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Upcoming Events

May 7

Affiliate Appreciation

Island View GC

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May 21

Spring Mixer

Hidden Greens GC

Host: Jason Swanson

June 11

The Scramble

Golden Valley G&CC

Host: Jeff Ische



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About the cover:

Number 16, par four and quite a signature hole at Hidden Greens Golf Club, the site of the 2012 Spring Mixer. Join your fellow members for the first golf outing of the new season. Superintendent Jason Swanson will provide an exceptional venue. Thank you Jason and your green staff!!!

...Even More Content...

On Board: page 27

MGCSA BOD members share their views

Thank You Reinders, Inc. for hosting the page 22

educational event on March 13 at Oak Ridge Country Club .

The Membership appreciates your Support!



Meet Brandon Schindele, Superintendent at Edina Country Club, John Meyer's first Super-In-Site review.

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Musing the Minutes: March 22, 2012

By Brian Brown, Secretary MGCSA

The MGCSA Board of Directors met on March 22 at Heritage Links Golf Club.

President Scottie Hines, CGCS called the meeting to order. Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that the dues have been slow coming in especially from out state. Advertising revenue is low. Still working on account consolidation and over the next 8 months Eckholm & Mackenzie will finalize the work. The new consolidated accounts will go into effect on January 1. Some invoices are still being sent to TCI.

President's Report: Hines has been appointed to the GCSAA Government Affairs Committee. Hines will be going to Washington D.C. to represent GCSAA and MGCSA at meetings on Capitol Hill.

Business Office: Jack MacKenzie, CGCS reported that many calls have been coming in from members. MacKenzie is pursuing a member travel package so a group of superintendents can attend the 2013 Masters. MacKenzie is creating a Superintendent hiring package that will be sent to Clubs that will be hiring a new superintendent. Info included will be posting templates and industry salaries.

Arrangements/awards: Mackenzie reported that the MGA will be hosting the 6th annual Turfgrass Forum. Reinders is sponsoring the event. MacKenzie will apply for CEU's from GCSAA. The Affiliate event is scheduled to be at Island View Golf Club. An out-state site board meeting is scheduled, and will include a MGCSA Meet and Greet 9-hole event. GCSAA requires chapters to complete a strategic plan every 2-years. Mackenzie will look at scheduling these meetings out state in the winter months. This multi-date event would include a MGCSA winter outreach event such as snowmobiling or downhill skiing. The courses that donate tee times for the research week have been contacted and the MGA is willing to promote the available tee times by emailing their 35,000 members .

Bylaws/Historical: Eckholm put together some possible proposed By-law changes. These changes clean up wording and what actually happens. These changes will need to be voted on by the memberships. GCSAA sent their new Privacy Policy and the MGCSA will need to have a privacy policy online.

Communications: Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS reported that the 2nd digital Hole Notes went out as a 38 page edition. Porter reported that a 3-way folder has been created that can be accessed by MacKenzie, LCMB, and himself. The creation of the new data base and website is on the contract time table. Going forward we will have the analysis about website and Hole Note membership activity.

Conference/Education: Many speakers for the Green Expo have committed. The full day speaker for the March Mega Seminar has been contacted.

Fundraising/Industry Relations: The National Hospitality at the GIS made about \$1,000. Some of the money is yet to come in. There was good attendance with 127. The survey of the Affiliates shows that they want to keep the Hospitality at the GIS.

MN Government Affairs: Eckholm reported that only a couple of bills have impact on our industry. A bill looks to be going through that would put all pesticide

HOLE NOTES

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of the MGCSA

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Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Wow! What a crazy run of weather we have had. I can't ever remember a spring like this here or out east. The only thing that seems to be even close to normal have been the last two or three days! Everyone has opened early. Courses are in great shape. I don't know about you, but I have done more hand watering in April than ever. For those in the semi-private and daily fee facilities this has to be a great start to the season from a revenue standpoint! A great start for everyone from the turf side.

The only down side to this is by the time we get to Memorial Day in May, we are going to feel like it is July 4! That said, please take a minute and let that sink in. I have always said that Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average. When will this shoe drop? This spring, this summer or are we in for an early fall and winter? That answer I do not know. I do know we all work crazy hours through the meat of the golf season and our season is going to be at least a month longer this year. I hope, and encourage all of you to make plans now for an extra extended weekend or a few mornings off to catch up on the important things in your life.....family and sleep! Family is important and can easily take a back seat in years like this. I have a young family and I am currently trying to get something on paper to be sure I take that needed time!

I currently accepted a call to sit on the GCSAA Government Relations Committee. The committee is chaired by John O'Keefe, CGCS and co-chaired by Rafael Barajas, CGCS. I have to say I was a bit flattered and honored when I got

the call. Fortunately, my new owner, Dave Meyer and my GM, Jim Kidd, are very supportive of this.

I will be representing MGCSA and GCSAA April 16 – 18 in Washington DC. There is a busy slate of meetings on and around Capitol Hill. We meet with Representative Sam Graves (R-MO-6th) to introduce the GCSAA, We are Golf (WAG) and National Golf Day. We will be discussing the impact of the H-2B Visa program, NPDES, disaster tax relief for golf courses to name a few topics. I will have the opportunity to meet individually with the Minnesota State Representatives in face-to-face meetings. I am currently working with The MGCSAA GR Committee Chair E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS and our executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS for some talking points on issues that affect us locally. I will also have the opportunity to meet with our DC Lobbyists at the Reed Smith's offices. Other topics that will be discussed include, but are not limited to: The Americans with Disabilities Act, fertilizers, labor and immigration, Pesticide laws and regulations, the value of golf and water management.

