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TALKINGTURF

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Summer 2021

President's Message

By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District

Greetings NCTGA members,

Summer is well under way. It has been hot and dry bringing many challenges to everyone. All of North Dakota is under some category of drought. It seems like a long summer and I'm sure we are all hoping for a break with some rain. It has been a challenging summer for many, especially in our industry. This summer is the perfect opportunity to utilize your BMP's. There is a lot of valuable information in the booklet. If you don't have a copy, it can be found on our website under, "About Us" then scroll down to Resources. Your facility can implement Irrigation Best Management Programs, Water Management Plan, Drought Management Plan and more. I encourage everyone to look at the BMP's if you haven't already done so.

I would like to Thank everyone that made the trip to golf TPC in May. With the continued support of our members and vendors we make these events a success. Thank you to all the sponsors that supported that event. Tessman sponsored the bus, Bayer sponsored lunch, and Plaisteds sponsored happy hour. We purchased new hole signs for the event which turned out phenomenal. We will

continue with that design for our tournaments. I encourage Vendors to sponsor a hole if they haven't done so in the past. We also had clothing displayed at our TPC tournament these will be available to pre order on our website. The TPC course was absolutely beautiful and it was a wonderful opportunity to play. I want to Thank Mark and his crew for hosting us. TPC Twin Cities hosted the 3M open July 22-25. The course looked in excellent condition. Congratulations to all the TPC staff on hosting another successful PGA tour. Thanks to all our members that volunteered their time to help at the tour.

I'm very sad to announce that our Executive Director, Sam Bauer will be stepping down. He will be with us until conference time if the position isn't filled by then. If you or someone you know is interested in being the NCTGA Executive Director. Feel free to send a resume to info.nctga@gmail.com

Continued on page 3...





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President's Message continued

Continued from page 1...

This will be an opportunity to grow our organization, bring in new talent and keep moving in the right direction as an organization. We're hoping to get some qualified candidates interested in making our organization better.

Our 2021 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be October 4, at Oxbow Country Club. Hosted by David Wood and his staff. Oxbow is Golf Digest #1 course in North Dakota. This will be another great opportunity for our organization. In 2015 Oxbow started a full renovation of the golf course which was completed in 2019. Oxbow built a new shop which we will tour at 10:00, lunch will be served at 11, shotgun start at noon.

I hoping everyone can join us this will be another great day of golfing and networking with our colleagues.

- Cammi



37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

February 22nd-24th, 2022



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Join Us! 2021 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

October 4th at Oxbow Country Club

The 2021 NCTGA Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on **Monday, October 4th** at the newly constructed Oxbow Country Club in Oxbow, ND. Host superintendent, David Wood, and his staff are sure to have the place in great shape. Join your colleagues and friends for this tournament in support of turfgrass student scholarships!



Golf Tournament

Format for golf will be a 2-person scramble with two flights. The scramble will begin as a shotgun start at 12:00pm noon (Central time). Lunch will be provided at the clubhouse at 11:00am. Prizes will be given out for first place in each of the flights, along with proximity prizes for longest drive, longest putt, and closest to the hole. Following the golf will be the awards ceremony, appetizers and refreshments.

Shop Tour

Plan to arrive early for a tour of the new maintenance shop. Shop tours will begin at 10am.

Registration

Online registration can be found on the NCTGA website at: <http://nctga.net/Golf-Tournament>. You will find options for registering yourself and multiple people, and hole sponsorship opportunities for vendors.

About the club

Oxbow Estates were originally founded in 1975 with the goal of creating a unique residential and recreational community with Oxbow Country Club as its focus. In 2015, Oxbow Country Club began a renovation which would eventually result in a complete rebuild of the golf course. The course opened in August of 2019.





PRESENTS



Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

LOCATION:

Oxbow Country Club
40 Clubhouse Dr. Oxbow, ND 58047

DATE:

Monday, October 4th

GOLF FORMAT: Two Person Scramble

COST: \$85/person for golf and food

SCHEDULE:

10:00am Informal shop tour
11:00am Lunch and registration
12:00pm Shotgun start
5:00pm Golf awards, appetizers and drinks
7:00pm- Departure from club

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL SAM

Sponsorship opportunities available.

