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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



EDITOR

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About the cover:

Abby Sue Rost applies a bit of muscle as she pounds a tap into one of the maple trees on her parents property. A slow season is on tap (pardon the pun) as last years drought combined with this years early summer may have shut down any sap movement. Just another wacky weather anomaly!!!



...Even More Content...

Industry Insight: page 27

GIS Recognizes Local Company with Best In Show

Thank You National Hospitality Night Sponsors. The Membership appreciates your Support! pages 30-31



Tapping for liquid gold!
Ken Rost of Frost Services bores into a maple tree.

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@mgcsa.org.

Musing the Minutes: January 19, 2012

By Brian Brown, Secretary MGCSA

The MGCSA Board of Directors met on February 16, 2012 at Prestwick Golf Club.

President Scottie Hines, CGCS called the meeting to order. Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that revenues are down quite a bit. Many vendors have held off sponsoring the association during the time of management transition and change of Hole Notes to the digital version. Some of the bundle packages have reduced the total revenue that the association might get from a vendor. Revenues will be looked at closely this year through the committee. Mackenzie will pursue vendors for advertising.

Business Office: Jack Mackenzie, CGCS is enjoying the position. Vendor sponsorship for the GIS Hospitality night is \$7,000 to this point. Member preregistration has brought in \$1,000. Mackenzie has had discussion with the Green Expo about a local hospitality night. This could possibly be held at the Convention Center Rotunda. Kevin Clunis, CGCS has been spending many hours on the BMP water guidelines.

Arrangements/awards: Bill Gullicks reported that Minnesota Valley Country Club is willing to host the 2013 Mega Seminar if schedules allow. Next year GIS is early February and the Mega will be planned for late February or early March. Gullicks is talking with Dr. Horgan about combining the Field Day with the Scholarship Scramble.

Bylaws/Historical: Eckholm is pouring over prior decisions in old minutes. The minutes are being scanned for Historical purposes. Eckholm is looking at a number of wording by-law changes.

Communications: Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS and Bob Porter reported that the Hole Notes publication with templates is progressing. John Meyer will be writing Personal Profiles. Technicians have an association and we would like to get articles from them. Board member participation with short answers to topics will be placed in Hole Notes. Porter researched data management and website services. This was difficult because each vendor offers much different services. Porter recommended the contract with LCMB and the board made a motion to accept the contract.

Conference/Education: Eric Counselman and Jake Schmitz reported that the speakers for the 2013 Northern Green Expo are all approved and only the schedule of when they speak need to be finalized.

(continued on page 26)

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the MGCSA

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Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

As I have learned over the years, the time from the March Mega to opening day seems to just fly by. Here we are, March 13, it is 65 degrees. It's more like May 13! I am sure everyone has fielded the requisite phone call or e-mail asking about an early opening. After last years painful start to the season I hope everyone is looking as good turf-wise as Windsong. Heck, I can't even find vole damage or any minor snow mold! Mother Nature owes us one after last year!

On the verge of another great golf season in Minnesota I would like to wish everyone all the best for a successful year. The economy seems to be picking up, slowly, but still in a positive direction. If this continues we will, hopefully, get back to where we were before the budget cuts and staff reductions kicked in. I have my fingers crossed.

There are some exciting things happening within the Association. Jack MacKenzie continues to do an excellent job as our Executive Director. I know he is very busy. I am not sure he knew exactly what he was getting into but every time we chat he is very enthusiastic and determined to make us, the MGCSA, shine. The Communications Committee has been working on the new website. Hole Notes continues to get better and better. It is a great time to be a part of the MGCSA BOD's with the renewed enthusiasm and direction.

For the first time in many years, the BOD's will be recommending a candidate to the MGA Hall of Fame to have one of our own inducted. It is nice to see that we, the superintendents, are being recognized at that level in our own state. Stay tuned for an update on the candidate and the results of the Hall of Fame selection process.

Enjoy the warm spell. It will be nice to get a jump on a few things on the course before opening. I don't think this will last, but it sure feels good. The one draw back of these early warm spells is the next bout of snow will seem ten times worse!

Again, best of luck in 2012!

Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm GC



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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

The runoff created a wet slick across the asphalt ahead. No options, I ride through on

my first bike of the season; wet splatters of snow melt thrown up onto my face and then my back. Now zebra stripped for I have no fenders, my nose is suddenly assaulted by the remnants of road-kill skunk. Spring is in the air.

Mile one into my trek, after a long winter of only elliptical and crunch exercising I am reminded of why I don't care for the first bicycle adventures of the year: my butt is getting sore! Nothing that a couple of weeks of out-door workouts won't toughen up. Typically about twenty miles, this ride would be an easy break in of only twelve. Like most stirrings of spring...ramping up should be gradual as there is plenty of time ahead to take advantage of the lengthening days.

Well into mile two I hit the highway. Although I hug the shoulder there are still the knuckleheads who brush by as close as they dare...little do they know the intimate proximity actually eases my ride as they pull me along in their wake.

Solo, I pedal on. The only 'bike' accouterment I wear is a pair of padded shorts; otherwise I am shielded in a wind shirt, leather gloves and hiking boots. I travel prepared and dress with anticipation

of the changing elements. My ride, a *Specialized* cross-over bike ten years and many miles old, serves me well. Wide and tough tires laugh at the glass and rough road underfoot. The four-mile is a long and gradual up-hill slog.

