



Minnesota Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association
Annual Committee Reports

2021 MGCSA ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING January 20, 2021
2:00 PM

Virtual Format

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Reinders



MGCSA Annual Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday, January 20, 2021

Scott Thayer	President	Eric Counselman	Director
Eric Ritter CGCS	Vice-President	Geoff Jordan	Director
vacant	Secretary/Treasurer	Jacob Kocak	Director
Matt Rostal	Ex-officio	Michael Sonnek	Director
Matt Cavanaugh	Director		

Necrology Report
Keven Benson passed away in 2020

GCSAA Update
Steve Randall, Director Chapter Services

Minutes of Previous Meeting
Annual Membership Meeting January 16, 2020
Presented by Secretary/Treasurer Eric Ritter CGCS

Reports of Officers
President's Report*
Treasurer's Report*

Arrangements Committee
Conference and Education Committee
Research Committee*
Membership Support Committee
Bylaws Committee

Communications Committee
Environmental and Advocacy Committee
Industrial Relations Committee
MTGF Report
Nominating and Elections Committee

***Reports that are read**
New Business
Honorary Member List
Recognition of Service and Distinguished Service Awards
Special Awards

Honorary Member List as recommended by the Board of Directors

Rollie Carlson	Maggie Reiter	Dr. Bev Durgan
Tom Ryan	Sam Bauer	Dr. Brian Buhr
JD Drimel	Dr. Kristina Walker	Reed MacKenzie
Dan Howard	Dr. Eric Watkins	

Roberts Rules of Order will prevail unless otherwise specified

MGCSA Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of MGCSA Annual Meeting was held at Minneapolis Convention Center room 101 FG on Thursday January 16, 2020 **Attendees included:** Brandon Schindele, Scott Thayer, Matt Rostal, Jake Kocak, Liza Chmielewski, Matt Cavanaugh, Eric Ritter, CGCS, Aaron Johnson CGCS, Michael Sonnek, Geoff Jordan, Chris Tritabaugh, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Approval of minutes

Motion by Matt Rostal to approve Minutes of previous Annual Meeting; So Moved by Eric Ritter, CGCS; 2nd Matt Cavanaugh

Approved

Reports/Action Items (see additional paperwork)

Treasures Report read by Eric Ritter

Eric Ritter motion to approve the 2020 Treasures report so moved by Scott Thayer, 2nd Geoff Jordan

Approved

Matt Rostal motion to wave the reading of the Committee reports except for Bylaws Chair; Eric Ritter, CGCS so moved; Brandon Schindele 2nd

Approved

Motion by Matt Rostal for MGCSA Bylaws Changes: **To qualify for Class A – Retired status, one must not be currently employed as a golf course superintendent, no longer be actively seeking employment within the scope of any membership class of the association and have a minimum of five years service as a Class A golf course superintendent member. The years of service as a MGCSA member when combined with the members’ age must equal or exceed 75 years. This member shall have all the privileges of the Association afforded that classification, with the exception of holding office.** So Moved by Eric Ritter, CGCS; 2nd Matt Cavanaugh

Approved

Elections: Matt Rostal introduces the new Affiliate Board Member, Eric Counselman elected by the affiliates in an earlier meeting. Brandon Schindele is introduced to take the position of Ex-officio and announce the elections. Schindele announces Scott Thayer for President and asks for nominations from the floor for President. Hearing none, asks for a motion of approval of unanimous elections. Thayer is elected president. Schindele announces Eric Ritter, CGCS for Vice-President and asks for nominations from the floor for vice president. Hearing none, asks for a motion of approval of unanimous election.

Ritter, CGCS is elected Vice President. Schindele announces Aaron Johnson, CGCS for Secretary-Treasurer and asks for nominations from the floor for Secretary-Treasurer. Hearing none, asks for a motion of approval of unanimous election. Johnson, CGCS, elected Secretary-Treasurer. Schindele announces Michael Sonnek for Director and asks for more nominations from the floor. Hearing none, asks for a motion of approval of unanimous election. Sonnek is elected Director of the MGCSA board of Directors.

Scott Thayer announces Jacob Kocak will be taking over the one year position of Director for Aaron Johnson, CGCS, who was elected to Secretary-Treasurer.

Unfinished business

None

New Business

Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) of the MGCSA by Mark Michalski to Roger Stewart, CGCS

Other service awards Presented to members of the MGCSA

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Motion by Scott Thayer to adjourn meeting annual Meeting; so moved by Aaron Johnson, CGCS; 2nd Eric Ritter, CGCS; Approved

Eric Ritter, CGCS
Secretary or Committee Chair

1/17/2020
Date of approval

2021 President's Annual Report

Although 2019 was an interesting year for some of us because we had to deal with winter damage, a short season and an unforgiving year agronomically, 2020, will be remembered as even more challenging. During last year's Annual Meeting, I stood at the podium in front of you explaining how excited I was to be president and how hard I was going to work for the members of the MGCSA. I had no idea what was before me in this, the most interesting year I have ever experienced on a golf course.

In preparation for my term, Jack and I met just after the Green Expo last year at a spectacular Mexican restaurant in St. Paul to go over the upcoming year. He asked me what I wanted out of my Presidency for 2020. I didn't immediately have an answer for him, as I was a little confused by the question. But after we met, and as the year started up, I knew exactly what I wanted for my presidency. I wanted to do everything I could for all the members of the MGCSA so they could appreciate the value of being part of this great Association.

The year started out fantastically well. The Northern Green was well attended with another fun Beer and Pretzel Social where our members mingled with one another at the convention center. The group then held another fun and great event at some really cool facilities during shop tours. Seeing the different shops and how they operate was so enjoyable and eye opening. Next on our busy schedule was Day on the Hill. The 2020 advocacy opportunity was one of the best we have ever had at DOH since I have been attending. Our initiatives of leaving the Pesticide Preemption Laws in place and also allowing 16- and 17- year olds to work on golf courses were well accepted and understood by the legislators we met with. Here I was only 2 months in and on "presidential" cloud nine. We were going down a very good path for the association and my presidency was shaping up nicely. Then COVID-19 hit. The crazy pandemic sent many businesses into a swirl that I don't think anyone could anticipate how hard it was going to affect all of us.

