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**Upcoming Events**

**January 8, 2013**

**Super Tuesday**

**Minneapolis Convention Center**

**Host: MTGF**

**January 22, 2013**

**Shop Tours**

**Keller, Somerset and Town and Country Club  
Paul Diegnau, CGCS, James Bade, Bill Larson CGCS**

**February 13, 2013**

**Snow Day**

**Majestic Oaks Golf Course**

**Host Dan Hanson**



**EDITOR**

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**Something new for your property  
Disc Golf!!!**  
**Mike Harrington discusses the  
sport and opportunities for expand-  
ing revenue sources at your course.**



**Cover: Truly Distinguished, Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Superintendent at Keller Golf Club, receives his DSA honor from Eric Counselman, Superintendent at Somerby Golf Club and presenter of this prestigious award. The ceremony took place on December 5th, at the 2012 MGCSA Annual Banquet.**



**Yuck! Make a new tradition of better snow removal. Read Ken Rost's article titled Keeping It Clear!**

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**Hole Notes** (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bimonthly 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](mailto:jack@mgcsa.org).

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

The State of Our State Superintendent's Association

**Your Association is changing.**

Thank you for your patience as we experience positive growing pains. Stronger and more active, your MGCSA is a proud organization of fine professionals who strive to retain relevance in an ever-changing environment. I thank the Board of Directors for their vision and more importantly, dedication to the greater good of the Association they represent. It has been my privilege to serve you with them.

As you know, your Board of Directors made a significant change in the way the MGCSA is run and operated with the hiring of Jack MacKenzie, CGCS as our Executive Director. 2012 has been a busy year for Jack! Besides assisting Dave Kazmierczak and Bob Porter with the publication of a new and very well received digital magazine The Hole Notes, an updated web site and frequent emails and The Stimpmeter, Jack has been the face of the MGCSA at a variety of functions. His presence has included MGA, MPGA, MGCOA, MNLA and Midwest Society of Executive Association meetings. At a recent MGCOA Conference Jack presented an educational program to help course owners understand the cyclic growth of turf and how management influences its health.

At the state level you are represented on the MPCA Storm Water Management Committee Turf Working Group, MDA Pesticide Management Plan Committee and the MDA Pesticide Recertification Manual Committee. Jack also teaches a short course for the MPCA on turf management and environmental impacts. He has also been working with the DNR Regional Water Management Director regarding our concerns over the restricting of irrigation permits at over a dozen courses in the state...this led to his national participation at the USGA Water and Golf Summit in Dallas Texas.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Jack and what he is doing and will continue to do for our association. On behalf of the entire membership thank you for all your hard work and insightfulness in leading the MGCSA.

Soon, the MGCSA Water Stewardship Guidelines will be brought back to the forefront as we tackle an impending challenge... the quality and quantity of water we use for irrigation. We have a great rough draft but need to refine our message, partner with state golf allies and then state agencies such as the MPCA and DNR for their support. This project will take hard work and participation from all of the members of the MGCSA. We

will be called upon to change our irrigation practices. The question will be do we create our own destiny or have one thrust upon us?

Under the guidance of Bill Gullicks, Eric Counselman and Jake Schmitz, the social and educational opportunities have changed and expanded considerably. In 2013 there will be no Spring Mixer, instead we have created two, 5 week long, nine hole 'mini league' golf evenings in the spring and late summer at two courses, Begin Oaks and Birnamwood. A Maintenance Shop Tour has been added in January as well as a Snow Day educational and social event in February and a Research (W)rap and Bowl function in November. We even have a Masters Trip opportunity in April for those who want to see this incredible event with your peers and also an Assistants' workshop in March. Information will be coming soon on the Augusta Adventure. These new destinations will complement our existing Mega Seminar, The Scramble, The Championship, The Wee One and The Fall Shoot Out. Beyond the fundraiser events, the goal of the Arrangements and Educational Committees is to provide solid learning and social experiences at a minimal cost to enhance your membership value.

