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NCTGA
NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

President's Message

By Victor Heitkamp

Greetings NCTGA members,

What an honor to be back for another year serving as president of the NCTGA. Thank you to the Board of Directors for entrusting me to continue leading this organization as we stride toward a bigger and brighter future. I would like to take a moment and thank the two outgoing board members for their time on the board, Gordy Flesberg and David Wood, we are very appreciative of your commitment to the organization and the time you spent serving the members. I would also like to welcome the three members who were voted to a three-year term at our annual meeting in February; Cammi Campbell from the Minot Park District, Matt Schmid from Superior Turf Services, and Tim Fleegel from MTI Distributing. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with you for the next two years.

It has been a couple of months since we wrapped up the 2019 Conference and Trade Show. To all those who were able to join us this year— Thank You! I hope you were able to take something valuable away from the time you spent with us. For those who were not able to attend this year, you missed out on three great days of education, time with vendors on the trade show floor,

and the ever-important networking with your peers.

Whatever the reason, I hope you can join us for the 2020 Conference and Trade Show. Sam and the committee are busy planning for next year. Be watching for more details as we go through the summer.

Speaking of summer, I think it has finally arrived. It has been a wild and crazy end to winter as we transitioned through spring. Mother Nature wasn't ready to let go of her grip on our snowy and cold weather. I know there are many of you who are dealing with flooding issues, and as the waters recede there is a lot of work ahead of you to get your properties back to playing conditions. Having come from a course that was prone to flooding and dealing with many floods in the early stage of my career my thoughts are with you and your crews. Good luck as you continue to push forward.

Mark your calendars for the 2019 NCTGA Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing. We are excited to announce that Tom Johannis and the staff at Bemidji Town and Country Club will play host to our tournament on September 30th, 2019. Sam and the committee are working with Tom to finalize details and

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President's Message

Continued from page 1...

and we hope to have information out soon. Now, I realize that schedules get tight and folks get busy around that time of year because of the loss of staff, but I encourage you to mark this down on your calendar today and plan for this one day. It is an opportunity to take a break from your normal day, spend the day on someone else's property seeing how they do things and the chance to network with some of the smartest people in our industry.

Just a quick update on the BMP's for North Dakota. Garrett Schultz, Committee Chair, has been busy putting together the plan for us to get North Dakota's BMPs completed by February of 2020. Thank you to those who reached out to Garrett and asked to be part of the committee. Joining Garrett in this huge endeavor are David Wood, Oxbow Country Club, Joe Rolstad, Fargo Country Club, Kyle Fick, Bulley Pulpit Golf Course, Lucas Palczewski, Edgewood Golf Course, Sam Bauer, NCTGA, Tyler Foster, The Links of North Dakota and me. Garrett has secured an additional grant from the North Dakota Golf Association in the amount of \$2000 and the

NCTGA Board of Directors has also voted to commit moneys to the project. A huge thank you to both organizations for the support and seeing the value in getting this complete. The committee has also approved to hire Stacey Kingsbury of Kingsbury Consulting to assist in the development of our BMP's. Stacey has helped several states with their BMP's, most recently helping South Dakota Chapter GCSAA finalize and publish their document. We are excited to have Stacey on board.

That covers things on my end. I best be getting back to the grind. I have a few irrigation breaks calling my name. I hope you can find some time in the hustle and bustle of the business of your jobs to enjoy a little bit of the summer.

Take care- Victor



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Mark Your Calendar for the 2019 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing



The 2019 Annual Scholarship and Educational Golf Outing will be held at the beautiful Bemidji Town & Country Club hosted by superintendent Tom Johanns on Monday, September 30th, 2019. In addition to our traditional 2-person scramble, an equipment demonstration will be provided by NCTGA vendor members. Join us for this fun-filled day of education and networking to support turfgrass student scholarships. More details to follow.



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2019 Conference Report

A big **THANK YOU** to all NCTGA members who attended and supported the 2019 Annual Conference and Trade Show from February 26th-28th, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. This year's conference was attended by over 125 NCTGA members, broken down as 62% regular members and 38% vendor members. Thank you for continuing to make our conference a success.

