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**Upcoming Events**

**February 27-28**  
**Mega Seminar**  
**North Oaks Golf Club**  
**Host Brian Boll**

**March 11th**  
**10,000 Duck Campaign**  
**Assistant's Event**  
**TPC Twin Cities**  
**Host Roger Stewart, CGCS**



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**Thank you affiliate members who use the *Hole Notes* magazine to promote your products and services.**

**Nasty, nasty ICE!!!**  
Across our state many courses have experienced this problematic issue. Sam Bauer has been contacting regional clubs for conditions to be posted in the first of three reports later this spring.



**10,000 Duck Campaign starts March 11. Thank you Assistant Superintendents for your initiative.**

## ...Even More Content...

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**Count on it.**



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

The State of Our State Superintendent's Association

Welcome to 2013! I hope everyone is

enjoying a winter that seems to be a little better than what we have had the last couple years. I know I have enjoyed the snow, despite the cold temperatures, more this year. That said I am looking forward to kicking off the 2013 campaign...as long as it doesn't start before St. Patrick's Day!

Last year and a few months have been very exciting for our association! Jack MacKenzie, CGCS has been a great acquisition as Executive Director. We are lucky to have an agreement with Jack for the foreseeable future. I have certainly seen an improvement in daily operations. We have adopted an incremental dues increase to fund University of Minnesota research driven by our needs. Two great initiatives!

Were you aware that we also formed an Environmental Stewardship Committee to finalize and implement BMPs for Minnesota? The committee had its first meeting in late January and has picked up the work done in 2009. We have

divided into sub-committees to finish the first phase: Irrigation Water BMPs. We feel that this is the "hot-button" item at this point. Most of Minnesota is still in a "moderate to severe" drought designation. In fact, there were several Minnesota courses that lost their water rights late last summer. We feel this is not a viable option and are working hard to implement a large-scale, self-regulating plan and a short term, strategic, crisis management plan to prevent that from happening again. We will be meeting with other local industry organizations including the club managers, Minnesota Section PGA, course owners and the MGA to summarize our mission and garner the support as we move to the state level with the information. Our intent is to have a plan to the Minnesota DNR sometime in June of this year and be fully implemented in 2014. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward.

The writing and adoption of BMPs is a huge undertaking! Future BMP topics may include pesticide use/fate and further nutrient run-off. Thank you to those who initiated this task in the past

# *“Advancing the art and science of golf course management and promoting the welfare of its members and the profession.”*

## *The NEW MGCSA Mission Statement*

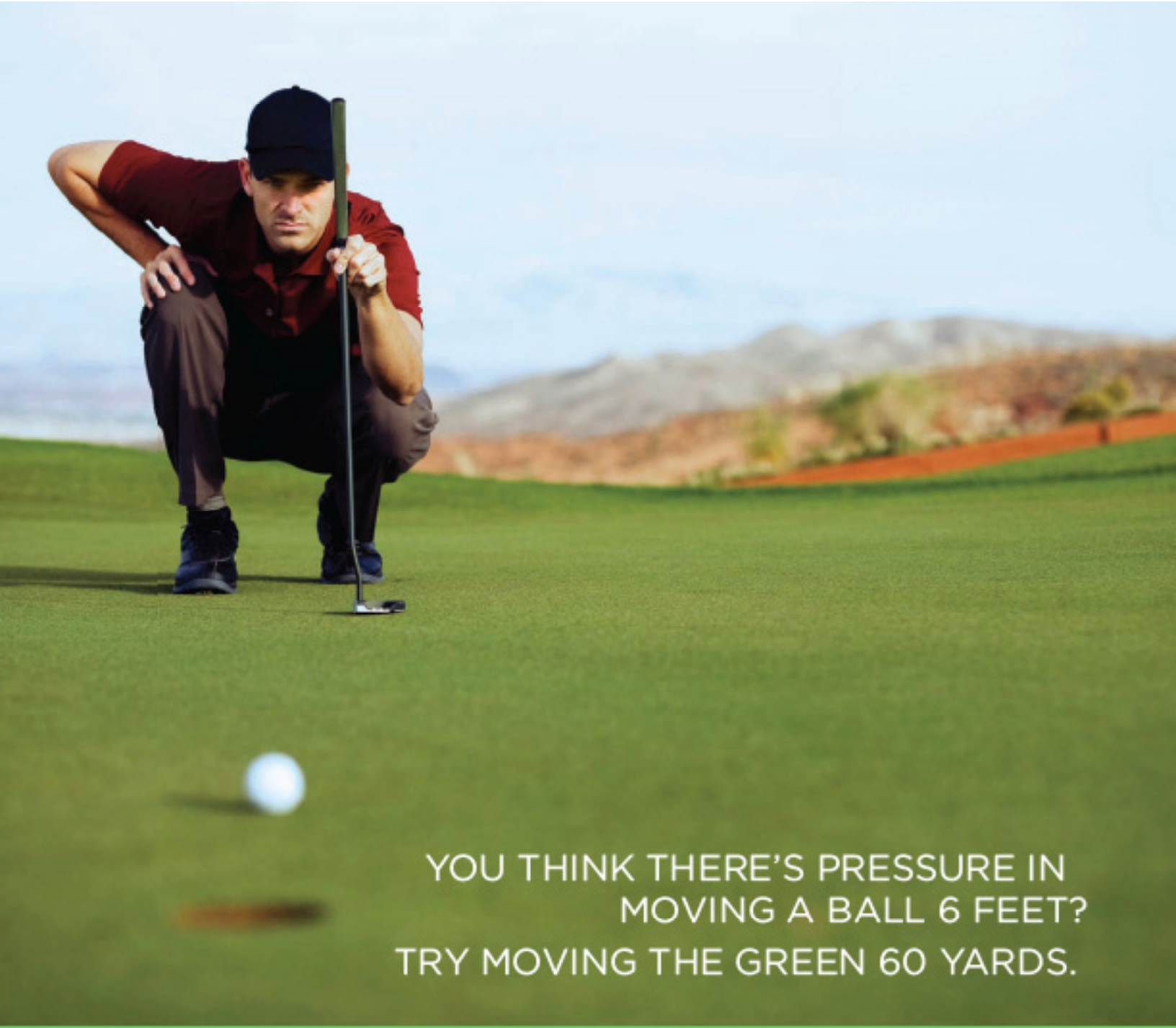
and a huge thanks to those working with the committee at this point as we move to finalize and implement.

