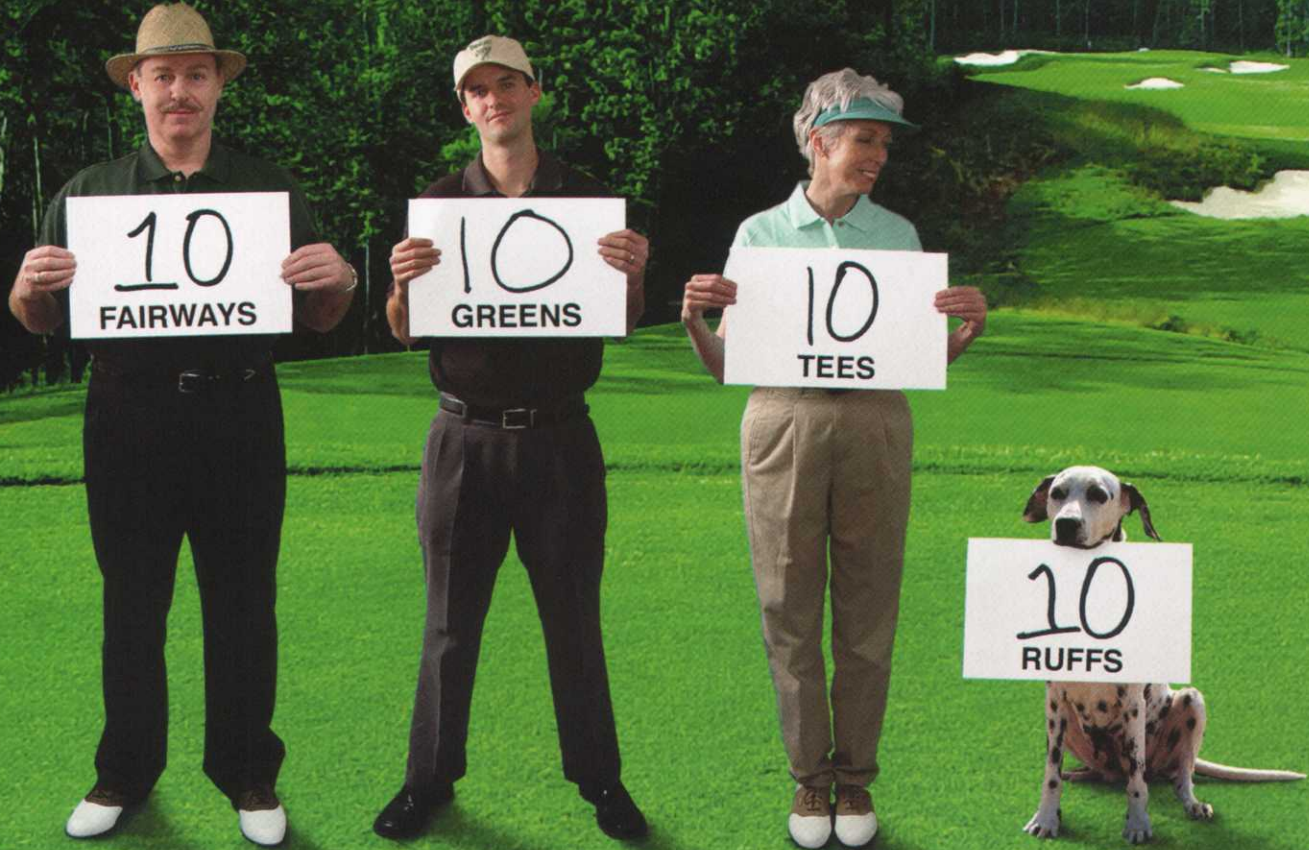




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### About the Cover:

Extraordinary views are common at Northland Country Club, site of the 2009 MGCSA Championship. The 15th hole is pictured on the cover. Field is limited to 120 players.