Educational sessions

With over 10 hours of educational content throughout the three days, NCTGA members learned about everything from turfgrass cultural programs to tree care. On Tuesday, Drs. Chase Straw and Jon Trappe from the University of Minnesota provided concurrent sessions on golf turf, sports field management, and general turf care. We also heard from a fellow NCTGA member, Mark Michalski, about golf course renovations at the TPC Twin Cities in preparation for the 3M Open, a new PGA Tour event being hosted in early-July. Thanks to Mark for sharing the story from his team. If you're looking for tournament experience, this one is a fantastic opportunity. If you're interested in volunteering for this year's event, more information can be found at [this link](#).



Mark Michalski, Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities, discussing preparations for the 3M Open

On Wednesday, we were educated on the finer points of turfgrass cultivation and topdressing programs by the fantastic duo of Drs. Nick Christians and Adam Thoms from Iowa State University. During the concurrent afternoon session, Dr. Christians provided a Poa annua control update, and Dr. Thoms discussed decoding athletic field safety. Finally, we were very fortunate to bring back Dr. John Ball from South Dakota State University to discuss the "frenemies"- trees and turf. Dr. Ball's seminar was a slam dunk. Thank you to all presenters for making the 2019 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, \$4,155 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, Helena, MTI Distributing, NB Golf Cars, PBI Gordon, Quali-Pro, Ramy Turf Products, Reinders, Rivard's Turf and Forage, Superior Turf Services, Syngenta Crop Protection, Tessman Companies, Van Diest Supply Company, Versatile Vehicles, Winfield United.



Dr. Nick Christians, professor at Iowa State University, presenting on topdressing/cultivation

Continued on page 6...

2019 Conference Report Continued...

Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the two 2019 scholarship recipients. Matthew Becker from North Dakota State University received the North Dakota Golf Association scholarship. Matthew aspires to be a golf course superintendent. Benjamin Koisti from the University of Minnesota- Crookston received the NCTGA scholarship and is very excited about a career in academia or on the golf course.

NCTGA Scholarship Recipient **Benjamin Koisti**



Golf has always been part of my life. As a child, I was fortunate to live ten minutes from the golf course. This led to many unplanned trips to the course after school, and a routine 8:00 AM tee time with my father and his friends on Saturday mornings. Ten minutes must not have been close enough. My family decided to build a new house on the seventh tee box at Lake Region Golf Club prior to my seventh grade. That summer I applied to work at Lake Region Golf Club and received a position on the grounds crew. I completed tasks that you might expect a seventh grader to do, wash carts, string trim trees, push mow tee boxes, and my favorite, digging irrigation holes when a leak or burst occurred. I continued to work at the golf course throughout middle school, high school, and most of college each year. I am excited for what the future has in store and how I can continue to contribute to the golf and turf community.

NDGA Scholarship Recipient **Matthew Becker**

I enjoy the outdoors and the game of golf, so I found this future career path a good fit. As a baseball player growing up, I was always exposed to certain groundskeeping practices and I have been interested ever since. Taking care of plants and being outdoors has become a passion of mine.

In five years, I would like to be a first assistant at a golf course somewhere in the twin cities metro. With all my experience and relationships that I have made in this region, I should not have a hard time finding work in the cities. I believe all the work I am putting in now will pay off in the short future. My long-term goal will to become a head superintendent one day.



Congratulations to the 2019 Scholarship Recipients!

2019 Conference Report Continued...

Honorary Members

With the new honorary member category approved in the bylaws, three honorary members were nominated by NCTGA members at the annual meeting. Congratulations to Dr. Kristina Walker (UMN-Crookston), Dr. Deying Li (NDSU) and Jack MacKenzie (MGCSA) for being nominated and approved as honorary members of this great association. Kudos for your efforts in advancing the turfgrass science profession and we are very proud to offer you an honorary membership to the NCTGA.

Bylaw Updates

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, NCTGA members voted to approve the updates presented to the association bylaws. Notable changes include a new honorary member category and editing for clarity.

2020 Conference

Save the dates of **February 25-27th, 2020** for the 35th Annual Conference and Trade Show. More details will follow at a later date.



