

DivotPack: Schwegman's Light-Bulb Moment

By MEGAN NICOLAI
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Katie Schwegman had no experience building or marketing a new invention

But she had faith in her idea, and, after being laid off from the golf course where she had worked the past seven years, now was the time to make a go of it.

After spending good chunks of her 35 years on golf courses, Schwegman, who played on teams beginning in middle school, saw room for improvement.



Katie Schwegman

The problem was the time-consuming task of filling courses pocked by divots. While golfers are supposed to replace their own divots, many don't, leaving grounds crews lugging around three-gallon buckets of a sand and soil mixture, as they kneel down to fill the holes with a cup.

Watching the crews at Stonebrooke Golf Club in Shakopee, where she worked, fill divots in the summer of 2009, while she gathered leaves with a backpack leaf blower, Schwegman had her light bulb moment.

"It was just about putting two ideas together," said Schwegman, who works out of her Bloomington home.

She enlisted the help of a mechanical engineer who played with the men's league for Stonebrooke. After she paid him to help her build several prototypes, Schwegman was able to develop a model that everyone she worked with at the course seemed excited about.

"Everyone has been very positive, excited about it," Schwegman said. "Right now golf courses are trying to do more with less, and this way good groundskeeping doesn't have to be the first thing to go."

The DivotPack, which sells for \$349, is a backpack with a gravity-fed tube that can hold up to three gallons of sand mixture. It is designed to ease back strain and save hours from the process of filling divots by hand. And with 16,000 golf courses around the country, including about 600 in Minnesota alone, Schwegman believes her invention has major potential.

"Marketing the product has been a grass-roots effort," said Schwegman, who enlisted her sister-in-law and publicist, Jennifer Schwegman.

They recently attended the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, the world's largest international show for golf professionals. The last-minute decision to attend paid off, as they sold out her first production round of 250 DivotPacks.

"The response was fantastic, almost overwhelming," Schwegman said of the national and international audience. Their product booth was constantly swamped with international investors taking pictures of the patent-pending DivotPack and camera crews from abroad covering the event. They even asked a group of foreign investors to leave after a few too many pictures, worried that they would see an identical product in a foreign

market within months.

"A lot of people looked into our booth and had a 'why didn't I think of that' moment," Jennifer Schwegman said. "It's a simple idea, but there's nothing else in the industry with the backpack format."

Jeff Johnson, Superintendent of The Minikahda Club near Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, liked the early prototypes he tested. "It was very easy to use," said Johnson, who used to be Schwegman's boss. "It definitely meets our needs for divot repair."

Schwegman sees the product applying to more than just golf. Soccer, polo, or football fields could all use it, since scarring on their fields is a safety concern. The Minnesota Vikings have already placed two orders for the DivotPack online, Schwegman said. A spokesman for the team did not return calls for comment.

Schwegman is now considering several ideas for how to improve the DivotPack, such as allowing golf courses to customize colors or adding attachments for sod care. She is also searching for a national distributor to market it, and hopes to have an international distributor this summer, she said.

To Jennifer Schwegman, the possibilities seem endless.

"This is the kind of product that keeps you up at night," she said.

Green Expo Highlight!

The *Ultimix* pre-mix station drew a lot of attention, and for good reason. It saves mixing time, mixes chemical better, and it's safer for operators.



- Fast mixing
- Portable
- Compact
- Quiet
- Safe
- Affordable

Call for more details and, Order Early!

Frost Services
1-800-621-7910
Email: info@frostserv.com
www.frostserv.com

One Superintendent's Perspective

By **KEVIN BLACK, CGCS**
Prairie View Golf Links



KEVIN BLACK CGCS
Prairie View Golf Links

Prairie View Golf Links, Worthington, MN, is a 6,500-yard Joel Goldstrand treeless links style course opened in 1983. The course encompasses 130 acres of which 20 acres are water and 12 acres are naturalized rough areas.

I started as the assistant superintendent at Brooks Golf Club in Okoboji, IA in 1979 where I stayed for three years. I was the sup't at Spencer Municipal Golf Course in Spencer, IA for 13 years. I have been sup't at Prairie View for the past 16 years. I obtained certification here in 1996. I was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the South Dakota Chapter of GCSAA.

Why an/or how did you enter the turf management industry?

I was a long-term student at Iowa State University, where I eventually decided on Horticulture as my major. Then Superintendent Doug Wicks had just taken the job at Brooks Golf Club and asked me if I would be his assistant. My reply was, "but I've never worked on a golf course," to which he said "you'll be alright." I started working, never went back to school, and am still at it 32 years later.

