

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament
Page 4

Fires and Moving into the Future by Collin Cannon
Page 6-9

Retirement Interview: Dave Iverson
Page 11-12

38th Annual Conference and Trade Show Speakers
Page 13



TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2022

President's Message

By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District

Greetings NCTGA members,

As always, summer goes by way too fast and will be over before we know it. The summer help is already putting in their last days and getting ready for school. It seems like the summer help season just keeps getting shorter and shorter, or it goes faster. Just the other day we were training everyone in for the summer and school just got out. Now it's mid-August and they are on their final days getting ready for school. It has been a crazy year for sure. We saw relief from the extreme drought we had last year, which led to spring flooding for many. It is unfortunate our spring event got canceled, due to the wet conditions. We will plan on holding another spring event, hopefully next year. Spring can be unpredictable, and we look forward to it cooperating the next time around.

I'm sure most of you are aware, Dave Iverson retired at the end of July after 15 years with MTI. He was the sales representative for western ND. I want to Thank him for all his support he gave to the NCTGA during his career. We all hope Dave enjoys retirement and the best of luck to him in

the future. You can read about this plans in the retirement interview on page 11.

Our fall golf tournament will be held on September 12th in Minot, ND at the Vardon Golf Club, hosted by Bruce Ruppert and his staff. The Vardon was founded in 1928. Tom Vardon designed the front 9, which remains the same layout today. The Vardon Golf Club was inundated by the epic 2011 Souris River flood. It was completely rebuilt, rededicated and reopened in August 2013. Registration and lunch will begin at 11. Shotgun start at noon; it will be a 2-person scramble with proximity and flight prizes. We will have appetizers afterwards. The success of this golf tournament helps to fund our scholarships. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

I am happy to announce that Sam Bauer, Steve Kottsick, Garrett Schultz and I will be hosting a...



Continued on page 3



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President's Message continued

Continued from page 1

...First Green in Minot this September 13th. It will be held at the Wee Links; we are expecting about 30 kids. We will be covering topics including turfgrass, golf operations, water conservation and golf lessons for the kids. I am excited for this event and hope we have nice weather and it is successful. A sincere thank you to Randy Robinson and GCSAA for supporting us in this.

The North Dakota Recreation and Park Association is also being held in Minot, September 13-15. Hopefully, this will help bring some more members to our golf tournament. If you're interested in attending their event, check out their website: www.ndrpa.com

Sincerely,
Cammi Campbell



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*38th Annual Conference and
Trade Show*

February 28th - March 2nd, 2023



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PRESENTS 2022 NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament



LOCATION:

Vardon Golf Club

7101 Co Hwy 15, Minot, ND 58703

DATE:

Monday, September 12th, 2022

GOLF FORMAT:

Two Person Scramble. Bring your partner or we will pair you up. Prizes awarded for 1st place of two flights and proximities. Skins and mulligans available

COST: \$95/person for golf.

SCHEDULE:

11:00am: Registration and lunch

Noon: Shotgun start

4:00pm: Prizes and appetizers

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Fires and Moving into the Future

By Collin Cannon, Grand Forks Country Club

Since my time on Twitter, I have seen a superintendent or mechanic's worst nightmare happen a handful of times throughout the country; getting a phone call that your maintenance shop is on fire or has already burned down.

On Monday, March 28th, a normal early spring day for my full-time year-round staff, we came into work at about 8:00am, talked about our weekend, and worked on a few golf course cedar accessories. We cut some cedar boards, did some nailing, and put on a coat of stain. We called it a day early in the afternoon and I had a board meeting to attend at the University of North Dakota campus later that day.

I was able to get home and spend a few hours before my meeting with my wife and kids. Don't get me wrong, there is no better job in the world than working at a golf course, but I do cherish my wintertime with my family since I see them a bit less during the golf season. All was great at home, not a worry in the world, and I was off to my board meeting.

Our meeting wrapped up at about 8:00pm and I hopped in my vehicle headed for home. I called my wife to let her know I was on my way, and as I was driving, I began receiving notifications on my phone for motion in my maintenance shop. I should've pulled over, but instead looked at my phone while driving and opened my security camera system app for my shop. The first clip showed that the lights were off as the screen was black and white, and smoke pouring in above and around the camera. I instantly yelled to my wife that something was smoking in my shop. I then got another motion

notification and this one showed sparks starting to fly across the camera view. Panicking, I told my wife I had to hang up because I was positive my maintenance shop was on fire. I dialed 911 and got the dispatch

woman instantly. After explaining the fire situation, she started asking me questions like, "what color are the flames? Are you sure it's fire or would someone be in the building?" That started to frustrate me as I was panicked and knew no one was in the building. I raised my voice to the dispatch woman that the fire trucks needed to get there, and I kept receiving 5 second video clips of more smoke and flames. She then proceeded to tell me that the fire trucks were already on their way, and she just wanted to keep me on the phone until they arrived.