I quickly learned how important it was that we had Jack working for us, he is a Rock star and will do anything for all of us. Also, all the relationship building we have done at DOH in the past helped lead us into the fight to get us to go back to work. Soon after, golf and maintenance were shut down. Quickly, Jack and I started to work with our Allied Associations to fight for golf and maintenance to come back. We began with meetings with MGA, CMAA, Golf Course Owners and MN PGA to explain to Legislation that golf is a socially distanced recreation and we could work on our courses in a safe manner under protocols. Our first step was just getting on our courses so we could start working, preparing, and protecting the number one asset in golf: the golf course. Through the whole process we received excellent support from the GCSAA. We were all going to be working hard together to get our voice out to get maintenance opened up, then golf. I also learned during all of this how dedicated Jack really is. As a membership, we sort of take him for granted and know he will get things done and represent us well. But working with him during the pandemic and experiencing his dedication to our industry was very impressive.

Soon Governor Walz allowed maintenance, then golf, but with the many restrictions and protocols that needed to be in place, it made all of it seem so crazy and I feel golf will change forever. 400 golfers on that first weekend we opened. All single cart riders. The golf season was open and going, and it never slowed down throughout the state of MN and the country.

The Association calendar quickly looked different then our BOD was planning for the 2020 year. We had aspirations to create events, non-golf and family too, to bring us closer together and add even more value to our members. This couldn't happen, and many other things didn't happen "normally". Covid-19 forced us to Zoom our BOD meetings this year. However, we figured out how to, at the very least, have some golf events for the association. After a confusing spring and start to the summer we safely hosted the Championship, the Wee One and the Scramble. These events were held at great locations, were run beautifully and everyone who participated had a fine time. I want to say thank you to all who made sure

these events still took place and those who attended under the circumstances. They were not the same, but it was still great to have them.

We are starting to plan our 2021 events, again not the normal programming, but hopefully all will be the value offered to the Association during these crazy times. I am not sure what 2021 holds. With any measure of luck, a timely distributed vaccine will get us back to normalcy. Only time will tell at this point, but I do know that we as a BOD will do everything we can to create value to you our valued members.

This past summer, Secretary/Treasurer Aaron Johnson, Superintendent at Dacotah Ridge Golf Club resigned his position to pursue Landscape Design and Installation. This forced him to step away from his role on the Board. In recent strategic planning sessions, it had been decided that if the election patterns of succession continued, Aaron would be the President to head the selection committee as we replace our retiring Executive Director on January 1, 2023.

Although this was unexpected news, we all understood and wished Aaron the best in his next venture and thanked him for his time served on the Board of Directors. Now we needed to figure out what to do going forward. Jack, Eric Ritter and I considered the situation and, after much thoughtful discussion, felt that Eric and I would run again as Vice President and President with Board Director, Mike Sonnek, running for the Secretary/Treasurer role. I am honored to run and to do another year as President for this great Association. I will ensure that we continue to work hard in Advocacy, Education, and Outreach in whatever way we can. In a socially safe manner, of course.

We will also see changes on the make-up of the Directors. After four years of dedication to the MGCSA, Matt Cavanaugh is stepping down to focus upon his new position as Superintendent at Rush Creek Golf Club. I wish to thank Matt for his hard work and enthusiasm as our Hole Notes Editor for the last three years and also as an active participant on numerous committees. Hopefully, he will return in some capacity to support the Association. Two individuals are running to fill the two vacancies on the Board, Joe Berggren, Superintendent at The Wilds and Nikk Dickerson, Superintendent at Owatonna Country Club. I look forward to working with them to support the MGCSA. If you have an interest in participating on any of our Committees, please reach out to me for an assignment. We could use your help.

With so much going virtual for this first part of the upcoming year, I hope you can join me and attend the Northern Green, GIS and even a virtual DOH. Again, it's all new and very different for each us, but there is value in the educational programming. And, just as important to our initiatives, are the funds generated through attendance. It will also be important to be a part of DOH, in whatever fashion that may be. We must continue to work with our Legislators and show them how many challenges we face and how their decisions impact us. Water assurances, environmental advocacy, support for Preemptive Laws, and just sharing the good story of golf are just a small taste of what we need to express to our Legislators. Working with our Allied associations I will continue to support our industry as one voice, together.

Thank you to all for a great year, crazy and confusing at times, but a successful year to say the least. I will see you all on a zoom call for our Annual Meeting; we won't be physically together, but I hope all can attend.

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Thayer, President MGCSA

2021 Treasurer's Report

Considering the challenges presented by the Covid-19 social distancing mandates, the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association is doing well. Historical conservative annual budgets and regular saving provided a very nice "cushion" during the past year. Previous Board of Directors should be commended for their thrifty approach to fiscal management.

Early on in the pandemic the 2020 Board chose to cancel all events that would potentially bring the membership together in confined spaces. The Board also felt compelled to continue support for University of Minnesota initiatives even though income from our fundraiser Rounds Fore Research was not known. It was, and still is, felt that maintaining industry support is very important to the existence of the Turfgrass Research Outreach and Education Center and Turfgrass Science program in general.

Before I report on the current year's profit and loss (P&L) statement vs. budget, I will remind the membership that MGCSA uses a cash basis accounting system. It is important to keep this in mind when reviewing the P&L statements versus budget. As examples, it is possible for vendors to pre-pay sponsorships in the prior year and it is possible for the association to be billed for services after they are incurred. Oftentimes the variances in P&L and budget can be attributed to timing.