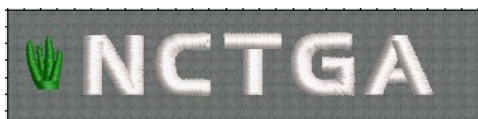
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NCTGA Apparel Available

NCTGA apparel is available for order under the “Members Only” section of the [NCTGA website](#). We have several different options for both men and women. This includes Cutter and Buck polos, and Clique half-zips, tshirts, and sweatshirts. All apparel has an abbreviated NCTGA logo (below) that is embroidered. We get a special deal on these through a board member. Polos are just \$20, half-zips are \$30, tshirts are \$10, and hooded sweatshirts are \$20.

Apparel can be picked up at the golf tournament, or mailed to you. For questions, call or email Sam: 612-205-4428, info.nctga@gmail.com



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Preliminary Schedule

Tuesday

- Steve Randall, GCSAA
- Cole and Gus Flick, Community Sports Fields
- Maggie Reiter, U of MN
- Tommy Grafenauer and Chauncy Schultz

Wednesday

- Vendor seminars, equipment and irrigation
- Eric Christianson, EC Design Group
- Dr. Bill Kreuser, GreenKeeper
- Esther McGinnis, NDSU Extension
- Equipment maintenance
- Tree selection

Thursday

- Flood cleanup and recovery panel
- Courage and overcoming obstacles in your life
- Strengths finder



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NCTGA Goes to TPC event held in May

On May 10th the NCTGA hosted a spring golf event at the incredible TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, MN. A big THANK YOU to superintendent Mark Michalski and his staff for hosting us. In total we had 54 players who made the trip. Great golf, good food, and camaraderie made it such an incredible day. Thanks to all who joined us for this event!



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NCTGA Seeks New Executive Director

As you are all aware, Sam Bauer has been our Executive Director for the past three years. Recently Sam took a more full-time position with a local turf supplier and he will be stepping down from the ED role. We would like to thank Sam for all he's done for the association in the past three years. Sam will be on a month to month contract through the 2022 conference, until we identify a new ED to manage the association. As an association we've accomplished a lot in recent years, and we are excited about the direction we are going. If you an interest in applying for this position, please send cover letter and resume to: info.nctga@gmail.com

Executive Director Responsibilities

- A maximum of 4 newsletters including the securing of paid advertising in each issue, writing, editing and emailing to current membership.
- Twelve itemized financial reports to actual banking records, submitted to the Board of Directors no later than the 15th of each month.
- Twelve reports to be emailed monthly to the Board of Directors to keep them apprised of the association's business activities to include, but not limited to; membership activity, conference updates, golf tournament updates, newsletter/website updates, scholarship updates and a copy of the Executive Directors completed checklist.
- Four reports presented to the Board of Directors at the quarterly board meetings. The reports will lead the conversations of the committee reports, and are intended to streamline meetings.
- Board of Director and Annual meeting minutes will be emailed to the Board of Directors for review within 14 days of all meetings.
- Maintenance of the investment accounts including notification of roll-over dates and interest rates included in monthly financial reports.
- Clerical and support services for:
 - a. Annual Golf Scholarship Tournament
 - b. Scholarship Applicants
- Maintenance of the NCTGA membership directory, including solicitation of advertising, to be completed for distribution at the annual conference.
- Media attention as directed by the NCTGA
 - a. Website
 - b. Newsletter
 - c. Email updates
 - d. Social media
- Conference and Trade Show



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NCTGA New Member Profile

Kamp Gislason

Business name

KampCon, LLC

Years in the industry

6 years

Location

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Favorite part of the turf industry

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Favorite tool in the shop

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Favorite job to perform with your business

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Any big projects this year

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Favorite Hobbies- Hunting, fishing, and motorsports