I was the first person on site, followed by a deputy sheriff. We pulled the shop pickup truck away from the building and waited a few more...

Continued on page 7



Continued from page 6

...minutes until the fire trucks arrived. The fire started in the warm side of our maintenance shop and is believed to have started from the propane furnace. The firefighters from two separate volunteer organizations battled flames for about 5 hours and were unsuccessful keeping the fire from spreading to my cold storage shop where all our equipment was stored.

It was a difficult night to endure. Eight years of work in that shop and I had to watch it all go up in flames.

From this entire event, there are a few things I would recommend every superintendent, assistant, or mechanic does. First, take inventory of everything in your maintenance buildings. I personally think the easiest way to do this is to take pictures with your phone. Obviously, items in your shop get moved, thrown away, or you purchase new things, but at least you'll have something good to reference. Next, have someone do an inspection of your building. Many shops can be old, and codes have changed a lot over the years. There may be some simple updates you can have done to protect your building. I recommend putting up security cameras. I use the Amazon Blink camera system and the footage all goes right to my phone. It's inexpensive and easy to set up. Next, make sure your insurance policies are up to date and you have enough coverage for equipment and contents in your facility. The prices of supplies and equipment have only gone up, so now is a good time to update those policies. Finally, make sure if you have had equipment loans in the past and they are paid off, to get those lien holders off your insurance policy. We

came across this issue for a few lien holders from quite a few years ago. It has slowed down our process for getting reimbursed from insurance.

The Future

There must be some good to come out of all of this, right? My therapy for losing everything has been to look into the future to find all the good things to come. We will have mostly all new equipment by this time next year. We will have a new shop built the way we feel is most efficient and effective for our operation. We have also



upgraded to a new central irrigation control system. Many of these things wouldn't have happened in years to come, but this is a fresh...

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

...start for us to do some of these things now.

The headache of dealing with insurance and figuring out everything you've lost is a lot to deal with, but you must take each day at a time, lean on some of your staff and family, and look at all the positive outcomes ahead.

Throughout this entire experience, I have found that the golf course industry is a special group of people. I had more people reach out to me after this event than I ever thought possible. From fellow superintendents and assistants to vendors of all golf course supplies, it has been reassuring that this is definitely the industry that I want to be apart of.

(Editors note: Thank you to NCTGA Board Member Collin Cannon for submitting this article)



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Retirement Interview with Dave Iverson

Our friend Dave Iverson retired from MTI Distributing on Friday, July 29th. We wish Dave all the best with his retirement and encourage him to stay connected with the NCTGA. Recently, Sam Bauer had the chance to conduct a Q & A with Dave.

Talk to me about your career, beginning with your first job, and how you ended up at MTI Distributing?

I started out in the grocery business with my father in Newtown, ND. Then got my plumbing license and started using Toro products through MTI. One day they decided they were going to hire a new salesman in ND based in Bismarck or Minot, and I applied for the position. I received some help from Curt Lindlauf who was an NCTGA board member and a very good friend of mine. I was hired by Tom Swayne and Butch Greeninger to take the role, and I had that for 15 years. I originally started in 2007. I also had a little stint as interim superintendent, along with my son, running Edgewater Country Club. Additionally, I had tremendous mentorship from colleagues such as Jeff Yates, Dan Mosely, Phil Gleason, and Craig Jerome.



What were some of the more challenging or rewarding aspects of the job?

Trying to get municipalities to buy into packages instead of individual pieces of equipment. We grew our market share in the area from 50% to higher than 80%, and that in itself was very rewarding.

What was your most memorable experience with MTI? Any embarrassing moments in the workplace?

Regarding embarrassing, I would have to say the time that I went to work on a satellite and I thought I had the wires right, but they were crisscrossed and sprinklers were going off all over the place. Most rewarding was working with gentlemen like Randy Ryski, Bob Frank, and Wayne Heintz. The best boss I ever had was Shane Andrews. Shane is an incredible individual, very supportive, and I honestly can't say enough great things about working for Shane. He was always looking out for his employees, and he always had my back. I still have contacts with Shane, Bob, Randy...just a total bunch of gentlemen.

How many years as an NCTGA member? What do you remember about your initial introduction to the association?

15 years. Originally, I was wondering what the association was all about and what direction they were heading. I think the group is great, very close knit. I do think more people would find value in being involved. If I was going to stay longer, I would have enjoyed being on the board. I greatly appreciate MTI Distributing's presence on the board through Tim Fleegel.

Are there any conferences, golf tournaments, or association events that stood out to you over the years? Memorable moments or funny stories?

