page 12 of this issue of *Hole Notes*.

Upcoming MGCSA Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 20

GCSAA Seminar

Topic: Spanish for Golf Course Maintenance
Speaker: Steve Valdez, GCSAA
Embassy Suites, Bloomington

Thursday, Feb. 21

GCSAA Seminar

Topic: Thinking Your Way Through Problem Solving in Turfgrass Maintenance and More...
Speakers: Dr. Joe Vargas and Dr. Al Turgeon
Embassy Suites, Bloomington

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

MGCSA March Mini-Seminar

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

June 3, 2008

MGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day

Brackett's Crossing Country Club, Lakeville
Host Superintendent: Tom Proshok

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

* * * *

I want to thank Paul Diegnau, Tom Proshok and the Education Committee for the great job and strong educational opportunities we were blessed with at the Expo. The session on green speed from Nikolai was excellent. Who thought you could spend five hours on green speed and keep everyone interested? There was a great slate of speakers and the quality we have seen at the Expo over the years has been magnificent. Thanks guys! Thanks as well to all those who attended the Expo, also to all the vendors who had booths and to all the vendors who participated in our 18-hole challenge. I know there are 12 guys who were pretty excited to get those gift certificates. What a great way to start off the year.

* * * *

My wife and I are about to start working on a bible study entitled "To walk on water you have to get out of the boat." The title really jumped out at me, as I am about to start my term as President of the MGCSA. When Jim Nicol contacted me about 10 years ago and asked if I would run for the board, this is not the path that I envisioned taking. However, at the time with a reluctant yes, I was off to spending a couple of years serving on the board, paying my dues and moving on. Now here I am "getting out of the boat" as well as "out of my comfort zone" to serve as President. Not to say that I will walk on water, heck just not drowning would be fine with me. It is an honor though to be given the trust from such a great group of people as our membership. As I looked through the past presidents list in the MGCSA roster, which by the way reads like a who's who of golf course management, it is an honor to know that my name will be on that list. I will do everything in my power to continue to maintain your trust in me as well as the integrity of the position.

* * * *

Congratulations to David Oberle for being elected to the board of directors as a vendor representative. Congratulations also to Paul Diegnau, CGCS for being elected Vice president, Paul Eckholm, CGCS to the office of Treasurer as well as to Scottie Hines, CGCS, Tom Meier, and Jeff Vinkemeier to Director positions. We do need to appoint one person to the Board of Directors to a one-year term replacing Paul Diegnau as a Director; if you have interest or know of someone, please contact us.

* * * *

Thank you all too who gave input with regard to the MGCSA considering managing the Mendota Heights Par 3. Our goal is to generate revenue for research and if possible generate enough money that we can use it as seed money for a turf pathologist. The overwhelming theme from the members was concern for the level of risk. I assure you we will keep this in mind as we move forward. Our hope was to open this process up to a member vote; however, due to the speed or lack thereof that cities move, we may not have time. Therefore, if you have any concerns, other than those already raised, please contact me, or any board member with those concerns.

* * * *

Finally, I hope you all get to spend some time with your families this winter, and for those of you who will be in Orlando, I'll see ya there!

- Rick

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the MGCSA

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2008 Board of Directors

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Scott Turtinen
MGCSA Executive Director

2008 MGCSA Committees Chairpersons

(Contact any chairperson or the MGCSA office if you would like to volunteer time to a committee, or if you have a question or concern in a particular area.)

Arrangements

Tom Proshok
Brackett's Crossing CC
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MGCSA Holds Elections at 2008 Green Expo

Traver Elected President, Oberle Joins Board

Richard (Rick) Traver, Jr., CGCS, Superintendent at Monticello Country Club, was elected MGCSA President at the Annual Meeting held at this year's Green Expo. Traver was vice-president last year.

Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Superintendent at Keller Golf Course, was elected MGCSA Vice-President. Diegnau was a director last year.

Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Superintendent at Heritage Links Golf Club, retains his spot as Treasurer of the MGCSA.

Directors elected were Scottie Hines, CGCS, Windsong Farm Golf Club, Independence; Tom Meier, LeSueur CC; LeSueur; Jeff Vinkemeier, Glencoe Country Club, Glencoe, and David Oberle, BASF will serve a term as Vendor representative.

Sixty-five members completed the 18-Hole Booth Challenge that took place during the Green Expo Trade Show. The MGCSA thanks the following 19 affiliate companies who generously participated:

Agrotain, BASF, Brock White Co., Cycle Works of Minnesota, Hartman Companies, Hydrologic, Lesco, MTI Distributing Co., Plaisted Companies, ProSource One, Ramy Turf Products, Sports Turf Specialties, Superior Tech Products, Superior Turf Services, Sustane Natural Fertilizer, Tessman Company, Turfwerks, Twin City Seed Company, Versatile Vehicles.

The 12 winners were: Grand Prize, Pat Morstad, Balmoral Golf Course; 3-peat winner James Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National; Kevin Black, Prairie View Golf Links; Andrew Carlson, TPC Twin Cities; Ken Felix, Inver Wood Golf Course; Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, Woodhill Country Club; Kurt Haugen, Glen Lake Golf Course; Bob Porter, Oak Marsh Golf Course; David Reif, Chaska Town Course; Thomas Schmidt, Hillcrest Golf Club; Dean Wojtczak, Whispering Pines Golf Course, and Jim Zylstra, Legacy Courses at Cragun's.



Newly-elected President Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS, right, receives the MGCSA President's Gavel from Ex-Officio James Bade.

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The New Frontier

The Mendota Research Center Golf Course

By JACK MacKENZIE, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

The morning is hot, humid and so still that not even the quaking aspen leaves are whispering, this after a three day monsoon that would have tested Noah's Ark. As you drive the course you are aware of an unpleasant gaseous smell and your heart skips a beat when you look into a mower basket and see a haze of purple mycelium instead of grass clippings, what do you do? Whom do you call?

With the trend toward warmer and wetter summers we may have to consider the development of new and aggressive turf diseases. Who better to help us handle the malady with control measures and communication abilities than our own MGCSA Extension Turf Pathologist? Sound far-fetched and out of reach? Well don't be surprised if this becomes a reality sooner rather than later.

The MGCSA Board of Directors is in discussions with the community of Mendota Heights with the intent to manage the Mendota Par 3 Golf Course for

profit through the creation of MERGE, the Minnesota Environmental Research Golf Enterprise. MERGE would be responsible for developing a management team to operate the golf course with the revenues being split with the City of Mendota Heights as well as oversee the research to be conducted. We are currently waiting for the City Council for Mendota Heights to discuss the viability of this project from their side and make us an offer.

Implementation of the plan would be identical to any other start-up or operation of an existing golf course. The goal would be to provide an exceptional product and generate a significant profit. Day to day operation would be conducted by a Superintendent. Keeping the books and paying bills would fall under the guidance of Scott and Jeff Turtinen. Proceeds from the project, revenues from rounds played, would be split between the community of Mendota Heights and the MGCSA. The property would have multi purposes: pro-

vide green space for the community, be a destination for applied turf science and source of revenue for that research. The income would be returned to the MGCSA, earmarked for research, some of which would go to the Mendota RCGC for specific scientific applications and some to the TROE Center.

It is anticipated that after a short period of operation contributions to MERGE from the MGCSA and other sources would generate enough funding to retain and support a full-time Turf Pathologist capable of conducting and evaluating real life experiments. Once on board, the pathologist would pursue funding for even more experimentation, monies from a variety of entities including the USGA, GCSAA and pesticide manufacturers. This stream of money would create a self-sustaining position for the pathologist.

(Continued on Page 11)



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