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TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2020

President's Message

By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District

Greetings NCTGA members,

I hope everyone is healthy and in good spirits. The Covid-19 has impacted all of us in some way or another. The challenges with businesses shut down, schools out for the year, and social distancing. It has been a different spring for everyone. Hopefully we can all recover quickly, and life will be back to normal soon.

I am honored to be the NCTGA president and hope I can continue to serve the organization to my fullest ability in the upcoming year. Thank you, Victor, for the last 3 years you have served as president. Your passion, commitment, and guidance for our organization is something I will uphold in the following year. I would like to thank the two outgoing board members for their time on the board, Kevin Gruber and Alex Orr. We greatly appreciate your time served on the board of directors. I would also like to congratulate the three members who were voted to a three-year term at our annual meeting in February: Garrett Schultz from Prairie West Golf Course, Lucas Palczewski from Fargo Park District, and Shannon Hendrickson from West Fargo Public Schools.

We have a great working board of directors and execu-

tive director. We are working on the strategic planning goals we set for ourselves in January with the help of Steve Randall from GCSAA. This is a very valuable asset and the push we needed to keep the organization moving forward. The BMP Committee did a remarkable job meeting our goals of having the BMP manuals printed and mailed out by April 15, a very special thanks to Garrett Schultz for taking the lead and getting this accomplished. We unveiled our new mission statement and voted on a new NCTGA logo at our 2020 annual meeting. We have established a nominating committee to determine a long-term strategy to recruit new individuals to serve on the NCTGA board. We are currently working on a mass mail postcard to potential new members to announce events/information and promote our new logo. The scholarship committee and Sam are working on a Legacy Scholarship, which will likely be available prior to the 2021 conference. We will have the details on this when it is completed.

Thank you to everyone that attended our 2020 conference. It was a remarkable conference and I hope everyone learned something valuable. The Board of Direct-

Continued on page 3....



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President's Message

Continued from page 1...

-ors and Sam did a great job organizing the conference and they selected some phenomenal speakers. I am excited to see what the 2021 conference brings, mark your calendars for February 23, 24, & 25. I hope to see everyone there.

Garrett Schultz will be hosting the 2020 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Prairie West Golf Course in Mandan, ND on September 14. It is always a fun event for a great cause, an opportunity to meet with our fellow colleagues and enjoy a round of golf. We have selected this date in an attempt for more people to attend the tournament and Park & Rec Conference. The

North Dakota Recreation and Park Association will be holding their conference September 15-17 in Bismarck, ND. I encourage you to check both websites for details and I hope to see you on September 14.

Best wishes- Cammi



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Mark Your Calendar for the 2020 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing



The 2020 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing will be held at the beautiful Prairie West Golf Club in Mandan, ND hosted by superintendent Garrett Schultz on **Monday, September 14th, 2020**. This tournament coincides with the ND Recreation and Park Association conference being held from Sept 15th-17th in Bismarck. Join us for this fun-filled day of education and networking to support turfgrass student scholarships. More details to follow.



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2020 Conference Report

A big **THANK YOU** to all NCTGA members who attended and supported the 2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show from February 25th-27th, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. This year's conference was attended by almost 100 NCTGA regular members, and 31 vendor companies displaying new items on the trade show floor. Thank you all for continuing to make our conference a success.

Educational sessions

With over 15 hours of educational content throughout the three days, NCTGA members learned about everything from golf course renovations to the five levels of leadership. On Tuesday, Garrett Schultz and Steve Randall rolled out the BMP planning guide for North Dakota Golf Courses. We also heard from a NCTGA board member, Kyle Fick, the Bully Pulpit Restoration project. Larry Divito from the Minnesota Twins spoke about his experiences looking back at 10 years of maintaining Target Field. Finally, Dr. Aaron Patton spoke about questions to ask when purchasing new products and technologies.

On Wednesday, several of our members participated in a live panel discussion lead by Matt Cavanaugh from Rush Creek discussing golf course renovations. Concurrently, Dr. Aaron Patton spoke about improving crabgrass control programs. The afternoon sessions were jam packed with content from the likes of Larry Gilhuly, Dr. Eric Watkins, Roger Stewart, Sam DeMarais, and Dr. Kristina Walker.