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NCTGA New Member Profile

Brady Scott, Minnewaska Golf Club

Employer

Minnewaska Golf Club (Glenwood, MN)

Job Title

Superintendent

Education

Bachelor of Science Degree in Turfgrass Management from the University of Massachusetts (UMASS)



Years of Service in Your Position

Current Position: a little over 1 year. Previously, I was at Baker National Golf Course in Medina, MN from 2006-2018 (Assistant 2006-2016, Superintendent from January 2017-April 2018). Before that I was a Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, MN from 2001-2006.

Favorite Part of the Turf Industry

The ability to work outside and be active, to compete with Mother Nature on a daily basis, and all the people I am able to meet along the way.

Favorite Tool in the Shop

My favorite tool (shameless self-plug) are the Foley Grinders I purchased personally. They are game-changers for the reel and bedknife sharpening task. If anyone is ever in need of their reels sharpened, let me know, my shop is open. At the course, it has to be the TDR 300 moisture sensor. Gone are the days of wondering if, and how much to water.

Favorite Job to Perform in this position

In my position as Superintendent, I really enjoy putting all the pieces together to form the entire maintenance plan: the budget, agronomy, employees, equipment, event logistics. But, my guilty pleasure are any of the tasks related to the “bunker beauty” process: blowing sand down from edges, flymowing, weed whipping edges, blowing out debris, pulling weeds or grass from inside the bunker, raking. A pristine bunker is a thing of beauty.

Any Projects or Big Events this Year

The primary project this season is upgrading the irrigation satellite boxes and central control from the Toro VT-4 to the new OSMAC and Lynx. We will be reducing from 28 satellite boxes to 11, so we will be trenching wires in order to consolidate. Also, we are looking to build a nursery green and tee/fairway area. The main event we host each year is the Pro Am in mid-July. It has become the largest in the state of Minnesota, including a par-3 Pro Shootout the night before.

Favorite Hobby

I enjoy spending time with my family, which includes my wife Angie and our three kids: Lane and Annie (6 year old twins) and Maren (3). I also like playing or watching just about any sport and exploring new parts of the state and country.

Abandoning Assumptions

By Steve Keating (@LeadToday)

If you're a leader then you undoubtedly know the dangers inherent in assuming. Yet, if you're like too many leaders you assume your assumptions are correct. It's other people's assumptions that you worry about.

We need to look no further than the politics of the day to see how that works out. Assuming your "side" is correct just because it's your "side" is a terrible mistake. No matter how "firm" your assumption may be thinking something doesn't make it so.

Assumptions, especially assuming you are right because you're the leader, makes it hard to adjust to the changing environment around you. That kind of assuming makes it hard for new ideas to see the light of day. That kind of assuming will extinguish even the most creative minds in your organization. That kind of assuming kills innovation.

When a leader hangs onto assumptions, whatever those assumptions are based on, they close off their minds to all kinds of possibilities. Their mantra becomes some version of "we have always done it that way" or "if it ain't broke don't fix it."

Their people "learn" not to question the leader's assumptions. That's when trust in the organization's leadership goes out the door. Morale and productivity go down and turnover goes up.

Leaders must abandon all assumptions, especially their own if they hope to grow their people and their organization.

It's likely if you've been in a leadership position and done reasonably well with it that you're thinking you don't make assumptions. But that in itself is an assumption because your day is likely full of assumptions. You think it's not because if you're like most people you never slow down long enough to realize how much stuff you "know" is actually just an assumption.

You assume your people understand you and that you understand them. You often assume you know what motivates them. You assume they trust you. You may even assume they are actually following you.

Stop assuming and find out.

Find out by asking questions. Find out by investing the time required to truly know and understand your people. Find out by watching and working with them. Get out from behind that fancy desk and interact daily with the people you lead.

Don't assume anything. EVER! Most of all don't assume to know more than you do simply because you hold a spot higher on an organizational chart than somebody else.

Assumptions kill. Don't let them kill you or your success.

