

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 completesets of Great Lakes log tee markers, 2 HIO cup cutters, make offer.
Contact: Jim Temple
Crystal Lake Golf Club
952-953-3656

FOR SALE

The City of Brooklyn Park will accept bids for the following surplus equipment. (1) 2005 Club Car Cafe Express Beverage Cart with 13 hours of use. Interested bidders can view the item Monday-Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Edinburgh USA Golf Course maintenance shop located at 8600 Edinbrook Crossing in Brooklyn Park. The City is asking for a minimum bid of \$12,000 and retains the right to reject any and all bids. Further information, contact: Tom Fischer, CGCS
Edinburgh USA Golf Course
763-670-8284

FOR SALE

(16) Yamaha Gas Carts with tops 1989-1993. Good Bodies, excellent mechanically.
\$25,000 all or \$1,650 each.
Contact: Harley Extsted
Fiddletix 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

Jacobson 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

FOR SALE

1994 Toro Sand Pro 2000 with 1010 hours.
Fresh rebuild of Magnum engine.
Comes with front blade and newer rake assembly.
Excellent condition. -- \$3,800.
1999 National Hydro 70 utility mower with 800 hours.
8 blade reels, baskets, and extra set of verticut reels.
Very Good Condition. -- \$5,000.
Contact: Fred Taylor, CGCS
Mankato Golf Club
(507) 388-2546

FOR SALE

1990 Toro 216, 5-blade reels, 1,700 hrs -- \$800 obo
1993 Toro 5100, 8-blade reels, 2,000 hrs -- \$1,000
1998 Toro 3100, 11-blade reels, 2,000 hrs -- \$4,500
2001 Toro 5500D, 5-blade reels, 1,750 hrs -- \$8,500
1990 Ford F-350, w/ loaded disposal unit side load, rear dump 80,000 miles, -- \$3,000 or best offer
Contact: Mark Lindberg
Edgewood Golf Club
701-293-5493

FOR SALE

1997 Jacobsen Greensking V 11 Blade - 3,800
1997 Jacobsen Greensking V 11 Blade With Groomers - 4,000
Both in great condition.
Contact: John Koury or Jeramie Gossman
Southview Country Club
651-451-1666

FOR SALE

Cushman Truckster bed mount sand top dresser spreader attachment...\$250 obo...item #140189485656 (on ebay)
1998 Jacobsen HR5111 51 hp, 11 foot, wide area rotary mower...\$8,900 obo...item #140189871117 (on ebay)
Contact: Guy W. Leach
Spring Valley Golf Course
715-928-0405

WANTED

Jacobson LF 3800 Fairway mower, 8 to 10 blade reels, 500 to 1500 hrs.
Contact: Pat Morstad
Balmoral Golf Course
Cell: 218-821-2302 or 218-864-5277

FOR SALE

1998 John Deer 3215A fairway mower. Approx 1600 hours; 9 blade reels; 80% reel life; this is an excellent running light weight machine, we used this as our back up mower. \$7900 or best offer.

Jacobson LF 3810; 2604.3 hours; Heavy duty 10 blade reels 70% reel life left; strong engine runs very well. \$2000.00 or B.O. 2 sets (for 6 reels total) of Jacobsen greens mower groomers; excellent shape and lots of extra parts. B.O. If needed I can e-mail pictures.
Contact: Pat Morstad
Balmoral Golf Course
Cell: 218-821-2302 or 218-864-5277

FOR SALE

1989 Cushman with auxiliary hydraulics, and dump box. 4,308 hrs.
Good shape, clean with good record keeping, \$1,900
1989 Cushman run-about; excellent runner 3827 hrs. \$1,500
Vermeer Stumper Model 10; 1970 vintage; 4 cylinder Wisc. \$750
It just keeps on stumping.
Contact: James Bade
Somerset Country Club
651-457-1161

FOR SALE

1995 gas Club Car Carryall 2 (1,100 hours) with aluminum beverage cart insert plus 2004 tow behind or stand alone beverage cart...2 for the price of 1...\$3,900 obo...item #140188004872 (on ebay)
Contact: Guy W. Leach
Spring Valley Golf Course
715-928-0405

