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NCTGA
NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2018

President's Message

By Victor Heitkamp

Another season has quickly come to an end for many of us this past week. Wow, that's all I can say to describe the weather we have had over the past couple weeks. As I write this many of us in the region are under a winter weather advisory of some sort and it is only mid-October. Mother Nature must have taken some angry pills to be playing such a crude joke after the miserable spring we had. Oh well, what's a person to do? Gives us something to talk about I guess.

On September 10 we held our annual field day and scholarship golf tournament at the beautiful Bully Pulpit Golf Course. If you have not made the journey out to play Bully Pulpit what are you waiting for, it is a must, well worth the trip. There are so many people to thank for making this day possible and we cannot thank you enough. I would like to start with those whose journey started in Fargo on Sunday afternoon as we traveled west in style on the charter bus which was made possible by the generous donations from Chris Hoff of Winfield and Tom Steigauf of Bayer. Kyle Fick and crew, you killed it. The golf course was phenomenal, Great Work! All the folks from the pro shop and restaurant staff, you are a true reflection of what Medora is all about, providing a great experience with

outstanding customer service. The board of directors, golf committee and Sam, our executive director for all the work that went into coordinating the event. The continued support from our many vendors and hole sponsors. Without you we would not be able to do the things we do for our members and the association. And finally, a thank you to everyone who participated in the event. It was a great day to demo some equipment provided by MTI Distributing and C & B Operations and a beautiful day to be on the golf course networking with peers. The board is already planning and working on next year's event. Stay tuned for details to come later...

Mark your calendar, the 2019 conference and trade show will be here before you know it. The dates are February 26-28 and will be at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The conference committee continues to work with Sam on finalizing details. Our goal is to provide you with relevant information and the best educational material which are important to our continuing educational opportunities.

Continued on page 2...

President's Message

Continued from page 1...

The last thing I would like to touch on is North Dakota's BMP (best management practices). I mentioned this in my last message and it is still our goal to have this completed by 2020. Things are going to start slowing down a bit for many of us and it is my hope to have a committee formed by December 1 and we will get the ball rolling.

In closing, the holiday season is right around the corner and on behalf of the NCTGA I would like to wish you all a blessed holiday season and the best of wishes in the upcoming new year!

- Victor



Victor Heitkamp, Matt Schmid, Larry Lennert, Greg Gilbertson at Bully Pulpit on September 10th, 2018.



2018

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34th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Join us for the 34th Annual NCTGA Conference and Trade Show from
February 26th-28th, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND

Register at: nctga.net/conference

Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, February 26th

11:30am - 12:30pm: Registration and Networking

12:30pm: President's Opening Remarks

12:30pm - 1:30pm: Steve Randall, GCSAA

1:30pm - 3:30pm: Dr. Chase Straw, University of Minnesota

1:30pm - 3:30pm: Dr. Jon Trappe, University of Minnesota

3:45pm - 5:00pm: Mark Michalski, TPC Twin Cities

5:00pm: Social

Wednesday, February 27th

6:00am - 1:00pm: Vendor setup

7:00am - 8:00am: Registration and Networking

8:00am - 12:00pm: Dr. Nick Christians/Dr. Adam Thoms, Iowa State

12:00pm - 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Dr. Nick Christians, Iowa State

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Dr. Adam Thoms, Iowa State

2:00pm - 3:00pm: NCTGA Annual Meeting

3:00pm - 8:00pm: Trade Show

6:30pm - 8:00pm: Silent Auction, Raffle, Social

Thursday, February 28th

7:30am - 9:00am: Trade Show

9:00am - 11:30am: Dr. John Ball, South Dakota State

11:30am - 12:00pm: Educational Points Distribution

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

Conference Pricing

(This year conference fees include your
2019 NCTGA Membership Dues)

Individual Registration: \$300.00

Student Registration: \$50.00

Vendor Booth: \$500.00

Additional Booth: \$175.00

Vendor Representative: \$200.00

Manufacturer Representative: \$300.00

Register at: nctga.net/conference

NCTGA Members Help Out

By Jack MacKenzie

Although it seems like yesterday, I haven't been a golf course superintendent for over six years. It truly was a wonderful chapter of my life and I will always treasure the memories of surreal sunrises, springtime snow melt, the thrill of a perfect course just moments before a tournament, a joyous and productive crew, the completion of flower planting and even the comforting knowledge that if my course or I needed a hand, help was just a phone call away.