I have to admit that every conference and golf tournament I went to was very memorable because of the people that attended. The support that everyone expressed towards fellow members is something that I will never forget. I still look forward to future conferences in Fargo and will certainly consider making the trip to rub some elbows with my friends.

Retirement Interview with Dave cont'd

What do you think the future holds for the turf business, including equipment, technology, and staffing?

It does appear that things will get tougher. The price of equipment continues to increase. If golf courses need to raise their prices because of this, it will certainly start hurting them. The workforce and future staffing also concerns me. Superintendent's are having a hard time keeping employees and everyone is stretched more thinly. Golf courses in these small communities are so valuable. I started golfing when I was in 5th grad with my dad and I truly love the sport.



What will you be up to now that you're retired, and where can NCTGA members find you for a beer on a weeknight?

Funny you ask that. I have a neighbor buddy who knew that it would be challenging for me to sit still. With that, he hired me to sell seed- soybeans, canola, corn, and many other products. My travel radius will only be 80 miles from my home base near Lake Audubon. We will give it a shot and see how it goes. I also spend some time in Arizona over the winter. My dad retired when he was 82 years old and everyone tells me that I can't officially retire until I'm at least 70, otherwise I'd be a quitter. I'll hang in there for a bit longer. As for beer drinking, I will meet anyone anywhere!

Who is your ideal NCTGA foursome?

Mike Chrest, Garrett Schultz, and Sam Bauer. I mention Sam because he's conducting the interview, haha.

What message would you give to the person taking your place in the region at MTI Distributing?

Answer the phone! That is one thing people don't do enough of. It is something that needs to happen or you'll never make it out here.



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38th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Tuesday - Thursday, February 28th - March 2nd, 2023

Preliminary Schedule

Tuesday

- Randy Robinson, GCSAA
- Dr. Eric Watkins, U of MN Twin Cities
- Matt Cavanaugh, Rush Creek GC and Mark Michalski, Chisago Lakes GC
- Dr. Doug Soldat, U of WI Madison

Wednesday

- Vendor seminars (open to all vendor attendees)
- Dr. Doug Soldat, U of WI Madison
- Bruce Williams, Williams Golf Consulting
- Roger Stewart, Roger Stewart Golf Consulting
- Minnesota Sodding Company

Thursday

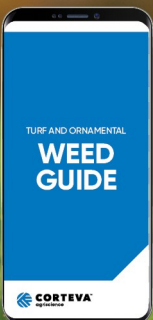
- Trent Manning, Reel Turf Techs
- Liz Carlson, Professional Development
- Dr. John Loegering, U of MN Crookston

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SCHEDULE *of events*



MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA · SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2022

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - Multiple Sites

8:00 AM EXHIBITOR BOOTH SETUP

11:00 AM LUNCH & ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Souris Valley Golf Course

12:00 PM GOLF OUTING

Souris Valley Golf Course

1:00 PM ROOSEVELT PARK ZOO TOUR

1:00 PM DOWNTOWN MINOT HISTORY & SPIRIT WALK

5:30 PM SOCIAL & DINNER - THE ALLEY

do what you can
with what you have
WHERE YOU ARE.
Theodore Roosevelt

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - Clarion Hotel

7:00 AM ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Exhibit Hall & Raffle/Silent Auction Open

Breakfast & Past Presidents Breakfast

8:00 AM CONFERENCE WELCOME - RON MERRITT

8:15 AM KEYNOTE

"I So Declare It!" - Theodore Roosevelt's Conservation Crusade for America - Theodore Roosevelt as portrayed by Kurt Skinner

T.R. imprinted his love of the natural world onto America – as our “wilderness warrior” president, he redefined the executive branch of government as he fought tirelessly for our natural treasures and left a legacy of federal resource conservation and wildlife protection.

9:15 AM GENERAL SESSION

"Thriving Through Lifes Journey" – Terry Eckman

Embrace your daily tasks, opportunities and challenges with a perspective that can enhance your personal and professional life. Survive the ups and downs with tools and strategies that can help you make the most of every day. Recognize the power of a positive attitude. Explore the power of simple choices to maximize your life journey. This session is “you time!” A humorous and thoughtful presentation filled with research-based practices.

10:00 AM BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - Clarion Hotel

10:30 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Prairie Grit – Krystal Butgereit

Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports is a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing sports opportunities for youth and adults living with physical and mental disabilities to enhance their quality of life. Our goal is to create opportunities for youth, adults and their families through adaptive sports. They level the playing field by removing barriers in order to give everyone opportunities to do what they love. Prairie Grit offers a variety of activities and events year-round.