Although a quick review of the Profit and Loss Budget versus Actual could create a bit of angst as the numbers reflect a serious deficit in the bottom line. However, the Board is not concerned and expects our 'economy' to revert to a new norm when the crisis is over. To better understand a few of the specific line items, please review the following:

Income:

- * Dues revenue reflected an absence of Facility Members joining after a two-year, free membership, campaign. Rather than forty new members at full rate, the Association only gained a few new members. We are also experiencing a slight decline in new members following annual attrition. *Please encourage your assistants to join the Association and reach out to your neighbor courses and solicit their membership*
- * Monthly meetings, both income and expense, is askew due to the immediate lack of events.
- * Support from our Affiliates came in during the 2019 budget cycle, rather than the budgeted 2020 cycle, or was withheld due to our business associate's reaction to the health dilemma.
- * Miscellaneous income was high due to the cashing in of VISA card points to be used for the National Golf Day in Washington DC and payment of a 'rewards' check from PBI Gordon because of the great participation of MGCSA members during the GIS trade show.
- * Research Revenue reflect the limited receipt of certificates for sale through the Rounds Fore Research opportunity.

Expense:

- * Covid-cancelled events reflected fewer expenses.
- * There was no need for a down payment upon the National destination in 2021.
- * GCSAA expense reflects no travel for the National Golf Day and Delegates Meeting
- * UMN support is down. The BOD is funding the Winter Stress Studies but has taken a conservative approach toward other, typically funded, projects.
- * US Treasury reflects taxes owed on profits made through our advertising platform.

The balance statement shows the MGCSA has a nice reserve of operating capital. In early 2020, the BOD approved moving management of the long-term investment account to Creative Planning Financial, who are associated with the GCSAA. Despite the Covid-19 challenges, CPF delivered an increased return along with lower administration fees than was charged by the previous financial planner. The BOD has discussed possible future usage of these funds. While there is no current earmark for this fund, the annual returns have recently been used to fund National Golf Day participation and donations to the Environmental Institute for Golf.

In closing, the financial health of the MGCSA continues to be very well. The MGCSA Board of Directors has historically been very successful in achieving the goal of satisfying membership needs while maintaining a balanced budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Ritter CGCS, Acting Treasurer MGCSA

MGCSA	
Balance Sheet Standard	
As of December 16, 2020	
<u>Dec 16, '20</u>	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
26432690	181,170.10
REGULAR CHECKING	230,886.82
REGULAR SAVINGS 3332	<u>30,148.02</u>
Total Checking/Savings	442,204.94
Accounts Receivable	
1200 — Accounts Receiv...	<u>-50.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-50.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>442,154.94</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>442,154.94</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 — Payroll Liabilities	<u>9,972.04</u>
Total Other Current Liabilit...	<u>9,972.04</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>9,972.04</u>
Total Liabilities	9,972.04
Equity	
2500 — Opening Bal Equity	178,749.24
2600 — Retained Earnings	242,322.59
Net Income	<u>11,111.07</u>
Total Equity	<u>432,182.90</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>442,154.94</u>

MGCSA
Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 1 through December 16, 2020

	Jan 1 - Dec 16, '...	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
1030-50 — Reg Savings Income 3332	8.07	24.57	-16.50	32.8%
3000-00 — MEMBERSHIP DUES	97,245.00	89,820.13	7,424.87	108.3%
3100-00 — MONTHLY MEETINGS	4,854.00	19,544.84	-14,690.84	24.8%
3150-00 — The National	12,371.25	16,147.58	-3,776.33	76.6%
3200-00 — MEGA SEMINAR Advanced Ag F...	975.00	11,193.55	-10,218.55	8.7%
3300-00 — GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	3,200.00	3,500.00	-300.00	91.4%
3325-00 — WEE ONE	20,145.00	38,730.00	-18,585.00	52.0%
3350-00 — SPONSORSHIP EVENTS	16,762.50	32,932.26	-16,169.76	50.9%
3400-00 — ADVERTISING REVENUE	35,677.00	35,267.58	409.42	101.2%
3600.00 — MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	9,111.10	0.00	9,111.10	100.0%
3650-00 — SUPERINTENDENT JOB OPENI...	2,925.00	1,315.32	1,609.68	222.4%
3700-00 — SPECIAL MEETINGS	3,949.40	3,000.00	949.40	131.6%
4020-00 — RESEARCH REVENUE	14,783.00	31,523.23	-16,740.23	46.9%
3140-50 — The "Scramble"	11,130.00	20,600.00	-9,470.00	54.0%
4030-00 — SCHOLARSHIP REVENUE	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4040-00 — REFUNDS	390.35	0.00	390.35	100.0%
Total Income	236,526.67	306,599.06	-70,072.39	77.1%
Gross Profit	236,526.67	306,599.06	-70,072.39	77.1%
Expense				
6565 — Payroll Expense-Communications	34,024.64	39,336.68	-5,312.04	86.5%
6155-00 — The Scramble Event	6,180.00	5,120.00	1,060.00	120.7%
6152 — The National Event	9,515.64	19,500.00	-9,984.36	48.8%
6375 — Rounds 4 Research	62.69	300.00	-237.31	20.9%
6000-00 — MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	1,920.91	1,300.00	620.91	147.8%
6100-00 — MEETING EXPENSES	6,415.08	28,562.77	-22,147.69	22.5%
6200-00 — MEGA-SEMINAR	404.14	8,844.13	-8,439.99	4.6%
6300 — ANNUAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	3,179.31	4,500.00	-1,320.69	70.7%
6350-00 — WEE ONE EXPENSE	20,899.57	24,653.22	-3,753.65	84.8%
6400-00 — HOLE NOTES PUBLICATION	940.00	779.03	160.97	120.7%
6500-00 — INSURANCE	1,963.00	1,700.00	263.00	115.5%
6560 — Payroll Expenses admin	43,125.83	48,078.23	-4,952.40	89.7%
6600-00 — GCSAA EXPENSE	2,014.93	15,450.00	-13,435.07	13.0%
6700-00 — Network Communication Costs	3,143.93	2,462.32	681.61	127.7%
6900-00 — ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENSE	4,936.75	4,000.00	936.75	123.4%
6910-00 — GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	27.31	110.00	-82.69	24.8%
7000-00 — TELEPHONE	1,387.09	2,418.39	-1,031.30	57.4%
7100-00 — ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	20,916.78	21,129.21	-212.43	99.0%
7150 — Credit Card FIRST DATA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7155 — Pay Pal Fees	3,519.22	3,454.84	64.38	101.9%
7200-00 — OFFICE EXPENSES	2,986.41	9,670.81	-6,684.40	30.9%
7500-00 — U of MN SUPPORT	41,314.25	50,000.00	-8,685.75	82.6%
7700-00 — SCHOLARSHIP	7,200.00	8,500.00	-1,300.00	84.7%
8010-00 — HN ADVERTISING TAXES	55.96			
8050-00 — SECRETARY OF STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
8100-00 — US TRESURY	9,282.16	4,000.00	5,282.16	232.1%
Total Expense	225,415.60	303,869.63	-78,454.03	74.2%
Net Income	11,111.07	2,729.43	8,381.64	407.1%

