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TALKINGTURF NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2021

President's Message

By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District

Greetings NCTGA members,

I would like to thank everyone who attended or sponsored our virtual conference. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the NCTGA. Hopefully it will be our first, and last virtual NCTGA Conference. With only a few technical issues and our great line up of speakers, the virtual conference was a success! The 37th Annual NCTGA Conference is set for February 22nd-24th at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Let's hope it can be in person!

I am honored to be the NCTGA President for another year. Garrett Schultz is Vice President. This year we decided to separate the Treasurer/ Secretary position. Victor Heitkamp is Treasurer, and Melissa Grafenauer is Secretary. I want to thank the Board of Directors for extending their terms for an additional year in these challenging times. The BOD had their first "mini retreat" a few weeks ago in Fargo. We started with a board meeting at Southwest Youth Ice Arena. After the meeting we ventured out to the FM Curling Club where we got a lesson on how to curl. We learned so much about curling, but mostly that it's not as easy as it looks. The retreat was a good way to not

only have a meeting, but to have a little fun as well. It has been a long year for all of us and the in person gathering was a small sense of normalcy. It was a nice thank you for all of the work



put in, and challenges we encountered in the past year. I hope we can continue the retreat for board directors in the following years.

We are excited to announce a unique opportunity for our NCTGA members to golf TPC Twin Cities on May 10, courtesy of our newest board member, Mark Michalski. TPC hosts the 3M Open, July 22-25, 2021. The 3M Open is the PGA Tour's first regular stop in Minnesota in five decades. Mark is always looking for volunteers to work that week if anyone is interested, contact Mark. There will be a bus leaving Southwest Youth Ice Arena the morning of May 10 at 7:30 am. It will take us to the golf course then back to Fargo that night.

Continued on page 3...





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President's Message continued

Continued from page 1...

Our 2021 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held **October 4, 2021** at Oxbow Country Club, hosted by David Wood. October 4 is National Golf Day, what a perfect opportunity to celebrate it! Make sure to check our newsletter, website and social media sites for more information on both golf events.

It seems our entire state is under various stages of drought. We are already having a challenging start to spring. Wildfires are an everyday occurrence. The wind never stops blowing, the other day Minot hit 60 mph wind gust and it blew for 2 days. It looked like a dust storm you see in the desert. I'm praying for rain. Although our long-range forecast does not look good, we are hoping for some relief in the near future. The only thing we can do

is stay positive. I'm looking forward to TPC and green grass! Hopefully I will see everyone there!

- Cammi



37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

February 22nd-24th, 2022



Board of Directors Curling in Fargo





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Join us for a fun-filled day of golf, networking, great food, and prizes. NCTGA Goes to the TPC is an opportunity for all NCTGA members to play golf at one of the premier golf courses in Minnesota. The TPC

Twin Cities in Blaine, MN hosts the annual 3M Open, this year being played from July 22nd -25th, NCTGA board member, Mark Michalski, and his staff are excited to showcase their golf course to fellow NCTGA members. We understand that Blaine, MN is quite the drive from our base of Fargo, and because of this we have arranged a charter bus to make the day trip. Please join us for what is sure to be an incredible experience.

PRESENTS NCTGA GOES TO THE TPC

LOCATION:

Tournament Players Club of the Twin Cities 11444 Tournament Players Pkwy Blaine, MN 55449

DATE:

Monday, May 10th

GOLF FORMAT: Two Person Teamed Best Ball. Each player will play their own ball for the hole. The lowest score from an individual team member will be counted as the score for that hole.

COST: \$75/person for golf and food. Charter bus: \$35/per person

SCHEDULE

7:00am-7:30am Loading on Charter Bus at the Southwest Youth Ice Arena (4404 23rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103) Note: You are welcome to drive yourself.

11:30am Arrival at TPC Twin Cities (box lunches provided)

12:00pm Shotgun start

5:00pm Golf awards, appetizers and drinks

7:00pm- Departure back to Fargo

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL SAM

Sponsorship opportunities available.

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REGISTER AT: THIS LINK

Mark Your Calendar for the 2021 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing



The 2021 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing will be held at the newly renovated Oxbow Country Club hosted by superintendent David Wood on **Monday, October 4th, 2021**. Join us for this fun-filled day of education and networking to support turfgrass student scholarships. More details to follow.



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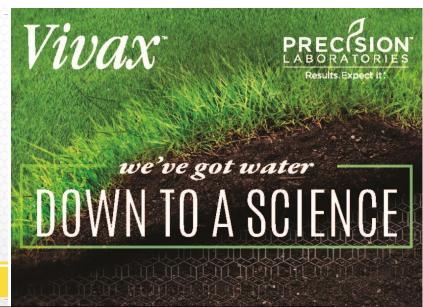
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2021 Conference Report

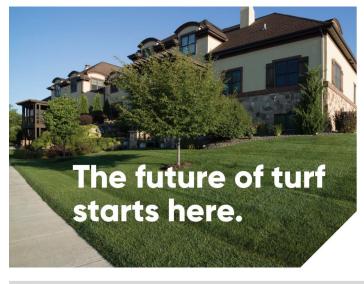
A big THANK YOU to all NCTGA members and vendors who attended and supported the 36th Annual Conference held via Zoom. We certainly wish we could have held the conference in person, but we feel that we made the best of a difficult situation. We would also like to thank the presenters for providing such tremendous education for our membership.