It was, and likely still is, common to reach out to a neighboring course for an extra fertilizer spreader to "get 'er done" in an expedited fashion, a chainsaw or pump following a storm, a green's aerifier exchange or even available "bodies" if a small project requires extra hands. Both high-end private clubs and low budget nine hole tracks were in my target zone if the need arose. The appreciation of a friend close by was reassuring.

Each of you can understand the uniqueness of our side of the golf industry. Technically your organizations are all competing for the same "golf-dollar", yet in a pinch, any one of you would bend over backwards to help a fellow turf manager in need. This willingness to help transcends city limits, county lines and as I learned recently, even state boundaries and a change in vocation.

My not-so-new lifestyle as MGCSA Executive Director, has afforded me the chance to pursue a hobby of adventure canoeing. Destinations over the past few years have included the Arctic Circle, Quetico Canoe Wilderness, BWCA, the lower Rio Grande and just a couple of months ago, 230 miles of the lightly explored Little Missouri River in North Dakota. At one time I was a paying participant in some of these adventures but now I find myself quite involved as the leader of the expeditions.

The preparation list can be daunting, especially considering the long mileage treks I tend to commit to:

- Equipment procurement; condition review and repair, serviceability, volume, weight, packing, unpacking and repacking
- Food considerations; special diets, dehydrated or fresh, weight, volume, calorie content, shelf life

and flavor.

- Potable water availability; local sources, filtration system, ultra-violet purification, quantity, quality and taste.
- Non-potable water? Gallons to transport per person per day, containers, re-supply, food preparation requirements, canoe size, weight and volume.
- Personal gear; waterproof, bug proof, breathable, comfortable, washable, right-sized and versatile.
- Emergency contingencies; satellite communications, medical gear, extraction insurance, weapons, redundant equipment and repair kits.

However, the greatest challenge of an epic expedition is the planning of logistics, specifically shuttle transport to a river's headwaters or insertion, and extraction at specific place and time at the end of a trip. Some waterways are traveled enough that local entrepreneurs have carved out boutique businesses of driving canoes, gear and adventurers. Other canoeing destinations are so lightly traversed the canoeists have to be very creative and diligent in their pre and post water travel plans. The Little Mizz is one such adventure.

Last November, upon determining the river for a spring 'run-off' trip, as the party leader, I began mapping the course, considering miles and day lengths as well as the many items on the punch list. Because the Little Missouri is silt laden with visibility of about an inch, and home to thousands of bank beavers, they often carry the giardia parasite, our crew would have to haul fresh water (one gallon per person per day) and resupply our water along the route due to the non-potable water in the river. Weight, volume and placement in the canoe were of paramount interest.

It would be an limited challenge trip of modest length to include thirteen days on the river, two parks, the largest grassland preserve in our...

Continued on page 6...



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NCTGA Members Help Out

Continued from page 4...

country, big animals, badlands, sheer rock cliffs, vast prairies, fast water, migratory waterfowl, petrified trees, oil derricks, ranches, sunrises, sunsets, good food and great company, as I would be traveling with a solid individual prepared for the elements.

Gear allocation was easy as between two experienced individuals, we had ample equipment. The logistical challenge began when I researched potential shuttle services. The Little Missouri is a fantastic river to canoe, unfortunately the window of opportunity to paddle the section we chose is only about three weeks long due to the rapid loss of spring melt runoff. With such a short exploration interval, and thus very limited opportunities, there are literally no services available to insert or extract adventurers on the long distance route.

In vain I reached out to city administrators and chambers of commerce in the very few towns found in western North Dakota, as well as the county sheriff departments, the National Forest Service and the rangers in the Theodore Roosevelt Parks. Nobody, and I mean nobody, shared real interest in the trip, other than surprise, nor had any clues as to who could help in our shuttle opportunity.