FOR SALE

Two 4' X 6' cocoa fiber drag mats. Used for three seasons, in very good condition. \$150 each.
Contact: Jeramie Gossman
Southview Country Club
651-451-1666

FOR SALE

2-1998 JD 2653A Utility Mowers
High hours, good condition, fresh grind.\$3,000/ unit
Contact: Tim Johnson
Spring Hill Golf Club
952-476-4875

FOR SALE

Used Greens Covers.
Sizes: 84 x 72, 24 x 72, 48 x 80, 60 x 130, 48 x 72, 60 x 120, 72 x 120.
Make reasonable offer.
Contact: Tony Rahe
Dacotah Ridge
507-644-7844

FOR SALE

Foley Accu 600 Spin Relief Reel Mower Grinder.
Good condition. \$3,000.
Contact: Scott Hoffmann, CGCS
Golf and Grounds Superintendent
Madden's on Gull Lake, Brainerd
218-825-4953

FOR SALE

Neary Reel Grinder & Neary Bedknife Grinder.
Both are manual operation. Good condition. \$600 each.
Befco 12ft. pto drive rotary. Fair condition. \$800
Contact: Bob Schmidt
Bristol Ridge Golf Course
715-247-5778

FOR SALE

2000 Jacobsen Greensking VI 1862G 1,500 hours with 11 blade reels replaced last year and new, updated valve bank replaced by Turfwerks this year. \$3,000
Contact: Steve Benson
Grand National Golf Club
320-384-7084

FOR SALE

1996 Jacobsen LF 123, 4-wheel drive, 1,163 hrs. seven blade reels, also set of verticut reels with dynaBlades, 5 grass baskets. Used very gently buy a little old lady in the spring and fall of each year. \$5,000 or best offer
Contact: Dale Hiebert
Rush Creek Golf Club
763-494-8883

FOR SALE

Used Toro tri-plex cutting units:
(6) 11-blade with groomers,
(3) 8-blade, (3) verticut, make offer.
1993 Jacobsen Ranger 5-gang rough mower, PTO driven hydraulic, decent shape, \$2,000 or best offer.
Contact: Jay Yonak
The Links at Northfork
763-441-7430

FOR SALE

Toro VT4 Complete Satellites \$100 each.
2 Toro Vari-time 2 Central Control stations, \$500 each and one Vari-time 4000 \$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
Contact: Jeramie Gossman
Southview Country Club
651-451-1666

FOR SALE

Two (2) 5200-D Reelmasters
One has 2,096 hrs., the other has 1,880 hrs.
\$9,000 each. Good shape.
Contact: Scott Mattson
Blackberry Ridge
320-260-7654

WANTED

Toro Greensmower 3000/3100 11-blade SPA
Contact: Mike Krogstad
Hidden Haven
763-434-7911

FOR SALE

2004 Toro Debris Blower 600 3-Point attachment
Great condition \$3,000
Contact: John Granholt
Eau Claire Golf and Country Club
715-836-8422

FOR SALE

Set of 3 Toro 04416 verticut units, for GR3000 series.
Good condition. \$900.00
Contact: Chad Braun
Prestwick G C
651-459-0288

www.mgcsa.org

Understanding Product Labels Reviewing Labels Improves Product Performance

By DAVID OBERLE

BASF Turf and Ornamental Sales Representative



It happens all the time. Someone buys a new herbicide, fungicide or insecticide, skims through the product label and files it away until it's time to use the product. When that time comes, he or she flips to the portion of the label that shows the recommended rates. No big deal, right?

Beyond the date of purchase, most people don't spend a lot of time reading product labels. Familiarizing yourself with a label when you buy the product is a good



idea, but so is re-reading the label before putting the product to use. Doing so can save a lot of time, money and hassle.

Most people using fungicides, herbicides and insecticides only ask themselves, "What product do I need to control the weed, insect or disease that's causing me a problem and what rate do I need to use?" Rate information is essential, but product labels provide a lot of other important information. Here are five key things to look for on product labels:

Tank Mixing

Most labels have a tank mixing section, which includes what you can and cannot

tank mix with a particular product. Using several products in one application is a common practice in the industry. It's vital to read the tank mixing section because some products shouldn't be used together. Ignoring tank mixing guidelines can cause problems like clogged application equipment and reduced efficacy.