2021 Arrangements and Awards Committee Report

On behalf of the Arrangements and Awards Committee we would like to thank all of the Superintendents and their respective clubs for hosting events in 2021. We continue to listen, evolve and improve our social events to best fit the membership's desire to enjoy each other's company, continue to network in a fun-learning environment and be cognizant of the ever-changing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Don White Match Play Event will continue in 2021. Congratulations 2020 Champions Erik Pille and Zach Wignall

It must be remembered that Covid-19 has dramatically impacted our events calendar. The Board of Directors decided very early on in the pandemic that there would be no enclosed/indoors educational or social opportunities hosted by the Association, until supported by state mandates. Furthermore, with the creation of virtual conference formats, our calendar was impacted by entities beyond our influence.

With that in mind, your Association will continue to provide opportunities and leave the door wide open from even more events once there are assurances of safety in our gatherings. The addition of Maggie Reiter and her influence at the TROE Center will also provide some refreshing new concepts.

April 7th

Spring Field Trip to Frost Services for an outdoor/safe social distanced sprayer education event.

April 13-16 weather dependent

NEW Walk-about Turf Talk Snow Mold Fungicide Trials Northern Minnesota in partnership with UW Madison at Giant's Ridge and Craguns.

May 18

NEW Walk-about Turf Talk at Midland Hills Country Club. Superintendent Mike Manthey will discuss the implementation of a recently "found" blueprint of Seth Raynor's original design using current construction techniques. . ** Walk-about Turf Talks is an idea taken from the New York GCSA. Superintendents and one guest (preferably a student or interested youth considering career options) will visit destination course midmorning for coffee and a walking tour with like-minded regional superintendents. Students and/or interested youth are encouraged as there is a great void in the pipeline of future assistant superintendents.

Date Tentative

NEW Walk-about at Rochester G&CC. Superintendent JT Hauser will share his experiences with the newly installed drainage systems at RG&CC and renovation follow up.

August 23rd

The Championship at New Prague Golf Course

September 21 or 22nd

Shoot Out in Hudson WI. At one time this was a very popular social opportunity.

September 27 or October 4

The Scramble.

October 11

The Wee One

October 19th

NEW Walk-about Turf Tour at StoneRidge Golf Club. Superintendent Jeff Girard discusses topdressing.

The University of Minnesota is also very interested in hosting two golf-centric mini-field days. They would be held at the TROE Center and include a simple private tour for interested members on specific dates. Either a coffee break in the morning or early afternoon snack. Late July would show off the studies and address our summer meeting. October would define the allelopathic responses of the fine fescue trials.

The event calendar can be added to at any time and the schedule will be Covid-19 sensitive. It is hoped that we can once again host in-person events such as the Winter Combo Pesticide Recertification/ Single Daye Education in late November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Kocak, Events and Arrangements Committee

2021 Communications Committee Report

Much of the role of the communications committee is the preparation and final editing of the *Hole Notes* magazine. Readership continues to be high for this digital content. Monthly, traceable readership of the *Hole Notes* magazine sent or redirected multiple times through *The Stimpmeter*, Facebook and Twitter, has been extraordinary with an average of over 550 reads per magazine in the last 89 issues according to statistics provided by Issuu magazine, the digital provider of *Hole Notes*. The MGCSA website has received over a million hits since January 1st, 2013. *The Stimpmeter*, our electronic newsletter, sent weekly, is typically opened by over 47 percent of the MGCSA readership. Almost all information upon *The Stimpmeter* is linked back to the website and/or an issue of the *Hole Notes* magazine. The Stimpmeter provides valuable tidbits on what has happened, what is happening and other valuable resources to help with your career (well, to 47% of you at least). The statistical information shows that the bulk of our membership is in tune with technology and have adapted to the current digital media format.

One fun addition to *Hole Notes* this year was the “Meet the MGCSA” spotlight. This segment was initiated by Joe Berggren, Superintendent at The Wilds Golf Club, and highlighted MGCSA members and Affiliate members. A big thanks goes out to Tom Proshek, John Steiner, Fred Taylor, Arik Hemquist, Eric Counselman and Brent Belanger for allowing the membership to get to know who they are and what they do.

Additional fun articles were provided by Lisa Cavanaugh, the wife of Matt Cavanaugh (MGCSA Board Member and Superintendent at Rush Creek Golf Club). In Lisa’s article titled “Unintended Side Effect of the Gold Course Maintenance Career”, Lisa highlights, with humor, what it has been like living with a turfgrass professional for the past 18 years.

Chris Michaelson, Superintendent at Oneka Ridge Golf Club, wrote a budget conscious article titled "Storage". In this article Chris provided great detail on how he was able to build a very cost-effective storage space for his facility by using two storage containers and placing a roof between them, brilliant. It is certainly worth the read if you have not already.