Who was your professional mentor?

Obviously Doug Wicks showed me the

ropes from the beginning. As I look at all the people in our profession, I am constantly impressed at the things I learn from different supers whether they are old or young, weathered by time or new to the business.

What has been the highest point in your career?

I think the construction projects I have been involved in have been the most gratifying, but seeing employees going on to become good Superintendents has definitely been a thrill.

What has been your lowest point?

Losing a job for purely political reasons.

Are your greatest challenges political, agronomic or managerial?

If you had told me long ago that political and financial challenges would be in the forefront today, I would have thought you were nuts. Now the agronomics are the easy part.

What is the most difficult disease to manage on your course and how do you?

We are situated on the outskirts of Worthington where the wind is always blowing (a four or five club wind is not

uncommon) so diseases never really get a foothold. Dollar spot is our biggest challenge, but it really wasn't much of an issue until last summer when the wind didn't blow for about three weeks and it just devastated us. I get by in the winter without applying any snow mold fungicides, because even in a snowy winter, the snow blows off the greens.

Is it hard to find good help in your area of the state?

I have been very lucky finding and retaining good help, especially with what we pay them.

Do you have a dog on your crew?

Ruger, my 110-pound, five-year-old chocolate lab keeps things interesting here.

Where will our industry be in 10 years?

I'm very intrigued to see where the advances in technology will change the way we do things.

Where would you like to be in 10 years?

Retired, on a lake in northern Minnesota where the wind doesn't blow.

What is your perspective of our state association and what would you change?

MGCSA is a solid organization full of talented people.

Name your dream foursome. Who would you like to spend time with golfing?

My dream foursome would include Al Linder, Bill Clinton and Mother Teresa. Al, because we could talk fishing for four hours and maybe I could wrangle some time on the water with him: Bill Clinton, because mulligans anytime are okay and I want to play with someone who actually has a legitimate shot at the beer cart girl; Mother Teresa, because I know golf is frustrating enough to make even a saint swear out loud, I just want to see it with my own eyes.



Prairie View Golf Links

A TOAST,
IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR BUSINESS.
HERE'S TO YOU.



At Par Aide, we'd like to raise a paper cup to you, our valued customer. Because it's your unyielding dedication to the course that inspires us to keep building the industry's most innovative products. So from Par Aide, we salute all you do. Cheers.

Wherever golf is played.





Super Dogs

Managing the Superintendent's Best Friend

By SUE MILLS-KOTHE
Total Recall School for Dogs

(Pictured above is Sam, a two-year-old, who "watches over Cannon Golf Club for geese, squirrels, gophers and his favorite - the members!" said Nancy Diepenbrock, Assistant Superintendent at Cannon GC.)

To Leash or Not To Leash That Is the Question

Spring is here and walking paths and public parks are full of people and their dogs. Having control over your dog is of utmost importance for their safety as well as other dogs and their owners. The proper collar and lead are important tools when taking your animal out in public.

As a professional trainer I have experienced as many different styles of collars and harnesses as there are students. While I teach positive reinforcement training with the use of praise and treats, I expect my own dogs and my students' to be under control at all times and thus I suggest that strong willed animals to be collared with a prong collar, not for the physical restraint, but rather the ability to impose constant pressure around the dogs neck when necessary during training.

If you have ever walked a dog with a choke or band collar you may have noticed that they will often pull against the resist- ing force. This is a natural dog reaction. The prong collar encloses and applies consistent pressure around the neck confusing the dog as they know not what to pull against. You, the pack leader,

have instant control. However, and I need you to pay close atten- tion to this statement, proper use of a prong style collar requires professional training for desired results! If you are having chal- lenges with your dog seek a reputable trainer to help you be the very best owner and thus also have the very best dog.

The negative perception of cruelty while using the prong collar is just that, a misguided opinion, for this style of collar is actually a very gentle way to train your rambunctious pal under the instruction of a qualified handler. Please never use a head harness for if quick correction is needed, a hard tug on the lead could cause severe neck injury. Also, choke type chains can cause harm to the trachea of strong pulling dogs.

