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### About the Cover:

Keith Scott, CGCS, left, received the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award for 2009. The award was presented by Scottie Hines, CGCS, on behalf of the membership, at the December MGCSA Awards & Recognition Banquet at Oak Ridge Country Club. (See article on Page 5)

## Gary Deters is our 2009 Watson Award Recipient



**WATSON AWARD WINNER GARY DETERS** and Lisa Johnson were at the MGCSA Awards and Recognition Banquet at Oak Ridge Country Club on December 9. The MGCSA Watson Award is given to the writer of the best member-generated article in 2009.

### PHOSPHORUS RECERTIFICATION

GO TO [www.MGCSA.org](http://www.MGCSA.org)

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## 2010 MGCSA EVENTS

March 3-4  
**MGCSA Mini-Seminar**  
Dellwood Hills CC  
Host: Eric Peterson

May 12  
**MGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day**  
Midland Hills CC

May 26  
**MGCSA Spring Mixer**  
Eastwood GC  
Host: Jeff Minske

June 14  
**MGCSA Scholarship Scramble**  
Greystone GC  
Host: Lee Mahnke

August 16  
**MGCSA Championship**  
The Jewel  
Host: Doug Mahal, CGCS

September 16  
**U of M Field Day**  
TROE Center  
Host: Dr. Brian Horgan

September 20  
**MGCSA Harold Stodola Research Scramble**  
The Classic at Madden's  
Host: Scott Hoffman, CGCS

October 4  
**MGCSA Fall Mixer**  
Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club  
Host: Tom Proshke

December 8  
**MGCSA Awards & Recognition Banquet**  
Southview CC  
Host: Jeramie Gossman





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### What Do MGCSA Members Want or Need to Know?

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

What an honor it is to lead the MGCSA through the next two years. With appreciation of the challenges ahead, I look forward to the opportunities we will engage during my term as president. I am not sure what direction I intend to take this monthly column. I believe my strength is the dispersal of information. With that realization I ask myself; what do the members of MGCSA really want or need to know about? What information can I share that will enlighten them, provide a heads up or possibly make their life a bit easier?

**OUR America is ill. She faces major issues on many fronts.** These are and will continue to be trying times. Golf course budgets continue to shrink. The battle cry of "do more with less" has become tired and worn. The activities occurring in Washington and St. Paul have far-reaching implications for all citizens and their occupations. Golf course Superintendents are no exception! If it passes, the financial ramifications of the current healthcare reform bill will be significant to golf clubs with employees of 50 or more. Water conservation issues are looming, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. EPA's proposed WaterSense program shows us a sliver of what lies ahead. Reliable sources foresee nitrogen as the next nutrient to be brought up before the Minnesota legislative firing squad. The Clean Water Act in conjunction with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) looks to set new standards for water quality and to introduce additional permitting programs for pesticide application on or near surface waters. The anti-pesticide movement in the U.S. remains strong. The list is endless.

**For these very reasons, I am pleased to announce the formation of a new MGCSA committee known as the MN Turf Government Affairs Committee.** Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, is the energy and force behind its creation. E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS will be the liaison between the committee and the Board of Directors. MGCSA members, including vendor reps, will populate the committee. The charge of this group will be to monitor all current legislation impacting our industry, establishing and interacting with State Representatives to promote scientific fact, common sense and ultimately, influence legislation for the good of our industry. The title of this committee is indicative of our willingness to join with others in the turfgrass industry to achieve common goals.

**Another feature for 2010 is the addition of a new segment to the Hole Notes publication.** Director Brian Brown will take the lead in establishing a "get to know your colleague" segment that will appear in every issue. Four MGCSA members will be profiled per issue. If you are contacted to participate, please assist Brian in making this a successful segment. All that is required of you is a photo and answers to several standard questions. The hope is to enhance member interaction through name/face recognition. I know I am horrible with names so I look forward to this new offering.

**Rick Traver, CGCS, has assumed the ex-officio role on the current Board.** He was a solid leader and his no-nonsense approach was inspiring for those of us on the Board for the past two years. I feel fortunate to have him as a sounding board and confidant as I begin my two-year journey. Make sure to thank him for his service. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the Board members that retired from service this January. Tom Meier, Jeff Vinkemeier and David Oberle were integral to the function and productivity of the Board. Thank you all for your service!

**The 2010 Northern Green Expo appeared to be relatively successful.** Early reports suggest pre-registration numbers may have exceeded last year though total attendance was down from 2009. In spite of the current economic climate, our Expo is holding its own while other conferences across the U. S. experience serious declines in quality, participation and financial viability. We will weather the storm!