Teddy Roosevelt "Parks & Rec" Team Trivia – Kurt Skinner

Hosted by Teddy Roosevelt, our "parks and rec" president. T.R. federally protected over 230 million acres of public lands and cherished outdoor recreation. Join with your friends at this fun and engaging Teddy Roosevelt-themed trivia event and test your knowledge of his outdoor life and legacy.

North Dakota Open Records and Open Meetings – Annique Lockhard

This presentation will provide an overview of the open record and meeting laws found in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 44-04. The first part of the presentation identifies and explains key definitions relating to the open records and meeting laws. The second part is intended to instill confidence in properly responding to open record requests, posting appropriate meeting notices and handling executive sessions. The final part of the presentation identifies common open records and meeting violations and explains the Office of Attorney General's review process of alleged violations.

11:30 AM LUNCH

12:30 PM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

This session will feature roundtable discussions on a variety of topics. There will be five tables which will each feature a different topic: marketing, trails, facilities, operations, and aquatics. Each table has sub-topics to choose from with discussions lasting 15 minutes. After each segment attendees will be able to rotate to another topic of interest or stay at the same table.

1:30 PM FINAL BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

2:00PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Fundraising – Thor Nelson

Thor Nelson is a lifelong resident of the Magic City. He started officiating USA Hockey in 1990 and was hired to officiate in the NHL in 1994. Thor officiated over 1,000 NHL games and officiated at both the Winter Olympics in Italy (2006) and Canada (2010). He is now the president of Magic City Fast Pitch Inc. and serves as vice president for USA Softball of North Dakota Junior Olympic Fastpitch. He played an integral part of the fundraising efforts for the new South Hill Softball Complex in Minot. Thor will discuss his fundraising efforts and the importance of being a vital partner to Minot Park District.

Keep Your Employees Safe: Self-Awareness & Defense – Dan Merc

The most important thing to learn regarding self-defense is to prevent an attack from occurring before it starts. Attendees will learn methods of physical awareness and verbal presentation that will improve their ability to prevent an attack.

Safe Community – Detective Robbie Sumlin

This session will cover the importance of having a good relationship with your local police department and being aware of how you can keep your parks safe. Detective Sumlin will share his knowledge of crime patterns and signs to look out for in your own parks and communities.

3:15 PM FACILITY TOUR

6:30 PM SOCIAL

7:00 PM AWARDS BANQUET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - Clarion Hotel

7:30 AM BREAKFAST & NDRPA ANNUAL MEETING

8:30 AM CLOSING KEYNOTE

Synchronicity Connecting Your Team for Optimal Results – Shannon McKain

Today, we have a plethora of artificial intelligence, data and analytics yet still feel phenomenally disconnected in the workplace. Let's create better interoffice relationships where each team member feels supported, encouraged and valued, where it's more likely that interoffice relationships will improve, customer connections will grow stronger, and your team's productivity and performance will reach new heights.

9:45 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Safe Sports – Dr. Dawn Mattern

This session will offer discussion of guidelines and recommendations for keeping sports participants safe while playing. This presentation will also cover the evaluation, treatment and triage of the acute injury based on the individual's condition.

Leadership Building Blocks, What Kind of Leader are You? – Shannon McKain

Sharing both her successes and failures including living on a canoe for two weeks (studying Situational Leadership), Shannon integrates how Four Pillars of Leadership can make or break any team and includes fun interactive communication exercises!

1,000 Trees for Minot – Tim Bauman

1,000 Trees for Minot aims to advance community development, improve quality of life, strengthen biodiversity, maintain air quality, create windbreaks and shelters, and educate the public through the goal of planting 1,000 trees in Minot by 2026.

11:00 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Title VI Training – Char Langehaug

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities of any entity that receive federal assistance. This presentation will discuss the Title VI program and how it applies to the Recreational Trails Program.

Cyber Security – Greg Larson, Pro IT

How protected is your organization against cyber threats? Learn the dos and don'ts to protect you and your organization.

Recruitment And Retention – Shannon McKain

Explore the intricacies of recruiting and retaining parks and recreation staff. We've all heard about generational differences, the Great Resignation and labor shortages, but how can you deliver an exceptional workplace to recruit and retain the best staff. This session covers the latest recruitment practices, best practices for employee retention and how to reimagine the workplace for success.

12:00 PM GRAB AND GO LUNCHES

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Gray Leaf Spot

Snow Mold

*Dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot and snow mold were the five most common diseases according to a national survey among golf course superintendents.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. Bayer Environmental Science, a Division of Bayer CropScience LP, 5000 CentreGreen Way, Suite 400, Cary, NC 27513. For additional product information, call toll-free 1-800-331-2867. www.environmentalscience.bayer.us. Not all products are registered in all states. Bayer, the Bayer Cross and Densicor are registered trademarks of Bayer. ©2021 Bayer CropScience LP.

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