(Editors note: the NCTGA would like to thank Steve Keating for allowing us to publish his leadership arti-



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm Minnesota Vikings' Outdoor Practice Facility

Kick off the convention with a visit to the Twin City Orthopedics Performance Center, the Vikings' new cutting edge, natural grass practice facility and learn from field manager Grant Davisson how grass is maintained on this high-traffic playing surface! The grass in this facility is provided by TPI member Graff's Turf Farm, Inc, of Fort Morgan, Colorado.

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research and Outreach Center (TROE)

Enjoy tours of the University's natural grass research plots, challenge your friends to some lawn games, and enjoy some Famous Dave's BBQ. Members of two USDA natural grass research projects will join our group for dinner and networking. Individuals not opting to attend the Twins game will arrive back at the hotel between 8:00 and 8:30 pm.

7:00 Twins vs. Yankees at Target Field (OPTIONAL)

Join your TPI friends during this group outing at Target Stadium to see the Twins vs. Yankees. A bus will leave University of Minnesota at approximately 6:15 pm for baseball and dinner at Target Field concessions. **Separate fee required to attend this activity.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

8:00 am – 9:30 am Breakfast & Learning Session : Communicating the Value of Natural Grass

Come for breakfast and stay to learn about TPI's Public Relations initiative and how we are working to promote natural grass! What is it about grasses that we are all so passionate about? Are we effectively relaying this to our customers, policy-makers, and other audiences? TPI's Executive Director Dr. Casey Reynolds will discuss recent market research on public opinions of natural grass and what TPI is doing to promote the industry. Please join us for breakfast and education ahead of an exciting day of tours!

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Industry Tours

Join your TPI friends and colleagues for a day of learning and networking as we tour industry-related facilities in the Minneapolis area (some destinations have space constraints and final destinations are subject to change based on advance registration numbers. Lunch is included with both tours.)

TOUR #1: **The Toro Company:** Learn about Toro's research priorities, learn about their history, and watch as they demonstrate some of their equipment in their outdoor testing area! (this tour is limited to 100 attendees)

Bailey's Nursery: Visit Bailey's Nursery, a fifth-generation, family-owned company, and learn about their production of shrubs, roses, and perennials, including their Endless Summer, First Editions, and Easy Elegance lines. The visit will also include a trip to their display garden where we will see many of the plants in a garden setting to learn about their habitat and performance.

TOUR #2: **TurfCo:** Learn how family-owned TurfCo, has been making equipment for the lawn care, golf, and sports turf industry for 50 years.

Second destination TBA **Check www.turfgrasssod.org/pages/summer-program & watch your inbox for additional tour information!

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm Exhibit Hall

Support TPI supplier members and learn about their new products and services. Dinner served in the Exhibit Hall.

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

8:30 am – 2:00 pm Field Day @ Wagner Sod

Breakfast and Lunch provided onsite.

2019 North Dakota Golf Association Tournament Schedule



North Dakota Golf Association

Event	Dates	Venue
NDGA Scramble Championship Mid-Am	May 17, 2019	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Scramble Championship Seniors	May 17, 2019	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Scramble Championship	May 18-19, 2019	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Mid-Am 4-Ball Championship	June 1-2, 2019	Rose Creek GC, Fargo
NDGA Senior 4-Ball Championship	June 1-2, 2019	Rose Creek GC, Fargo
NDGA 4-Ball Championship	June 1-2, 2019	Rose Creek GC, Fargo
NDGA Senior Stroke Play State	June 22-23, 2019	Links of North Dakota, Ray
NDGA Mid-Am Stroke Play	June 22-23, 2019	Links of North Dakota, Ray
NDGA Stroke Play Championship	June 22-23, 2019	Links of North Dakota, Ray
USGA Junior Amateur Qualifying	June 24, 2019	Fargo CC, Fargo
NDGA State Junior Championship	July 21-22, 2019	Riverwood GC, Bismarck
USGA U.S. Amateur Qualifying	July 8, 2019	Fargo CC, Fargo
State 13-Under Championship	July 9, 2019	Tom O'Leary GC, Bismarck
NDGA Mid Amateur Match Play Championship	July 12-14, 2019	Vardon Club, Minot
NDGA State Match Play Championship	July 12-14, 2019	Vardon Club, Minot
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Nicklaus Div.	July 11-14, 2019	Vardon Club, Minot
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Palmer Div.	July 11-14, 2019	Vardon Club, Minot
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Hogan Div.	July 11-14, 2019	Vardon Club, Minot
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Open Division	September 14-15, 2019	The CrossRoads, Carrington
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Mid-Am	September 14-15, 2019	The CrossRoads, Carrington
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Senior 55-up	September 14-15, 2019	The CrossRoads, Carrington