I'm also happy to announce this year's Watson Award winner. Chris Aumock, Superintendent at Theodore Wirth and Meadowbrook Golf Course (two jobs, holy cow!) provided an in-depth look at the pesticide decisions being made by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on golf courses with the article titled "Going Green(ish) in Minneapolis". This is a very unique perspective and provides a glimpse into what many of us should be looking at already which is how we can reduce our pesticide inputs. There are some great revelations and tidbits in the article. Chris states "I often think to myself: what do they know, what do I know, or I wonder what do they think I know?" A great little sentence that should get you interested in reading this Watson Award winning piece. Congratulations Chris.

As always, if you have something on your mind, we want to hear about it and others want to hear about it too. The communications committee is willing to help if you need a little direction on how to get your thoughts on paper.

Respectfully Submitted by Matt Cavanaugh, Liza Chmielewski, Communications Committee **2021 MGCSA**

2021 Advocacy Report

2020 was busy for Minnesota Golf Industry advocacy. Ongoing representation at the Capitol upon agency committees and at legislative events and a strong presence during the Day on The Hill program has placed your Association in the advocacy driver's seat. Unfortunately, Covid-19 complications prevented our state contingency from traveling to Washington DC during the We Are Golf opportunity.

Your association is very active attending meetings on the industry and your behalf. The Legislative Water Commission meets monthly, Environmental Initiative programs of relevance occur at least quarterly, DNR and MDA stakeholder's events take place on a random but frequent basis and a presence at various public affairs programs. After April 2020, these events took place through virtual formats.

Strong member support and testimony from Superintendents Tom Blank and Brady Scott helped push a new law to the Governor's desk which allows 16- and 17-year-old youths to work upon golf courses. This had been an issue for many years, and it is good to finally get a law passed supporting youth employment. Also, the House and Senate authored and moved in Committee, a Bill that would create a conservation water user category specifically for golf courses providing some degree of assurances for irrigation reduction in times of drought. This initiative has been in the works for over a decade.

Please plan to participate in the virtual Day on The Hill to be announced later this month. As former MGCSA President Scottie Hines CGCS often said, "If you aren't at the table, you are on the menu".

2021 MGCSA Research Committee Report

While 2020 seemingly felt like a quiet year with the pandemic related closures and cancelled programs, the reality is a lot of things happened "behind the scenes" including ongoing research at the University of Minnesota which is all recapped in the update below. In addition, here are a few key highlights from the past year:

- We welcomed Maggie Reiter as our new extension specialist at U of M. Maggie attended the Scramble event to introduce herself and will quickly become a familiar face in our industry. We look forward to working with Maggie in the coming years ahead!
- MGCSA recently pledged a support letter for matching a \$5,000 grant request to GCSAA for Maggie and U of M to conduct a comprehensive member needs assessment for considering future research initiatives.
- Rounds 4 Research revenue was down considerably due to decreased donations correlated with COVID concerns. We hope that in 2021 facilities will consider and have ability to provide rounds comparable to historical levels.

The committee thanks all those facilities who were able to donate Rounds 4 Research in this challenging year. The funds through this campaign pay huge dividends to our industry by enabling research and supporting the TROE center. Thank YOU for your continued support!

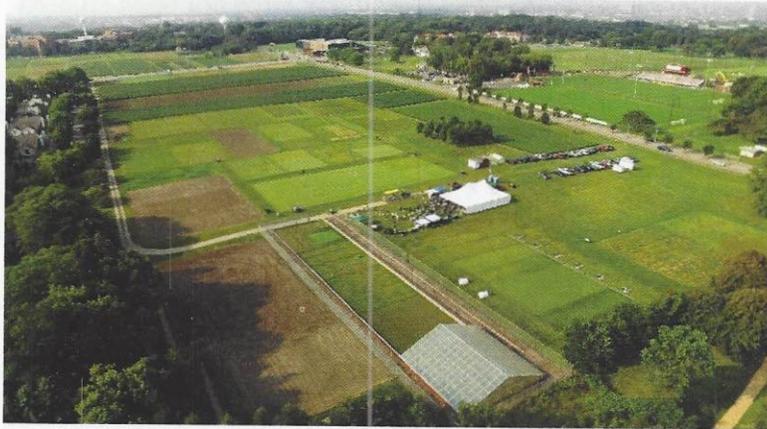
Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Sonnek and Eric Ritter CGCS, Research Committee Co-Chairs

Thank You University of Minnesota Turf Scientists!



University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research Highlights



Increasing ecological sustainability

Best management practices for no-mow fine fescue roughs

Funding: United States Golf Association

No-mow fine fescue roughs are popular in out-of-play areas to reduce management inputs and time. Despite these desirable traits, establishment may be difficult and weed invasion is a common problem. The fine fescue stands can become thick, which may reduce playability and require labor efforts for biomass removal. The objective of this research is to determine the optimum seeding rate and mowing timing (spring, fall, or both) on hard fescue for maximum weed suppression, golf ball visibility, and aesthetics. Preliminary results indicate that seeding rate influences a number of characteristics, mostly in the first year after seeding; the lowest seeding rate (1.8 lb/1000 ft²) resulted in low weed pressure but high levels of leaf material affecting golf ball visibility. All mowing treatments resulted in better recovery from winter than leaving plots unmowed.

Integrating new tech and products

Precision irrigation technology scaled up through on-course demonstration

Funding: United States Golf Association

A number of technologies are available to help superintendents reduce water use, but many have not been scaled up across a golf course. The purpose of this research is to demonstrate that adoption of soil moisture sensor and mapping technologies can provide superintendents with actionable information that conserves resources. We have completed a second summer of data collection at Edina Country Club, where we are testing 3 different irrigation scheduling approaches: (1) soil-moisture sensor based scheduling; (2) ET-based deficit irrigation scheduling (60% ET, 3 times per week); and (3) traditional scheduling as determined by the superintendent. Preliminary results indicate that the ET-based treatment used more water than traditional or soil moisture-based treatments. In fact, the soil-moisture sensor approach used the least water with 55% less water applied than for ET-based fairways.

