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Upcoming Events

August 27

MGCSA Championship

New Richmond GC

Host: Tom Johnson

October 8

Wee One Event

North Oaks GC

Host: Brian Boll

October 15th

Fall Shoot Out

Horse and Hunt Club

Host: Bill Gullicks



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Dealt a bad hand? Cheat Mother Nature next spring with a hot air tent. Read more about it in *Spring Recovery...All Blown Up!!!*



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MGCSA BOD members share some laughs

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Meet Sadie, the super dog who really manages New Richmond Golf Club! See her work at "The Championship"

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Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

Welcome to August. I hope everyone is relaxing a bit in the cooler temperatures. I actually had to keep a jacket on all day Last

Wednesday. That was a nice change! I am also a fan of the nighttime temperatures dipping into the 50's! It won't be long before College Football starts and shortly after that the real therapy sessions start.... hanging in a tree with a bow waiting for Bullwinkle to stroll by. Oh yeah, I just love the solitude and din of the woods. Gives you a chance to reflect on all the good and bad from the previous season.

I hope everyone has had a chance to check out the new MGCSA.org. I think it is a wonderful and much needed upgrade! Thanks to Jack MacKenzie, Bob Porter and all the others involved in developing the new site. Well done! As additional modules are added it will only get better and better.

On the GCSAA front things seem to be progressing well with the farm bill and the efforts to reduce further regulations on us as end users of chemicals and fertilizers. New on the lobbying front is the U.S. Agricultural Sector Relief Act of 2012 (H.R. 6194). This will allow agriculture, golf courses included, to be able to use Methyl Bromide for "critical uses". As we know, MeBr is a great soil fumigant that has many applications in golf and agriculture.

The Government Relations Committee has decided to focus on water use and conservation for its sessions at the GIS in San Diego this coming winter. One session will be an "Answers on the Hour" on the show floor Thursday at 12:00.

Another will be at the Environmental Programs Session on Wednesday afternoon. The topic will be "Politics of Water. Golf Industry Involvement Leads

to Practical Public Policy." The focus will be on case studies in regulator/superintendent collaborations to keep us ahead of and less regulated as restrictions on water use get tighter.

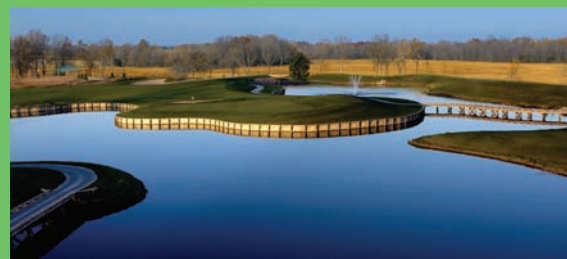
The final piece will be "Got Water? Water Availability, Reductions and Efficiency in the Golf Industry." Panel members will discuss issues including overall water availability, potential restrictions and technical advances in irrigation equipment that will lead to more efficient water use. This will be held at the Government Relations Session on Tuesday afternoon.

I would like to share a new twist to an old process we started this season at Windsong. It is no secret, no one likes the aerification process. In the past we have typically aerified twice per season: ¼ inch tines in the spring and ½ to 5/8 inch in the fall. Basically the course was out of play for 3 weeks depending on recovery. This year we moved everything to a once per season aerification in the first week of August. Yes, August. Why August? Simple, the first week is always slow here. I have my staff at full capacity. The days are long. There is no frost. Soil temps are high and recovery is fast. Need to be aware of how quickly things can dry out with holes poked in them, however. Tees and approaches were done with ½ inch hollows. Fairways were done with 5/8 inch hollows. Tees were done the first time with ½ hollow tines then AGAIN at a slight angle with ¼ inch tines. We completed the entire course in 4 days. Obviously, this just happened. I do not see any issues at this time. I feel we will recover in the same amount of time if we only did greens once. Jury is still out, but I am confident this will work out just fine.

Our Independence Day, August 15, is right around the corner! Enjoy the cooler temps and try to find some time to do the things that have gotten away from you in, yet another, difficult Minnesota golf season.



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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

Upon reflection, over the span of my career and in particular recent experiences, it is quite apparent the physical

product you, the consummate professional golf course manager, are able to produce is based solely upon the magnitude of the available resources. Yet the elevated expectations that you place upon yourselves and your staff's abilities, be it 3 or 150, is a relative constant.

As Superintendent at the nine-hole Lost Spur Golf Club back in 1984, it was my ultimate desire to provide the players an exceptional golf experience; my goal and that of my two co-employees. Guest days meant evening work, earlier mornings and no visual or audible impact upon play. Clean curbs, fresh paint and cut grass met expectations and although my crew was small and our hours limited, we achieved all that we could with appreciation of our finite resources.

At Dellwood Hills and North Oaks Golf Club it was no different, just a magnitude of greater proportions. Entry fees were higher and tee prizes larger, yet the Green Staff's intent remained the same...provide the players with the finest quality conditions within budgetary limitations. Late nights, early mornings and maximizing the staff available provided a destination upon which most golfers never knew was maintained tee to green for their pleasure just hours before. The crews kicked butt and relished their efforts in producing the best product they could.