- Paul Diegnau, CGCS

# HOLE NOTES

Official publication  
of the MGCSA

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# Keith Scott, CGCS, Receives 2009 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award

By LARRY G. VETTER  
*Twin City Seed Company*

Receiving the Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor that is bestowed on an MGCSA member. I have known this year's recipient, Keith Scott, for over 45 years since we were classmates at Iowa State University studying Turfgrass Management. Since that time I've known him as a devoted family man, a dedicated golf course superintendent and it has been my good fortune to have him as one of my best personal friends.

**His technical skills were initially demonstrated** to me when Dr. Eliot Roberts, our turf advisor at Iowa State, pleaded with him to pursue graduate work in turf research instead of returning to the golf turf industry. The golf course maintenance profession, MGCSA, GCSAA, the USGA, other golf-related organizations and golfers in general have all benefitted greatly from his decision to decline that request, although who knows what industry advancements might have been made had he accepted it.

**Keith has been working on golf courses for over 53 years.** Born in Ontario, Canada, he worked at Westview Golf Club for nine years where he was involved in the installation of the first electric automatic irrigation system in that area.

He enrolled at the University of Guelph and graduated with an Associate Degree in Turf Management in 1964. While there he was Captain of the collegiate hockey team for two years. He then enrolled at Iowa State and upon his arrival there was some talk about starting a hockey team. The first night of tryouts over half of the people who showed up were wearing figure skates. As far as he was concerned the hockey team concept was immediately abandoned. Even without hockey he stayed and graduated in 1966 with a B. S. degree in Horticulture with a major in Turfgrass Management.

**Prior to immigrating to the United States** he did research work with the Quaker Oats Company on protein levels in Kentucky bluegrass. He also taught Turfgrass identification to undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students at the University of Guelph. He re-entered the golf industry when he was selected as the Assistant Superintendent at the Mississauga Country Club in Toronto in



## MGCSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

*Keith Scott, CGCS, Oak Ridge Country Club, second from left, with his family at the MGCSA Awards and Recognition Banquet at Oak Ridge Country Club on December 9, 2009. Keith is pictured with his daughter Carla, son Kevin, and his wife Sandra.*

1967. For those not familiar with Canadian golf, Westview and Mississauga are two of the top clubs in Canada.

**In 1969, Keith immigrated to our good fortune** when he accepted the Assistant Superintendent position at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. Working with the U. S. Immigration office I worked up what I thought was a highly technical job description including soil chemistry, plant physiology, pathology, microbiology and a number of other technical multi-syllable disciplines to indicate the requirements for the position. To our amazement, the job classification came back as "Seasonal Agricultural Worker." Who knows how long it would have taken to allow him to immigrate to the U. S. with a work visa. Fortunately, there was an avenue available that sped up the process significantly and it wasn't too long before he was able to emigrate to the U. S. and his turf career in this country began in earnest.

His first year at Minikahda he was amazed to find that we were still dry mixing Calo-Clor with Milorganite for snow mold protection. He convinced us to do

something that no one else had done in this area at that time - spray PMAS on fairways. Since this was a relatively new method for snow mold control, the recommended rates were much higher at that time than they were later when it became more commonly used. When spring arrived, it looked as though the fairways were all dead due to the phyto affects of the chemical. But, to Keith's credit, he was right and when warmer weather arrived they had come through the winter in great shape.

**While at Minikahda, he taught Turfgrass Management at Anoka AVTI** and was instrumental in designing that curriculum, much of which is still followed to this day. Two years later the Superintendent position at Oak Ridge Country Club became available. It was my honor to highly recommend him for that position and he was selected as their Golf Course Superintendent in 1971, the position that he has held ever since.

*(Continued on Page 6)*



## Keith Scott, CGCS-

(Continued from Page 5)

Anyone who has ever played Oak Ridge or visited there over the course of Keith's career is undoubtedly aware of his ability to provide turf conditions that are second to none. In fact he was the first superintendent that I had ever heard of whose membership asked for the cutting heights to be raised on both greens and fairways! Of all of the improvements that he has made to the property since being at Oak Ridge, and there are many, he is especially proud of being involved in developing the current driving range complex that is immediately next to the clubhouse. It was a major renovation which is very impressive to see and is viewed as a huge improvement by the membership there.

**Keith has not only been one of the top superintendents in the golf industry** for all these years, he has shared his knowledge and expertise very generously. He has been an MGCSA and GCSAA member since 1969. He is also a member of the USGA and the O. J. Noer Foundation. He has served as the MGCSA Voting Delegate to GCSAA for sixteen years. He served on GCSAA's scholarship committee for four

years, its Membership Committee for two years and their Government Relations Committee for two years. In addition he was MGCSA's Treasurer for two years, served two terms as its President, served in other capacities on the Board and has chaired or co-chaired MGCSA's Scholarship Committee, the Water Resource Committee, the Research Committee, which he has served on from 1986 to the present, and was the Editor of *Hole Notes* for several years in the 1990s.