Mycorrhizal inoculation and turfgrass performance

Funding: Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association

The use of mycorrhizal inoculum and other microbial products is often promoted for turfgrass as a way to reduce inputs while maintaining and even increasing plant health. These products have not been studied extensively in field evaluations. Superintendents are presented with opportunities to purchase these products and left to analyze marketing claims without much data. To address this need, we tested a mycorrhizal inoculum with 2 different fertility treatments (0.1 and 0.03 lbs N/1000 ft² applied every 10 days) on 4 different greens (USGA spec or native soil, creeping bentgrass or fine fescue). Data was collected on turf quality and color. There was a weak positive effect of mycorrhizal inoculation for the turfgrass health. We will continue to collect data through 2020 to validate if this positive effect continues.

Improving winter stress tolerance and recovery

Re-establishment of putting greens following winterkill

Funding: United States Golf Association

Collaborators: University of Massachusetts

Winter damage causes loss of putting green surfaces, resulting in costly re-establishment, delays in course openings, lost revenue, and unhappy golfers. This project explores potential barriers to spring establishment of creeping bentgrass. We are conducting experiments to address the impacts of temperature fluctuations, light intensity, and priming agents on seedling vigor of creeping bentgrass cultivars. Sunny conditions on cold spring days may further slow down establishment through photoinhibition, a process where excessive amounts of light can damage and stress plants. Our initial results indicate that if there are significant drops in temperature during the first few weeks of creeping bentgrass establishment, adding shade cloth to reduce light intensity can decrease turfgrass stress without artificially increasing air temperature.

WinterTurf: Mitigating the effects of winter stress on turfgrasses in northern climates

Funding: Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association; Michigan Turf Foundation

Collaborators: University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, University of Massachusetts, Rutgers University, Iowa State University, Oregon State University, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research

We are leading a multi-institutional effort that aims to reduce the problem of winter kill on turfgrasses. The goal of this project is to investigate the causes of putting green winter damage. To do this, we are building a new sensor device that will continually collect information such as soil temperature, soil moisture, solar radiation, oxygen concentration, and carbon dioxide concentration. We will deploy these custom sensors on several golf courses in Minnesota and Michigan to learn more about the environmental conditions under which turf suffers damage. Results will help guide management recommendations, inform plant breeding programs, and be used to develop winter stress prediction models that can be easily accessed by superintendents throughout the cold climates of the northern hemisphere.

For more information about these and other ongoing projects in the turfgrass program, please visit turf.umn.edu or follow us on Twitter at [@UMNturf](https://twitter.com/UMNturf)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL
AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

2021 MTGF Annual Report

What exactly is the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF). The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, a non-profit organization, is a partnership of seven turf and grounds-related associations and the University of Minnesota with a mission to promote the green industry in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere.

The 7 MTGF allied associations are:

- + Minnesota Association of Cemeteries
- + Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals
- + Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association
- + Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association
- + Minnesota Society of Arboriculture
- + Minnesota Sod Producers
- + Minnesota Turf Seed Council

Along with participation from the University of Minnesota. Chad Giblin and Eric Watkins have provided valued support for years. A new addition to the MTGF Board is the new Extension Educator at the University of Minnesota. Maggie Reiter is an amazing addition to the industry and we look forward to working with Maggie in the future. Maggie has recently sent out a survey to gain the needs of the industry that will drive future research and educational material. Please be on the lookout for this survey from Maggie.

The MTGF pursues its mission in various ways. One of these is an annual "Call For Proposals," titled the "MTGF Research Gift Program," whereby researchers, instructors and outreach faculty and staff involved in turf and grounds work may submit requests for unrestricted gifts to support their activities. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, funding approved by the MTGF will not be subjected to overhead or other indirect charges or costs. The dates for submission, review and approval may change on an annual basis as well as the protocol stipulated for the submission of gift requests.

As a member of the MGCSA, you are already a member of the MTGF. There are no membership fees associated with either allied association membership or regular membership. Benefits include:

- Supporting professionalism within the turf and grounds industry by encouraging continued growth of each allied association.
- Encouraging the exchange of knowledge among members of the turf and grounds industry through educational conferences, workshops, seminars, trade shows and field days.
- Supporting relevant turf and grounds research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere.
- Being pro-active in environmental, regulatory and public policy matters as they affect the turf and grounds industry.

As stated above, the MTGF provides funding to industry researchers in our region. The majority of the dollars that the MTGF awards comes from The Northern Green held each January at the Minneapolis Convention Center. In March of 2020 the MTGF awarded \$100,000 towards Minnesota Turf and Grounds research. Since 1992, the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation has donated \$1,750,516 towards turf and grounds research.

2021 MGCSA Industrial Relations Committee Annual Report

The Industrial Relations Committee performs a valued service as part of the MGCSA's work. The two affiliate members of the committee serve alternating two-year terms. They are elected by the affiliate membership during the Industrial Relations committee meeting held in conjunction with the Northern Green (normally scheduled for Thursday morning prior to the trade show). It is the duty of the IR Committee to keep lines of communication open and active between the MGCSA and its affiliates. The IR Committee members' sole purpose is to serve and represent their fellow affiliates thereby maximizing the value of their membership. Affiliate input related to how the MGCSA conducts its business is encouraged by directing your questions, comments, issues and ideas to the two IR Committee members.

2020 has had MGCSA affiliate members continue their commitment to the association and its members by donating their time, money and in-kind contributions to worthy causes for the greater good of the MGCSA, the TROE Center, the University of Minnesota, and the twelfth annual Wee One Event held once again at Brackett's Crossing CC. These contributions are truly appreciated by all who benefit from them

The 2021 Golf Industry Show (GIS) is being held virtually.