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## MGCSA EVENTS

**September 14**  
**MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Northland Country Club  
Host: Chris Tritabaugh

**October 5**  
**MGCSA Fall Mixer**  
Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club  
Prior Lake

**December 9**  
**Awards & Recognition Banquet**  
Oak Ridge Country Club  
Host: Keith Scott, CGCS

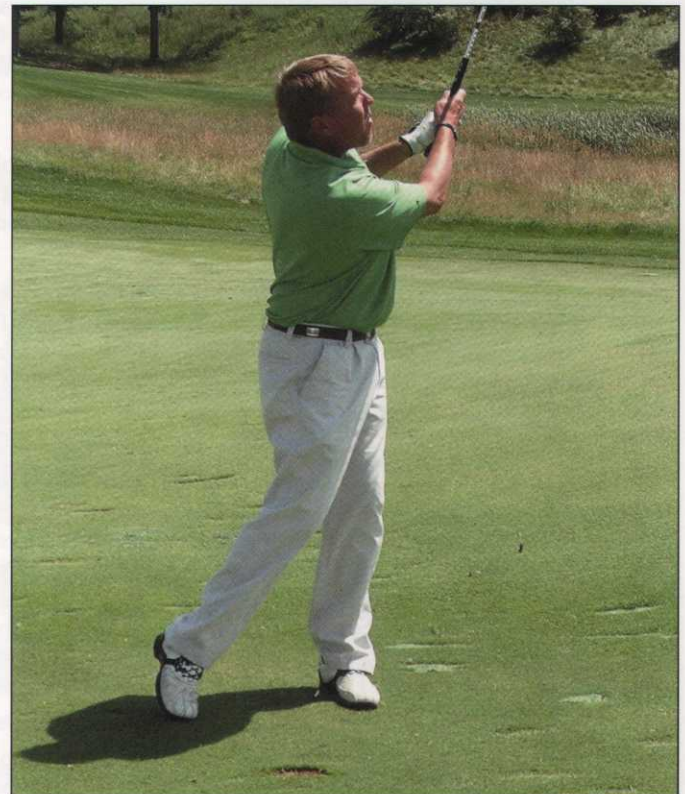
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**JIM JOHNSON**

After a booming drive, the Rich Spring GC Superintendent looks at the flight of his wedge shot from the 10th fairway at StoneRidge Golf Club, site of the 2009 Harold Stodola Research Scramble.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Take a Break to Attend the PGA Championship*

By Richard B. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

Is anyone else tired of hearing about Brett Favre? I have been a Viking fan since I could walk. I even remember having to listen to one of the Super Bowls they were in on our family stereo console we had in our living room. You know (well if you remember black and white TV) that big radio/phonograph thing with the speakers everyone had. I had to listen to it because our antenna blew down in a snowstorm and my mean old dad wasn't about to climb up on the roof in a snowstorm to fix it.

Anyway, whether you would like Favre to be a Vike or not, it is getting pretty old listening to the story or reading about the same stuff in the paper. Hopefully, by the time you get this copy of *Hole Notes* the issue will be resolved and we will have the answer to the million-dollar question. After all this hype he better become a Viking and stay healthy enough to last the season. Thanks for letting me vent.

\* \* \* \* \*

**I have talked about this in the past, but it does bear repeating. We would like anyone who hasn't done so yet to take the opportunity to renew your phosphorus certification.** Even if you plan on following a fertilizer program with no phosphorus, please renew your certification. All that is needed from you is to read a short article on line at [www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org) and then respond on line that you read the article. The whole process is very painless, but it is extremely important to the MGCSA, MTGF and MNLA, as it was a mode of handling a hot issue with the legislation. If we can prove to the legislators that we can self regulate, it will help us to continue to get written out of some upcoming regulatory bills. If you are participating, encourage others to do so as well.

\* \* \* \* \*

**I hope all of you plan on attending the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club, August 13-16.** I am sure Jim Nicol, his crew and volunteers will present the course in great shape. Given vacations and job responsibilities here, I was unable to help on the crew, but my heart and pride will be with everyone as Minnesota once again is in the media spotlight. I hope to see you there!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Thanks again to Jeff Girard and his crew at Stoneridge Golf Club.** What a beautiful golf course. It was in great shape and the weather could not have been any better. Members enjoyed a wonderful day for the MGCSA Harold Stodola Research Scramble.