A dues proposal is going to be voted upon at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Not because expenses are going up, in fact Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS and your Board is confident with our financial health, but to provide you with member-driven research

completed on an annual basis for your use. Roger Stewart CGCS, Vice President and Co-Chair of the Research Committee with Erin McManus, and his team are excited about providing more timely and relevant resources for your use as well as supporting our own University of Minnesota TROE Center, Dr. Horgan, Dr. Watkins and now Sam Bauer the new addition to the U of M Turf Instructors.

Our membership is stable. Membership Chair, Matt McKinnon, informs me that following a dramatic jump in membership during the boom of golf and the ensuing rapid drop in members due to the recession, we seem to have found a comfortable balance of gaining as many new members as we loose in any given year. This year our membership actually grew by just under two-dozen individuals.

The MTGF continues to receive our support through the dedication and representation of Jeff Ische and Roger Stewart. The MTGF's goal of supporting the University of Minnesota Research and optimal education at the Northern Green Expo would not happen without their bimonthly attendance representing the interests of the MGCSA. My hat is off to you Jeff and Roger for your participation.

Jeff Ische and I represent the MGCSA as Directors on the Minnesota Golf Association Board. Last year the MGA implemented a handicap fee increase. It was a minimal

increase but has afforded them to opportunity to assist us in financial support of the TROE Center at the University of MN. The MGC-SA currently donates \$20,000 annually to TROE. This funding does nothing more than offset costs associated with the maintenance and up-keep of TROE. Little to none of this is dedicated to research. The MGA has committed \$10,000 in addition to our funding. The proposed dues increase you will vote on later, coupled with the financial support of the MGA will go along way in providing us with current, local and relevant research. Your support and vote are critical to meet this end. Thank you Jeff for taking on this role as well.

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association Affiliate Members support all of our endeavors through advertising, sponsorships and participation. Without this dedication to the MGCSA we would not be able to offer all the great educational, social and golf events we do. On behalf of the membership, a giant thanks go out to our Affiliate Representatives Joe Churchill and Kerry Glader and the entire Affiliate base.

We say good-bye to Brian Brown as he steps off the Board after several excellent years of support, most recently as Secretary of your Association. Eric Councilman, Matt McKinnon, Jeff Ische and Joe Churchill will also be leaving the Board when their terms expire. Thanks to each of you for your dedicated work in leading the MGCSA. It has been a pleasure and a distinct honor to serve

with you.

One year ago, from Paul Diegnau CGCS, I inherited a fine cabinet and a very dedicated Board. I thank Paul and the entire Board of Directors for their service and dedication. I am honored, flattered and humbled to be working in this capacity with such a talented group of individuals.

At the time I was elected President of this Association I wasn't even gainfully employed and did not know where I might land. I strongly hoped it would be back at Windsong (it was) but I was not sure at the time. To be supported so strongly by my peers, all of you who are members of the MGCSA, and still be elected in this role is simply one of the best things to happen in my career. Thanks to all of you for that support.

Finally, I would like to thank my employer, Dave Meyer, all involved at Windsong and, especially, my family, wife Kristin, son Leighton and daughter Olivia. Your support is crucial to take the time at the state and the national level to serve our great industry. Thank you.

Yes, your Association is changing. 2013 will be another year of challenges and opportunities. We have a lot to accomplish. Your Board of Directors and I are looking forward to meeting these head on.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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and look forward to helping with your turf needs in 2013"*

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# In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

**Oh  
Tannenbaum**

*The modern  
lyrics are due to*

**Leipzig organist, teacher and composer Ernst Anschütz, written in 1824. A Tannenbaum is a fir tree. The lyrics do not actually refer to Christmas, or describe a decorated Christmas tree. Instead, they refer to the fir's evergreen qualities as a symbol of constancy and faithfulness.**