During my stint as a volunteer at TPC Twin Cities during the 3M Championship, I was very impressed with the magnitude of resources available to create conditions worthy of a

televised PGA event. Late nights, early, early mornings using floodlights and coordinating the available staff, both employed and volunteer resources, created optimum conditions and met player expectations. Unbeknownst to the golfers, the course was a behind-the-scenes beehive of activity, out of sight and out of mind.

In June, time at the US Open in San Francisco emphasized the magnitude of resources put into a course in preparation of a gigantic event. My son, his apartment my crash pad for the week, left for work at 2:30 in the morning and returned home as late as 10 pm. Along with the full time crew of 45 and a volunteer staff of over 150, he worked tirelessly to produce an exceptional playing surface worthy of a Major. The intensity of maintenance was over the top... yet not unlike what you produce at your club for your 'Big Events'.

Utilizing the resources you have available you create conditions that typically exceed player anticipation. Truth be told, your retentive behaviors and big demands upon yourself and crew, no matter what the size, combine to maximize your resources and meet the highest of expectations...yours!

Having had the opportunity to travel, volunteer and reflect upon the industry, I boast with professional pride when discussing the amazing attributes each of you possess. No matter the magnitude of resources, your enthusiasm, mental capacity, logistical talents, physical stamina and managerial skills are very similar in nature.

Big budget, little budget, 3 crewmembers or 150, local or televised...you just want to produce the very best playing conditions possible. Not for the golfers but for personal pride. You, Superintendent and your staff, ROCK!!!!

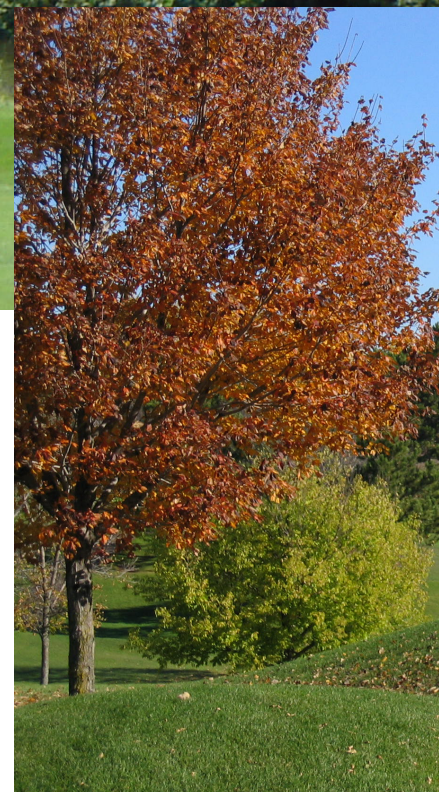
New Richmond Golf Club

A Championship Tournament



By Tom Johnson, Superintendent at New Richmond Golf Club

The New Richmond Golf Club, site of the 2012 MGCSA Championship, got its start six miles southwest of New Richmond near a resort on Bass Lake. It consisted of only six holes because at the time it was common practice to build as many “quality” holes as you could afford. In 1922 that site was abandoned and the golf course was built on the current location just west of New Richmond. The course had sand greens from 1925-1948. The outline of some of those greens is still visible on holes 8 and 9. Crossing number eight fairway,



Club Best All Season Long

a stagecoach trail from the 1860's can still be seen. Over the years the trail has been 'preserved' and saved from being leveled. It was a trail that ran to Stillwater in the 1860's.

In 1960, Willie Kid, the head professional at Interlachen Country Club, designed a new nine-hole layout. There were 18 tees so the second time around the course played differently.

In 1984, the course was expanded to 18 holes. The changes included adding holes 4-7 and 13-18 with the design done by Don Herfort. At the time many people in



town, including the bankers, were skeptical about an 18-hole course being financially successful in a small community. The proximity to the Twin Cities has been a big factor in the success of the club. It is a course that people enjoy coming back to play.



New Richmond's "Real" Champions

Holes 4-7 are some of the most challenging on the course because they are narrow, tree lined with some water. There are elevation changes on holes 4, 9 and 10 with water coming into play again on number 11. The original nine holes 1-3 and 8-12 play almost the same as they did in 1960.

In 2002 a renovation project took place, upgrading the original nine holes. Hartman Construction was hired to do the renovation. Geoffrey Cornish helped design the changes. He was doing a project for Hillcrest Golf Club at the time and agreed to split his services since he was already in the area. He was one of the finest gentlemen I've met in the golf industry. Some bunkers were added or changed along with expanding the irrigation

pond and adding a pond on hole 11.

In the 1980's and 90's there was a long waiting list for memberships. We are a public golf course, but memberships are also available. To ease the amount of play on the 18-hole course, it was decided that a separate nine-hole course should be built. In 1996 Joel Goldstrand designed the Links Course, which was built west of the Old Course. The links style course is reversible with 61 tees and 10 greens. It is longer in yardage than the 18 from the back tees. It's used by those who want to play only 9 holes and for the youth in the community. We have 150 kids that come out for lessons and play the course each Thursday during the summer.

Our last addition was a new practice facility designed by Kevin