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The picturesque fourth hole at Edinburgh USA
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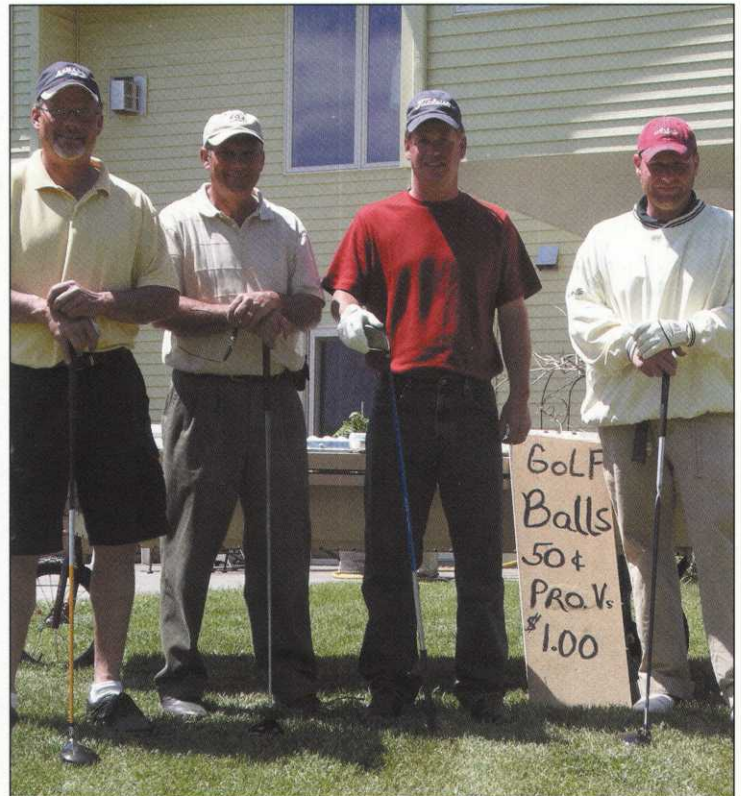
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MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
Northland Country Club
Host: Chris Tritabaugh

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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NICE PRICE FOR GOLF BALLS!

Tom and Mike Kasner, Scot Milstroh and Terry Simon take time out from the Scholarship Scramble to stock up on some used golf balls in a lawn bordering Wild Marsh Golf Club.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remember, we have a great job!

By Richard B. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

It is always exciting getting started with the golf season, and staying motivated is never a problem early in the year. However, this is the time of year when people start to get tired and the heat or stress starts to take its toll. This year has been especially stressful for many due to the winter damage some of us saw to start the season, this coupled with the less than ideal weather conditions to heal these areas only added to the stress. My membership has been extremely patient and I thank them for that. I am and have always been my worst critic, and often times need to remind myself it is only golf and most people don't see what I'm looking at anyway. They are usually more concerned if the beer is cold and the pizza hot than the minor imperfections I obsess with. Anyway here's hoping you can stay motivated as you reach that period of the summer - it's different for all of us - that makes you want to be someplace else. Always remember we have a great job and many people would love to be in our shoes.

* * * *

I am looking forward to watching Hazeltine National GC take center stage once more as they host the PGA Championship. After watching the U.S. Open and how quickly they were able to put that course back into playing condition after those torrential rains. One has to wonder if they took a page from Jim Nicol's playbook to get the job done. If I am not mistaken, Jim had the same issues the last time Hazeltine hosted the PGA Championship.

* * * *

Good news from Blaine, The 3M Championship, hosted by TPC Twin Cities, will have free admittance for all three days of championship play. I believe this is the 17th year this event has been held in the Twin Cities, first at Bunker Hills and now at the TPC - Twin Cities. This has been a great event for golf in Minnesota. It showcases our great state and gives our patrons the opportunity to see some of the legends in golf. Thanks to Roger Stewart, Jr., CGCS and his staff for maintaining the setting for such a great event, and to Pro Links Sports for continuing to keep this event local.

* * * *

During the past month we held a vendors 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* and the membership roster, 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.

* * * *

Thanks again to Dave Deem and his crew at Wild Marsh Golf Club. The course was in great shape and we had a wonderful day for the Scholarship Scramble.

* * * *

As was the case last issue of *Hole Notes*, I am writing this just prior to an event. However, I would like to thank Jeff Girard and the staff at StoneRidge Golf Club for allowing us to use their facility for our Research Scramble. I am looking forward to seeing the course, my golf game is the worst it has been in 10 years, so playing doesn't sound like fun, but maybe I will find my game at the Ridge!

* * * *

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Internet Survey. We had a great response. Results can be found at www.mgcsa.org.

* * * *

Have a great month!!