Perhaps just as important is mixing order, which is also detailed on product labels.

The basic rule of thumb is that dry materials need to be mixed first, followed by liquids. But rather than assuming this is always the case, it's recommended that users follow the label closely when mixing products.

Special Statements

Products often have special statements on the label to help users utilize the product correctly. For instance, many products include statements about what the outside temperature should be when a product is used. If the label says not to apply the product if it's warmer than 85 degrees outside, and you do, it could cause damage to the plant.

Other common special statements refer to drying time. Applying a product prior to a rainfall when the product label states that six hours of drying time is necessary is a pretty expensive mistake.

Group Numbers

The front page of many product labels includes a group number, which helps users avoid resistance issues with fungicides, herbicides and insecticides. Products are grouped based on how they work (mode of action) and users are encouraged to vary group numbers of products in an effort to better manage resistance.

For example, if after using a fungicide in Group 1 you have concerns about resistance, use a product with a different group number in the next application.

Agricultural Use Requirements

The agricultural and non-agricultural use requirements on product labels are important for users and vary depending on product use.

A greenhouse or nursery employee, for instance, may use the same product as a golf course superintendent or lawn care employee, but has to abide by a completely different set of rules with regard to protective equipment and re-entry interval.

General Restrictions and Limitations

An often overlooked element of product labels is the "general restrictions and limitations" section, which is also known as "do not" statements. A "do not" statement is a strong declaration that needs to be followed.

For example, a product might have "Do not apply in greenhouses" on the label because the product is volatile and could move through the air to plants, causing foliar damage.

Read the "do not" statements carefully and be sure to brush up on them if it's been a while since you last used a product.

General Suggestions

Though it's unnecessary to continually read and re-read the label for a product that you use several times a year, it's a good idea to take some time now and again to re-familiarize yourself with product labels.

Labels change periodically, so it makes sense to review commonly used product labels about once a year. The best place to obtain current labels is www.cdms.net.

The 10-15 minute investment of reading a label can save a lot of time and hassle compared to the fallout of misusing a product.

(Editor's Note: David Oberle is a senior sales specialist with BASF Corp. in the Midwest region and currently serves on the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association Board of Directors.)

it's not about
WHO'S TO BLAME

IT'S ABOUT knowing YOU COME FIRST

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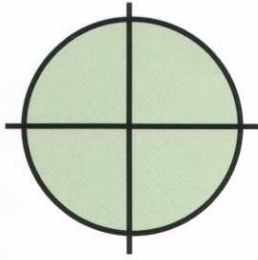
Mike Kelly

Technical Sales Specialist

Bayer Environmental Science

727 Camberwell Dr., Eagan, MN 55123

Cell # 952-292-1966 ~ Fax # 651-528-6071



In the Crosshairs

Network Expansion Opportunities

By ELIZABETH GROTONS

Grassroots Manager, RISE
(Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)

Network Expansion Opportunities

One of the 2008 goals for the RISE grassroots program is to increase the number of people in our network to 1,000 individuals. I need your help! Please pass the word to your colleagues, competitors and customers. Interested individuals need to just send me an email at egrotos@pestfacts.org to be added to the list.

RISE is also looking to engage former members of our industry in our grassroots efforts. If you know someone that has retired or moved away from our industry, but might be interested in engaging in local advocacy efforts, please let me know.

Does your company or association have a conference coming up where a grassroots advocacy message is a good fit? Please contact me. I am available to provide presentations about industry trends, local activities and promotion of the RISE grassroots program.

Lessons Learned

As we dive into the third year of our industry grassroots program, I want to briefly discuss some lessons I have learned so far in my position. First, the rules of engagement are very different in local politics. Proposals move quickly, science often does not prevail and industry representation can make a difference! Second, some grassroots advocacy efforts involve just a few phone calls while others require a full-fledged campaign over several months. Finally, no situation is the same.

Here Are Some Examples:

When one of our advocates called about a community in Michigan considering an herbicide spray ban, we learned from a state ally that state pesticide preemption law prohibited such action. We were able to gain commitment from the state Department of Agriculture to write to the town commissioner about the state law.