Ponds are opening up, geese squawking as they stake claim to their property. Smells of the country; manure, wet grass, dirt, it is exciting to be back outside. Look out, dogs ahead come running out daring me to stop and sample their tenacity. I laugh and peddle hard for they are a bit fat from their winter respite. The last of the asphalt for a while I take a quick stock of how fortunate I am; lucky to be where I am and when I am in time.

Dodging right the dirt track looms ahead. The next two are miles of rolling rural country road complete with washboard ruts, sporadic puddles to be forged and soft spots as the ground gives up it's frost make me work hard. Agates, little gems from the earth, pass beneath me as I press on in high gear, making full opportunity of my work out.

A smile on my face I cruise over the spot of my first and only fall. Although a hard hat still does not adorn my skull, I am ever mindful of the pitfalls of over confidence. Watching ahead I seek out latent encounters and plan accordingly. Looking behind I follow my progress and am mindful of other challenges that threaten my rear. Again I stick to the conservative shoulder and eliminate potential harm. (continued on page 8)

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(continued from page 7)

Once again on the macadam I push harder, my butt muscles screaming from the unexpected abuse and bump of the never soft enough seat. Up ahead, a killer hill two hundred yards long...low gear all the way; almost as if standing still I pedal hard not wanting to walk. Cleared, but seemingly not soon enough, the reward of a long and gradual decline is a treat. Catching my breath, wiping my brow and blowing snot from my nose I pick up speed once again and enter the final three.

Thoughts of a hot tub tantalize me as I grind on; a 'self-kudos' for taking the initiative and completing an arduous task, whose reward may or may not be evident. Hacking hard I know I am being productive. On my short trip I took stock of my day, recent weeks and the winter past. Not without it's

ups and downs, smooth times and rough, threats and pleasant surprises... life continues.

Just one more big bend and I am in the home stretch. Slowing down, but not stopping, I gradually cool off. Pulling into my driveway, right foot over the seat, I one leg it down the sidewalk and to the garage. Not too long and not too short, a nice little loop, just right except for the chafing and bruising I am sure to have by morning tomorrow somewhere upon my butt.

Out and back each ride emulates my life. The preparation, challenges, small and large victories and the moments I merely coast along. Finishing with the familiarity of home and the realization that once again "I made it" safe and sound.



Wee One Foundation

In 1985, four friends traveled to Scotland on a golf trip. The caddies were making wagers as these golfers stood on the tee. One caddie declared, “My money’s on the wee one!” The “wee one”, Wayne Otto, CGCS, our dear friend and colleague, passed away October 21, 2004 losing his battle to cancer. Wayne dedicated his life to the betterment of the golf maintenance profession he loved and the individuals who shared his passion.

Our Mission

The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. Through the Foundation’s work, Wayne’s legacy will never be forgotten.

More In Need

Since its inception in 2004, membership within the Wee One Foundation has grown to over 270 in 17 states. More importantly, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$500,000 to families in Arizona, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Idaho, Minnesota, California, and Texas. As the Wee One grows more people are helped and more funds are needed to distribute.

(continued on page 33)

What's Creeping You Out Now?

Ideas In Pest Management

Pre-emergent Herbicides and Overseeding of Turfgrass

Dave Gardner, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University

As the end of March approaches it is time to begin to plan for preemergence herbicide applications for the control of crabgrass and other grassy weeds in turf. Crabgrass is by far the most common of the warm season weedy grasses on lawns. Unlike the other warm season grassy weeds, such as goosegrass, smooth crabgrass begins to germinate when soil temperatures reach about 58 degrees Fahrenheit. The other warm season grasses germinate when soil temperatures are in the upper 60's to low 70's, which can be several weeks later.

You may begin to notice some crabgrass germinating as early as the 10-15th of April. This mostly will occur along sidewalks and other areas that warm up more quickly in the spring. Oftentimes however, this early germinating crabgrass is killed by late season frosts and freezes. For example, in Ohio we may see some crabgrass germination in April, but we usually don't see the first surviving crabgrass until about the second week of May.

In order for a preemergence herbicide to be effective, the herbicide must be applied before weed seed germination that occurs

after the last killing frost of the season. Typically the herbicide must be applied before a rainfall or watered in within a certain period of time. Check the label for specifics. Because of this, we usually like to allow for about a 3 week window of safety and prefer to target the application for about April 15th, or when Forsythia come into full bloom. Forsythia are the common shrub that flowers bright yellow on bare wood and serves as a remarkably effective indicator for when to apply preemergence herbicides.

After application, the herbicide barrier will begin to degrade, at first quickly and then more slowly over time. Once the herbicide has dissipated to a certain minimum threshold in the soil, crabgrass and other weed seeds will begin to break through. In the hypothetical example pictured in figure 1, a herbicide applied on April 15th degraded to about 20% of its original concentration on about July 1, after which crabgrass began to break through. One of the reasons that we try to avoid applying the herbicide too early is to maximize the chance of the herbicide barrier lasting through the season. You can increase your chances of getting effective season long control by doing the following:

- 1) Select a product with a long lasting active ingredient, such as prodiamine or dithiopyr. Both provide 90% control for up to 16 weeks. Dithiopyr also has early