The 2020 Vendor Appreciation was cancelled due to Covid-19. The 2021 event is tentatively scheduled at Cedarholm Golf Course in Roseville. We will continue this format as an effective forum to thank our vendors for their continued support and participation. Our affiliate members are an integral part of the MGCSA's continued support. Prior to golf and during lunch, members will hear an update from the B.O.D as well as an update from the U of M, and we thank them for their continued and unwavering support.

The Industrial Relations Committee of Eric Counselman and Geoff Jordan want to thank the MGCSA Board Members for the pleasure of working with them this past difficult year. The IR Committee will continue to serve the membership and to be a part of the continued growth and commitment the MGCSA brings to the golf industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Counselman & Geoff Jordan, Co-Chairs Industrial Relations Committee

2021 Membership Services Annual Report

We would like to offer a sincere thank you to all members of the MGCSA. This committee strives to meet both current and future needs of all MGCSA members. We actively encourage feedback and input from all members at any time. Thank you, again, for being a part of the MGCSA, and we look forward to another great year ahead.

The Member Service Committee also is responsible for the MGCSA scholarship programs. This year the MGCSA and Par Aide are pleased to award two \$1,000 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships to Jenna Fischer and Elliot Ische, a \$1,500 Joseph S. Garske Legacy scholarship renewal to Lida Dodge and a \$1,500 Garske scholarship to Sophia Kelly.

The MGCSA Legacy Scholarship:

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association offers a Legacy Scholarship program designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, 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.

Winners of this year's MGCSA Legacy Scholarships are Elliot Ische and Jenna Fischer.

Elliot is the son of Affiliate member Jeff Ische who was employed as a Product Marketing Manager at the TORO Company. Elliott is attending the University of Denver (CO) this fall where he plans to study mechanical engineering and will play on their Division 1 lacrosse team.

Jenna is the daughter of Joe Fischer, Superintendent at Northern Hills Golf Club in Rochester, Minnesota. Jenna has entered her freshman year at the UMN, Mankato Campus and is pursuing nursing as a career.

Sarah Kelly is the granddaughter of Mike Kelly. Mike is an affiliate member and representative of Environmental Agronomics. Sarah is currently enrolled at the College of St. Benedict, where she is pursuing a degree in Integrated Health Sciences.

The Joseph S. Garske Legacy

The Joseph S. Garske Legacy award, named after the founder of Par Aide Products Company, Joe Garske, is committed to furthering the education of children and grandchildren of MGCSA members through financial contributions. This is the 19th consecutive year for these awards. Par Aide is located in Lino Lakes, Minnesota and owned by Steve Garske, son of Joseph.

The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a "good" ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began Par Aide Products Company. Steve Garske started The Legacy Scholarship in his father's honor in 1996.

"I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since then for many superintendents; providing a college education for their children requires true sacrifice. I am fortunate to have the opportunity and ability to help," Garske said, "As a long-time member of the Scholarship Committee some years ago, it always bothered me that we had lots of scholarships available for turf students but nothing for the legacy of current members," Garske said. (Heeding the comments of a long-time Minnesota Superintendent that our committee was working to put him out of a job.) While Steve thought this was a bit of paranoid thinking, it did make him realize that supply and demand work in this industry as well, and if nothing else, an oversupply of eager new superintendents could definitely undermine salaries. However, the following premises motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program:

"Many Superintendents are underpaid, in my opinion, and they truly work a labor of love. Sending a child to college is likely a real hardship. These same Superintendents who now have college age children were the very ones who had been so responsible for supporting our company through all the years and had helped us attain our success. We wanted to thank them. Our founder, Joe Garske, did not have any formal education and was always conscious of that fact. He had quietly supported at least one young man in gaining a degree. There were lots of turf student scholarships but few if any Legacy awards."

So, it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program and it was discussed at numerous scholarship meetings. The problem was how to administer such a program. Suppliers to our industry did not want to be

in a position of judging one potential recipient/customer against another, and Superintendent members were not comfortable with reviewing personal information and making judgments on each other either. The sponsorship concept lay dormant until we discovered the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, now called Scholarship America, an organization that does nothing but review and award scholarships. It's completely impartial and considers all information confidential. The MGCSA quickly agreed to accept the cost of administration and the Joseph S. Garske Legacy was born.

The idea was to provide two two-year scholarships to deserving children of current MGCSA Members. This program has been in existence since 1996, helping numerous sons and daughters of Superintendents pursue their college education. Par Aide has continued to prosper and as an expansion of its Minnesota program, now also offers a similar program nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winners of this year's Joseph S. Garske Scholarship are Sophia Kelly and Lida Dodge (Renewal Recipient). Sophia is the granddaughter of Affiliate member Mike Kelly; his companies' name is Environmental Agronomics. Sophia is attending St Benedicts University and will be majoring in Elementary Education.

Lida Dodge is the daughter of Vince Dodge Superintendent at Nemadji Golf Club. Lida is attending Aurora University this fall at her birthplace of Aurora, Illinois to study Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on ESL and Special Education.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2020 MGCSA and Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarships. Thank you to the members of the MGCSA, and especially Steve Garske, for enabling these fine individuals to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Counselman, MGCSA Member Services Chair



2020 Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association New Members