Educational sessions

With over 14 hours of educational content throughout the four days, NCTGA members learned about everything from sports field maintenance and reel science, to having fun at work and managing emotional intelligence. On Monday, Garrett Schultz and Steve Randall discussed the BMP program and environmental advocacy for North Dakota Golf Courses. We also learned about managing soil physical properties from Dr. Deying Li, as well as pest issues of zebra mussels and emerald ash borer. Tuesday had a sports turf theme, with presentations on Allianz Field, natural and artificial turf maintenance, and reel science. Our keynote speaker, Kit Welchlin, spoke about managing emotional intelligence on Wednesday. In the afternoon, the duo of Tommy Grafenauer (Melissa's husband) and Chauncy Schultz (Garrett's brother) spoke about the modernized forecast process and why it matters to you. On the last day of the conference, we were fortunate to learn about tank mixing and compost use from Ben Pease of Iowa State. To cap off the conference, Matt Cavanaugh provided a very interactive presentation of some strategies that he uses to have fun at work. All in all, we feel very strongly that our educational sessions continue to improve, and this year was no exception. All of the 2021 educational sessions were recorded and will be made available on the NCTGA website.

Conference participation

In total, we had over 70 members attend the virtual conference, as well as 27 different companies. A post-conference survey was sent out to those in attendance, of which we received 34 complete responses. Approximately 60% of respondents were from golf, 12% from parks and rec, 9% vendors, and the remaining were a mix of horticulture and other industries. Over 75% of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the virtual conference, which was nice to see. Additionally, 88% of respondents thought the amount of education was just right.



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2021 Conference Report Continued

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2020 scholarship recipients! August Flick from Southeast Technical Institute received the \$1,000 NCTGA Scholarship. Isaiah Harken from NDSU received the \$1,000 NDGA scholarship. Additionally, the NCTGA is very pleased to award the first \$500 Legacy scholarship to Parker Wood. Parker is the son of David Wood, superintendent at Oxbow Country Club and a 26 year NCTGA member.

NCTGA Scholarship Recipient

August Flick

Thinking about my career 5 to 10 years from now, there are many jobs I hope to accomplish. I see myself growing in the Sports Turf field by learning more every day throughout my whole career as well as continually challenging myself. With both my Sports Turf Management and Horticulture degree as well as the Jobs I've had leading up to now, I feel I am ready to continue my career path this summer with my first full time job.



NDGA Scholarship Recipient

Isaiah Harken

For the duration of the 2021 season I plan on going to Mamaroneck, New York to work as an intern at Winged Foot Golf Club. This will be my third internship, the first was in 2019 at the Denver Country Club and I spent the 2020 season here in Fargo at Edgewood Golf Course. I am expected to graduate in December of 2021 and I plan on entering the work force looking for a job on a golf course grounds crew.

NCTGA Legacy Scholarship Recipient

Parker Wood

In 5-10 years, I plan on being a elementary school teacher and a head/assistant coach of a varsity basketball team. As well as I hope to be starting a family.



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The Hopelessness of No Goals

By Steve Keating

I've always been a big believer in the power of goals. Goals that my wife and I set decades ago are still being achieved. Things we said would happen in 2021 are indeed happening, almost to the day we said they would years and years ago. Most of what we have and have achieved we owe to the power of setting goals and developing a plan to achieve them. Even though some of the plans spanned decades.

So when I was invited recently to attend a full-day Goal Setting Seminar my instincts said to decline, especially considering the Seminar was being held on a Saturday. I figured I knew enough. But then I discovered that the day included 9 holes of golf and I was suddenly way more interested. I figured if nothing else I'd learn something I could add to the sessions I present on the subject of goal setting and play some golf too. So I signed up.

The early session was about what you'd expect if you've ever taken a class on setting goals. Lots of talk about setting SMART goals and having goals for different parts of your life, career goals, financial goals, personal goals, health goals and the like. The second session was a little more unusual; it covered the motivational aspects of having goals and how we can actually lose interest in life without goals. It was okay but it was a little blah blah blah for me. No examples or evidence, only an instructor telling you goals were important. Duh! But then the best part of the day...a boxed lunch and off to the golf carts for some fun. The Golf Course was in the community were I live so I was very familiar with it. Something didn't feel exactly right as we left the conference room and headed outside. It was a Saturday, and normally a busy golfing day.