I believe that most towns have 'leash laws' but a few people think they are exempt from following the rules, creating a bad image for responsible owners. We have heard of many incidents where dogs are running loose where children are playing. Dogs have a strong prey drive and chase instinct, so if children are running and chasing each other, dogs will want to get in on the action. That often leads to someone getting bit. There are now may "dog parks" for those that feel your dog needs to 'be free.' They can run to their hearts content without a leash.

At Total Recall we teach the use of two types of training leashes; a six foot for learning how to heel, sit and other basic com- mands and a longer 15 plus lead for encouraging recall. Besides verbal praising and treats, gentle correction will help you train your dog to be a well managed member of your family.

My dogs are well-trained, but if we were to walk or run on a walking path together, they would be on a leash. Not only for respect for others but also for the safety of my dogs. With this in mind, remember not all dogs or even owners want to meet other dogs.

Please have respect for others and keep your dogs on a leash. Then everyone will be able to enjoy the parks and walking paths. Make your dogs a good neighbor; train them, they are a part of your family and an extension of you.



NUTRISPHERE-N

****New Technology****

The Tessman Company offers a full line of turf fertilizers with NutriSphere.

NutriSphere - N works at the microenvironment level, protecting nitrogen fertilizers from the many loss mechanisms that are in the soil, robbing you of your valuable nutrients and leave no environmental footprint.

Key Features and Benefits

- NutriSphere- N is a water- soluble polymer additive for granular or liquid nitrogen.
- NutriSphere- N creates an active shield that manages the nitrogen in the soil by preventing soil processes that are responsible for volatilization and leaching.
- NutriSphere-N works in any soil type.
- NutriSphere-N is biodegradable and water-soluble, leaving no environmental footprint.

To find out more about our fertilizers with NutriSphere, please contact Tessman at:

St. Paul (651) 487-3850 Fargo (701) 232-7238 Sioux Falls (605) 368-2586



RAIN BIRD

Contact: Tom Bjornberg
tbjornberg@yamahagu.com
Office: 952-890-5541
Cell: 612-718-8491
Toll Free: 800-352-2779

New Rain Bird Golf Rotors With Full- and Part-Circle Performance



Make the most of every rotor with new Rapid-Adjust Technology featuring MemoryArc™. Available on new Rain Bird® 751 Golf Rotors, this innovative feature allows you to easily adjust watering on greens, fairways or roughs for unmatched versatility and precise control. Offering proven Rain Bird durability and distribution uniformity, these cost-efficient rotors are also backward-compatible with existing Rain Bird rotor cases. Doing more when it matters most.

That's The Intelligent Use of Water.™

Introducing Rapid-Adjust Technology featuring MemoryArc™



Set primary rotor arc



Turn the Full-arc Adjustment Sleeve for full circle operation



Turn to part circle again for either 75% A or 75% B setting.

No need to adjust arc when going between full and part circle settings

All early orders over \$1000.00 placed and paid for by April 1st 2011 will receive a Monterey Club pullover.



"My entire member board knew which greens were mowed with the Baroness and which ones were mowed with the other mowers...they told me to buy Baroness even though we were under lease with the other mowers"

Bill Murtha, Superintendent
Binghamton Country Club, NY

Contact: Chip Lewison
clewison@yamahagu.com
Office: 952-890-5541
Cell: 952-540-7458
Toll Free: 800-352-2779

**3 YEAR
WARRANTY**

BARONESS

QUALITY ON DEMAND



Contact: Billie Mac Donald
bmacdonald@yamahagu.com
Office: 952-890-5541
Cell: 651-788-2877
Toll Free: 800-352-2779

YAMAHA

GOLF & UTILITY
RELIABILITY STARTS HERE

SEALED BID AUCTION

All proceeds will be donated to The First Tee Programs of Minnesota



The First Tee Mission Statement

To impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

THE FIRST TEE NINE CORE VALUES

- HONESTY
- INTEGRITY
- SPORTSMANSHIP
- CONFIDENCE
- PERSISTENCE
- RESPONSIBILITY
- JUDGEMENT
- COURTESY
- RESPECT

Toro Greensmaster® 3150



Mower donated by The Toro Company and MTI Distributing, Inc.

**SEALED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL NOON ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011**

Contact your MTI Distributing Sales Representative
for bidding instructions.



MTI Distributing, Inc.
4830 Azelia Avenue N.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
800-362-3665
763-592-5600
Fax: 763-592-5700

MTI Distributing, Inc.
2131 16th St. N. Suite C
Fargo, ND 58102
800-782-1031
701-281-0775
Fax: 701-281-9417



Count on it.