\* \* \* \* \*

**I am going to take this opportunity to plug the Field Day at the U of M.** Field Day is being held on September 10. Look for fliers in the mail. I have had the opportunity to attend this event the last couple of years and it is really amazing all the work that is being done at the TROE Center and the adjacent turf plots. If you can work it into your schedule, please do, it will be well worth your time.

\* \* \* \* \*

**It looks like we are going to have quite a few changes to the bylaws coming up at the next annual meeting.** As I mentioned in a previous column, we approved a position on the board for the Class C members. This caused a review of the bylaws and while we made changes in the past, we may not have been as thorough as we could have been. For example -- and just and example -- changing Section I paragraph C was fine except it affected Section II paragraph B, however the second change to make it all consistent didn't occur. We will send out more info with the changes to explain what is taking place. I'm just giving everyone a heads up.

\* \* \* \* \*

**I hope everyone is having a great season and that the rains are timely.** If you need anything or have any questions please give me a call.

*-Respectfully Rick Traver*

# HOLE NOTES

Official publication  
of the MGCSA

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# Northland CC is Proud to Host the MGCSA Championship on September 14 in Duluth

By Chris Tritabaugh

Superintendent, Northland Country Club

Northland Country Club was established in 1899 and is the fourth-oldest club in Minnesota behind Town & Country Club, White Bear Yacht Club and The Minikahda Club.

At the time Northland CC was established, there were more millionaires per capita in Duluth than any other city in the United States. This was due to the strength of the mining, shipping, forestry and railroad industries at the turn of the century. In 1922 the members of Northland enlisted the services of noted golf course architect, Donald J. Ross, to design them a golf course on the stunning piece of property recently purchased by the club. A historical document detailing Northland's history and letters from the Tufts Archives in Pinehurst, North Carolina confirm that Ross made two separate visits to Duluth during the planning

and construction of the golf course. The golf course opened for play in 1927 and is essentially the course played today.

The golfing experience at Northland Country Club is truly one of a kind. Northland is an out and back routing with #9 finishing far from the clubhouse; this type of routing was not typically favored by Ross. However, when the property did not allow for returning 9's he was not adverse to an out and back routing.

The golfer's journey begins on number one, at the low point of the property. In the first three holes the golfer has already climbed 150 feet of the property's 300 total feet of elevation change.

Number three on its own rises 95 feet from tee to green. Turning around after reaching the green one can hardly believe they have climbed so high. The third green sits roughly 330 feet above Lake

Superior and the view is stunning.

Holes 4-9 bring the golfer gradually up another 100 feet and away from the Lake. The back nine begins with the uphill 10th hole, considered by most members to be the toughest hole on the course. At 391 yards the hole is not overly long but it rises 50 feet from tee to green and the dramatic volcano green punishes anything short with the possibility of a ball rolling back down the fairway.

Beginning with #13, the golfers begin to work their way back down the hill and towards the lake. Tree removal behind the 13th green leaves the flagstick, with a back hole location, appearing to rise out of Lake Superior. The 14th offers a diabolical green and the 15th another breath-taking view of Lake Superior and the Lakeside Valley. Sixteen and 17 are solid holes

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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## Northland CC-

(Continued from Page 5)

before the long uphill 18th; a hole sure to figure highly in any discussion of the best finishing holes in Minnesota. All of this without mentioning the confounding "break towards the Lake" tendency of the greens, a feature, which leaves most visitors and some members scratching their heads. In so many ways, golf at Northland CC is a one-of-a-kind experience.

I began my time as Golf Course Superintendent at Northland in January of 2007. From the very beginning my goal was to bring about a renaissance of the golf course and return playing characteristics befitting this golden age gem. The course plays fast, firm and fun when the weather is dry. Keep your fingers crossed that the weather is dry in the middle of September. The club has recently retained the services of Golf Architect Ron Prichard. Mr. Prichard is a noted Donald Ross restoration expert and is currently working on the completion of an architectural Master Plan.

