

January 28, 2010

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MN Golf Course Superintendents' Association
Executive Director
217-D Minnetonka Avenue South
Wayzata, MN 55391

Dear Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, I commend your dedicated service to the Turfgrass Phosphorus Fertilizer Training Program. It is a privilege to acknowledge your efforts and recognize the valuable education this program provides to Minnesota's golf course and landscape management personnel.

To date, 429 industry professionals have successfully completed this program which allows them to apply phosphorus fertilizer to golf courses and other landscapes in a manner protective of the state's water resources. The program meets the requirements of the Minnesota's lawn phosphorus fertilizer law which states: *"...fertilizer containing plant food phosphorus can be used on a golf course under the direction of a person licensed, certified, or approved by an organization with an ongoing training program approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture."*

The Turfgrass Phosphorus Fertilizer Training Program has trained professionals in phosphorus use restrictions, basic soils and soil testing, soil fertility, phosphorus chemistry, nutrition, and fate, phosphorus fertilizer recommended rates, calibration of application equipment, and environmental conditions. Since 2003, 15 four-hour training sessions have been held. In addition, parts of this training have been given at 22 state, 5 national, and 4 international conferences. The training program database shows that golf course personnel (and others) who have received training have also diligently retrained every two years in effort to keep current on industry research and other related pertinent information.

Thank you for educating professionals who are responsible for applying phosphorus fertilizer to golf courses and other landscapes. According to the Journal of Applied Turfgrass Science, your work has helped golf course personnel set a trend within the North Central agronomic region by reducing the annual amount of phosphorus applied to golf courses between 2002 and 2006, playing an integral role in preventing phosphorus from reaching surface waters.

With gratitude and sincerity,



Gene Hugoson
Commissioner

GH:PFM:gcb

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Count on it.

The Record Flood of '09 at Rose Creek

By ERIC HANSEN

Superintendent, Rose Creek Golf Course
and Prairiewood Golf Course

I was walking back to my hotel room in San Diego when I listened to the message from Jack Mackenzie, the editor of *Hole Notes*, asking if I would write an article about the flooding on our course in 2009. Snow, flooded rivers and giant earthen levees seemed so far away while attending the GCSAA Conference.

Rose Creek Golf Course is located in Fargo, North Dakota and is one of the Fargo Park District's five public courses. It is an 18-hole course bordered on the north by its namesake, Rose Creek, and by homes on the west and south. The creek flows into the Red River which flows north to Lake Winnipeg. We have had several floods since it was built in 1991 but nothing like the record-setting spring of 2009.

When the Red River floods, it backs up into Rose Creek, or Rose Coulee as it is called on flood maps. Most spring floods are just nuisance floods for us as it covers one fairway, a couple tee boxes and our lowest green. Normally the turf is still dormant and the temperatures are cold enough that it recovers after washing the silt off with pumps and hoses. During a few major flood events in the past temporary clay or sandbag dikes had to be built in low areas to prevent the flood waters from crossing the course and flooding homes in South Fargo. After a very wet fall and above normal snowfall we were anticipating some damage from the dikes and a lot of washing that spring. On March 19th when I heard the prediction of a record level for the river I pulled out an elevation map left over from a previous flood and looked at the 40 foot flood line. I remember thinking that to protect the homes around us they would have to build a dike diagonally across half the course, and there is no way they would do that. The next day we were plowing and blowing snow away from the path of the planned levee with skid steer loaders and tractor blowers. We tried to locate and mark drains and irrigation despite being buried in feet of ice and snow. Greens and tees close to the path were staked off with rope or marked with orange traffic cones.

The plan was for the Army Corps of



Irrigation repair was a consequence of the flood.

Engineers to use private contractors to haul all the clay in that was needed for the levee. On March 21st they began hauling in material and shaping the dike. It quickly became clear that due to heavy rains and the river rising faster than expected that it couldn't be completed in time if all the clay was to be hauled in from another site. The decision was quickly made to start mining clay right out of the driving range to save time in hauling. The damage to the golf course would be minor compared to the possible loss of all those homes. Unfortunately even this didn't seem to save enough time. By March 23rd five track excavators were following the path that we marked and doing what they called "dig and dump." They would dig pits approximately fifteen feet deep and dump the clay in piles while bulldozers would shape and level it. The operators did their best to avoid the greens but there was no way to avoid the other vital parts of the golf course. Tees, fairways, bunkers and the driving range all suffered major damage. Irrigation, power, communication, 15-inch drain lines and even satellite boxes were destroyed in the process. Several of the equipment operators were

regular golfers at Rose Creek and were as upset as our crews were at the unavoidable damage.

The important thing is that the dike was completed in time and held for the duration of the flood. The Red River reached a new record crest in Fargo on March 28 at a level of 40.84 feet which is 22.84 feet above our official flood stage. That left us with six complete holes and seven greens covered with water.

Normally, we would start washing the silt off the turf as soon as the river begins receding. On March 31st just as some greens started coming out of the water Fargo was hit with another ten inches of snow and temperatures well below freezing and there wasn't much we could do but wait for warmer weather.