2019 Minnesota Golf Association Championship Schedule



Event	Dates	Venue
MGA Women's Spring Scramble	Sat, May 11	Emerald Greens Golf Club
MGA/PGA Cup Matches	Wed, May 29	Minnesota Valley Country Club
MGA Women's Senior Amateur Four-Ball Championship	Mon, Jun 3 - Tue, Jun 4	Burl Oaks Golf Club
MGA Mid-Players' Championship	Mon, Jun 17 - Wed, Jun 19	Crow River Golf Club
MGA Senior Players' Championship	Mon, Jun 17 - Wed, Jun 19	Crow River Golf Club
MGA Players' Championship	Mon, Jun 24 - Wed, Jun 26	Pebble Creek Golf Club
MGA Women's Match Play Championship	Mon, Jun 24 - Wed, Jun 26	Dahlgreen Golf Club
MGA Women's Senior Amateur Match Play Championship	Mon, Jun 24 - Wed, Jun 26	Dahlgreen Golf Club
MGA Mixed Amateur Team Championship	Mon, Jul 1 - Tue, Jul 2	Indian Hills Golf Club
Minnesota State Junior Boys' Championship	Tue, Jul 2 - Wed, Jul 3	Pioneer Creek Golf Course
Minnesota Junior Girls' State Championship	Tue, Jul 9 - Wed, Jul 10	Valleywood Golf Course
MGA Amateur Championship	Mon, Jul 15 - Wed, Jul 17	Somerby Golf Club
MGA Women's Amateur Championship	Tue, Jul 23 - Thu, Jul 25	Town & Country Club
MGA Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship	Wed, Aug 7 - Thu, Aug 8	Elk River Golf Club
MGA Junior Team Championship	Mon, Aug 12 - Tue, Aug 13	Owatonna Country Club
MGA Amateur Four-Ball Championship	Mon, Aug 19 - Wed, Aug 21	Madden's On Gull Lake - The Classic
MGA Women's Senior Amateur Championship	Mon, Aug 19 - Tue, Aug 20	Cannon Golf Club
MGA Net Amateur Championship	Sun, Aug 25 - Mon, Aug 26	Hastings Golf Club
MGA Women's Net Amateur Championship	Sun, Aug 25 - Mon, Aug 26	Hastings Golf Club
MGA Amateur Net Team Championship	Tue, Sep 3 - Wed, Sep 4	The Preserve/The Pines - Grand View
MGA Mid-Amateur Championship	Tue, Sep 10 - Thu, Sep 12	Montgomery National/Bearpath
MGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship	Tue, Sep 10 - Wed, Sep 11	Bearpath Golf & Country Club
MGA Women's Team/Club	Sun, Sep 15	Stonebrooke Golf Club
MGA Senior Amateur Championship	Tue, Sep 17 - Thu, Sep 19	Brackett's Crossing Country Club
MGA Senior Amateur Four-Ball Championship	Mon, Sep 23 - Tue, Sep 24	Windsong Farm

NCTGA Receives a \$2,000 Junior Golf Grant from the North Dakota Golf Association

In April, 2019 the North Dakota Golf Association provided approved a \$2,000 grant proposal to support the state of North Dakota's BMPs. As you know, Garrett Schultz and the BMP committee is working hard to complete our BMP document by 2020 conference. Kudos to Garrett and the BMP committee for leading this charge. NCTGA members serving on the BMP committee include Victor Heitkamp, David Wood, Tyler Foster, Lucas Palczewski, Kyle Fick, and Joe Rolstad. Thank you to the NDGA for supporting this initiative.



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