

The Capitol Hill visits coincided with those of WE ARE GOLF, a coalition led by four of the golf industry's leading associations and supported by other small businesses. Founded by GCSAA, the National Golf Course Owners Association, The PGA of America, and the Club Managers Association of America, WE ARE GOLF is a broad-based coalition that seeks to maximize the industry's synergy and reduce redundancy. Its growing membership includes participation from association members, multi-course owners, manufacturers and golf facilities.

Beyond better demonstrating golf's profound economic clout, WE ARE GOLF illustrates the industry's environmental sustainability initiatives, its health and wellness benefits, and its unparalleled charitable giving. First and foremost, the goal of WE ARE GOLF is to get members of Congress to understand golf's contributions to communities across the country when they're developing and advancing important legislation – just as all small businesses want. WE ARE GOLF will work to share information, case studies and articles with media, elected officials, regulators and other



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 Bayer Environmental Science



Erin McManus, Superintendent at Medina Golf and Country Club, and his capable staff promise a challenging venue for The Scramble, the MGCSA Research and Scholarship Scramble. Who is on your team?

key constituents so they are better informed on issues of concern.

“GCSAA has long had a strong advocacy program,” GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. “We had a great presence in Washington, and several of our members have built solid relationships with their congressmen. The work the GCSAA Government Relations Committee does is of great benefit to our members and the industry.”

The committee, along with several GCSAA board members, GCSAA members and staff, made visits to the offices of more than four dozen members of Congress to advocate on behalf of GCSAA and the golf industry.

Hines also participated on April 15 in the Government Relations Committee meeting in Washington. During the meeting, the committee addressed priority issues, as well as

discussed updates on GCSAA public policy concerning general permits for pesticide applications, H-2B rules, ADA accessibility guidelines, Endangered Species Act litigation and more. Committee members also discussed local resources regarding pesticide and fertilizer advocacy efforts.

About GCSAA

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the

men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on Facebook, follow GCSAA on Twitter, and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.



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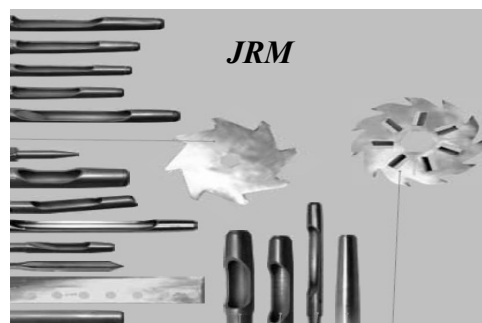
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WHEREVER GOLF IS PLAYED

The Program: The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association offers a scholarship program designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM, C, D, Associate and Affiliate members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post-secondary institution. The program is independently managed by Scholarship America, a national non-profit student aid service organization. Awards will be granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, national origin or financial need.

Selection of Recipients: Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal. Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship Management Services. In no instance does any member of the MGCSA play a part in the selection. Applicants will be notified by the end of July whether they have been awarded or denied a scholarship.

Eligibility: Applicants for the MGCSA Legacy Scholarships must be: children/grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM, C, D, Associate or Affiliate members who have been members of the MGCSA at least five years; High school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students who are already enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school, and under 23 years of age.

Awards: Three awards will be given to children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM and C members. One award of \$1,500 in the name of Joseph S. Garske will be given to the highest evaluated applicant. That award will be renewable for one year contingent upon full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic performance. One other \$1,000 award will be given to other qualified applicants from this group. One \$1,000 award will be available to children and grandchildren of Class D, Associate and Affiliate members. These awards are not renewable. However, students may reapply to the program each year they meet eligibility requirements. Awards are for undergraduate study only.

Obligations: Recipients have no obligation to the MGCSA or its members. They are, however, required to supply Scholarship Management Services with current transcripts and to notify Scholarship Management Services of any changes of address, school enrollment or other relevant information. Except as described in this brochure, no obligation is assumed by the MGCSA.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2013. For more information go to mgcsa.org

Peer Perspective

By E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

Intended Consequences

As most of you are all now aware, the Minnesota legislature has decided to back a plan by the Department of Natural Resources to dramatically increase water fees for all users of groundwater in the state. The stated goal of this increase is to raise money for the study of the ground water in the state, by increasing the number of monitoring wells and funding other studies to identify ways for protection of this vital resource for all. This is a noble plan worth supporting, and I, for one, do support it.

Not stated in the goals is the reduction in use do to the increase in the fees, in some cases up to a 300% increase. This is, however, one of the intended consequences. Currently, the DNR has no real plan as to how it can get the citizens of Minnesota to reduce their water consumption rate. We as a state take water for granted. After all, we live in the land of 10,000 lakes. Recently, events such as the lake level in White Bear Lake and others has proven that the water in Minnesota is not limitless and some type of control needs to be put in place.