Eventually, we were able to start washing greens and tees and pumping out the pits to access the damages. It was soon obvious that with all the clean-up and repairs needed to the recreation facilities in Fargo that were affected by the flood that we didn't have the manpower and equipment needed to repair Rose Creek on our own.

(Continued on Page 15)

Flood at Rose Creek-

(Continued from Page 14)

By the end of April we had a golf course contractor on site to help with the repairs. They began removing the dike and filling up the holes on the estimated 18 acres that had been disturbed. Obvious damage to the irrigation and wiring was repaired while other breaks would have to wait to be fixed until we could get water in the system. Our golf maintenance crews, led by assistants Ryan Stalboerger and Joel Sperial, continued to wash turf and clean up debris as the river dropped. We had opened nine holes that weren't affected by the levee or the flood two weeks earlier so they had the normal spring work to take care of on those holes also.

(Continued on Page 17)



Pumping holes to check for damage to utilities.



Dikes were formed to protect parts of the course and neighboring houses.

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Damaged greens and fairways at Rose Creek after the flood.



Parts of the course were disturbed in order to build the dikes.

Flood at Rose Creek-

(Continued from Page 15)

On May 3rd the water finally dropped below our last green, after being covered for six weeks. Within a few days it was dry enough to get light equipment on. We spiked it several times but ended up losing the entire green as well as part of a fairway and one set of tees. They were all reseeded as soon as they had dried out enough to work on. The weather did not cooperate with us much that spring as it stayed very wet and cool. Our crew would seed areas as soon as the contractor was finished with the reconstruction but it was taking longer than we had hoped. By the end of June the dike was gone, all the damaged cart paths had been replaced and the irrigation was all finally pressurized and holding. There was still some seeding to be done but the crews had done a fantastic job of getting the course back in shape.

Looking out the window now at the huge piles of snow make me wonder what this spring will be like. Red River flood forecasts came out today and they don't sound very optimistic. Moisture levels and weather patterns similar to last year could make this another interesting summer.

Musing the Minutes

By **MATT MCKINNON**
MGCSA Secretary

The MGCSA Board of Directors met at Keller Golf Course on January 26, 2010.

President Paul Diegnau, CGCS, welcomed Joe Churchill, Roger Stewart, CGCS, Bill Gullicks and Jake Ryan to the Board. Diegnau also reported that University of Minnesota sent a thank you for the first installment of \$10,000 of the \$50,000 Endowment.

Under new business Diegnau brought up the Executive Director's Compensation. After discussion, Rick Traver, CGCS, made a motion to increase Turtinen Communications salary by 3%. The Board approved.

Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS, reported that MGCSA budgeted for 2009 to break even but we will actually make about \$4,600. Dues revenue was down \$10,000. Board approved Treasurer's Report.

Executive Director Scott Turtinen reported that, as of January 26, MGCSA Affiliate sponsorship has brought in \$5,400 for the Northern Green Expo Booth Challenge; \$11,450 for 2010 MGCSA monthly meetings and the March Mega-Seminar, and \$10,600 for Hospitality Night in San Diego during the Golf Industry Show.

MGCSA has received dues from 92 Golf course and 22 Affiliates. Donations totalled \$700. Dave Krupp donated \$500, which makes his donations for 2009 total \$2,500.

Jeff Ische, Eric Counselman and Diegnau attended the Joint Programming Board for the Northern Green Expo. This Board consists of MTGF, which is eight Allied Associations, and MNLA, which are nine committees. Paul reported that there were 5,700 attendees at the 2010 Green Expo compared to 6,700 during the 2009 Expo. Paul Eckholm made a motion to approve the purchase of 250 folders for the March Mega Seminar, Rick Traver, 2nd, approved.

*Respectfully submitted,
Matt McKinnon, Secretary*

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Mark Anderson	605-336-1873	manderson@turfwerks.com
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EAB Regulatory Review

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Current Emerald Ash Borer Situation

Minnesota currently has three counties quarantined to prevent the movement of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties. These counties are under quarantine by both the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which maintains a parallel federal quarantine.

Following is a list of commonly asked questions that we have received regarding the EAB quarantine.

What is an EAB Quarantine?

The EAB Quarantine is administered by the MDA and the USDA. The quarantine is intended to prevent the human-assisted movement of EAB. People moving wood products can inadvertently transport EAB to new areas. Therefore the EAB Quarantine restricts the movement of certain wood products (called regulated articles) to within the quarantine boundaries. The MDA is responsible for controlling regulated article movement within the State, and USDA is responsible for movement out of the State.

What are regulated articles?

Regulated articles are the pest itself or items that could possibly harbor EAB. The following are considered regulated articles in the Minnesota EAB Quarantine: emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) itself, ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.), ash limbs and branches, ash stumps and roots, ash logs, ash lumber, ash chips and ash bark chips, and firewood of any hardwood (non-coniferous) species.