In Suffolk County, New York, despite months of active local industry involvement, the legislature passed a fertilizer reduction proposal. However, viewpoints expressed by local industry representatives did result in some positive changes to the final proposal. Continued engagement in this community is needed to make sure that educational materials being developed by county staff will remain focused on best management practices and proper use.

We were alerted to an environmental activist's online campaign to eliminate herbicide spraying in and around area parks in a North Carolina community. We contacted local park personnel, industry representatives and the utility contractor to help thwart this effort from influencing control decisions.

A community in Illinois passed a fertilizer restrictive ordinance. We read about it in the paper the next day. If we had been alerted, we might have been able to influence the outcome of the vote.

RISE can not influence local proposals if we don't know about them! Please contact me with news about efforts in your area to ban or restrict pesticide and fertilizer use. Together, we can educate local elected officials about the benefits of our products.

Resources Available For Grassroots Advocacy


In response to a request from one of our network members, RISE developed the attached "Freedom to Choose, Freedom to Use" brochure, which can be personalized with your business name and included with customer invoices. The piece focuses on the benefits of well-maintained turf and landscapes.

(Continued on Page 25)

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Improving Lives

In the Crosshairs-

(Continued from Page 24)

Environment & Climate News published an article focused on scientific research showing that phosphorous fertilization reduced the amount of phosphorous run-off. The article (visit www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=22224) cited research results that banning phosphorus 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 average, runoff was 78% greater from unfertilized plots than from fertilized plots.

Please feel free to use these resources in your efforts to address restrictive local proposals.

* * * * *

(Editor's Note: Elizabeth Grotos is Grassroots Manager for RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment). Elizabeth may be reached at (202) 872-3869 or grotos@pestfacts.org.)

It's in the Hole

January 31 Was Special In Orlando, Florida...

One-hundred fifty two members of the MGCSA gathered at the Tommy Bahama Tropical Cafe in Orlando, Fla. for a hospitality night gathering. The event was sponsored by 22 MGCSA Affiliate members' companies.

...and in Minnesota, too

While MGCSA members were having fun in Orlando, Jessica and Ben Just were having a very special time in Minnesota.

The Justs happily announce the birth of Hannah Just. She was born on January 31 (MGCSA Hospitality Night in Orlando) weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz. and 21" long. She pretty much eats and sleeps. Both Jessica and Hannah are doing great. Ben is Superintendent at Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul.



Hannah Just

Brian Brown Appointed To MGCSA Board

Brian Brown, Superintendent at Chisago Lakes Golf Club, graciously accepted the board position vacated by Paul Diegnau's advancement to Vice President.



12040 POINT DOUGLAS DR SOUTH, HASTINGS, MN 55033 (651) 437-7747

Just One

Did You Introduce Anybody to the Game of Golf Last Season?

By BILL GIERING

In the history of the world there has never been a better day to play golf than today. We have incredible choices of venues, transportation and technology in equipment, instruction and even fashion. We have built a very Big-Time Industry with a ton of bright men and women leading the millions of dollars being spent by consumers every day. We have experts everywhere, boardrooms full, consultants meeting with other consultants, national golf industry shows that are so big that your feet and brain start to hurt weeks in advance. We are surrounded by golf industry experts talking to one another. We love to talk to one another.

Could talking to one another be the problem of golf's present and future growth?

Have you introduced anybody to golf in the last year? What's their name?

If you begin your answer with: "Well..." Then go on to tell me about how your company has donated to some important golf events. Or, if you tell me how you and your association have supported some important program, then you don't understand the question, you don't get it. Please consider that some important issues like how can we grow the game of golf may not find its answers in boardrooms, conventions and huge marketing campaigns. The answer to golf's growth may be YOU.

Global warming, drug problems, the environment - none of these real issues are going to be solved from on-high. No Drug Czar with a national program is going to save your kids from this horrible addiction. Every law enforcement officer will tell you that it can only be solved one household and with one parent at a time... That means you.