**Anschütz based his text on a 16th-century Silesian folk song by Melchior Franck, "Ach Tannenbaum". Joachim August Zarnack (1777–1827) in 1819 wrote a tragic love song inspired by this folk song, taking the evergreen, "faithful" fir tree as contrasting with a faithless lover. The folk song first became associated with Christmas with Anschütz, who added two verses of his own to the first, traditional verse. The custom of the Christmas tree developed in the course of the 19th century, and the song came to be seen as a Christmas carol. Anschütz' version still had *treu* ("true, faithful") as the adjective describing the fir's leaves (needles), harking back to the contrast to the faithless maiden of the folk song. This was changed to *grün* "green" at some point in the 20th century, after the song had come to be associated with Christmas. *Wikipedia***

I love a good Christmas tree. Fragrant, green, resplendent with twinkle lights and glass ornaments. My brother's tree is simply

the most amazing holiday decoration I have ever seen. At least ten feet tall, each year the thin natural fir has its individual branches wrapped with separate strands of lights and then dressed with both antique and modern glass curios. Curt spends 12 hours setting it up and another 12 taking it down.

But for five weeks it faithfully symbolizes Christmas past and present in his house.

Growing up under the roof of a wood hoarder, one who covets rotting wood piles nestled and wasting in neighbors yards or standing dead trees just aching to be harvested and who has more timber split and stacked than he will ever use in his lifetime, was an education in Christmas Tree thriftiness. Always harvested from our property, we had an abundance of interesting and rather unique Tannenbaums and not-so-much Taunnenbaums in my youth.

Au natural, the specimens always looked 'pretty good' in the yard but often lost their luster upon entry through the sliding porch door. Wrestled across the living room carpet, each managed to mark a trail of ancient bird and insect nests, grasses and leaves; enough to fill at least one Electrolux bag! Of course the 'thin side' was typically turned toward the picture windows so we could appreciate the 'full' side...when there was a full side to appreciate.



Once the season was over and the tolerance level of audible falling dehydrated and abscised needles when walking across the room reached its crescendo, we would denude the tree of baubles, filling yet again numerous vacuum bags and reducing the life expectancy if the 'ol' Silverado'. In an effort to reduce any more waste of paper bags my Father would remove the double sliding windows and unceremoniously throw the now practically naked stump to its almost final destination two stories below.

Many spruce, pine and fir danced from the out-of doors and into our house over my years growing up, but perhaps the most impressive was the twelve-foot tall columnar arborvitae taken for the dual purpose of providing a destination for the ornaments as well as improve the view around a nasty bend in the road. The bad side, trimmed and turned toward the windows, was completely void of any greenery as it abutted its neighbor arborvitae (also soon to be removed as without a partner it too had a cavity the size of Wisconsin). Tall, skinny and rather challenging to hang anything upon because the compact branching left limited hook space, this tree looked like a brownish green five foot wide column holding our vaulted ceiling up.

This once in a lifetime Christmas Tree (thanks Mom for laying down the law!) was beyond an embarrassment. However there were three large pluses associated with its variety...it smelled great, never lost a

needle and was simple to dispose of out the open window!

Our ceremonial tree offered one last breath of family enjoyment after Christmas. Mid summer, or whenever Dad was tired of looking at the now rusty brown semi-needled conifer tossed haphazardly in the woods, we would cremate the shrunken and desiccated tree in the burn pit thus completing the cycle of its life. In a rapid blaze of glory our creosote tinder would flare the summer skies, one last memory of our loyal Tannenbaum.

With the exception of one spruce tree, four feet tall and six feet wide (well it looked good in Dad's yard, and I appreciate your contribution Big Guy!), as an adult I now prefer a tree harvested from the Covered Bridge Farm located a couple of miles down the road, the tradition of "Charlie Browns" continues in my house. We don't look for the perfect tree, just one to celebrate the season with. Through the front door, out the back and off the deck into the snow bank to be torched next summer, my family and I celebrate the season with faithful memories hard to forget.

Although not the picture of perfection like my Bro's, our humble tree stands almost straight and reminds us of the holidays with wonderful smells, colorful decorations, lights and the warmth of family and remembrances of Christmases past.

Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!