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Upcoming Events

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Las Vegas*

May 21

*Spring Mixer
Hidden Greens GC
Host: Jason Swanson*



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January/February 2012

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About the cover: Tom Proshek, the 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner, is all smiles as he displays his coveted crystal trophy! It will surely take a place of prominence in Tom's Man Cave! Congratulations Tom for all the effort you have put into making our Association a special organization to belong to.



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The membership appreciates your Support!



LUCKY WINNERS OF THE 18 HOLE CHALLENGE DRAWING! SEE THE COLLAGE ON PAGES 16 AND 17

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bi-monthly in November/December and January/February by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 10050 204th Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Jack MacKenzie CGCS publisher. Please send any address changes, articles for publication, advertising and concerns to jack@

Musing the Minutes: January 19, 2012

By Brian Brown, Secretary MGCSA

The MGCSA Board of Directors met on January 19, 2012 at Windsong Farms Golf Club

President Scottie Hines, CGCS called the meeting to order. Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that the year-end financials have a couple of entries that need to be made to place income into correct categories. With the management changes each area of the business is being looked at to find any possible financial savings. Eckholm will send the expense reports to the committee to analyze their expenses. All bank accounts have been switched over.

Communications: A letter was received from the U of M regarding the donated money towards the matching grant endowment. A thank you letter and gift certificate was presented to past president Diegnau for his hard work. Leann Cooper for GCSAA contacted the association about attendance to the Chapter Delegates meeting March 27 and 28.

President's Report: Hines welcomed new directors Kazmierczak, Porter, and Glader. He also welcomed Executive Director MacKenzie. Hines has an open door policy and desires input and questions that the board of Directors and Membership may have. Hines assigned directors to committees and combined committees: Editorial and Communications, Awards and Arrangements, and Membership and Human Resources. MTGF David Oberle requested that the Vice-President of the MGCSA and at least one other member serve on the MTGF Board. Vice-President Roger Stewart and Jeff Ische will serve on that board.

Arrangements/Banquet: Gullicks reported that the line-up for events for this year is set except for the vendor appreciation. The annual meeting survey had 69 returned of the 168 in attendance. Respondents stated that the events that they most likely would attend were: Green Expo, Mega Seminar, and the Wee One Tournament. The least likely included the Spring Mixer and the Scramble. The committee is looking at some new types of events.

Business Office: MacKenzie has been working at pulling the databases together. Many versions of software were utilized in the past and the files need to be transferred to new software. The communications and editorial committees will meet after the board meeting to make a plan on; database management, website development, communication tools, Hole Notes and membership correspondence. The committee will report to the board with recommendations and costs. Hospitality night is set up at GIS. Thank you letters have been sent to 18-hole vendor participants.

Bylaws/Historical: Eckholm has found a few bylaws that should be changed. He will work on wording and report back to the board at the next meeting. Eckholm has been scanning past Board minutes so that the association will have an electronic record.

Conf. /Ed: Counselman reported that he will submit the speaker line-up for the 2013 Green Expo. He will be meeting with the Green Expo educational committee next week to finalize the education line-up for next year.

Environmental: Ische reported that the Environmental committee will talk with the prior Environmental Award winners to promote the award.

Industrial relations: Glader reported that the meeting with the vendors at the Green Expo went well. The group is excited about the new Executive Director. Glader will talk with the vendors about the large amount of money spent on the GIS Hospitality Night when there isn't a local Hospitality Night at the Green Expo.

Public Relations: The MGCSA President will be on the Public Relations Committee.

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the MGCSA

2012 Board of Directors

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MGCSA



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines

I would like to start by saying thank you to all for the support as I enter the position of MGCSA President. I

can assure you this is quite an honor, in my opinion. The last several years as a Board member have been quite an education. The daily operations of the Association aside, the passion that the Board members, past and present, serve with is remarkable! I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have or are serving this great association.