It may be the same with golf. Somehow we all forgot how each of us was introduced to the game, and it wasn't because of a PR campaign. It was our uncle or grandmother, maybe a friend, who took

the time to share something they loved, hoping we would love it too. No golfer ever forgets who taught them the game, they recall everything about it; how old they were, where they were... But mostly

ready the teacher will appear." I just happened to appear. They all started playing for different reasons; health, the joy of competition, to meet new friends. One newcomer later told me she started play-

ing because she knew she was getting a divorce and wanted to meet some new friends. We all start for different reasons, but we all continue because golf finds a way to fill a place in our hearts and souls.

Share your time ... share your self ... not your money. Share your gift with someone.

Have you introduced anyone to golf in the last year? What is their name?

I have asked this ques-

tion hundreds of times in the last few years to members of the golf industry. Most of them try to put a spin on the answer. So I follow up with: "What's their name?" This always brings some clarity to the question. Most finally say NO, and have reasons why. But when they say YES, their eyes light up and they can't wait to tell me about it and how rewarding the experience was and what they learned from it. The most creative ideas in every industry come from beginners, not experts.

Like most of society, accountants talk with accountants, golfers like to talk with golfers. We hate to be called elitist, but most of us do shy away from people who don't play when they express an interest in trying.

Are there values and lessons in golf that might make your community a better place? Have you found laughter and excitement on the course that's so rich it's hard to explain? If we all just introduced one person to golf, would we sell more golf shirts, would we build more courses, would we sell more putters? Would we feel better about ourselves?

Do we each have an obligation to encourage one? Should we each try to inspire one? Be an example and share with one...

Just One.

"Most non-golfers believe that golfers are elitist. Most golfers passionately deny that. The clarity of the conflict becomes apparent when a golfer is asked: "Hey I have never played but I would love to try it, could we play sometime?"

we recall the encouragement and passion that our mentor had for the game. They are special memories that endure. Wouldn't you like to be part of someone's memory? A fond recollection of a gift you gave them, a gift they will cherish for a life-time?

Have you introduced anyone to golf in the last year? What's their name?

Five years ago, an associate mentioned that her husband would like to play golf. "He watches it all the time on TV but never tried it." We met after work at a local driving range, shared a bucket of balls, had an ice cream cone and talked golf. The whole thing took an hour and was a lot of fun. He hit about 20 balls and then he really ripped one ... that was all it took.

My niece mentioned she would really like to try golf sometime. At noon the next week we met at my club, putted for 20 minutes had lunch, laughed and talked about family and golf.

In the last five years I introduced golf to five very different people. Today, four are weekend warriors, one joined a fancy country club and my niece has started a local league for new women golfers. I didn't share any magic message, because I don't have any. I was encouraging and I did share with them how much I love the game. The truth is still: "When the pupil is

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Every use creates new root growth

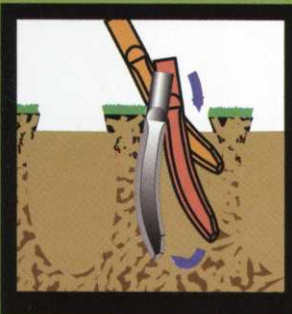
Sealed off greens create a number of problems including: fungus growth, algae growth, isolated dry spots, over heated surfaces (due to ponded water), and oxygen depleted root zones that cause summer root decline.

Increase Revenue, Lower Expenses

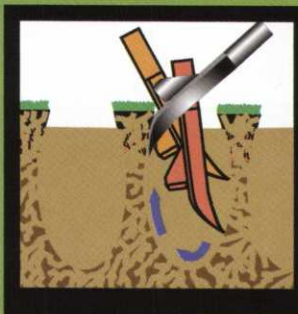
- No down time, course remains open during aeration
- Quicker recovery from heavy rainfall
- Up to 66% reduction in use of fungicides and infiltrants
- Promotes deep and infrequent watering practices.

PlanetAir allows you to control these problems on your schedule and to actually increase root mass during summer stress periods without upsetting your customers or members.

PlanetAir moves every particle in your root zone



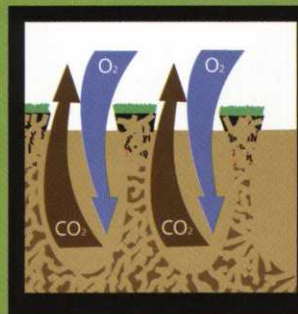
Our shatter knife technology - combined with our patented planetary motion - creates pore space throughout your root zone, eliminating compaction.



