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TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2022

President's Message

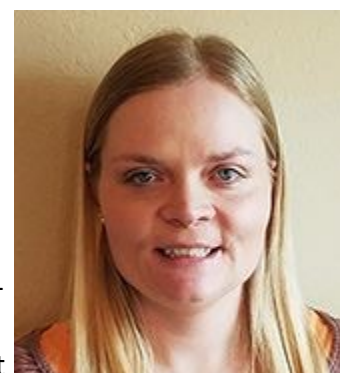
By Cammi Campbell, Minot Park District

Greetings NCTGA members,

I hope everyone made it through the Holiday season happy and healthy. We enjoyed our Christmas and got some much needed snow on the ground. It's good to get outside and enjoy some of the winter activities. My almost 4-year-old was so excited to see snow. He loves sledding the faster he goes the happier he is. I do get tired of dragging him back up the hills though!

Looking back on our 2021 recap, it held many challenges for all of us and the NCTGA was no exception. Our biggest decision last January revolved around having an in-person conference or virtual conference. We spent a lot of time in meetings and had to make some difficult decisions. We spent many hours weighing our options. I would say as a board we left no stone unturned and took everything into consideration. We sent out a survey, which we got a great response from. The board could watch the results as they came in, I think I checked it myself every hour. The results were close, but the comments were strong. After taking the survey results, we decided the health and safety of our members is of the utmost importance. We decided to hold a

virtual conference and started moving forward with that new challenge. The biggest concern on my mind was how to successfully run a virtual annual meeting and what to do with our Board of Director's terms. My recommendation was for everyone to extend their terms by an additional year. The board didn't even hesitate to stay on. I really do want to Thank the board and Sam for everything they did. We all had different opinions but we put the organization first and made the right decision. The virtual conference was a success, we had 65 members plus our vendors. Without having the hotel expense, which they let us cancel at no cost, we came out financially stable. We held our annual meeting via zoom with great attendance. The support, from our members and vendors, is truly what makes this organization so great.



Last March we got together for our board...

Continued on page 3...



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President's Message continued

Continued from page 1...

...meeting. Mark Michalski was appointed on as a director. It was nice to get together as a board, especially with the challenges we had. In May we had our first spring event and thanks to Mark we got to go to TPC. The vendors who sponsored our virtual conference also received a hole sign sponsorship at no charge. It was our way of saying thank you back to the vendors. The event was a success and it was wonderful to get together with the organization. Thank you Mark and everyone at TPC for allowing our organization the opportunity to experience an exciting and, quite possibly, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We held our fall scholarship golf tournament on October 4, 2021 at the Oxbow Country Club. It was a beautiful day. Probably one of the nicest day we've had for an NCTGA Golf Tournament. We had 68 golfers and it was a successful event. Thanks to David Wood and all the staff at Oxbow County Club for hosting us.

Sam Bauer thought he was going to leave us as Executive Director. We opened the position up and started advertising. But we just couldn't let Sam go that easily, after some peer pressure from the board, Sam reconsidered and decided we are just too amazing to leave. Thank you to Sam, for everything he does for the NCTGA! We are all extremely happy he decided to stay.

Recently the board got together on Jan 6 and 7 for a board meeting, mini retreat. Randy Robinson from GCSAA was able to join our meeting. He brought great insight to our organization and we had plenty of questions for him. We got a lot covered over our meeting and it's always good to get the board together. Since we are so far apart, we do a lot of our meetings over zoom. The retreat meetings have been successful and we get

more accomplished when we can meet in person.

Our 2022 conference will be held in person at the Holiday Inn in Fargo ND, February 22-24. I am anticipating a great turn out. We have a great line up of speakers. We have Metal Sponsorship for vendors. They can choose from Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze. If there are any questions with the levels ask Sam or myself. Member registration is 3 days for \$300. We are offering a 1-day registration for \$100. If you ordered clothing on the website, they will be available at the conference for pick up. We also have 3 board positions open at the annual meeting. If anyone is interested in running for the board there will be a form in the newsletter you can summit, or let a board director know. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference. - Cammi



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Join us for the 37th Annual NCTGA Conference and Trade Show from
February 22nd - 24th, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND

Register at: <http://nctga.net/2022-Conference>

Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, February 24th

8:00am - 3:00pm: Vendor booth setup

11:00am - 12:00pm: Registration and Networking

12:00pm - 12:30pm: Opening Remarks
(Cammi Campbell and Sam Bauer)

12:30pm - 1:00pm: State of the Industry
(Steve Randall, GCSAA)

1:00pm - 2:00pm: 7th Inning Stretch Your Budget:
Community Baseball Fields (Cole and August Flick,
Dassel-Cokato Saints)

2:00pm - 3:00pm: University of Minnesota
Turfgrass Research Update (Maggie Reiter, UMN)

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Weather Trends and the Green
Industry (Chauncy Schultz/Tommy Grafenauer,
NOAA)

4:00pm - 8:00pm: Trade Show/Social

Wednesday, February 23rd

7:00am - 7:30am: Registration and Networking

7:30am - 9:00am: Vendor Seminars (Equipment
and Irrigation)

9:00am - 11:30am: Trade Show/Social

11:30am - 12:15pm: NCTGA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 23rd cont'd

12:15pm - 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Irrigation Renovation and
Budgeting in Today's Environment
(Erik Christiansen, EC Design)

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Tree Selection and Maintenance
for North Dakota (Dr John Ball, SDUS) *via Zoom*

3:00pm - 5:00pm: Precision Irrigation and Seasonal
Wetting Agent Use (Ryan Schwab, UMN)

3:00pm - 4:00pm: Triple A: Adapting to New
Facility Standards (Marcus Campbell, St. Paul
Saints)

3:00pm - 5:00pm: Pollinator Preferences for Native
Species and Ornamental Cultivars
(Esther McGinnis, NDSU)

5:00pm - 7:00pm: Social/Silent Auction/Raffle

Thursday, February 24th

7:00am - 7:30am: Registration and Networking

7:30am - 9:00am: How to Troubleshoot Your Tier 4
Engine (Jac Price, Toro)

9:00am - 10:00am: Strengths Finder
(Jodi Bruns, NDSU)

10:00am - 11:30am: Courage and Overcoming
Obstacles in Your Life (Retired Col Terry Branham)

12:00pm - 3:00pm: NCTGA Board Meeting

NCTGA Conference Sponsorship Levels

The NCTGA Board has produced vendor sponsorship levels for 2022. The goal is to simplify sponsorships and allow more opportunities for NCTGA to promote our vendors. Newsletter advertisements will begin with the spring issue of our newsletter, and vendors will have the option to pay in the 2021 or 2022 fiscal year. These sponsorship levels assume that the conference in February will go on as planned and this year we don't see that changing. In the event that the conference goes virtual or is canceled, we will work with NCTGA vendor members on refunds or holdover until the following conference.

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum (\$2,500): includes 4 conference booths, 4 conference attendees and memberships, full page newsletter ad, large logo on website, platinum sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

Gold (\$2,000): includes 3 conference booths, 3 conference attendees and memberships, 1/2 page newsletter ad, medium logo on website, gold sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

Silver (\$1,000): 2 conference booths, 2 conference attendees and memberships, 1/3 page newsletter ad, small logo on website, silver level sponsorship advertised at conference and in all publications

Bronze (\$500): 1 conference booth, 1 conference attendee and membership

If you have questions on structuring of sponsorship levels or other comments related to this, please reach out to Sam Bauer (info.nctga@gmail.com) or a NCTGA Board Member. Items have individual dollar values and we can structure a sponsorship to suit you. To sign up for 2022 sponsorship, follow this link:

<http://nctga.net/2022-Conference>

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Silent Auction Items





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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Tuesday, February 22nd

Steve Randall

Director of Chapter Outreach

Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America

Randall, a native of Wahpeton, ND, received his bachelor's degree in business/communications from St. John's University in Minnesota and a masters degree in mass communications from the University of South Dakota. Randall has worked in golf administration since 1993 when he was asked to coach the South Dakota State University men's and women's golf teams while working in the sports information department. Randall also worked for four years at the Minnesota Golf Association in junior golf, media relations and regional affairs and was the executive director of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association (the regional golf association for New Mexico and West Texas) prior to joining GCSAA.