I would also like to thank everyone who gave me support, encouragement, well wishes and a pat on the back during the short period of unemployment as Windsong locked the doors in early December. Believe me, there were several anxious weeks there. In fact, I considered withdrawing my name from consideration as MGCSA President. I felt taking that roll while not being gainfully employed within the association would be a mistake. The Board and several past presidents encouraged me to follow through on becoming President. With that echoing in my head I decided to remain on the ballot. As it turns out, shortly after that Windsong has a new owner, I get re-hired in my former position and it seems things hardly skipped a beat. If someone knew something a heads up would have been nice!

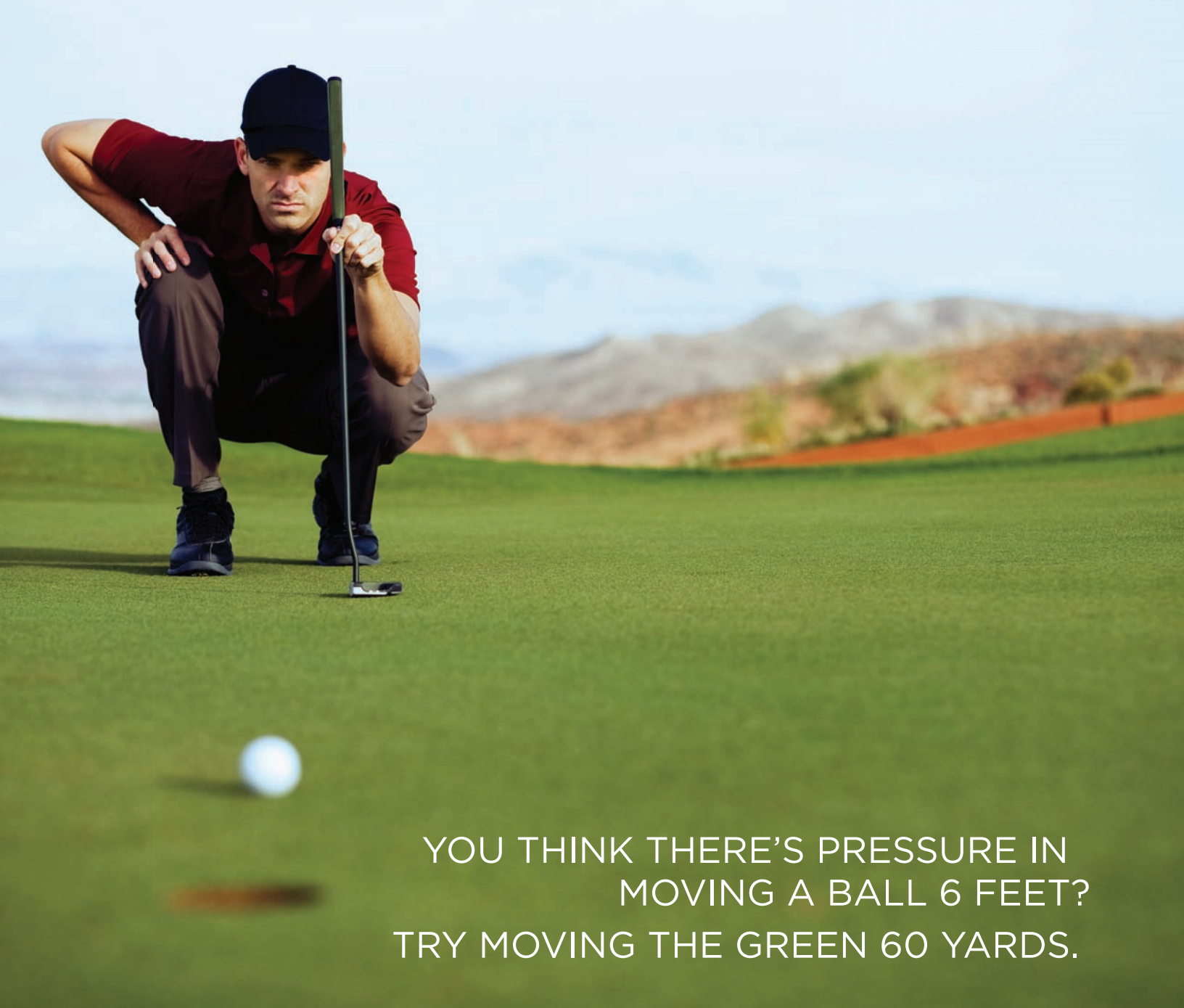
I have been working in the golf course maintenance field for almost 30 years now. Serving on the Board or any committee is a small way for me to give something back to the industry that has been so very good to me. I would encourage all to entertain the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I am proud and humbled to be in the position I am right now.