Trying something new this year, on Thursday morning we had 1.5 hours dedicated to vendor seminars with new product updates. Seven vendors participated in session, which was very well received, and we will plan to hold this again in 2021. Finally, our Thursday morning session was capped off by truly one of the most inspirational presentations we have had- "The Five Levels of Leadership" from Mr. Steve Keating. Anyone who partook in this session had something to gain. Thank you to all presenters for making the 2020 conference truly something special.

Silent Auction

This year's silent auction was a big success thanks to all the vendor members who donated goods and regular members who purchased these items. In total, \$2,970 was generated through the silent auction, which will support future NCTGA initiatives and scholarships. Thank you to those who donated and partook in the silent auction. Items were donated by the following companies: Aquatrols, BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, C&B Operations, Dakota Custom Turf, Dakota Peat, Ferguson Waterworks, Hertfort Norby Architects, MTI Distributing, NB Golf Cars, PBI Gordon, Prime Source, Reinders, Rivard's Turf and Forage, SiteOne Landscape Supply, Superior Turf Services, Syngenta Crop Protection, The Tessman Companies, TRMF Foundation, Van Diest Supply Company, Versatile Vehicles, Winfield United.



John "JT" Turner of Aquatrols promoting the Wee One Foundation during vendor seminars



Packed house for the last session of the conference with Mr. Steve Keating on leadership

2020 Conference Report Continued...

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the two 2019 scholarship recipients. Matthew Becker from North Dakota State University received the North Central Turfgrass Association scholarship. Matthew aspires to be a golf course superintendent. Jase Sailer from North Dakota State University received the North Dakota Golf Association scholarship and is very excited about future career in the golf course industry, possibly some place warm.

NDGA Scholarship Recipient **Jase Sailer**



I always had dreams of living on the golf course and working on what I thought was the perfect environment. I had dreams of working at Pebble Beach or traveling to a different country and working at beautiful golf courses, but I never thought it was a real option in life until Bully Pulpit. After I graduate, I would like to go back to Bully Pulpit for at least another three years. My superintendent, Kyle Fick, introduced me to what it was like to run a higher-class golf course and I have much more to learn. I owe much of what I know to him and I believe another few years at this level would be beneficial.

I believe that the first few years out of college will be learning experiences. I am looking forward to the next five to ten years and I believe I will learn a lot over that time. I am very happy I chose this path of work.

NCTGA Scholarship Recipient **Matthew Becker**

My education at NDSU has excited me to join the turfgrass industry and use my knowledge to help the golf courses I will work at. I believe my education at NDSU and practical skills I have gained through my internships have prepared me for a career in the golf course industry. I have always had a passion for plants and the outdoors, so I am excited to begin my professional career in the golf course industry.

It is ultimately my goal to become a first assistant superintendent within three years at Spring Hill. Tim Johnson is a great mentor and would like to see me in that kind of role within three years. Further down the road in seven to ten years I would like to become head superintendent and lead a course of my own.



Congratulations to the 2019 Scholarship Recipients!

2020 Conference Report Continued...

Sam Davis Charitable Donations

With tremendous support from NCTGA members and vendors, we were able to raise a total of \$3119 during the conference to go directly to the Sam Davis family. Of this, Ferguson Waterworks generated a total of \$2,101 through the shotgun raffle and beer mug sales. The Tessman Company donated \$382 from a putting contest and silent auction donation. Steve Hamelau donated \$106 from his 50/50 raffle winnings. Finally, the 50/50 raffle money of \$530 was donated by NCTGA.



Update on Sam: Sam is starting to walk without a cane in the home at short distances. When it's nicer he is going to practice walking on grass. He is driving the Toro and golf carts with no issues. He just takes it easy. The speech therapist is struggling to challenge Sam, haha. Sam has lost 70lbs and has an A pap machine and feels like a million bucks. He is doing really well. Thanks for your support.

Thank You 2020 Conference Sponsors!

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NCTGA Board Member Profile

Shannon Hendrickson

Employer

West Fargo Public Schools

Job title

Grounds Services and Athletic Fields Coordinator

Education

Associate Degree in Horticulture/Golf Course Grounds Management from Anoka Technical College

Years of service in your position

5 years with West Fargo, 30+ years in the industry

Favorite part of the turf industry

I thoroughly enjoy working outdoors. It doesn't matter what season, hot or cold (well maybe not too hot), I simply feel better in mind, body, and soul being outside.

Favorite tool in the shop

Skid Steer. I love the versatility of this tool with all the attachments that are available. I also enjoy building things with them. The visual of a finished project is very satisfying to me.