Respectfully, Rick Traver

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Adams, Paulus, Hemquist and Wenzel Win Scholarship Scramble at Wild Marsh

Host Superintendent David Deem welcomed the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association to Wild Marsh Golf Club on June 1. Sunny skies greeted 68 players and Dave and his staff's course was in pristine condition.

The team of Rob Adams and Greg Paulus, both of The Ponds at Battle Creek, teamed with Arik Hemquist, Brackett's Crossing CC and Brett Wenzel, Keller GC, to win the 2009 MGCSA Scholarship Scramble with a score of 55. The team eagled the Par 5, seventh hole at Wild Marsh to capture the scorecard playoff.

A team from Stillwater Country Club also shot 55. Superintendent Marlin Murphy led his team of Mike Tracy, Ty Tollefson and Kevin Milbrand to a second place finish.

Last year's winning team of Tom Ramler and Sean Evens from Boulder

(Continued on Page 6)



SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE WINNERS AT WILD MARSH

From the left, Brett Wenzel, Rob Adams, Arik Hemquist and Gregg Paulus.

The foursome shot an impressive 55 and won a scorecard playoff with an eagle on No. 7.

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Scholarship Scramble-

(Continued from Page 5)

Ridge GC teamed with Jeff Meyer, Koronis Hills CC, and Jason Ruhoff to finish one shot behind at 56.

The two Long Drive winners were Jeff Meyer and Tom Kasner, Albany GC. Tom Kasner also sank the longest putt of the day.

The four closest to the pin winners were: Rob Adams, Mike Hilliard, Par Aide Products Co.; John Meyer, Agrotain International, and Nick Folk, The Minikahda Club.

Special Thanks!

Thank you to Joe Malone, Director of Golf, and Steve Swanson catering manager and their staffs for helping make the Scholarship Fundraiser a success.

Thank you to the following Affiliate member companies for sponsoring the Scholarship Scramble: Duinick Golf, MTI Distributing, Inc., Syngenta Professional Products, Sustane Natural Fertilizer, Inc., Plaisted Companies, Precision Turf & Chemical, Hartman Companies, Bayer Environmental Science, CycleWorks Golf Supply, Superior Turf Services Inc., Excel Turf & Ornamental and Par Aide Products Company.



CLOSE BUT NO VICTORY CIGAR!

From the left is the Stillwater Country Club foursome of Ty Tollefson, Kevin Milbrandt, golf pro Mike Tracy, and Superintendent Marlin Murphy. They tied for first but lost the tiebreaker.



NICE FOLLOW-THROUGH!

Mark Poppitz, Tessman Seed Company



DAVE DEEM

Host Superintendent at Wild Marsh Golf Club



The Savory Supe

By **Scottie Hines, CGCS**
Windsong Farm Golf Club

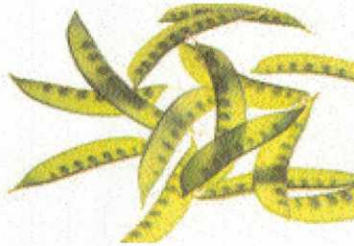


Chicken, Red Pepper, Snow Pea Salad

This is a great summer salad. Serves 4-6. For those of you who are active gardeners this is a great way to use your homegrown vegetables!

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups cooked, cubed chicken
- 3/4 cup pine nuts
- 3 large red bell peppers, diced 1-inch sq.
- 3 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 pound fresh snow peas, ends removed
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 5 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Asian sesame oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 7 - 8 cups fresh salad greens



Cook the chicken, as you like: grilled, fried or baked. Dice into 1 inch cubes, set aside and cool. Clean and cube the red bell peppers and clean and remove ends from snow peas.

In a 3-quart pot, heat 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil. Add 1 minced garlic clove and the pine nuts. Stir occasionally until the pine nuts are golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Using the same pot, fill approximately fl full with water. Heat to

boiling. Add the snow peas and red peppers. Stir occasionally until cooked, yet crisp (generally 1 - 2 minutes). Drain the veggies and rinse in cold water. Dry on a paper towel. Turn off heat.

Return the peppers and snow peas to an unheated pot along with the pine nuts and remaining ingredients. Stir/toss thoroughly until evenly mixed. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

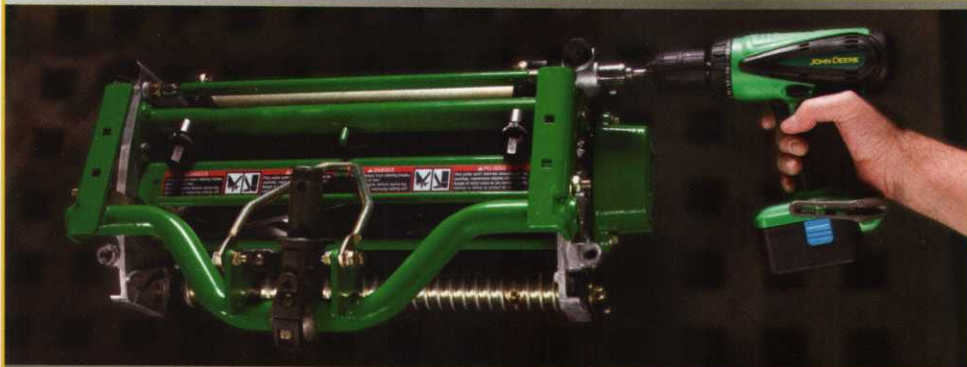
Serve over a bed of your favorite salad greens.