As we have seen in the past with issues like tobacco, liquor and gasoline,



governments in general try to limit use by punishing us in the pocket book to get us to conform to their wishes. But, as with those issues, this type of system, while generating lots of cash, rarely gets the public to change their ways. Change takes time and education, and no amount of money will force the average citizen to drastically change the way they do things immediately.

The water issue in Minnesota is a real issue that needs to be tackled. It is, indeed, an issue that needs real study by qualified researchers to come up with real results that can solve problems down the line. The problem is that this too will take time, and no amount of money thrown at an issue will produce good results instantly. Valuable research is a long process.

Until such time, there are a number of practical things that can and should be done to limit the wasteful use of water in Minnesota. (At this point I could give you a list, but, you might not agree with it and neither will the DNR, so what would be the point.) These options should be debated and thought through, so we can reduce the wasteful use of water and start having an impact immediately. Granted, much of this will be a drop in the overall bucket, but you have to start somewhere.

The MGCSA as a group has been focused on this issue and the Environmental Committee has been developing a plan for our industry to use, and take the lead on this issue.

We are close to finalizing those plans and you should see them soon. We have been working with the DNR and will be presenting our plan to them to show that we are not just users, but rather responsible protectors of the environment as a whole.

This type of process should be forced on all industry users of water. From agriculture to manufacturing to landscape use, every group should have to develop a plan to reduce water use. This will be much more effective in the near term than trying to force reduction through increased fees. Intended and unintended consequences will result from these fee increases, let us hope that both types produce positive results.

The image is a composite advertisement for Hartman Golf Course Construction & Renovation. It features a background photograph of a golf course with a green, a sand trap, and trees. Overlaid on the image is the company logo, which includes a stylized green tree icon, the name 'HARTMAN' in large, bold, serif letters, and a red flag on a black pole. Below the name, it says 'Golf Course Construction & Renovation'. In the top right corner, the text 'Quality since 1971...' is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom left, the text 'Specializing in...' is written in a purple, cursive font, followed by a list of services: 'Bunkers • Tees • Laser Leveling • Green Drainage • Irrigation • Design • Pump Station Upgrades'. At the bottom left, the address '8099 Bavaria Rd. Victoria, MN 55386' and phone number '952.443.2990' are listed. At the bottom right, the email 'info@hartmancompanies.com' and website 'www.hartmancompanies.com' are provided.

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Golf Architect Staying Busy Even in Tough Times.

By Ken Moum

In the 1990s golf course architects were building courses at a feverish pace. But that all changed with the economic difficulties of the past several years. More recently, many golf course architects have either moved most of their practice overseas or have tried to find other ways of paying the bills.

Minnesota-based golf architect Kevin Norby, says that hasn't been the case for him, in fact, he's currently hiring. That's right – hiring. "I guess it's a bit unusual" says Norby. "We've been fortunate to have picked up a number of projects over the past few years and 2012 was one of our busiest years in 22 years".

"Like a lot of guys, after things slowed down in 2008, I chased a couple projects in China and even thought about opening an office over there or hiring a marketing consultant to help us find projects overseas". In the end, Norby decided to focus his efforts domestically so he could dedicate the time to make sure the projects turn out right. "When we do a new project, I spend a lot of time researching the market and then



spend a lot of time on site to make sure they turn out like they should".

As a result, if there is a renovation or expansion project going on in the Midwest, there's a good chance Norby has a hand in it. He just landed what might be one of the only 18-hole construction projects in the country – a nine-hole expansion and renovation at Fox Hills Golf Course in western North Dakota. "Our plan is to start with the twelve new holes that won't impact the existing course. Then, when those holes are ready to play, we'll build the remaining six holes and the new practice facilities". According to Norby, there

will be 18 new holes and about 300 home sites situated on about 500 acres.

Norby also has projects under construction in Minnesota and South Dakota including a major renovation at Bakker Crossing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and at Bunker Hills in Minneapolis. He is also working on projects in Colorado, North Carolina, Iowa and the Dominican Republic.

In addition to completing some pretty high profile and highly acclaimed design projects, Norby has developed a reputation for helping owners figure out how to make their course successful. “A lot of what we do involves long range master planning and what makes us unique is the amount of time I spend trying to help owners figure out how to increase membership and revenue, rather than simply making architectural changes to rejuvenate the golf course or reduce maintenance costs.”