Anthony	Sherman	C-GCSAA	Owantonna Country Club
Ryan	Wilson	EM	Wayzata Country Club
Greg	Willman	facility	LaCrosse Country Club
Jonathan	Peterson	EM	Royal Golf Club
Brian	Petersonl	D	Royal Golf Club
Anthony	Elkins	C-GCSAA	Deer Run Golf Club
Lawrence	Divito	Associate	MN Twins
Tyler	Geisser	student	Frost Services
Matt	Hertel	EM	Prestwick GC
Matt	Becker	C-GCSAA	Spring Hill Golf Club
Derek	Dornfeld	C	Stillwater CC
Ryan	Nelson	Associate	Grassmasters
Wyatt	Meyer	D-GCSAA	TPC Twin Cities
Connor	Payette	C	Edina Country Club
Richard	Plemel	C	Edina Country Club
Stephen	Klingelhoets	C	Edinburgh USA
George	Jungmann	EM	
Aaron	Bulman	Facility	Drugan's Castle Mound
Brandon	Smith	C	TPC Twin Cities
Dan	Selleck	Student	Victory Links
Dan	Hanson	A	Majestic Oaks Golf Club
Nathan	Holmstrom	C	Majestic Oaks Golf Club
Brian	Ziegler	C	Golden Valley Country Club
Cote	Wolcik	C GCSAA	North Oaks Golf Club
Meredith	Lawrence	B	Mendota Par 3
Tyler	Stevens	C	Legends Club
Jake	Stubal	C-GCSAA	Chipewa Valley Technical College
Mike	Carlson	facility	Green Leigh Country Club
Arick	Neisen	C	Medina Golf and Country Club
Brian	Wallin	C	Nemadji Golf Course
Tobias	Haugen	Student	North Links GC
James	Hauser	B GCSAA	Rochester Golf and Country Club
Richard	Frey	A GCSAA	Little Falls County Club
Steve	Dauner	A	Hawley Golf Course
John	Stone	C	Cannon Golf Club
Jeffrey	Youngbauer	A	The Vintage at Staples
Mitch	Fenske	D	Bristol Ridge Golf Club
Mark	Paffel	C GCSAA	Chequamegon Bay Golf Club
Ian	Jensen	C	Northland Country Club
Payton	Kvistad	Student	Marshall Golf Club
Douglas	Wylie	Student	Oakdale Golf Club
Jeffrey	Youngbauer	A	The Vintage at Staples
Brian	Roark	Facility	Summit Golf Club

David	Hubbard	C GCSAA	Manitou Ridge Golf Course
Chad	Blank	C GCSAA	Edina Country Club
Jack	Koenig	Student	Minneapolis Golf Club
Cassie	Froemming	Affiliate	Froemming Innovations
Adam	Lesmeister	Affiliate	Clesens
Jacob	Dixon	Affiliate	Par Aide
Sam	Duininck	Affiliate	Duininck Golf
Nathan	Mezera	Affiliate	EC Grow
Andy	Morris	Affiliate	BASF
Klay	Eckles	Affiliate	WSB
Colton	Otto	Affiliate	Natco Waterfronts
Bryan	Breaw	Affiliate	Yamaha Golf and Utility
John	Bergstrom	Affiliate	Bergstrom Mfg.
Mike	Benson	Affiliate	CUSHMAN MOTOR CO., INC.
Ken	Schwark	Affiliate	Watertronics
MATT	ROSTAL	Affiliate	MTI DISTRIBUTING, INC.
Jake	Walters	Affiliate	Frontier Ag and Turf
Chris	Utech	Affiliate	Innovo Automation
Robert	Glavas	Class C	Links at Northfork
Bob	Connelly	Affiliate	Arrow Mark LLC

MGCSA 2021 Membership Service Awards

			<i>55 YEAR</i>	
ROGER	KISCH	RETIRED		1965
			<i>50 YEAR</i>	
DAVID J.	ZIMMER	RETIRED		1970
			<i>45 YEAR</i>	
KERRY	GLADER	AFFILIATE	PLAISTED COMPANIES, INC.	1975
			<i>40 YEAR</i>	
RICHARD E.	CARR	D	BRACKETT'S CROSSING COUNTRY CLUB	1980
WILLIAM	COX	A-GCSAA	TIANNA COUNTRY CLUB	1980
JOHN L.	GANSKE	A-GCSAA	CHEQUAMEGON BAY GOLF CLUB	1980
MARLIN A.	MURPHY	A-GCSAA	STILLWATER COUNTRY CLUB	1980
WALTER H.	BRAUNIG	RETIRED		1980
			<i>35 YEAR</i>	
MITCH	FOSSEY	A-GCSAA	TROY BURNE GOLF CLUB	1985
BENJAMIN	RATZLAFF	A-GCSAA	RIVER OAKS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE	1985
JON	VARTY	A	ELK RIVER GOLF CLUB	1985
			<i>30 YEAR</i>	
DAN	BREITBARTH	D	ROCHESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	1990
RICK	DAUNER	A-GCSAA	VILLAGE GREEN GOLF COURSE	1990
DALE	HIEBERT	A-GCSAA	RUSH CREEK GOLF CLUB	1990
GEORGE	NORMAN	A-GCSAA	NEW RICHMOND GOLF CLUB	1990
BARRY	PROVO	A-GCSAA	DEER RUN GOLF CLUB	1990
JASON	SPITZNER	A-GCSAA	FARGO PARK	1990
BOB	FRANK	AFFILIATE	MTI DISTRIBUTING, INC.	1990
			<i>25 YEAR</i>	
KEN	ADAMS JR.	C-GCSAA	BRACKETT'S CROSSING COUNTRY CLUB	1995
JEFF	BOHLER	C-GCSAA	DELLWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB	1995
JOE	FISCHER	RETIRED		1995
LUCIAN	GREENINGER	A-GCSAA	GOLDEN EAGLE GOLF CLUB	1995
MIKE	KNODEL	A-GCSAA	OAKDALE GOLF CLUB	1995
KURT	KNOX	A-GCSAA	ISLAND VIEW GOLF CLUB	1995
MATT	MCKINNON	A-GCSAA	THE LEGACY COURSES AT CRAGUN'S	1995
TOM	NOTCH	A-GCSAA	BENT CREEK GOLF CLUB	1995
KEN	OTTO	C	VALLEYWOOD GOLF COURSE	1995
DANIEL	PAKKO	D	WHITE BEAR YACHT CLUB	1995
TIMOTHY D.	BERQUAM	AFFILIATE	BERGERSON-CASWELL, INC.	1995