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Upcoming Events

May 13th
Affiliate Appreciation Day
Castlewood Golf Course
Host Jeremy Walker

June 3rd
The Scramble
Medina Golf and Country Club
Host Erin McManus



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**Affiliate Members!!!
Affiliate Appreciation Event
on May 13th at Castlewood
Golf Club. Thanks for your
continued support!**



MGA Spring Turfgrass Forum on April 30!

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Jeff Pint, six time MGCSA
State Champion, lines up
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Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS

Wow! What a difference from a year ago? Most of us had been open three to four weeks at this time last year. Right now we have six inches of snow on the ground and possibly more coming? People often laugh when I say that Mother Nature has a sneaky way of meeting the average. I have found this to be true in many cases. The bottom line is: we can't control the weather, much to the dismay and disbelief of our members and guests, we just have to deal with what we are handed the best we can. That's about enough of the weather talk, for now.

I am sure by this point everyone has heard of the developments on waters at the state level. The DNR has proposed legislation that will significantly raise the cost of irrigation water. The proposal jumps us from \$8/million gallons to \$70/million gallons. An increase of this magnitude is absolutely absurd in my opinion. In retrospect, I guess, I knew the increased fees were inevitable, but a \$62/million jump in a single year seems outrageous. That said I now believe our focus has to be on adopting the BMP's on water management and to work with the DNR to guarantee that we, as golf course operators, and arguably the most responsible users of water, ensure that none of us will ever have our irrigation water permits pulled. This will be a monumental task, but I feel confident it can be accomplished. ALL of us: superintendents, owners, golf professionals and general managers will have to fully buy into the plan to make this happen. The Environmental Stewardship Committee will be meeting in late April to fine tune this plan and start the implementation process. Stay tuned for further information.

Despite the slow melt and the latest rounds of rain and snow, 67% of

the state is still in moderate to severe drought. The next drought update will come out April 18. Hopefully, we see some relief from the last bout of precipitation. Personally, I am not sure if it will make a significant impact on the drought status, as there is still significant frost in the ground and most of the waters, rain or melt, will run-off and not be absorbed into the ground. Lake levels may rebound a bit, but we need to re-charge the ground waters to really impact the drought status across the state. If you would like to monitor the drought and other environmental and climate impacts, please check out www.climate.umn.edu. This is as good a source as I have found on this subject.

I left Sunday, April 14 to Washington D.C. for the annual GCSAA Government Relations Committee meetings and visits on Capitol Hill with our local lawmakers. We also participated in the We Are Golf (WAG) coalition meetings. The GR Committee's two main focuses this year were the NPDES legislation and immigration reform. There seems to be growing support to eliminate the national NPDES legislation and we did our due diligence to further that cause. I am not going to get into the nitty-gritty of this, but we are already regulated and there is no need for plurality in this regulation. The other focus was bolstering the H-2B visa program to ensure that any industry that utilizes these workers can continue to get a legal work force at the appropriate time of year. I met with Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Representative Erik Paulsen.

Well, I guess we should all be happy we can relax for one last weekend, watch some TV golf and spend some time with family. Just keep in mind, only 60 more days until we start having shorter days. I have no fear that by that time we will be ready for shorter days!

Good Luck in the season ahead!

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- **Mr. Robert Vavrek,**
USGA Senior Agronomist, North Central Region
- **Mr. John Spitzer,**
USGA Managing Director of Equipment Standards

• **Topics will include:**

**THE LATEST ISSUES FACING GOLF COURSE
TURFGRASS**

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• **Tuesday, April 30**

8:00 a.m.....Registration (*coffee & rolls*)

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.Presentations & Discussion

at Mendakota Country Club

2075 Mendakota Dr, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

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• **For Reservations:**

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952-345-3968 or joel@mngolf.org

Please provide your name and golf course affiliation.

- **REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Even though I wasn't living in the community of Mahtomedi in 1984, I worked in the community as Superintendent at Dellwood Hills Golf Club, and could justify joining the Mahtomedi Lion's Club. A plebe, I was tasked with all the grunt work that the senior 'poobah's' felt was beyond them.

Selling raffle chances for sides of beef, pimping dinner tickets to the Wild Game Feed and clearing tables at the seemingly too often pancake breakfasts. I was covered with so much residual maple syrup it is a surprise that "sugar-bushing" is a hobby of mine!

All the while the Grand Poobah and his high-ranking initiates socialized, consumed adult beverages (although I snuck my fair share) and dolled out the sausages. The new lion cubs and I did all the heavy lifting and the S.O.B.'s, sweet old boys, did the kibitzing...or so I thought.

It wasn't until much later that I learned how important the old cats were to the fundraising process. In an all-volunteer organization it is expected that the youth "pay their debt to the cause" through sweat equity. On the other hand those who had been in the group for quite some time were in the enviable position of being able to contribute with direct financial support while having a relaxed social event.

That shiny new ambulance didn't materialize from my ball-busting-plate-bussing exuberance, but rather the monthly contributions at the Lion's Club meetings, excessive number of member purchased raffle tickets and the 'passing of the hat' contributions when not enough cakes were flipped for the general public.

Fundraising in the eyes of the veteran Lion's wasn't about the pounds in the side of beef, whether the rocky mountain oysters would be satisfying or if the orange juice had pulp or not. Nope, they only cared about generating funds for whatever the current cause was and if they had fun doing it, either through a few pops or down to earth fraternization, then all the better! The community and individuals at large benefited from the new rescue truck or park pavilion.