The Board of Directors with the assistance of our GCSAA Field Representative, Steve Randall, held a two-day strategic planning meeting to forge a clear direction for the MGCSA. It was a great exercise! We adopted a new mission statement. We have identified areas we feel we can improve on to make the association better in general. The BMPs are part of this. Other facets are outreach, research and how to better involve all our members in activities of the MGCSA. We streamlined the committee structure so that we have committees that are engaged and involved in making

recommendations for the Board to consider. If you have any interest in being active in any committees please feel free to contact Jack or myself.

We have had these meetings from time to time in the past. With the assistance of Steve Randall we will be doing this almost yearly to check on time lines, activities and where we stand with reaching the short-term goals we have established for ourselves. I think this is a great stride forward for our association!

As we are getting closer to start of the 2013 season take a little time and enjoy the last part of winter. Best wishes and good luck in the coming year.



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# In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie CGCS

**Fortunate for my 15-year-old ego, I was swimming at the time. Unfortunate**

**for my heart, I was swimming at the time.**

Hot July summer nights and a, “be home close to dark” curfew, allowed me opportunities to be a young adult. Money in my pocket from my gig as a caddy, provided resources for chaperoned dates with my girlfriend, including viewing the 1975 blockbuster *Jaws*, at the time a very dramatic and even shocking cinema spectacular.

I remember well the evening following the show heading to White Bear Lake with a couple of buddies for a not unusual quick cool swim off the end of the Yacht Club dock. With a fast head start, I sprinted with high toes to limit the chance of a splinter toward the wooden precipice. In the twilight, arching high and far over the calm as glass water, the embrace of the luke-warm lake broke my flight. Turning around to shout my excitement, I was quickly terrified.

Coming rapidly to crunch my bones was a white anomaly...in my youthful mind *Jaws* was very much alive. Rarely have I been so scared as I was that night; my diving bubbles following me closely in the limited evening light appearing to be a twenty-foot white shark with a grin of sharp teeth. As I said, fortunate for my ego I was swimming at the time!

**On the horizon there is a new threat, a real scary threat, a known threat as each of you are agronomists and scientists alike.**

Water usage evaluations and the potential for permit restrictions may well be in the future. It has nothing to do with the drought, although the weather is exacerbating the issue. Rather we, as a state, are wasting our most precious and finite resource.

No, not golf courses, for responsible stewards manage them. And while it would be easy to point fingers, that is no way to craft self regulation to protect an industry so dependent on a resource so much out of our control. Now is the time to unite all golf destinations, allied associations and golfers alike to develop reasonable and responsible industry water management practices and even more important to the success of protecting our water assets, individual crisis management plans.

For the past several years the MGCSA has dabbled in an Association wide Environmental Stewardship Plan focused upon water...this in the land of 10,000 lakes really was quite peripheral in nature. That is until last year when over a dozen courses had their permits pulled and were directed to stop irrigating their turf. The drought continues and the talk of greater regulation is becoming a concern.

Heard at an Environmental Initiative meeting last fall were keynote speakers for the DNR. They said that surface water isn't the only target for acute regulation. Those who water mine deep into the aquifers are also to be examined...especially the recreational users... golf courses.

Practically a call to arms, the Board of Directors immediately created a task force to craft a reasonable plan of self-regulation based upon the success of other