I must say this is going to be very worthwhile and educational trip. I am excited to be representing our great association at the national committee level and to be representing all GCSAA Members on Capitol Hill. Stay tuned for the update in my next column.

Once again, all the best for a successful 2012!

Respectfully,
Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm Golf Course

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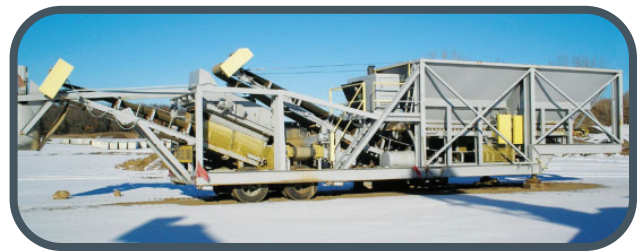
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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

Recently my wife and I returned from an extended trip out of

the country to Italy. Long in planning and a dream of Kim's we celebrated our marriage, our health and the good fortune we have been blessed with. An excursion of a lifetime, our relationship is stronger today than it has ever been before.

We saw the sites, ate the food, embraced the culture and were surprised and pleased by all of the nuances of Italian life...well, maybe not all! In our country we are spoiled with amenities to the point that we often take them for granted. Especially when it comes to our biological needs: to be more specific our rest rooms.

Almost all of the public facilities and many of the private ones in Italy are very, very basic. Bluntly put, they are glorified holes with a porcelain

surround. Functional, yet certainly primitive by our American standards, the experience of logistical attack can be perplexing for the first time user especially if you may be 'backed up' after twelve hours in flight. I will say no more.

One observation I must make quite clear...95 percent of the rest rooms I utilized, both inside and out, were exceptional in their maintenance, cleanliness and presentation. The Italians take pride in their function amenities and it quite honestly made each experience better because of the attention to details they place upon the 'basics'. Many of the depositories were "pay to poop" so there were monies available to support the cause! I have new appreciation for five-star facilities.

How are you doing with your golf course biffy with its' amenities? Are they too five star quality year around? Are your Johnny's clean and bathrooms buffed? (continued on page 29)

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MTGF: Stewart reported that attendance to the Northern Green Expo was flat but revenues to the MTGF were up. The second floor rotunda at the Convention Center is being reserved for the MGCSA so that it can host an association gathering on Thursday of the NGE from 4:30-6:30. The use for the space will be free and the bartender service will be covered by the NGE. There will not be a TROE Center field day this year. Dr. Horgan would like to have associations conduct a board meeting at the U of M followed by an Open House for their association at the TROE Center. The MTGF budget for research support is \$85,000. The breakdown is: \$2,000 for white mold on bedding plants, \$15,000 for Dutch Elm Disease resistance, \$3,000 for online diagnostic tool, \$50,000 for the TROE Center, and

\$15,000 for MTGF Fellowship endowment.

Research: Mailings went out to the golf courses that donated tee times for the research week. The gun raffle raised money last year for research and another may occur this year with possible a different type of gun given away.

U of M report: Dr. Horgan is working on a possible TROE Center virtual Field Day with 3-5 minute video clips of research occurring at the TROE Center. The MGA will be giving the TROE Center \$10,000 this year and possibly annually. The MGCSA is looking at hosting a TROE Center blog on it's website.

Submitted by Brian Brown, MGCSA Secretary.

Mechanical Matters

Contributed by Matt Johnson, Equipment Manager at Stoneridge GC

Challenge: Johnson likes to check his reels in the flat position but doesn't like getting down on the ground to do it.

Solution: Johnson cut a pair of two-inch square hole in his bench just under the top and inserted two-inch hollow metal tubing about 22" apart. Inside the first tubing is inserted a one and three-quarter piece of tubing that can slide out to become the platform the reel rests upon. Height and cut can easily be checked, and the inside tubes can easily be stowed under the bench when done.



If you or your Equipment Manager has any unique ideas, big or small, drop us a line and we will share it with your peers in the Mechanic's Corner.

jack@mgcsa.org



Hidden Greens Golf Course... a Hastings' golf course “gem in the rough”

By Jason Swanson, Superintendent

Hidden Greens Golf Course in Hastings is a public golf course that was built by my parents and grandparents. They still own it today. Farmers by trade, they knew little about the game itself, but owned the land and equipment to build a golf course back when golf wasn't as popular as it is today.

My first actual memory of Hidden Greens Golf Course occurred when I was 5 years old, golfing with my parents who had just opened the doors on the then nine hole facility in

1976. I chipped in on the sixth hole, a par five for an approximate 13, and promptly declared chipping in to be far easier than putting.

I don't remember much of the construction of the front nine, but my parents and grandparents say that I spent hours sitting off to the side and watching all of the equipment in action. They tell me that I was not much of a bother, except for the time that I sat on a ground hornet's nest along the bank of the river on hole number eight. They really