Cole Flick and August Flick

Dassel-Cokato Saints

Cole Flick is a 27 year veteran physical education teacher and coach for the Dassel-Cokato School District in Cokato, Minnesota, located 50 miles west of Minneapolis. Cole is also the Dassel-Cokato Chargers Head Baseball Coach. In 1996, Cole became a self-taught Head Groundskeeper at Saints Field in Dassel, Minnesota. His other hobbies include maintaining a little league field and a JV baseball field. Cole has also dabbled in Golf Course Superintendent at Cokato Town and Country Course in Cokato, Minnesota. Since 1996, Cole has played an integral role in transforming SaintsField from an average city baseball field, into one of Minnesota's top amateur baseball fields, and doing so with an extremely small operating budget. Saints Field has been highlighted in the book Town Ball Parks of Minnesota, Fox 9 (Minneapolis), Ball Park Tour, and Fox Sports North, Uniquely Minnesota, Town Ball. His passion for baseball fields and unique mowing patterns have been featured in Sports Turf Managers Association magazine as well as having the honor of being selected as a world wide top 6 Allett Creative Lawn Stripes International Competition in 2017, 2018, 2019. Cole also enjoys time volunteering and consulting on baseball fields throughout Minnesota. Cole resides in Dassel, Minnesota with his wife Beth, and their 7 children.



August Flick is a young gun in the Turfgrass industry. A graduate of Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls, SD, where he earned degrees in Horticulture Technology and Sports Turf Management. Gus grew up on a baseball field with his two older brothers and father where he was introduced to and fell in love with field maintenance. In 2019, Gus worked as the 1st Assistant at Cokato Town and County Course in Cokato, Minnesota. In May of 2020 Gus worked alongside Sam Bauer reseeding Jack Hoeven Wee Links golf course in Minot, North Dakota. Gus was then hired to stay on at Jack Hoeven as the Grow-in Superintendent. After a successful season at Jack Hoeven, Gus was hired back in Cokato as Superintendent of CTCC. Gus began a new position as Course Superintendent at Travelers on the Mississippi located in Clearwater, Minnesota in November of this year.



37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Tuesday, February 22nd cont'd



Maggie Reiter

Extension Educator

University of Minnesota Extension

Maggie Reiter is the Extension Educator for Turfgrass with University of Minnesota Extension. Maggie works to implement urban turfgrass management programs that conserve water, nutrients, and energy. She works with turfgrass managers to integrate new technologies and enhance ecosystem services like biodiversity and stormwater retention. Ultimately, this work protects Minnesota's natural resources and builds a climate-ready urban landscape. Maggie has previously led turfgrass programs at the University of California.



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show
Speaker Spotlight: Tuesday, February 22nd cont'd

Chauncy Schultz
Science and Operations Officer
National Weather Service

Chauncy Schultz is the Science and Operations Officer for the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, North Dakota. In this role, he leads the office’s training, research and technology infusion, and operational workflow. Chauncy was previously a Lead Forecaster in Bismarck, and previously worked at the National Weather Service offices in Billings, Montana, North Platte, Nebraska, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. He grew up in North Dakota and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2009.



Tommy Grafenauer
Science and Operations Officer
National Weather Service

Tommy Grafenauer is the Science and Operations Officer for the National Weather Service office in Grand Forks, North Dakota. In this role, he leads the office’s training, research and technology infusion, and operational workflow. Tommy has worked his entire 19 year professional career at the National Weather Service office in Grand Forks. He started with an entry level position and has been promoted within the same office, which is rare within the National Weather Service. Tommy grew up in southeast Wisconsin. He received his bachelor of science degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse in 1999, and his masters degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2002.



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Wednesday, February 23rd

Erik Christiansen

President

EC Design Group, Ltd.

EC Design Group, Ltd., an irrigation design and water management resource company with over 35 years of turf and irrigation related experience backed by over 500 projects. A broad background of turf and construction management along with a certified irrigation design team, gives EC Design Group the true knowledge backed by experience to handle all levels of irrigation projects. Erik Christiansen is president of EC Design Group, Ltd. For over 35 years Erik has been actively involved in the golf and commercial irrigation industry. He started out in the golf course industry at Willow Creek Golf Club, a 36-hole operation, moving onto irrigation contracting and distribution of golf and commercial irrigation products before finally organizing EC Design Group, Ltd. in 1993.