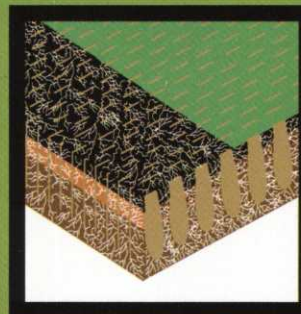
Our patented coring tine technology - combined with our planetary motion - cuts clean cores at the surface and shatters the soil below. This promotes better soil structure with less cleanup.



Maximizes water infiltration rates by allowing water to penetrate the soil profile at a faster rate.



Creates excellent air exchange for healthier turf. Creates a looser soil structure that enhances plant recovery and stimulates turf growth.



PlanetAir's "high density" hole pattern - combined with our patented planetary motion - allows you to achieve the most intense aeration in the industry.

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For more information or to demo a PlanetAir, call your Turfwerks representative, or dial 1-800-592-9513

PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

MGCSA Superintendents were asked:

What does your club/course do to develop more golfers for your club and the future of golf?

The Golf Academy of **Three Rivers Park District** has been designated by the World Golf Foundation as a First Tee Chapter. Programs of the First Tee are spread throughout the golf facilities of Three Rivers Park District. Three Rivers Park Districts Eagle Lake Youth Golf Center, Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center, Cleary Lake Golf Course and Baker National Golf. For more information, contact the First Tee of Three Rivers Park District at: thefirsttee@threeriversparkdistrict.org.

- Gary Klingelhoets
Three Rivers Park District

Here at **Chisago Lakes Golf Course** we have a one week junior program of 100 kids. Additionally there is a junior league that plays from our Orange tees measuring 3,189 yards. These tees are Flexstake markers with sleeves on the edges of the fairway. In the past we have had specials of free golf for juniors under 16 years old while accompanied by a paying adult. We are looking at moving this to a regular slot on weekend afternoons and promoting this program further. For adults we have Community Ed golf classes for those new to the sport.

- Brian Brown
Chisago Lakes GC

At **North Oaks** we have always had an extensive junior program available all summer long to kids and grandkids of members. Age starts at 5 and goes up to 17. The real little children have their own course set up on the driving range every Wednesday morning. They are called the Bow Wow group. We have also initiated a forward tee course set at about 4,800 yards.

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

Three area entities, **Blue Top Ridge Golf Club**, Iowa section of the PGA and The VA Medical Center in Iowa City have started a program called GIVE (Golf for

Injured Veterans Everywhere). The program has four phases of training for veterans to enhance their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being and improve their quality of life.

The four phases are introduction to golf (rules, equipment, dress, scoring, etiquette, etc.), indoor instruction, outdoor practice on the range, golf rounds at Blue Top Ridge. PGA Professionals have developed the training materials for the course and have volunteered their time to the program. Our grand opening on August 1, 2007 was a fundraiser which raised approximately \$65,000 for the program. So far the participation and feedback has been phenomenal.

- Mike Nelson, CGCS
Blue Top Ridge GC

"Emily Greens initiated a 'Grandkids Play Free' with anyone who has a Season Pass to our course. We are in the Brainerd Lakes area and have many generations visiting or vacationing and it makes it easy for them to say "let's go to the golf course" when they do not have to consider shelling out \$20 - \$30 or more to get the kids out and involved in an activity they can all enjoy."

In an effort to promote the game of golf and future players, **Windsong Farm** has a well attended junior golf program. The juniors meet two days a week, depending on ability and age and the program runs June through August. Last year we had over 90 children in the program.

Instruction covers all aspects of the game and access is granted to the course on the appropriate days. While on the course kids are accompanied by one of our golf pros or a volunteer parent to help with the rules, speed of play and etiquette. I feel it is a widely beneficial program that is both well received and liked by all the juniors.

- Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm Golf Club

At **Victory Links** our course was designed with kids in mind. We have six sets of tees for golfers of all skill levels. Our forward tees play 2,830 yards for 18 holes while our back tees measure over 7,100 yards. In addition we offer reduced rates for kids, they pay their age, and offer one flat rate for family play. We are a member of The First Tee program and we participate in many USGA and PGA player development programs. Our pro and his staff also offer beginner golf lessons though local park and rec programs.