The full-time turfgrass management staff at Northland consists of Assistant Superintendent Jake Ryan, Golf Course



### NORTHLAND COUNTRY CLUB TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT STAFF

*Front row: (l to r) Ben Kimmes, Alex Huesman, Jake Lyttle, Dan Peddicourt, Zach Varty, Asst. Supt. Jake Ryan, Equipment Manager Chad Terch. Back row: Technician Rob Tripp, Jerry Schullo, Ted Nast, Intern Joe LeVoir, Kevin O'Connell, Mike Kantor, Mike Soltis, Scott Bader, Charlie Pillsbury and Superintendent Chris Tritabaugh.*

Technician Rob Tripp, Equipment Manager Chad Terch and Assistant in Training Joe LeVoir. In addition to the full-time staff we also have a season staff of 15 hard-working, dedicated employees who take great pride in producing wonderful conditions on a daily basis.

I am very proud of the Club, the course and my wonderful staff. It is an honor to be hosting the 2009 MGCSA Championship. I hope many of you can find time in your busy schedules to come up and experience Northland Country Club and Duluth. - Chris Tritabaugh

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# Meyer, Ramler, Notch and Ruhoff Make it a 3-peat At the 2009 Harold Stodola Research Scramble

MGCSA members enjoyed a beautiful day at StoneRidge Golf Club in Stillwater for the 2009 Harold Stodola Research Scramble on July 6.

**Host Superintendent Jeff Girard**, his assistants Aaron Siek and Matt Johnson and staff presented the course in excellent shape. Players found the layout pleasing, fast and fun to play.

The team of Jeff Meyer, Koronis Hills Golf Club; Tom Notch, Bent Creek Golf Club; Tom Ramler, Boulder Ridge Golf Club, and Jason Ruhoff, currently unattached, shot a 16-under par round of 56 to win the event. This team also won the 2007 and 2008 Stodola Scrambles.

**A close second was the Stillwater CC team** of Marlin Murphy, Ty Tollefson, Zach Morris and Kevin Milbrandt of Stillwater Country Club. They shot a 14-under par 58 and won a scorecard playoff with The Minikahda Club's team which consisted of Superintendent Jeff Johnson, Nick Folk, Doug Nelson and General



**JEFF GIRARD**

*Host Superintendent at StoneRidge GC*  
Manager Jim Jennings.

**Tom Notch, Bent Creek Golf Club;**  
Tom Wodash, Eagle Creek Golf Club, and  
Andrew Layton, White Bear Yacht Club,

won the three long drive competitions.

**Tom West, Hartman Companies, Inc.**, sank the longest putt.

**The four closest-to-pins** were won by Chris Hoff, Precision Turf & Chemical, Inc.; Jake Kosak, Prestwick Golf Club; Jim Jennings, The Minikahda Club, and Matt Schmid, Superior Turf Services Inc.

**David Oberle, Excel Turf & Ornamental**, donated a golf bag for one of the Long Drive events. Syngenta's Luke Dant ran a competition at his sponsored hole and raised funds for the MGCSA Research.

**Thank you to our Research Scramble Sponsors:** Duininck Golf, MTI Distributing, Inc., Syngenta Professional Products, Sustane Natural Fertilizer, Inc., Plaisted Companies, Precision Turf & Chemical, Hartman Companies, Inc., Bayer Environmental Science, CycleWorks Golf Supply, Superior Turf Services Inc., Excel Turf & Ornamental, and Par Aide Products Company. (Photos on Pages 10-11)

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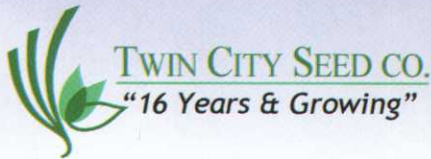
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### 2009 HAROLD STODOLA RESEARCH SCRAMBLE WINNERS

Winning the research scramble for the third year in a row is the team of Jeff Meyer, Koronis Hills Golf Club; Tom Notch, Bent Creek Golf Club, Jason Ruhoff, unattached, and Tom Ramler, Boulder Ridge Golf Club. They shot a 16-under par 56 to win this year's event.



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