What yard waste is considered a "regulated article"?

Any yard waste that contains ash limbs, branches or twigs, is considered a "regulated article" under the EAB Quarantine, and must be handled accordingly. If it is not possible to determine if

ash is mixed in, then it is strongly advised that the yard waste be treated as a regulated article to effectively mitigate the spread of EAB.

How can I transport my regulated yard waste?

***"To report a suspected violation of the Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine, please contact us at:
Arrest the Pest Hotline
651-201-6684 in the Metro Area
or 1-888-545-6684
in Greater Minnesota."***

1. Unmitigated regulated yard waste (intact logs, limbs, branches and twigs of ash trees) can be freely transported between adjacent counties that are quarantined (but not outside of the EAB Quarantine). 2. If it is necessary to transport regulated yard waste across and outside of the EAB Quarantine boundary, then a compliance agreement with the MDA must be obtained.

What is a Compliance Agreement?

A compliance agreement is a document that specifies how the regulated articles are to be managed, maintained or treated to ensure that EAB is not inadvertently moved out of the quarantine area.

What can I do with my ash material from a quarantined county?

A list of sites available inside the EAB Quarantine that accept regulated yard waste can be found by visiting: www.mda.state.mn.us/sitecore/content/Global/MDADocs/pestsplants/eab/ashwastewaste.aspx. Locations for these sites can be found by visiting: http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geoce=&q=http:%2F%2Fgis.mda

state.mn.us%2Fkml%2FEAB_disposal_site.s.kml&ie=UTF8&z=8.

Please remember to call the site ahead of time to find out what is accepted, by whom, hours of operation and if any fees apply. Some of the listed sites are inside the quarantine, and any regulated articles can be brought to these sites for processing. Other sites are outside of the quarantine, and any movement of regulated articles to these sites will require a compliance agreement. Material can also be utilized within the quarantine for any legal purpose.

What if I want to move the ash material out of the quarantined counties?

Movement of regulated articles from the quarantine area may only be done with a signed compliance agreement in place. Treatments for regulated articles include: Chipping, Composting, Debarking, Heat Treatment, Kiln-drying.

Fumigation and Transport during an EAB non-flight (dormant) period. Each of these treatments has very specific requirements and are discussed and outlined in the compliance agreement. The compliance agreement should be in place before beginning product processing operations.

We Will Follow Up On Tips....

To report a suspected violation of the Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine, please contact us at: Arrest the Pest Hotline 651-201-6684 in the Metro Area 1-888-545-6684 in Greater Minnesota Arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us. 2010 First Detector Training First Detector workshops are intended for persons wanting: In-depth information on Emerald Ash Borer and other forest pests including gypsy moth, Asian long horned beetle and thousand canker on walnut. To volunteer be a Forest Pest First Detector. To take the Minnesota Tree Inspector Exam. An update for current First Detectors <http://www.extension.umn.edu/pesticides/2010/eab/>

MGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 26, 2010

New Members

Paul Fox
Class SM - GCSAA
Begin Oaks GC
Plymouth, MN
763-559-7574

Kyle R. Kleinschmidt
Class C - GCSAA
The Bridges GC
Winona, MN
507-454-4009

David T. Knudsen
Class C
Woodhill CC
Wayzata, MN
952-473-5811

Scott Weik
Class C
Goodrich GC
Maplewood, MN
651-748-2500



Chris Quinlan
Affiliate
Becker Underwood
Lindstrom, MN
612-669-6231

Mark Sullivan
Affiliate
TruGreen
Burnsville, MN
952-895-3460

Steve Thompson
Affiliate
Rainbow Tree Care
Minnetonka, MN
952-252-3810

Reclassifications

Eric Counselman
Somery GC
Class SM-GCSAA
to Class A-GCSAA

Erin McManus
Medina G & CC
Class C-GCSAA
to Class SM-GCSAA

Thomas St. George
Soldiers Field GC
Class A to Class AA

*Submitted by Brian Brown
Membership Chair*

MGCSA FALL 2009 SURVEY RESULTS

In what way do you make on course drinking water available?

- Cone cups and water coolers (40)
- Free bottled water (6)
- Bottled water for purchase only: vending machines, beverage cart or halfway house (16)
- Other (14)

2) If free bottled water is provided to your golfers, how much does it cost your golf course per year?

- Not applicable (54)
- Less than \$2,000 (1)
- \$2,000 - \$4,000 (2)
- \$4,000 - \$6,000 (0)
- \$6,000 - \$8,000 (1)
- More than \$8,000 (2)

3) During an 18 hole round of golf, how many times will a golfer pass by available drinking water?

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 (2) | 2 (3) | 3 (3) |
| 4 (21) | 5 (10) | 6 (10) |
| 7 (7) | 8 (5) | 9 (1) |
| 12 (1) | 18 (2) | |

4) Would you be interested in purchasing MGCSA logoed clothing if it were available for inspection and order at the Northern Green Expo and monthly association events? Yes (40) No (18) Surveys returned (62)

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