- Curtiss Conkright
National Sports Center

In 2007, **Emily Greens** initiated a 'Grandkids Play Free' (grandkids must be 18 or under) with anyone who has a Season Pass to our course. The media reports continue to come out about how each generation is spending less time engaged in outdoor activities than the previous generation. The *Minneapolis Tribune* had an article recently and even though they did not mention golf they certainly could have (it was more geared to camping, use of parks, etc). We are in a retirement/vacation area (the Brainerd Lakes) and have many generations visiting or vacationing and it makes it easy

for them to say "let's go to the golf course" when they do not have to consider shelling out \$20 - \$30 or more to get the kids out and involved in an activity they can all enjoy. Last year was the first year doing this and I had more than a few comments from the 'middle' generation that this has been great this summer when they come up to visit their parents and it has gotten them (the middle generation) out to play much more than they would have. We look forward to expanding the number of rounds in 2008.

- Gregg Gamble,
Emily Greens Golf Course



Musing the Minutes

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



The MGCSA Board of Directors met on January 24 at Somerset Country Club.

President Rick Traver, CGCS thanked the Board for electing him President of the MGCSA. Rick thanked Scottie Hines, CGCS for the Banquet and Paul Diegnau, CGCS for the Minnesota Green Expo. Rick also mentioned since Paul Diegnau, CGCS is the new Vice President we will need someone to fill his Director position for the next year. Rick appointed Brian Brown, Superintendent at Chisago Lakes Golf Course. Brian will officially become a Director at the March Board Meeting.

Traver also talked about the Mendota Par 3 Course that the MGCSA would like to manage (*MERGE: Minnesota Environmental Research Golf Enterprise*). The MGCSA would manage the course as a business. The MGCSA will work with the city to propose this great opportunity. Rick would like all of the members to embrace this project. The Board will keep the membership informed of any updates.

Treasurer, Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that our year-end was better than expected and that our Advertising income was \$2,740 less than 2006.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen reported that Individual donations last year came to \$3,440. Sponsorship money totaled \$10,350, which \$6,210 went to Research and the Banquet gets \$2,588 along with the spring and fall mixers getting \$1,553. The Banquet had an income this year of \$4,025 but had expenses totaling \$7,940 for a loss of \$3,705. Turtinen also reported that *Hole Notes* has \$2,740 in past due accounts.

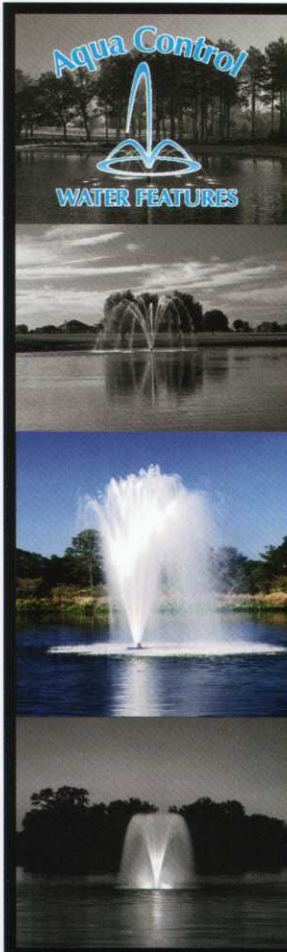
Paul Diegnau, CGCS reported that the Topic for the March Mini-Seminar would be on Water Conservation and is set for March 11 at North Oaks Golf Club.

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS reported that there would be a new columnist in the Next *Hole Notes* issue. Peer-to-Peer will also be coming back. Jack also mentioned that if anyone would like to submit an

article or something it would have to be in by the 10th of the month. Jack reported on the MTGF and that their next meeting was going to be in February. At that time they will be reviewing requests for funding and give out money for Research. Jack MacKenzie, CGCS will become President of the MTGF on February 13. Jack also reported that they are looking at a couple of management companies to manage the MTGF.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen had his annual review during this meeting. James Bade made a motion to give Turtinen a 3% increase for 2008, Paul Diegnau, CGCS, 2nd. James Bade then amended his motion to a 3% increase and a bonus of \$1,300, Paul Diegnau, CGCS, 2nd, approved.

