



MGCSA *Shop Tours* Event
January 22, 2013

Keller Golf Course, host Paul Diegnau CGCS

Somerset Country Club, host James Bade

Town and Country Club, host Bill Larson CGCS

***Shop Tours begin at Keller GC then move to Somerset CC ending
at T&CC for tour and pizza lunch***

This *new* MGCSA opportunity combines both education and social networking. Bring your staff, especially your equipment technicians, and tour three very different turf management centers. You drive between stops.

**Cost of the day is \$30 per participant and includes:
coffee, donuts and lunch**

Keller Golf Course Tour Begins from 8:00-9:30

Somerset Country Club Tour from 10:00- 11:30

Town and Country Club Tour Begins at 12:00 noon

Spectacular Pizza Lunch at T&CC

Random Participation Prizes to be awarded

visit the MGCSA.org web site for more information and sign up today



Distinguished Diegnau, CGCS

2012 DSA Award Winner Deserving of Distinction

By Dave Kazmierczak and Eric Counselman

When nominating this year's Distinguished Service Award winner Paul Diegnau CGCS, Eric Counselman, Superintendent, Somerby Golf Club, had his hands full. He knew he would have to stand in front of his peers and give a speech, state his case for the nomination, but perhaps the hardest thing would be

to actually learn how to spell "Diegnau".

However when Counselman was through doing his research, he found that not only was it worth the time to learn how to spell Paul's last name, but his achievements and contributions throughout his career would warrant the award many times over.

Paul Diegnau is as Minnesota as it gets. Raised in Rosemount, he attended the University of Minnesota and received a BS in Biology. Diegnau had always wanted to work for the Department of Natural Resources in the area of fisheries or wildlife management but in the end he said that “didn’t pan out.” Diegnau had always looked to work outside in nature so an alternative to the DNR job might be the golf course. He answered an ad for a job as Golf Course Superintendent at Parkview Golf Course in Eagan, MN. He got the job, and in 1983 began his career without a turf degree, learning at the “school of

hard knocks.”

He must have been a quick learner, because four years later he landed the Superintendent job at River Falls Golf Club, where he spent nearly a decade before landing the job at Keller Golf Course in 1996, where he presently employed.

Throughout his career, Diegnau’s focus other than maintaining and excellent golf course has been the concept of being a consistent steward of water quality and conservation. He has worked tirelessly to educate and increase awareness of Best Management Practices, and is always willing to



Keller GC:

An Urban Nature Preserve

2009 MGCSA Environmental Leader Award Recipient

LEAP Award Winner 2003

Ramsey-Washington Metro



Landscape Ecology Awards Program



educate and communicate what he has learned. Keller Golf Course has been offered up for research on numerous occasions, and has received full Certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

The list of Diegnau's accomplishments are long, and are certainly worth noting and marveling over. They are:

- Within the MGCSA Paul has:
 - Helped develop BMP Water Stewardship Guidelines outlining water quality and quantity strategies for turf managers.
 - Served on the Research Committee
 - Chaired Scholarship and Conference and Education Committees
- Served on the MN Turf and Grounds BOD for three maybe 4 years
- Since 2003 he has represented MGCSA on the MN Nursery and Landscape Regulatory Advisory Council through the Department of Ag
- From 2004 to 2009 Paul represented MGCSA on the MN Invasive Species Advisory Council a joint effort between the DNR and Dept of Ag council
- In 2003 he won the Watson Award for article on Linear Aerification
- For many years he wrote a monthly column called "Minnesota in the Crosshairs" in Hole Notes, and it is estimated

that through the years has contributed over 3 dozen articles to Hole Notes

- In 2009 he won the MGCSA Environmental Award
- He has been the MGCSA Vice-President, President, and is now the Ex-Officio
- As the President of the MGCSA, Paul's leadership was put to the test. The MGCSA BOD determined that the position of Executive Director was in need of review. It was through Paul's leadership and development of a fair and just process that the position was re-evaluated. Throughout the

reevaluation process Paul kept constant communication with the MGCSA membership. The leg work associated with this type of change was daunting, but he took it in stride and logged countless hours on our behalf. These decisions although difficult, redirected the MGCSA, and as an association we have seen benefits in the change.

- Within the GCSAA:
 - Paul became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1993
 - He has served for a year on the GCSAA Online Education Committee
 - Co-authored an article on shoreline restoration in partnership with local watershed district that was published in Golf Course Management magazine
- Within Ramsey County:
 - He has served on the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Advisory Commission
 - And in 2003, won the Landscape Ecology Awards Program (LEAP) Award for government properties. Award given to land managers who use management practices that improve or preserve water quality and natural resources
 - In 2008 he was awarded the



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Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season



Rick Gabler · Dan Gabler · Steve Hamelau · Rick Grannes · Rick McCarthy

Season's Greetings

Ramsey County Outstanding Employee Achievement Award for environmental stewardship and innovation

- Other Accomplishments include
 - Being a member and Washington County Coordinator for the MN Bluebird Recovery Program
 - Former Master Gardener and Tree Care Advisor with the U of MN Extension – Washington County
 - Participant in the MN Forest Pest First Detector Program
 - Hosted and taught classes for undergraduate and graduate level students from University of Minnesota (turfgrass management, plant pathology), Century College, and UW-River Falls
 - Served on the city of Oakdale Environmental Management Commission

Like most achievers, Diegnau's success could not have happened without a firm support group. He married his wife, Cindy in 1984 and together they raised two children: Christine, 24 who is in the Carlson Business School at the University of Minnesota and is currently teaching English in Seoul, South Korea and

Mike, 20, who is also enrolled the Carlson School as a Junior. Diegnau said it was their support, especially Cindy's that made all that he has been able to accomplish a reality.

For his many friends and peers in the industry, Diegnau is simply a positive influence. His list of achievements is astounding, and will have an impact on our industry for many years to come. He gives us all (especially the young guys) a positive role model for which pattern ourselves. Paul Diegnau, CGCS, is certainly deserving of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award.



Season's Gre

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Count on it. Page 29

Trees: Your ‘Other’ Plants

Assessing Tree Risks In Public Places

Article one in a series of three pertaining to the complex issues associated with tree management.

Dr. Gary Johnson

Professor, and Extension Professor of Urban and Community Forestry

University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources

What could be worse than to be 10 over par...for each hole? As bad as that may sound (actually, for me that’s a decent game), having a branch drop 20 feet in a wind storm and land on your head would actually be worse! Okay, if not worse, just as bad. Managers of public open spaces have had to learn about hazard tree assessment and managing risks as commonly as managing bentgrass diseases, whether they have a background in this practice or not. Not being aware of problems is not a defense when invited guests are injured due to hazardous conditions, whether they are linked to benches, parking lots or trees. The best defense, legally and ethically, is a well-documented management plan that helps managers of parks, golf courses and campuses pro-actively minimize dangers to their “clients.”

Tree risk assessment has become the most universal practice in urban forestry. Whether the professional is managing trees on private properties or public spaces, the assumption is that everything that can be done to make the experience enjoyable for users of the space has been done. Therefore, the assumed liability to monitor for potentially harmful defects that can create hazards or hazardous conditions extends to everything. Monitoring for dangerous paths, parking lots, benches, or other infrastructure is relatively logical and obvious. It doesn’t take a Mensa membership to recognize broken-down or rotting benches. Pot-holes in paths or parking lots are pretty obvious when all of the cars look like low-riders as they drive through or roller bladers spend more time picking themselves up rather than picking up