Dr. John Ball

Professor

South Dakota State University

John Ball is a Professor of Forestry at South Dakota State University where he also serves as the extension forestry specialist and the state's forest health specialist. He previously managed tree care companies in the Midwest and East that contracted with lawn maintenance companies and golf courses for their tree care.



Ryan Schwab

Research Technician

University of Minnesota

Ryan received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Minnesota in Plant Science. His graduate research studies investigated seasonal wetting agent use and management options for fine fescues on golf courses. Ryan's work currently focuses on water conservation in turfgrass systems through the use of precision irrigation.

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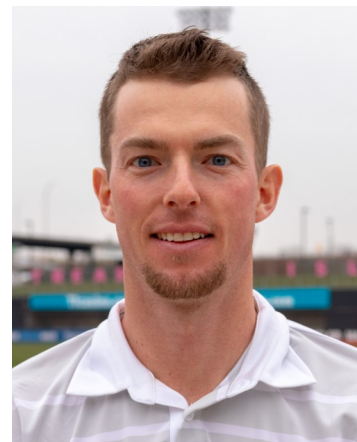
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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Wednesday, February 23rd cont'd

Marcus Campbell **Director of Field Operations** **St. Paul Saints and CHS Field**

An alumnus of the University of Minnesota - Crookston, Marcus is now going into his 7th season with the St. Paul Saints. He not only oversees all on field activity and maintenance, but oversees lots of improvement and maintenance projects throughout the ballpark. Voted one of the best ballparks in Minor League Baseball, CHS Field has won the Sports Turf Managers Association Baseball Field of the Year in 2018 as well as the American Association Field of the Year in 2020.





Dr. Dale

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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Wednesday, February 23rd cont'd



Esther McGinnis
Extension Horticulturalist
NDSU Extension

Esther McGinnis is the NDSU Extension Horticulturalist, Director of the NDSU Extension Master Gardener Program and also an Associate Professor in the Plant Sciences Department. She earned her Master's and Ph.D. in Applied Plant Sciences from the University of Minnesota. Dr. McGinnis joined NDSU in 2013 and has a split Extension and research appointment. Her research includes evaluation of native sedges and ornamental grasses for tough environments. She also researches pollinator attraction for native and ornamental perennial cultivars.



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Thursday, February 24th

Retired Colonel Terry Branham **Colonel and Master Army Aviator** **US Army**

Terry Branham enlisted and served 26 years active duty in the US Army and retired as a Colonel and Master Army Aviator. He served in Vietnam as a Cobra Attack Helicopter Pilot and Platoon Leader, was awarded the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. Twenty years later during the Gulf War he was an Apache Helicopter Squadron Commander and Apache Pilot leading the first Squadron sized Apache attack into Iraq.

Following Desert Storm he was promoted to Colonel and because of his extensive night operations experience, he was asked to lead the Department of State Air Wing for the U.S. Drug War in South America for over 2 ½ years. His unit of 13 Army Officers and 500 contract and host nation people with 60 Helicopters and 12 Thrush Spray Aircraft were operating out of a Florida base and in Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, Belize and Ecuador. They performed night assaults into the jungle to destroy cocaine labs, spray Cocaine and Heroin crops in the mountains and to capture drug cartel aircraft transiting drugs from and thru these countries. Terry managed an annual budget of \$31 million dollars supporting his team that would capture over 1 Billion dollars in drugs each year.

He and his wife Barb reside in Lakeville, MN and serve as a Marriage Mentor couple for Pre-Marriage Couples with Mercy Road Church and they have led an annual Free Christian Military Couples Marriage Retreat at the Miracle Lodge in Stewartville, MN for 9 years every April.

Prior to Covid, they were active as Volunteers at the Armed Forces Service Center at the MSP Airport and average 12-16 hours per month in the military lounge/center serving active military and retirees and their dependents. Terry served as the President of the 26-member Board of Directors for 3 years.

As the Volunteer Coordinator for the Lakeville VFW Post 210 Construction Team, Terry organized a team of retired Veterans and civilians with a heart for the military and they build Disability Ramps for Veterans across the entire Metro Area. They have built over 100 ramps to date in the past 10 years. In addition, the team has done scores of projects for Military and Veteran families while deployed and projects unaffordable to these families such as painting, bathroom remodel for wheel chair access, etc.