Workman MD Series Utility Vehicles

Superior Ride Quality

The Workman MD series combines comfort and productivity like never before. The pioneering SRQ suspension with the Active In-Frame twister joint delivers superior ride quality for all-day comfort. Rugged front styling lets you know this is a utility vehicle built to work. With large payload and towing capacity, and a long list of accessories and attachments, the Workman MD series is the better way to get jobs done.



Toro Workman® MD Series

- SRQ™ suspension
- Active In-Frame™ twister joint
- Total vehicle capacity
 - MDX—1,650 lbs. (749 kg)
 - MD—1,250 lbs. (567 kg)
 - MDE—1,200 lbs. (545 kg)
- Bed load capacity
 - MDX—1,250 lbs. (567 kg)
 - MD—850 lbs. (386 kg)
 - MDE—800 lbs. (363 kg)
- Towing capacity
 - MDX—1,200 lbs. (545 kg)
 - MD—800 lbs. (363 kg)
 - MDE—800 lbs. (363 kg)



MTI Distributing, Inc.
4830 Azelia Avenue N.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
800-362-3665
763-592-5600
Fax: 763-592-5700

MTI Distributing, Inc.
2131 16th St. N. Suite C
Fargo, ND 58102
800-782-1031
701-281-0775
Fax: 701-281-9417



Count on it.

MNLA/MTGF Announce Changes to Northern Green Expo For the 2012 Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center

By **BOB FITCH**
MNLA Executive Director

Responding to ideas and input from exhibitors and attendees and with the blessing of the MNLA-MTGF Expo Trade Show Committee and the MNLA-MTGF Joint Programming Board, we are pleased to announce the following changes to the Northern Green Expo, effective for the 2012 event.

The trade show will move to Halls D-E, at the west of the end of the Minneapolis Convention Center. While the total footprint of these exhibit halls is slightly smaller, Expo is actually planning for more exhibit space to be sold for the 2012 event, based upon early demand from exhibitors following this year's 15% increase in attendance. The other advantages of moving down the hall will be slightly lower expenses and closer proximity to the headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency. A new trade show floor plan and new location request form will soon be sent to all exhibitors from the 2011 Expo.

The reconfigured trade show will have a "bulk space area" where large equipment exhibitors will be able rent substantially more square footage for the same price they paid this past January.

The reconfigured trade show will have two "front doors" to facilitate balanced traffic flow for exhibitors.

Hall D Front Door: Lobby area includes morning coffee, MNLA and MTGF Community Center.

Hall E Front Door: Lobby area includes registration, landscape awards, job boards.

The Casino Party will not be held in 2012 so that financial resources can be devoted to an attendee trade show lunch. The goal is to increase the value of the trade show as a center of networking and commerce. However, Green Expo hopes that Thursday evening will remain an important time for networking. Any exhibitors wanting help from Expo in promoting their Thursday evening parties

should contact Trade Show Manager Mary Dunn.

Exhibitors will now be able to attend the opening Keynote on Wednesday because the session will not overlap with trade show hours.

2012 Trade Show hours:

Wednesday

10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Dedicated Trade Show Time:

10:30-12:30, 1:20-2:40; 3:40-5:30

Thursday

9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Dedicated Trade Show Time:

10:30-2:00; 3:50-5:30

Friday

9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Dedicated Trade Show Time:

9:30-10:35; 11:30-1:00

JACOBSEN
A Traxion Company

GP 400

- Successor to the G-Plex III & available in gas or diesel
- Dash panel refreshed with joystick lift/lower control
- Automotive type hand control for parking break
- Refined hydraulic system with fewer components
- Re-styled fuel & hydraulic tanks that optimizes weight balance, incorporates a storage area, & provides easier engine access



TurfWerks

800-592-9513

2905 Lexington Ave. S Suite 2
Eagan, Mn

www.turfwerks.com

Territory Managers:

Jeremy Stafne 612-802-3149

Greg Bondy 612-308-0102

Mitch Stewart 515-240-8974

Rich Mining 605-201-2971

jstafne@turfwerks.com

gbondy@turfwerks.com

mstewart@turfwerks.com

rvining@turfwerks.com

Parts Manager:

Mark Anderson 605-336-1578

m.anderson@turfwerks.com



The Savory Supe

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



Strip Steaks with Tomato and Blue Cheese Vinaigrette

Recipe from *Weber's Time to Grill™*

by *Jamie Purviance*

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Grilling Time: 6 to 8 minutes

Serves 4

- 4 New York strip steaks, each 10-12 ounces and about 1" thick, trimmed of excess fat
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Ground black pepper
- Vinaigrette

- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 cups (about 20) cherry tomatoes, each cut into quarters
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh basil leaves
- 2 ounces crumbled Gorgonzola cheese (1/2 cup)

1) Prepare the grill for direct cooking over high heat (450° to 550°F).