Favorite job to perform in this position

Preparing a varsity football field for a Friday night game. Again, the visual of that field when finished is very pleasing, the lush grass, perfect lines, logos that pop. We've gotten artificial turf within the last year so now I'll have to find a new favorite.

Any projects or big events this year

In the fall of 2020 we will be opening our new Heritage Middle School and in the fall of 2021 we will be opening our new Horace High School. I've been involved in these projects since their conception. I will continue to oversee the development of the landscapes, athletic fields and parking lots.

Favorite hobby

Fishing with my two sons. If I could find a way to make enough money doing it I would make it my career.



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Sand Greens, Simpler Times

By Steve Kottsick, Souris Valley Golf Course

With all the things going on in the world, it might help a little bit to reflect on some of the good old days — the days of the sand green golf courses.

I'm pretty sure that many golfers of today have never seen one or even had the task of playing on a sand green golf course.

One of the first sand green golf courses I played was actually in Minot. It was the Washington Golf Course and was situated right on the ground that Jim Hill and Minot High are located, and was affectionately called the "goat pasture."

The golf course in the winter had a sliding hill, a ski hill and a rope tow. The furthest green to the west was right about the location of the Minot Public School's bus barn.

Sand greens were a challenge to play. The greens were quite small compared to today's grass green sizes. The sand was held in place by the North Dakota wind and by putting used oil on the sand greens.

After a few holes, your hands were a little oily.

I played the old Velva sand green golf course, and each hole had a round pipe welded to a rod. There was a stand beside each green that held the sweeping tool to stand it upright. When you got on the putting surface, you would move your ball and run a path from your ball to past the cup with the bar.

There was a sleeve in the cup to pull out after you had made your path so the hole would not fill up with sand after dragging the green. It would be nice and smooth. Pull the sleeve out and putt.

The average tour green speed is about 13-14 feet. I would guess the sand greens would stimp about 3-5 feet depending on the amount of oil on the green.

They were quite flat, so you never had to worry a lot about the break. The fairways weren't watered so, during the summer heat, the ball would roll a country mile.

There are a couple of local champions from the glory days of sand greens.

Chuck Ruppert, former Pro at the Minot Country Club, won the State High School Championship at Mohall in 1968 and the State Sand Green Championship at Parshall in 1977.

Chuck Kranz, assistant principal at MHS Central Campus, was the State High School medalist in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Underwood was also the state team champions those years, and it still stands as the only state championships for Underwood.

Kranz told me that the old sand green course stood the test of time for over 50 years until it was sold for the coal underneath.

There was actually a State Sand Green Organization and a State High School Sand Green Committee.

There were several courses in the Minot area that were sand greens until they converted to grass or artificial turf. Crosby, Powers Lake, Portal, New Town, Lansford, Mohall, Westhope, Garrison, Velva, Riverdale, Sherwood and Rolette all had sand greens. And I'm sure a few more that I have missed.

If you ever feel like trying the sand green experience, there still are some opportunities. Leeds and Berthold have sand greens. While I believe Lansford, Parshall, Riverdale and Rolette have all converted to artificial greens.

In closing, I keep thinking of a quote by the Great Ben Hogan, *"The most important shot in golf is the next one."*

I think with all that is happening in our world, how we handle our next decisions are going to be the most important. Stay safe and healthy.

This is the opinion of Steve Kottsick. He is the Director of Golf for the Souris Valley Golf Course in Minot.



MINIMUM MAINTENANCE FOR GOLF COURSES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

After a period of extended closure, a store can restock its shelves and easily resume normal operations. A restaurant can fire up the burners and be back in business. But a golf course is a living thing, and superintendents can't bring the course back to regular playing conditions simply or quickly after a period of neglect. Even if the course is closed, a minimum maintenance regimen will help keep the turf healthy and "standing by" for when facilities are able to resume standard operations.

The GCSAA and USGA recommend the following minimum practices for course maintenance. Keep in mind that turf conditions and needs vary greatly around the country, so the guidelines should be adapted to the current growing conditions in your region.

As you carry out your maintenance operations during this time, it is important that each golf facility comply with CDC guidelines in addition to any state or local executive orders. Measures should include but are not limited to:

- Minimize the number of maintenance staff members working on the golf course at one time.
- Maintain social distancing guidelines at all times.
- Assign staff equipment to avoid sharing between employees.
- Stagger working hours and break times.
- Place hand sanitizer throughout maintenance area.
- Regularly disinfect any surface that is contacted.