**Keith worked very closely with Dr. Ward Stienstra, Plant Pathologist at the University of Minnesota** doing snow mold trials on the 11th fairway at Oak Ridge for a number of years. He has also participated in testing products in the development process with The Toro Company. He was involved with Rotary for 10 years, did volunteer work for his church and has coached his son's hockey team.

It was quite a testament to his career at Oak Ridge that several of its current Board members attended the event as well as having their General Manager relay the appreciation of the Club during the program honoring him with the 2009 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award. In addition to the club officials who were there to

honor him, his wife Sandra and two of their children, Carla and Kevin also were in attendance.

**It is impossible to adequately chronicle such an impressive career** in a short article like this. However, it is possible to acknowledge the fact that Keith has had a distinguished career at one of the top clubs in this area, has provided playing conditions over many years that have been second to none and contributed greatly to our association and the industry in general. Along the way he has taught the finer points of Turfgrass Management to many and has shared his time and expertise to the benefit of us all. He is, without a doubt, one of the most deserving recipients of MGCSA's top award and will be missed when he retires later this year. However, the things he has taught us and demonstrated to us over his career will be remembered and will benefit MGCSA and the golf turf industry throughout this area for many years to come.

*(Editor's Note: Author Larry Vetter, a former MGCSA president, is now affiliated with Twin City Seed Company.)*

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Signature 4.0 oz + Chipco 26GT 4.0 oz	14	5.5 a
Untreated Control		3.3 cd



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# PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

*MGCSA members were asked: In the realm of the "green movement," what does sustainability mean to you?*

The definition of a sustainable golf course is something to which I have given a lot of thought over the past few months. The definitions of sustainable when it comes to golf courses are endless. For us at Northland, a sustainable golf course means a golf course who's quality can be maintained or "sustained" regardless of economic, environment or any other possible condition we may encounter. - *Chris Tritabaugh, Northland Country Club*

\*\*\*\*\*

"Sustainability" relative to the Green Movement, means that if we plant 10 trees for every tree we cut down, we will never run out of trees. In the financial world: if we only spend the interest on our Bank Savings Account, we will never run out of income.- *Jack Hauser, Bluebird Recovery Program*

\*\*\*\*\*

Recognition that we are providing a

"playing surface", not producing a crop. Doing this with as few "inputs" as possible. Inputs meaning everything from fertilizing, pesticide applications, watering and all cultural practices. - *Scott Hoffman, The Classic at Madden's Resort*

\*\*\*\*\*

All aspects of turf management must include components to increase environmental literacy and compatability. Be aware, be proactive, work to minimize environmental effect and damage. - *Jim Hanson, Red Rock Golf Course*

\*\*\*\*\*


To me, sustainability on a large scale, means preserving natural resources for future generations. Regarding a golf course ecosystem, I believe sustainability is protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the ecosystem, so that the overall impact on the environment is positive. It begins with really caring about the envi-

ronment, and making decisions while managing the golf course which will improve the environment. We have a great opportunity in the golf industry to do this. - *Mike Brower, Minnesota Valley CC*

\*\*\*\*\*

Sustainability refers to one's ability to maintain productivity over time. From an ecosystem perspective, it may be defined as continued productivity through natural cycling of water, nutrients and carbon. In its pure form, sustainable turfgrass would refer to the ability of turfgrass to function without added inputs throughout time.

Unfortunately, this isn't possible. So from a functional perspective, sustainable turfgrass would need to define what function it provides to society and what the associated value of that function is. Only then will we be able to define turfgrass as sustainable.- *Dr. Brian Horgan, University of Minnesota*




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# Keller GC: An Urban Nature Preserve

Recipient of the 2009 MGCSA Environmental Award

By PAUL DIEGNAU, CGCS  
Keller Golf Course

Keller GC was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2008, becoming the fifth municipal operation in the state to achieve this status. Our golf course management philosophy centers on holistic plant health management. We strive to maximize plant health by concentrating on biological, physical and cultural practices that stimulate the plant and enhance its natural defenses. We are a low input golf course and proud of it.



Paul Diegnau, CGCS, left, received the 2009 MGCSA Environmental Award from Jeff Vinkemeier, Environmental Chair, on behalf of the MGCSA.