As you are cooking this, you can season the chicken or veggies to your liking beyond what the recipe calls for.

For another twist you can substitute the snow peas for fresh green beans and the chicken for your favorite steak.

Enjoy!
Scottie H

By the time you read this, your height-of-cut could have been adjusted.



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Autumn Blaze Maple:

The Next Tree Disaster Waiting To Happen?

By **Tim Power**
Law's Nursery, Inc.

As an old-timer in our industry, I remember the burn piles and mountains of elm wood chips that resulted from Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s and '80s. We now face the same prospect again as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) approaches Minnesota, and the odds of stopping EAB look pretty low. EAB is likely to devastate the 800 million black ash in our northern forests and the 20 million black, green and white ash in our urban forests. As a state, we are much better prepared for EAB than we were for Dutch Elm disease, but what we are planning for is how to first avoid, then minimize, and finally manage the devastation. Michigan's ash resource has been trashed by EAB, and the bug is spreading slowly but steadily through natural means and quickly and unpredictably through movement of infested firewood and other pathways. There is a lot of interesting research going on, but there doesn't seem to be a silver bullet for EAB.

The mistake we made in the '70s and '80s as an industry was to produce, sell and plant the huge quantities of ash that are now at risk. Yes, we were just responding to market pressures to provide trees that were tough as nails, fast-growing and adaptable to many soils and sites. But we are as much to blame as our buying public for putting that many of our eggs in one basket and overplanting ash as an elm replacement in the urban forest. After the elm debacle, most responsible city foresters implemented the "30, 20, 10" policy of no more than 30% trees from one family, 20% from one genus or 10% of any one species. However, private growers, designers and contractors were under no such obligation, and growers responded to the demand with lots of ash in their programs. My company planted roughly 25% ash for several years in the late '70s, and our ash sales were brisk. The City of Minneapolis has avoided planting ash for the past few years, but ash still represents

greater than 20% of their tree inventory. Many other cities have higher percentages of ash.

It would be a serious mistake to preemptively remove healthy ash from our cities, since they are great street trees with relatively few problems to date. However, as city foresters draw up annual removal budgets, they should preferentially remove declining or hazardous ash trees, along with the worst individuals of other species. Both before and after EAB arrives, we need to be prepared to replace declin-

"The hottest tree in our markets since EAB was discovered is the Autumn Blaze maple."

ing and hazardous trees after they are identified and removed. Again we need trees that are tough as nails, fast-growing and adaptable to many soils and sites.

The hottest tree in our markets since EAB was discovered is the Autumn Blaze Maple. This is a GREAT tree, with lots of endearing qualities. It is almost as fast-growing as silver maple, fully hardy in the Twin Cities and not particular as to soil type or site. Fall color of Autumn Blaze is great, and it is a much more organized tree structurally than is Silver Maple. The grower community responded to this demand for Autumn Blaze maple by planting tens of thousands of liners and ramping up production. Even with the down housing market and horrible nursery sales of the last year or two, Autumn Blaze is still selling fairly well. And yet, Autumn Blaze is basically a Silver Maple with good fall color. I think we will have the same future problems with erupting roots as with silvers and I have seen a lot of Autumn Blaze maples that were poorly

pruned either on the nursery or in the landscape or both, creating structural problems and resulting in susceptibility to wind, snow and ice breakage.

So, Autumn Blaze maple is a great tree with a few typical tree problems.

The far greater issue is the growing preponderance of this tree in nurseries, garden centers and landscapes. If cities are planting 10% Autumn Blaze maple and growers, designers and contractors are pushing this tree as the "no-brainer" solution to all tree problems, we're heading

down the same path we followed with elm a century ago and ash thirty years ago. As professionals, we have an obligation to advise our customers about the best solutions to their problems and I believe we are failing to do that consistently. My company grows Autumn Blaze maple, but in much smaller numbers than many others. We have a wide variety of wonderful shade trees avail-

able, including many that are native to Minnesota. I think we as an industry should move away from the AB-focused mindset we now have and that we put forward to our customers. Green industry professionals should be selling their expertise along with their trees, and pointing customers toward the diverse palette of tree options we already carry. Some of those options require good drainage, or protected sites or acid soils. Isn't that the kind of expertise we should be offering as a value-added service to separate us from the big boxes?