The MGCSA is entering a new and exciting day with the hiring of a true Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. Jack will serve us well as the industry sees more regulation and scrutiny. His presence at the Capitol on our behalf will be invaluable as we move forward. Jack's outgoing personality will be an asset as well as we try to grow our association in membership and member services. He is currently working on a new and much improved MGCSA website, BMP's, learning accounting and all else that goes along with running the daily operations of our association. I am looking forward to working with Jack as we enter a new day for the MGCSA.

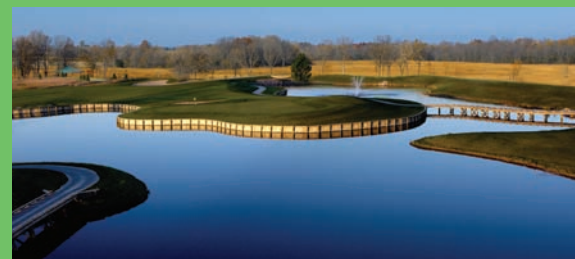
In closing I would really like to mention my wife, Kristin. The last two months was as bumpy a road as I have ever been down. Unemployed with a 2 year old and a 6 month old was quite an anxious time. I cannot put in words how much her support and love helped me weather that storm, as short as it was. I believe we are stronger for having gone through this turmoil. My point here is we have very difficult jobs. Very rewarding jobs, but difficult. On many occasions we don't get to spend the time with our families during the golf season. I had three weeks of being a "stay-at-home dad". The three short weeks with my kids will be forever in my daily thoughts. I enjoyed every minute of it! As we enter the 2012 season take a few minutes to reflect on your life, family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues. We as golf course superintendents are a very lucky bunch to have the support of these people. Never in my life has this been as clear as it is today!

Best wishes in the coming year-

Scottie Hines, CGCS



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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie

“You know Dad, adjusted to its max that benches lay at a steep angle to the floor. If you reset it I guarantee the change will make

your crunch work out more productive.” My daughter was right. The relatively easy 150 daily sit-ups from a flat position had become rather routine. The steeper angle not only forced me to work harder, but the change was a pleasant alternative...once my 52-year old muscles became adjusted to the new regime!

The new chapter in my life as your Executive Director is also a welcome change. Although I relished my tenure walking in your shoes upon my golf course, the long hours and hard mental and physical work in the peak season had begun to wear upon me. Some might say it was ‘burn-out’. After a series of long discussions with my wife last summer, I landed upon a decision to keep an open mind should an appealing opportunity present itself and be mentally ready to make a move.

When the position of ED was offered for proposals last September it occurred to me that this could be a whole lot of fun, personally challenging and also beneficial to my family life. With those rewards in mind I pursued the position with great interest. My game plan was simple... improve member services, representation and bring our group’s association back to a personal level.

For too long the out state constituents of the MGCSA have been...well, just plain too out state. With this distance tagged along a subtle disconnect, a perception of a “good old boy” hierarchy and perhaps some inherent resentment. In my outline for the Association I emphasized the presence of the MGCSA throughout our region.

Divided into six sections, I proposed the Executive Director pursue out state mini meetings

with local members. In the summer it would be a nine-and-dine concept with nine holes of golf followed by lunch. Perhaps Dr. Horgan joins in and presents a lively round table discussion or the latest research from the TROE Center. Or maybe it is just an open turf forum. In the winter it would be lunch-n-lanes with bowling at a local ally being the social draw.

Have you ever wanted to go to the Masters? Then lets go!!! As a group and with our gold GCSAA membership cards we could make an annual pilgrimage to Augusta. Fly out Wednesday afternoon; take in the tournament on Thursday and Friday followed by a return trip Saturday. We could relish our newly developed friendships while watching the final round in our living rooms Sunday.