MOWING

In order to maintain turf that is healthy enough to survive while also reducing weed encroachment, the following mowing frequency is recommended:

- Greens 2-3x per week
- Tees 1-2x per week
- Fairways 1-2x per week
- Collars 1-2x per week
- Approaches 1-2x per week
- Driving Range Tees and Targets 1-2x per week
- Driving Range 1x every two weeks
- Rough 1x every one to two weeks

Utilize plant growth regulators where possible to manage growth rate and clipping yields. Increasing mowing heights will allow for longer intervals between mowing.



BUNKER MAINTENANCE

Bunkers should be maintained as necessary to prevent weed encroachment.



EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Carry out routine maintenance as required to keep essential equipment in good operating condition.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



GCSAA COVID-19:
gcsaa.org/pandemic



USGA COVID-19:
<https://www.usga.org/course-care/covid-19-resource-center.html>

IRRIGATION

Irrigation should be applied as necessary to ensure adequate turf health and density. Avoid excessive irrigation, which will promote unnecessary growth.



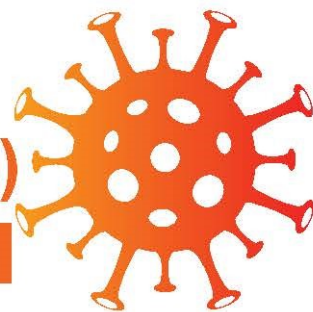
PLANT PROTECTANTS AND FERTILIZERS

Apply plant protectants and fertilizers judiciously to maintain plant health while not encouraging unnecessary growth.



GUIDELINES FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR GOLF FACILITY



The average golf course offers

150 acres

of open land space that can provide a vital recreational opportunity during this difficult time.



GCSAA COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSES

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has affected health and daily lives around the world. Local, state and federal agencies have enacted numerous measures to stem the spread of the disease. While many golf courses have provided an outdoor recreational refuge for many, they are not immune from mandated closures or from having the virus spread among their staff or patrons.

GCSAA has compiled tactics and information to help your facility navigate best practices for dealing with the epidemic while keeping your course an outdoor option for your community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1

FIRST STEPS IN ANY CRISIS

Prepare – Know your operations, your systems and your processes. Formulate a plan of action that is clear and allows all your employees to abide by the standards. Having this plan in place lets you act quickly and address any questions from customers, media or lawmakers with accuracy.

Review – Gather your key team members together to make sure everyone is on the same page, including your golf professional and general manager. Work to establish to keep everyone updated and informed throughout the process.

Connect – Whether you are letting golfers know the status of your operation or answering media inquiries, now is a great time to make connections, even if they aren't in person. Introduce yourself via email, social media or other outlets to let them know you are here for them and can offer a bright spot in an otherwise stressful time. Distribute any updates in a timely and concise manner and identifying a spokesperson for your facility can make sure a consistent message is shared. GCSAA has many resources to help you with public and media relations. www.gcsaa.org/pandemic

Develop – Organize a reference file (physical or virtual) for dealing with the crisis. It can be clearing house for you and your staff in dealing with the issues you are facing in the "new normal." In addition, it's a good way to have easy access to basic information about your operation that you can share with others like the basic facts about course, the measures you are taking to comply with virus-related recommendations, and how you are using best management practices when normal operations resume. GCSAA has established templates to assist you. www.gcsaa.org/pandemic



2

MAKING RISK LESS RISKY

Identify any risks to your operation that may be a result of current events. Once you identify risks, you can work with your key-decision makers to develop a plan to identify the likelihood of each risk factor and apply possible solutions. Some of the issues you may face are:

- Loss of revenue due to mandated closures or reduction in golfers
- Increased expenses in order to comply with new restrictions and rules
- Damage to the golf course due to reduced maintenance
- Disruption with supply chains
- Staff not being paid
- Staff getting sick in the epidemic



While GCSAA has transitioned to remote operations during the pandemic, all GCSAA services are still available.

Call 800-472-7878 or email mbrhelp@gcsaa.org for general assistance, or visit www.gcsaa.org/ contact to reach out directly to a staff member.