If this article comes across as a diatribe, I have accomplished my purpose. My title is provocative because this issue is very real. I have no idea if we will ever have a disease, insect or other type of problem with Autumn Blaze maple. I certainly hope not. But the more of them we plant, and the less diversity we design, sell and plant for our customers, the greater chance we have of creating an environment ripe for disaster.

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Superintendents were asked: Do you provide players tips and pour jugs of soil and seed?

At Indian Hills, we provide the divot sand on our golf carts. We don't put seed in them though. We prefer the golfers to replace their divots; in cases where it is not possible to be replaced they can use the 80/20 in the bottles.

- Charlie Schultz
Indian Hills Golf Club

We don't supply our players with anything on their carts. Most people don't use the divot mix left on tee boxes. We encourage our staff members to fill divots with extra time before a lunch break, or before the end of the day if they have only a small period of time to kill. Otherwise, we'll go out and cram in a bunch on super busy days, and in the fall, we have a large group of volunteers come in, and we break them up and they walk shoulder to shoulder, filling them all as they go.

- Kyle Fick
Bully Pulpit GC

No, we do have Tee caddies with sand and seed mix on our tees.

- Walt Braunig
Thompson Oaks Golf Course

At Midland Hills we provide soil containers for players who take carts. The golf shop staff maintains the containers, but we store the sand mix for them in our building. Seed is no longer used, as players would fill their rough divots with the bentgrass/soil mixture. My staff gets around the course every day to fix the tee divots and every two weeks to fill the fairway divots.

- Ben Just
Midland Hills Country Club

At St. Cloud the grounds staff fills all divots on fairways and tees. There are seed and soil buckets on the par 3s but we find that they do not fill all the divots so we do it as well. I would rather do it because the players end up not using enough or using too much. We use a 2-1-1 soil mix on tees and fairways.

- Dan Hinton
St. Cloud Country Club

We do not provide seed/soil to our members on the carts or on the tees. Our staff manages the filling of divots on tees and fairways. I have been against having buckets on any tees. When do they end up empty? Late in the afternoon when the staff is gone or late on a weekend, I don't want to deal with that complaint so we do all the filling ourselves and avoid the complaints of empty containers and we know the divots are getting filled everyday and are done properly.

- Jeff Johnson
The Minikahda Club

We encourage players to replace divots throughout the golf course. We don't provide seed and soil tubes for fairways. Our maintenance staff fills divots on fairways with a bentgrass seed/3-1-1 soil mix weekly. We also prepare seed and soil mix for tees and practice areas daily, that is used by tee service staff and offered to players in containers on the tees.

- Mike Brower
Minnesota Valley Country Club

At Hong Kong Golf Club we have tip and pour bottles on all golf carts. We mix our own greens sand for use on filling divots on tees and fairways. We provide the golf cart staff with

the dyed sand on an as-needed basis which they use to replenish the bottles. Walkers are provided with a small sack of green sand which can be attached to a pull cart or trolley.

- Randy Witt, CGCS
Hong Kong Golf Club

At Windsong we ask the players to replace their divots. Periodically, the grounds staff will systematically patch divots with a soil and seed mixture.

- Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm Golf Club

At Chisago Lakes Golf Course we do have soil and seed jugs on the power carts. The rangers maintain the bottles and the maintenance staff fills a large container weekly that the rangers fill from. The rangers fill fairway divots with a Greensmate divot container. Also we use the divot made containers on par 3s and other tees that get a lot of divots.

- Brian Brown
Chisago Lakes Golf Course

No, we do not provide seed bottles, we had some a few years back and these are the problems we encountered. Seed would grow in the bottles, people would use them as ash trays, and our fws are blue and my tees are bent so people would use them on both.

- Tim Wicklund
Cedar Creek GC

We do not provide any jugs for the players. We don't fill the fairway divots at all. As a result of the quick healing and durability of Blue/Rye Grass, we do not see an excessive amount of fairway divots, even with 35,000 rounds played. The tees are another story. We provide soil and seed containers with scoops on the white tees and use the maintenance crew to fill divots at least two times per week depending on amount of play. The mix used to fill our divots is 50% sand, 50% peat blended with seed using the skid loader. I love Blue/Rye tees and fairways!

- Eric Peters
North Links Golf Course

We do provide seed/soil jugs on golf carts. Jugs are filled and maintained by golf staff with divot seed/soil prepared by the grounds department.

- Doug Mahal
The Jewel Golf Club

We provide the pour jugs for our guests and members; our staff fills them as they come back in. We use a mixture of sand and peat and seed. We have approximately 50 of them. Filling in the divots does help our course. Plus we have an adopt-a-hole program here as well, and members go out weekly and fill divots and fix ball marks on their designated holes.

- Tadd Usher
Assistant Manager, Headwaters CC

(Continued on Page 11)

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