2) Lightly brush the steaks on both sides with oil and season evenly with salt and pepper. Allow the steaks to stand at room temperature for 15 to 30 minutes before grilling.

3) In a medium bowl whisk the shallot, vinegar, mustard, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Slowly whisk in 2 tablespoons of oil, forming a smooth vinaigrette. Add the tomatoes and basil. Mix well.

4) Brush the cooking grates clean. Grill the steaks over direct high heat, with the lid closed as much as possible, until cooked to your desired doneness, 6 to 8 minutes for medium rare, turning once or twice (if flare-ups occur, move the steaks temporarily over indirect heat). Remove from the grill and let rest for 3 to 5 minutes. Add the cheese to the vinaigrette. Mix gently. Serve the steaks warm with the vinaigrette spooned over the top.

Enjoy!

- *Scottie Hines, CGCS*
Windsong Farm Golf Club

HARTMAN
Golf Course Construction & Renovation

Quality since 1971...

Specializing in...

Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades • Landscape design and installation • Trees

8099 Bavaria Rd.
Victoria, MN 55386
952.443.2990

info@hartmancompanies.com
www.hartmancompanies.com

WHEN YOU NEED
MUSCLE IN YOUR TANK



CONTROL OF TOUGH TURFGRASS INSECTS!

- ◆ **CONTROLS ROOT- AND LEAF-FEEDING INSECTS**
 - ◆ **EXTENDED SYSTEMIC CONTROL**
 - ◆ **USE IN TROUBLESDOME TURF AREAS**
 - ◆ **RAPID UPTAKE AND TRANSLLOCATION**

EFFECTIVE ON!

- ▶ **CHINCH BUG**
- ▶ **MOLE CRICKET**
- ▶ **EUROPEAN GRASSHOPPER**
- ▶ **ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR
REINDEER SALES REPRESENTATIVE OR CALL:
JOHN SPAULDING @ 816.674.7053**



MEGA-SEMINAR SPEAKERS: From the left, Robert Porter, Hiawatha Golf Course; Clayton Fixens, GCSAA, and Marcus Jones, Iowa State University. More information from the MGCSA Mega Seminar is available at www.mgcsa.org.

MGCSA Membership Report

March 25, 2011 - New Members

Houston Schubert
Class SM
Jackson Golf Club
Jackson, MN 56143
W: 507-847-2660

Justin Bicek
Class C
North Oaks Golf Club
North Oaks, MN 55127
W: 651-484-1024

Eric Viessman
Class C
Tartan Park Golf Course
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
W: 651-733-4840

Mitchell Dauk
Class C
Oak Ridge Country Club
Hopkins, MN 55305
W: 952-938-6900

Jordan Locks
Class D
Wayzata Country Club
Wayzata, MN 55391
W: 952-475-9761

Jason Swift
Class D
Medina Golf & CC
Hamel, MN 55340
W: 763-478-2179

Richard G. Triviski
Student
University of Minnesota
St Paul, MN 55108
W: 612-868-5997

Mark Michalski
Student
University of Minnesota-
Crookston
Crookston, MN 56716
W: 218-220-8125

Mark Kenzler
Affiliate
John Deere Landscapes
Burnsville, MN 55337
W: 952-707-8831

Mike Brunelle
Affiliate
Magicturfs.com
Rogers, MN 55374
W: 612-817-5296

Reclassifications

Craig Hendrickson
Class C to Class SM
Oak Ridge Country Club

Joseph Gellerman
Class C to Class SM
Greystone Golf Club

Jesse Trcka
Class C to Class SM
Wayzata Country Club

Nikk Dickerson
Class C to Class SM
Tournament Club of Iowa

Isaac Risbrudt
Class D to Class C
Les Bolstad U of M GC

Ben Just
Class A to Class Inactive
Unattached

Drew Larson
Class Inactive to Class Inactive
Unattached

Larry Vetter
Class Affiliate to Class E
Hennepin Technical College

*Respectfully submitted by,
Matt McKinnon
MGCSA Membership Chair*