We were only playing nine holes. There should have been plenty of tee times available for other golfers. But the place was completely empty other than those of us participating in the seminar. I asked what was going on and was told the course was preparing for some renovation work. We would be the last group playing before it closed for a couple of

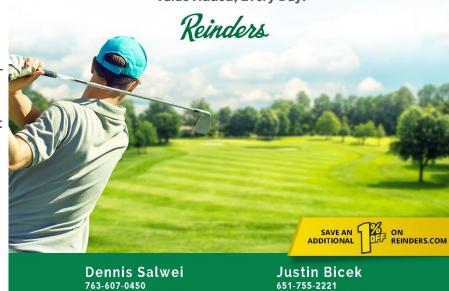
months. That's not unusual in the Phoenix area for a course to do major work in the summer, golf actually slows down when the temps reach 100 degrees day after day. While that all turned out to be true it wasn't the only reason there weren't other people on the course. We'd discover the other reason soon enough.

So off we went. My first drive was a little right on a hole that bends to the right, not ideal. I'd have to make a decision to either play back out into the fairway or take a shortcut over the trees to the green. I decided on the shortcut. The shot I hit felt pretty good but I couldn't see the green so I'd have to wait until I got the the green to see how the shot turned out. I knew I made it over the trees and I knew I went in the general direction of the green so I was pretty hopeful.

Continued on page 14...



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Continued from page 12...

As we approached the green I was focused on seeing whether my ball was on the green or not, so focused that I didn't see what I normally would have. When I got right up by the green I noticed there was no flagstick. For those of you who don't play golf the flagstick indicates the location of the hole on the green.

Then I discovered why there was no flagstick. It was because there was no hole. It was absolutely the weirdest feeling I've ever had. I hit balls on the range like I usually do. I studied my yardage, carefully selected my clubs and hit the best shot I could, all with the goal in mind of making par or better on the hole. But there was no hole. The would be no par, no birdie, not even a bogey. I would have been mad except I figured out almost instantly what was going on. The evidence that was missing from the second session was now staring me in the face. The goal of golf is to get the ball in the hole with the fewest strokes possible. With no hole for the ball to go into the rest of the game becomes pointless in a hurry.

The roaming instructor showed up and told us to go ahead and pick up the ball and move to the next hole, maybe there would be a hole on that green...or maybe there wouldn't. I couldn't win at this game of golf, I couldn't lose. I couldn't measure my results against other rounds I'd played in the past. I couldn't measure myself against the other players. I lost interest in the game before I got to the second green. It was no fun at all. And when I did get to the green there was no damn hole again. The roaming instructor said "maybe next time."

It was hopeless. It was pointless. It was also the best example of what a life devoid of goals must be like. I suppose if you've never had real goals you wouldn't know what you're missing. If I'd never played golf I might not have known there was supposed to be a hole in the green. But I did indeed learn something that day. I learned a life without goals can get hopeless even quicker than I thought. I was disappointed, frustrated, confused, even mad when I reached a place where I should have been able to accomplish a goal. The only reason I couldn't was because a goal didn't exist.

Are you disappointed, confused, even mad at the end of a day? Do you wonder what the point is of going to work day after day for a mere paycheck? Could it be that you don't have clearly definable goals you're working towards each day? Setting goals and developing a plan to achieve them will make everything in your life more meaningful. Goals give you purpose. Goals provide you with motivation, even on very difficult days. Goals become the roadmap to success, in your career, in your relationships, in every part of your life.

Don't go one more day without knowing exactly what you want out of life and exactly how you're going to get it. Invest time to set goals and invest more to build a solid plan to achieve them.

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Dear NCTGA Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our Maintenance Team at TPC Twin Cities. We are once again looking for volunteers for this summer's 3M Open. The dates for the event are July 19^{th} - 25^{th} . Do not feel that the only way you can volunteer is if you sign up for all the shifts. We have a great many folks who volunteer for only what they can do, whether that be evening shifts only, morning shifts only or only one day of volunteering. We are happy to accept any help we can receive. If you need lodging, we are happy to provide that we just ask you to sign up quickly, so we know how many rooms to book. This year's signup is running through our tournament office, so it is slightly different than years past. Please see detailed directions below. Thanks so much for considering being a part of our 3M Open staff!

https://events.trustevent.com/templates/index.cfm?fuseaction=templates.home&eid=3814

Directions for Signup:

- After you click the red "register here" button, it is very important that you click "Agronomy Team" right above the continue button and NOT "Standard Volunteer".
- When you are asked to select a committee preference, the only option will be Agronomy.
- You will then be asked to enter the password "11072".
- You will need to click "not available" on the days you cannot work, the site will not let you go through before doing so.

If you have any issues or questions please feel free to reach out to me on my cell at 763-442-7533 or by email at markmichalski@pgatourtpc.com. Thanks, and look forward to having you!

Sincerely,

Mark Michalski Superintendent TPC Twin Cities





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