“Friends” that is what it is all about. When we get together it is very simple to talk turf and fine to talk golf, but both are fairly superficial. With all we have in common as an industry of intelligent and driven individuals one would like to believe that our ‘friend’ base goes beyond just talking grass.

To that end the Hole Notes publication will be taking a new turn as well. Under Dave Kazmierczak’s guidance we will be getting close and personal with a new series of columns intended to draw out the ‘individual’ in each of us and break down the inhibitions created by one topic discourse. Another column idea is called Snapshot. Not unlike *Peer to Peer* but with a regional focus.

Across our state we have some daunting challenges coming our way in water use and management, pesticide application and nutrient fate. With your support I will be a presence at the State Capital and amongst state agencies to promote the industry as a lobbyist or even simply an educator. This challenge pumps me up as I look at the positive changes our industry can implement.

Change. In pursuit of this new vocation I also realized that change would be needed with our web site. Recently, under the guidance of our resident (continued on page 24))

Tom Prosheck: DSA 2011

By Rob Adams, Superintendent of The Ponds At Battle Creek Golf Course

Tom Proshek is the 2011 recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

At this year's MGCSA Recognition banquet Superintendent Tom Proshek was given the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of service on the MGCSA Board and committees. He served on the scholarship and research committees for a total of six years and then was eager to run for a board position. Tom served as the arrangements chair for five years bringing us many great venues for MGCSA golfing events and introducing the popular October Shootout at The Horse and Hunt Club.

If you haven't gone yet it really is a blast. Tom also has been a key supporter and contributor to the planning and implementation of the Wee One Foundation Tournament, held at North Oaks the previous two years. He and Brackett's Crossing, the club where Tom is superintendent, have hosted many meetings and events throughout his membership in the MGCSA. Tom is also the main organizer for the Southern Superintendents meetings that are held in the winter months. His time and effort are greatly appreciated by the MGCSA. Thank you

for your continued support and congratulations on receiving the Distinguished Service award. It is much deserved.

Now that the formal introduction is done, who is this guy?

Tom is the Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville Minnesota. He has been the superintendent at Brackett's since 1995. His start in the industry began back at New Prague Golf Club where he lived just up the street from the course. As a youngster he emptied garbage cans and peeled corn for the men's league. His talent and drive at these tasks was quickly recognized and he was promoted to the pro shop staff where he earned the coveted title of "Cart Boy". At age 16, looking for more

of a challenge, he took the leap and was hired on the maintenance staff and thus began his storied career in the industry, but it took some time to make that permanent.

Tom was a pretty good athlete in High School where he played golf, basketball and football. His abilities on the gridiron lead him to the University of St Thomas where he

was able to be the backup quarterback/tackling dummy. Not seeing a future as a professional athlete he majored in Human Resources but continued working summers at the golf course as a plan B. Upon graduation from college he worked as a manager for three years at a printing



Distinguished Indeed!!!

company but never lost the bug to be outdoors working on the golf course. When the ink fumes finally got to him, he knew he had to make the move to something that he really enjoyed, working on the golf course. He enrolled at Anoka Hennepin Technical College majoring in Golf Course Management. Before he even graduated he was hired at Wildflower Golf Course in Detroit Lakes. The course was just being built, so his first experience as a superintendent was growing in a new course. He found it very challenging, and a great learning experience. Tom worked for three years establishing the course, and delivering tournament-like conditions. In 1995, wanting to be closer to his family and the twin cities area, he was hired as the Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing.

Tom was hired by Tom and Peggy Smith after they had purchased the course in 1993. Under their guidance and vision for the golf course Tom was able to really expand his knowledge and experience as a Golf Course Superintendent. He has tackled numerous renovation projects including drainage, irrigation installation, green and tee construction and an aggressive planting plan. He has added numerous gardens and native areas to the course, and watched the course grow into an outstanding facility. Tom wanted me to be sure to thank the owners, Tom and Peggy, as well as the General Manager, Steve Allen, and pro shop staff for all their support over the years. It has been his pleasure to be part of a great place.