3

TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES NOW

If you are still operating, you can take some of the following steps that golf courses around the country are implementing to halt the spread of the virus:

- Maintain 6 ft social distancing at all times
- Increase communication with your team. Utilize apps such as WhatsApp or GroupMe
- Adjusting break/lunch times to limit contact between employees
- Consider setting up seating areas outside for employees to take breaks and lunch
- Eliminating time clocks or assigning management/one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out
- Hold team meetings outside or in the equipment maintenance area
- Supply gloves to your team
- Assigning staff pieces of equipment/carts to eliminate sharing between employees
- Place hand sanitizer throughout the maintenance area
- Sanitizing touchable surfaces/carts/equipment/bathrooms/breakrooms daily (or multiple times a day)
- Sanitize all hand tools
- Adjusting management practices (reducing mowing, cultural practices, etc.)
- Increasing the time between tee times
- Removing all touchable surfaces (flagsticks, bunker rakes, water coolers, ball washers, etc.)
- If you leave the flagstick in raise the cup 1", turn the cup upside down, use something to fill the cup to raise the bottom of the cup
- Enforcing one golfer per cart policy
- Providing golfers with sanitizing wipes/bottles if available
- Sanitizing golf carts after each round
- Altering range practices to comply with social distancing



4

GOLF IS IN THIS TOGETHER

With the current practice of social distancing, it can seem like you are all alone at your course. However your GCSAA family and the greater golf community are here for you.



Reach out to other superintendents –

Find out how they are facing challenges, share resources if supplies are running low and have a united front in the community. If one course closes, could you have a reciprocal relationship with them? Could their laid off employees fill in for yours who may be sick or home with family? Now is the time to show the strength and camaraderie of the golf industry.

Stay in touch with your chapter – While chapter meetings are on hold as large gatherings are banned, check in with your chapter. See how you can offer members in need or how they can assist you.

GCSAA has myriad resources to help you – GCSAA is here and fully operational to help you through the crisis. Whether you are taking advantage of our catalogue of free online webinars, calling your local field staff representative to discuss issues in your region or keeping up to date on the state of industry, GCSAA is still here for you.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

OSHA:
<https://www.osha.gov/>

World Health Organization:
<https://www.who.int/>

GCSAA COVID-19:
gcsaa.org/pandemic

Fear Isn't Real

By Steve Keating, @LeadToday

There seems to be a lot of fear going around these days. Fear of getting sick, fear of going broke, fear of going broke because you got sick, fear of the unknown and apparently even fear of running out of toilet paper.

All this fear going around is kinda weird since fear isn't actually real. You can see someone who appears to be scared but you can't see the fear. You can hear someone scream but you've never heard fear make a sound. Fear has no odor, no color and no taste. Show me what fear looks like and I'll hold up a mirror and show you someone with a vivid imagination. You've never seen fear because fear doesn't exist.

Dale Carnegie once said the "the only place fear exists is in our minds." If that were all there was to it then no one would ever be afraid. Unfortunately the mind is very powerful and it frequently convinces us that the unreal is indeed very real.

When your mind convinces you that your fear is real the effects can be devastating. Fear can be and often is fatal to dreams. It paralyzes our thinking and it spreads quickly. Allowed to exist long enough fear will consume all rational thinking. When relational thinking is gone fear can play all kinds of tricks on us. It's favorite trick seems to be making us believe the possible is actually impossible. The good news is that there is an antidote for fear. It's called action. Almost any action will do but nothing beats carefully considered, planned out action.

That is one reason I have so many plans. Plans in case I lose my income. Plans in case I get sick and can't work. Plans for things out of my control. Yes, I understand that I can't control things out of my control but I can certainly have a plan for how I will respond to them. So can you!

I have plans so when fear attempts to overtake me I don't have to think...I just have to take whatever actions my plan says to take. That fake sensation of fear gets swamped by action.

Having a plan before fear attempts it's takeover is best



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but it's not essential. But when fear begins to creep in you must act quickly. Just do something. Do one thing that you know is right. Then do another, a couple of quick actions will buy you a bit of time to do some planning. Be sure that your plan includes lots of action steps because every action you take will weaken fear's ability to hold you back.

As powerful as fear can feel at times the reality is that fear has only the power that you allow it to have. The secret to eliminating fear in your life is to believe in yourself more than you believe in fear.

Fear is an illusion that is easily exposed by logical thoughts and actions. YOU CAN beat it. You can outthink it. You can out hustle it. You can overpower it with a belief in yourself. The only question is whether or not you believe you can.

So, do you believe?

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