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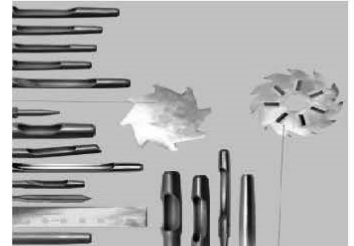
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Why golf's toughest job is growing harder

By Bradley S. Klein

(This article is reprinted from The First Call Golf digital publication and can be found on their website [here](#). All copy-right of this article belongs to First Call Golf and NCTGA members are encouraged to subscribe to this publication)

This has been an especially hard year to be a course superintendent. Actually, they all are, given the expectations heaped upon greenkeepers by golfers, few of whom have the slightest idea what is actually involved in keeping golf course turfgrass in playable condition.

And it's not just monthly fee-paying members who have unrealistic expectations. I can still remember as clear as day the time the town councilman (who was an occasional golfer) asked the greenkeeper of our new local municipal tract why he couldn't make do with "the lawn mowers" already on hand from the Parks and Rec. Department.

Golfer demands aside, this year has been one from hell -- or at least from nearby. That's because of the convergence of three distinct external factors that go far beyond the golf course and thus beyond the ability of any superintendent to control.

COVID-19 has been hell, and just when it looked like we were on our way to a modicum of normalcy the Delta variant reared its head and threw everything for a loop. The oddity, of course, is that the pandemic has been a (perverse) blessing for golf, and while no one would wish such a public health crisis on anyone it turns out that the golf industry has flourished. That's because golf is the safest outdoor form of recreation you could indulge in and because private golf clubs have done a fabulous job of creating a safe environment for their clients and employees.

While gyms, public swimming pools, summer camps and restaurants were basically shut down last year, a well-managed club that looked after its staff and members through social distancing, regular testing and mask mandates was the safest place for the family to spend time playing. Small wonder that at every club I know of, public or private, play has been up; memberships are booming and the bottom line has been a net positive.

But at what cost to superintendents? They had to scramble to retain labor. In many cases, they strove to rehire them after initial cutbacks led to staff reductions and their (former) crew members left for other work or to rely upon the expanded unemployment benefits. The flow of the daily routine, once focused on getting the golf course ready, shifted entirely to the safety precautions needed to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission in the maintenance area and between laborers and the golfers.

Continued on page 15...

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Continued from page 13...

That meant solo vehicle and equipment deployment, distancing of workers rather than close proximity in task sharing, and extensive time simply scrubbing down before and after.

It helped the pace of daily set up that the local- or state-mandated regionally conditions of course opening entailed touchless golf. That meant no bunker rakes, no water coolers, fixed pins and/or foam rubber collars in cups. Golfers generally accepted the slacker conditions since they were simply grateful to be doing something outdoors. It also meant solo rider carts, a development that eventually took its toll on fairway conditioning.

What's under-appreciated about the role superintendents played last year is the physical and emotional toll it exacted. A job that normally entails few if any days off during peak season became a very long, exhausting grind. What we in the Northeast call our mid-season "100 days of hell" extended to about 150.

This year has been better, or at least less worse, as normal work conditions have more or less returned and the daily grind does not entail the meticulous sanitizing and social distancing of 2020. Shared cart riding is back as well. But the labor force has been turned upside down, and the shortage of qualified crew members at most courses that I visit has been the largest issue facing superintendents in 2021. Nobody has enough staff, nor the kind of quality staffing they really need.

Retention of labor at a golf course has always been an issue. It is perennially difficult to find folks who are willing and able to show up at 5:30 a.m. on weekends. Most crews are now on flexed schedules allowing alternate weekends or weekend days off, for example. But the telltale signs of inexperience are there. I recall, for example, one example of a superintendent who has to scout the greens each morning and repair damaged cups from sloppy cup cutting.

Courses have all had to increase their wage rates to retain labor in the face of stringent challenges from ancillary job sectors like landscape, building construction and home repair. And at the skilled level, the shortage is evident in the difficulty superintendents have had in recruiting qualified technicians and assistants. The ranks of the country's university level golf agronomy programs are depleted. Golf is a great game but, increasingly, it is not being perceived as a great career.