When Tom is not at the golf course or on his cell phone he still plays a little golf. Not as much as when he was young, when he played

27-54 holes a day. He enjoys extreme sports like curling, bowling and watching NASCAR. Tom is an avid Twins and Gopher Hockey Fan and still gets back to the University of St Thomas to relive his glory days while running the scoreboard for the hockey team. He is somewhat of a motor head, and enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle or 1955 Ford pickup. He does know how to check the oil and tires on both of them.

After many years as a bachelor, he finally met a lady that could handle the Clint Eastwood pictures in his house enough for a second date, and they were married 12 years ago. The pictures have since been moved to the garage. His wife Sandy has a beautiful daughter, Melina, and Tom has taken over some of the car pooling duties to school, soccer games and other screaming young girl events. He is currently working with Melina teaching her how to drive because she just turned 16, and passed her driver's license test. He really does enjoy the family life, and is still very close with his two older brothers and younger sister. His brothers still come and work for him on weekends.

Well, that is probably more than you ever wanted to know about Tom Proshek. He is a good friend, and it was a great learning experience and a lot of fun working for him for almost nine years. He is pretty modest and doesn't really stand out in a crowd. He is pretty short, but the people that know him really appreciate his friendship and honesty. He is a great supporter of the MGCSA and a deserving recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Thank you, Tom. Your service and support it is really appreciated.

Rob Adams

What is Creeping You Out Now?

Ideas In Pest Management

How Do Plants Defend Themselves from Pathogens?

Jim Kerns, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

With the development of fungicides claiming to induce natural plant defenses as a means of disease control, I thought it might be nice to review how a plant defends itself naturally. Yes plants do have a natural defense system, but it is nothing like a mammalian immune system. There are some commonalities, but plants do not have an intricate army of specialized cells to combat microbial invaders. Rather, plants use specific molecules such as proteins, organic molecules such as salicylic acid, or individual elements like calcium to signal an invasion from a pathogen.

What's confusing about plant defense is there are two different pathways plant pathologists believe to be responsible for alerting the plant to pathogen infection (Figures 1 and 2). The two terms commonly used are systemic acquired resistance and induced systemic resistance. These are not the same pathway nor do they affect all pathogens. Systemic acquired resistance refers to the phenomenon that an infected leaf sends a signal to the rest of the plant prior to pathogen infection, which in turn confers resistance to the pathogen. This particular pathway relies on salicylic acid as a key molecule to induce this phenomenon. Specifically researchers have found this pathway to primarily affect biotrophic (pathogens that require a living host) pathogens such as viruses, rust fungi and powdery mildew fungi. However, the dollar spot fungus responds to this pathway as well.

Research from our lab indicates that removing the salicylic acid pathway makes the model plant, an Arabidopsis, more susceptible to the dollar spot fungus. Renee Rioux is currently conducting this work in my program. Our goal is to use this plant (think of it as the white mouse of the plant world) to glean more information about the interaction the dollar spot fungus has with a host and to see if we can apply what we learn from this dicot plant to a turfgrass system. At first we were skeptical of using a dicot to make inferences to a monocot system, but after carefully documenting the infection process in both species an Arabidopsis maybe a good tool. Furthermore, a new product called Daconil Action from Syngenta is hitting the market next year. This fungicide combines chlorothalonil with acibenzolar; the latter induces the salicylic acid pathway in plants. Daconil Action has performed well in our trials at the OJ Noer. We have seen dollar spot control extended from 7 to 10 days with regular Daconil to 14 days and we also observed decent Pythium suppression (Figure 3).

Currently there is a lot talk about this product and some of the talk is incorrect. In particular this product is not going to extend the residual efficacy of chlorothalonil to 21 days. We observed good control on a 14-day interval, which is a longer residual that we typically see with chlorothalonil by itself (Figure 3). Keep in mind that our trials are designed to induce dollar spot and the control windows we observed could be slightly extended or decreased depending on the conditions and management practices at your course. I mentioned that acibenzolar induces the plant innate defense response; well in order to take full advantage of this material the product needs to be applied preventatively! However, applications of this product in any climatic condition did not push turf over the edge. It is possible to see a slight discoloration, but nothing that would be considered injurious to the plant. Finally as mentioned previously, the salicylic acid pathway seems to work only on