Keller installed a double-row system in 1990 and currently uses OSMAC controllers and a Site Pro central. A VFD-controlled pump station reduces energy consumption. An on-site weather station integrated with the central software allows



staff to replace 60%-80% of daily ET values. The operation also relies on wireless remote moisture sensors to maximize water use efficiency and we hope to expand upon their use in the near future.



Keller Golf Course in St. Paul

The photo shows an irrigation audit in progress.

A new environmentally friendly turf-grass maintenance facility was built in 2004. The facility contains a bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from cleaning equipment wash water and pesticide mixing and loading. In addition, all chemicals are stored securely in a separate heated and sumped unit. Surrounding land includes a bio-retention pond to handle additional runoff from



added impervious surfaces and native prairie restoration of all disturbed land.

Two water bodies on the golf course

have undergone native shoreland restoration. The 15th pond above was completed in 2004 and the pond on the sixth hole

(Continued on Page 10)



Foxes, owls, turkeys and ducks happily make Keller Golf Course their home.



## Keller GC

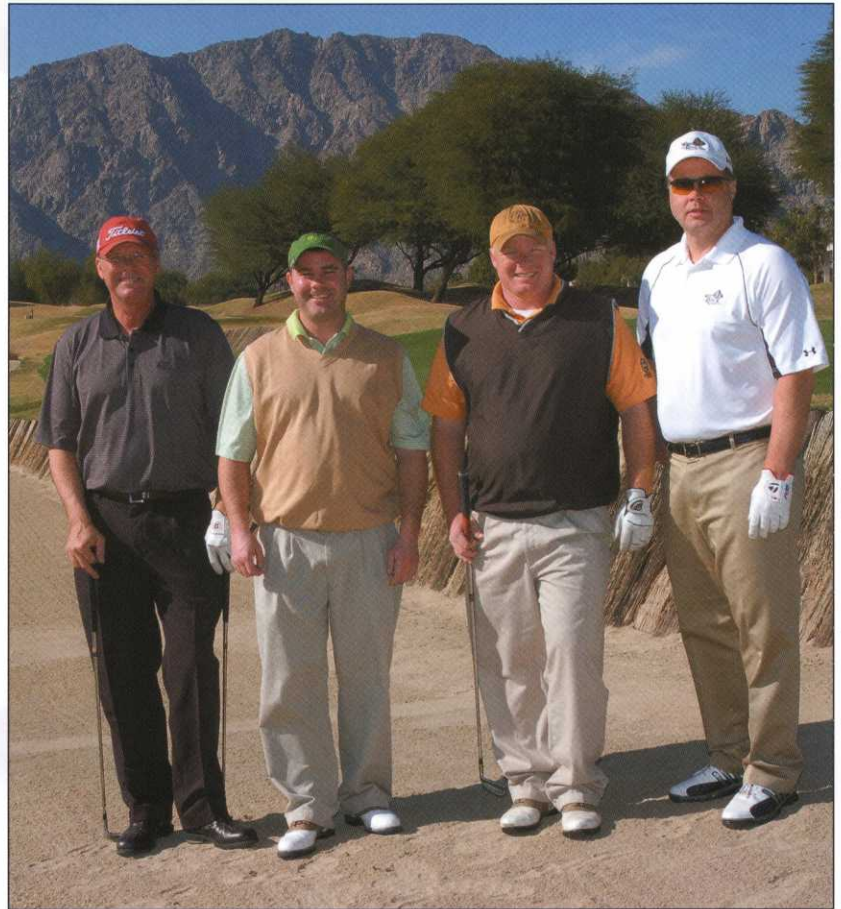
(Continued from Page 9)

was restored in 2009. We have established a solid, productive relationship with our local watershed district.

Nature abounds in this urban setting!



Native prairie conversions throughout the golf course provide constantly changing colors and textures while providing critical habitat for wildlife.



### MGCSA Members Are John Deere World Golf Champs

Following two days of international competition, the 23rd Annual John Deere World Championship recently came to an exciting close with the Frontier Ag & Turf team claiming the victory which was held December 10-12 at La Quinta Resort & Club in La Quinta, Calif.

The tournament featured 68 teams from around the globe competing in a scramble format divided among six handicapped flights. John Deere Golf distributor Frontier Ag & Turf walked away as champions after defeating six flight-winning teams in a three-hole playoff round.

Larry Gorman hosted the winning team that included Erin McManus of Medina Golf & Country Club, Dale Heibert of Rush Creek Golf Club, and Chris Goodwick of Wild Rock Golf Club. The foursome birded the final two holes of the playoff to claim the championship. The John Deere World Championship tournament is designed for members of golf course management teams across the globe to come together for fun competitive play.

# MGCSA MEGA-SEMINAR

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