All of this unfolds in a world that is seeing more environmental stress placed on golf courses. Climate change is real in terms of hotter working environments, more intense rain events interspersed with more severe drought, and a two-sided pinch that involves the need for more storm water management capacity and increased drainage needs while seeking out water efficiencies and alternative sources of irrigatable water.

Continued on page 17...

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Continued from page 15...

That leaves superintendents in the middle, handling a lot. Much of it comes from outside their formal training. Yet this is the fate they are handed and what they need to negotiate to be successful. It’s asking a lot. So far, the veterans and the well-trained folks coming up the pipeline have responded with professionalism and creativity. That’s what makes the job so interesting. Of course it would help if more golfers understood what goes into maintaining a golf course. Perhaps then they’d be less critical and more appreciative.



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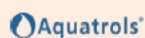
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We are seeking a dedicated professional to serve as a conduit to the eight (8) GCSAA affiliated chapters in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota (no affiliated chapter), South Dakota, and Minnesota. The mission of the position is to provide outreach and support to improve overall effectiveness of chapter operations, member programs and services by enhancing the relationship between chapters and GCSAA through direct engagement with members via regular communication, site visits and participation in chapter events. The Field Staff Regional Representative assists in recruitment and retention strategies of members and works closely with regional allied groups who provide direct services to our members. The position will also work with superintendents, schools and students in developing First Green field trips showcasing golf courses as learning laboratories. The Chapter Outreach team is a key component in accomplishing the strategic objectives of GCSAA and affiliated chapters.

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(MO) Mississippi Valley GCSA
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(SD) GCSA of South Dakota
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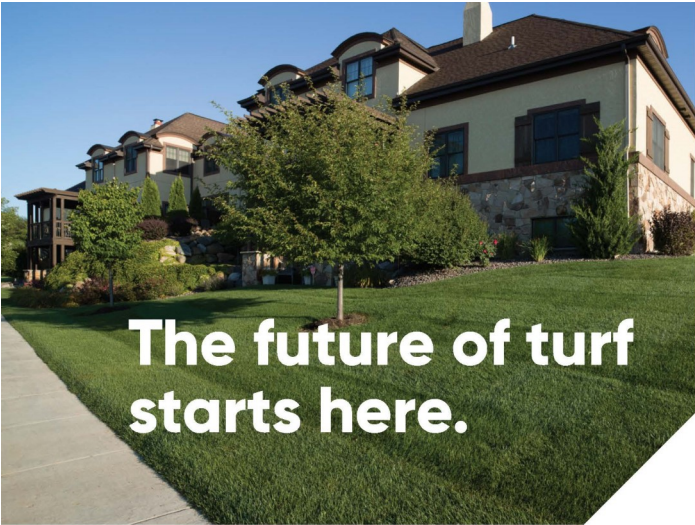












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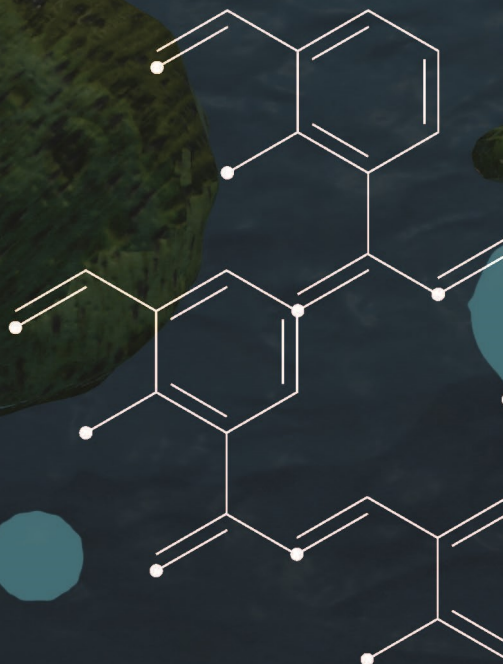
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