Norby says, “Often times that means spending days getting to know the local golf market, the culture, the other area courses, our client and our client’s golf course.” Ultimately, we want to create a course that is enjoyable yet profitable. For a private club that means new members and for a public course that means increased value and increased play. We can only do that if we understand what it will take to make our courses successful and then make the changes needed to reposition or differentiate them from their competition.

“We’ve been fortunate to have weathered this downturn pretty well,” says Norby. “It’s been a tough few years but it seems like, as long as we’re willing to focus on building great golf courses and focus on finding ways to make them successful, we’ll stay busy”.



***The Wee One. October 7th at Brackett's Crossing.
Join in the tradition of giving***

Benefits of Membership in the MGCSA

MGCSA.org: The MGCSA provides its membership an electronic destination. The site offers a broad range of services including latest news, meeting information, important links, local association contacts and meeting schedules, as well as a market place for used equipment or student internships. Links are provided to the Affiliate Members who advertise on the web site.

Education: The MGCSA provides a range of high quality discounted professional education with more than 100 hours of relevant classes at the Northern Green Expo in January each year, supplemented by an extensive program at the Mega Seminar, as well as the annual MGA Spring Turf Forum.

Research: The MGCSA coordinates with researchers at the University of Minnesota's TROE Center to make sure you get the information you need. The association also directs Turfgrass Research Benefit Week, the annual sale of donated tee-times, to raise money for golf turfgrass research. And the association also contributes to The Turf Endowment fund to ensure a continuing program at the University of Minnesota.

Government Relations: The MGCSA provides access to the State Capitol through a continued relationship with the Minnesota Golf Association and other Green Industry Allies. This service keeps your association aware of issues likely to affect golf as they emerge rather than after the fact. This proactive presence also helps us educate legislators and regulators by providing solid information and research findings as they strive to make sound decisions for the good of the whole community. The MGCSA has representation at the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape's 'Day on the Hill' event.

Hole Notes Magazine: The MGCSA provides an award winning professional golf course superintendent association journal. Published ten times each year in a digital format, Hole Notes strives to provide relevant, interesting information that reflects the personality and professionalism of the membership. Links are provided to the Affiliate members who advertise in the magazine.

Membership Directory: At the Member's Only section the MGCSA provides an annually updated listing of names and contact details for every member of the association. This electronic directory puts each within fingertip reach of around 700 allied professionals across the region.

Employment Referral Service: The MGCSA provides a link between the people with jobs and those who want them. The employment referral service is available on-line at MGCSA.org as well as electronically delivered weekly through 'e-updates'.

Email Alerts: The MGCSA uses the internet to provide updates and alerts on urgent matters as they arise so we remain current with issues that may effect you, the industry and the Association.

Scholarships: The MGCSA extends its support to the next generation through an annual scholarship program to assist children and grandchildren of superintendents who have achieved academic excellence.

Wee One Support: The MGCSA annually hosts a Wee One fund raising golf outing with the proceeds going to support this outstanding program that serves those in the golf course turf management industry.



Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak, CGCS

In March of 2012 I sat down and wrote a column about how

wonderful life was for the snow had melted, the sun was shining and the temperatures were unbelievably above normal. A year and a month later, I and the rest of Minnesota golfdom are in agony and misery as somehow last March decided to show up in April 2013.

However after writing last month's column about the misery of pothole season and at the risk of completely going off the deep end about weather I refuse to let it hijack another column. Rest assured, the warm weather will come eventually and our golf course will be live and vibrant again.

Instead, I will focus this column on another bit of misery that needs to be addressed.

As most of you have heard, the Minnesota Legislature is attempting to pass a water appropriations bill that will re-structure fees paid to the state for the privilege of drawing water out of a lake, river or aquifer. This new fee structure would triple the amount of money paid by

a course to the DNR on average, and in some cases even more. I have some strong opinions on this.

First of all, let's address the word fee. Fee is cute little word commandeered by politicians recently to replace the word tax. For tax is an evil word, that apparently will not allow politicians to be re-elected. Fee seems to be so much easier on the electoral palate. It is used freely on both sides of the political spectrum, not one party or another. Fees have slipped into our business as well. There is the environmental recovery fee we pay to our waste haulers. We pay certain fees when chemicals are delivered to us. We have paid fuel surcharge fees when the price of fuel shot up a few years ago. Let's call it what it is- it's a tax.

So the state feels it needs to charge more for water use. On the surface, that is not an unreasonable request. After all, water is still relatively cheap in our neck of the woods compared to other places in the country. If you browse the bill, the politicians have some grand plans with the funds they are attempting to procure. Some make sense to me, some seem to do nothing more than perpetuate big government. You might want to take a peek at the bill and formulate your own opinion.

My biggest problem with this is that we have been trying to work with the DNR on self-regulation through