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37th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Speaker Spotlight: Thursday, February 24th

Jodi Bruns

Leadership and Civic Engagement Specialist NDSU Extension

Jodi Bruns is a Leadership and Civic Engagement Specialist with NDSU Extension. She develops resources for local Extension agents to utilize when working with communities and organizations. Jodi is a certified mediator, facilitator for numerous processes such as The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Real Colors, etc. She trains organizations in best practices, leads groups in strategic planning steps, and is a passionate cheerleader for rural initiatives. Jodi earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Dakota State University.



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2021 Scholarship Recipients

NDGA Turfgrass Scholarship

Hallie Counts received the \$1,000 NDGA Scholarship. Hallie is a junior majoring in Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management at North Dakota State University. Originally from Dunseith, ND, Hallie currently works at both Osgood Golf Course as a groundskeeper and Horbacher's as a florist.

Legacy Scholarships

In our second year of offering the \$500 Legacy Scholarship, we had four scholarship winners:

Jane Hetletved (daughter of Dustin Hetletved, Valley Golf Association)

Keagan Neppi (daughter of Alexis Peltier, The Tessman Company)

Mikayla Santjer (daughter of Ross Santjer, Moccasin Creek GC)

Parker Wood (son of David Wood, Oxbow CC)

Congratulations to the 2021 scholarship recipients!

**the \$1000 2021 NCTGA Turfgrass Scholarship was not awarded due to lack of qualified applicants and this money helped to fund the additional Legacy Scholarships given out*



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Up-North Winter Outreach 2021-2022

Information, Issues and Solutions

March 15, 2022

Fargo Country Club, Host Joe Rolstad

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email chris@mgcsa.org or register at mgcsa.org



The agenda of the day will be:

8:00 Welcome/MGCSA update and advocacy

8:30 UMN Update: Solutions to challenges that you can use NOW

9:30- 10:45 Frost Inc: Good, Better, Best and WORST spray tech solutions

11:00- 1:00 lunch/open turf forum: Water, wages and what's next?

Adjourn at 1:00

Thank you Education Presenters: UMN Maggie Reiter and Ken Rost



Thank you Lunch Sponsor, Matt Kuha



Thank you Event Supporters:



Board of Directors Positions Available

The NCTGA has three Board of Directors positions available to be voted on at the Annual Conference. These positions offer an opportunity to be involved with a non-profit organization that provides educational scholarships for students, networking and educational events such as the Annual Golf Tournament and Annual Conference and Trade Show. The major responsibilities include:

- Attending quarterly Board of Director Meetings
- Recruiting new members and maintaining relationships with existing members
- Assist with event planning
- Lead an NCTGA committee
- Promote and support the NCTGA as a whole

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2021-2022 Pesticide Training Schedule
Your Core Category will renew with this training**

Training Date	Location	Time	Pre-Reg Deadline
Nov. 18, 2021	ZOOM WEBINAR	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	11/17/21 12 NOON
	On a computer at home or place of employment	8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (MT)	
Jan. 26, 2022 Hosted Training	<u>Bismarck</u> , Burleigh County Extension -4H Bldg	Registration 8:30 a.m.	1/12/2022
	3715 E Bismarck Expressway	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Fargo</u> , NDSU	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	Loftsgard Hall Room 380	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Grand Forks</u> , Grand Forks County Extension	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	151 South 4th St Suite 302	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Minot</u> , North Central Research Extension Center	Registration 8:30 a.m.	
	5400 Hwy 83 S	Training 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
	<u>Manning</u> , Dunn County Extension Center	Registration 7:30 a.m. (MT)	
Feb. 25, 2022 Face-to-Face	<u>Harwood</u> , Harwood Community Center	Registration 8 a.m.	2/23/2022
	210 Freedland Dr.	Training 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
Mar. 17, 2022	ZOOM WEBINAR	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	3/16/22 12 NOON
	On a computer at home or place of employment	8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (MT)	

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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 conference, or mailed to you. For questions, call or email Sam: 612-205-4428, info.nctga@gmail.com



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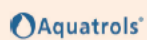
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