I hope everyone has had a great winter and taken some time to relax. I am ready for spring.



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In Bounds: Isn't Our Lot in Life Grand?

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

Each year at about this time I make a pilgrimage across the course, through rapidly melting snow and over rivulets of fast moving free water to a spot on the 15th hole. Along the way my eyes are caught by the bright red buds of the sugar maple trees as they prepare to flower. If I listen closely I can hear the snow melt as it meanders underneath the last white vestiges of winter. The smell of stale leaves and potential green turf growth tickles my nostrils.

Under an oak tree, south facing into the intense spring sun, I sit and take in the mystery of rebirth. Each year is the same, yet different. My mind is full of what lies ahead: projects, new employees, the remnants of winter and expectations of the players. Yet above the cacophony of work thoughts, there floats a more abstract pattern. Wow, I think, almost talking out loud. The amazing transition I bear wit-

ness to takes my breath away.

Spring! In my eyes, ears, nose and upon my tongue I can feel the changes unfold just as I can sense the sun upon my skin. What a miracle I am living. If this isn't heaven than what possibly could it

"Each year is the same, yet different. My mind is full of what lies ahead: projects, new employees, the remnants of winter and expectations of the players."

be?

Although not a religious individual from the perspective of going to church, I do consider myself very spiritual. Through my life I have attended Catholic, Episcopal, Unitarian and Lutheran services and even did a time at the Jesus People Church gaining a new insight into another dimension of Christianity. However, I feel closest to God when I am on the course

touching, hearing, feeling, smelling, tasting and sensing the wonderment surrounding me at any given time.

Soon within my Cathedral I will watch in anticipation the funny waddle of the mallard ducklings as they hatch and progress from their nest under the clubhouse eave to the pond on the first hole. Barely audible, I will hear the muscles in the wings of geese as they fly overhead, hopefully to land at another course. With abandon the fox kits and deer fawn will entertain me as they frolic, darting into the natural areas and again out into the rough; playful, enchanting. Until then I pull a hand-

ful of dormant grass and dirt from next to the tree, place it to my nose and breathe deep.

The musky odor doesn't evoke death, but rather the potential of life to come; the miracle of a brilliant morning sunrise resplendent in hues of orange and red, so breathtaking I want to shout, but won't as it may spoil the moment, a torrential thunderstorm explosive; dangerous and violent yet always followed by a greener venue of turf; fresh and invigorated, or the transition of zinnia seeds as they turn brown soil to green and the rainbow of colors: red, orange and yellow.

Under my nose I hold the miracle of life.

Isn't our lot in life grand?

Everyday, if we look hard, we can observe more of life's magical phenomenon than most will see in a

year of casual encounters. Are we more attuned to the wonders of life or is it our proximity? When questioned why they chose to work on a golf course most superintendents say it is because they like working out of doors. Perhaps this fondness is really a subtle expression of faith.

Faith that life, although often traumatic, will renew itself in a new cycle, just as the trees and turf will break dormancy or regenerate from seed. Faith that droughts will end with blessed rain and floods will recede, the soil to dry. Faith that the grass will grow in spite of what we do. Faith that the changing of the season will bring comforting consistencies to buoy our confidence when we overmanage our land in an effort to create unnatural conditions. And faith that our daily marvels won't balance upon the economy, distant wars or famine.

Often through the year I will shiver with a sudden chill when I encounter something of natural grandeur; a crab apple tree in full flower, the coyote running across a fairway with a rabbit locked in its jaws, the dancing flight of two bald eagles as they tease each other in the sky above or the gold and yellow hues of a sunset reflecting softly as I lay down for a good night's rest. Yes, I am blessed. We are each blessed in our vocation.

During my time under the tree I close my eyes and give thanks for the opportunities ahead. Warm upon my eyelids, the afternoon rays of sun lull me into a deep peace. Vaguely I will hear a robin sing in the distance. A cool, but not cold breeze tingles the skin on my neck and I can feel the first hints of moisture as it soaks into my pant bottom. Time to get a move on, time to begin another great season of my life.

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