Then it occurred to me that I had a very special resource at my fingertips, the golf industry. Upon the revelation I reached out to the closest courses on the route and received almost instantaneous and similar replies, "Pretty crazy idea. And, absolutely I want to be a part of your adventure. What can I do to help out?"

Terry Simon, Superintendent at Medicine Hole Golf Course in Killdeer North Dakota and his assistant Brian Klatt, were very accommodating shuttling our vehicle, gear, one little dog, potable water and two canoeists to the insertion point in Marmarth, just north of the South Dakota border and seven miles east of the Montana state line. Terry and Brian were most accommodating and wore the proper rubber footgear and parkas for delivery to the rapidly flowing river's edge. Without prompting they pitched in and helped 'sherpa' our gear to the river bank and waved with promises of a pick up almost two weeks away just north of the northern Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Their support was criti-

cal in the success of the adventure.

Another key logistical person in the expedition was Kyle Fick, Superintendent at The Bully Pulpit Golf Course, located roughly mid-way along on our trek. Not only did Kyle present us with our mail-ahead dehydrated food, a fresh supply of water, perishables purchased in Dickenson, a ring of frozen spicy Italian venison sausage and a dozen laid-that-day range fed chicken eggs, he also opened the door to his shop showers for a well earned cleanse. Holy cats!!! Camping or GLAMPING? Not only did we paddle away clean, but we actually put on weight during the overnight stay!

What began as a potential expedition "bust" due to the lack of connections, ended up being a simple expansion of industry relationships. Just a pair of phone calls and my paddle partner and I had amazing support to last the whole trip. Terry and Kyle were even in our satellite text messaging cues in case we needed immediate assistance. Ready, willing and more than able to help a friend in the industry.

In your neighborhood is there an opportunity for peer support? Are you able to share equipment, experiences or even a shoulder during times of frustration? Woa, here is an off-the-wall idea, how about a shout of congratulations for a job well done? You might be surprised, then again probably not, at the payback potential there is in our amazing industry of professionals.

Next time, reach out; I know I sure will. Maybe not on an Arctic expedition north of 66.5 degrees, but there is plenty of water to be explored in the lower continental states. I just need to find the ones with golf courses in close proximity.

- Jack

(Editor's note: The NCTGA would like to thank Jack MacKenzie for contributing this article for our newsletter. Kudos to the NCTGA members who were able to help Jack in his adventure)

NCTGA Member Profile

Joe Rolstad, Fargo Country Club



Employer

Fargo Country Club

Job Title

Golf Course Superintendent

Education

North Dakota State University. Bachelor of Science in Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management.

Years of Service in Your Position

This is my first year at Fargo Country Club. Prior to Fargo Country Club, I was an Assistant at TPC Twin Cities from 2016-2018, Winged Foot Golf Club 2013-2016, and Fresh Meadow Country Club 2010-2013.

Years as an NCTGA Member

This is my first year as a NCTGA member. I have been a member of the MGCSA for three years and previously a member of the LIGCSA.

Favorite Part of the Turf Industry

My favorite part of the turf industry is how every day is different. I'm ready to wake up every morning and take on a new challenge. Whether the outcome is positive or not, there is always something new to learn about the course and the people that I work with.

Favorite Tool in the Shop

It's a tough choice, but I'd go with the Bobcat T650. Probably my choice today because it is snowing on October 10th.

Favorite Job to Perform on the Course

It would have to be light topdressing greens biweekly. I try to do it as much as possible. There's something about trying to achieve the perfect light, consistent pattern on every green. I also don't mind getting some "seat time" on any other piece of equipment when time allows.

Any Course Projects or Big Events this Year

The club hosted a USGA Jr. Qualifier and a USGA Amateur Qualifier, as well as the North Dakota Bobcat Open this past year. For the course projects we are close to a new irrigation install and possibly some hole renovations to play 18 holes when the Red River floods.

Favorite Hobby

Hockey, Golf, Grouse Hunting

An Eye on Winter

By Dr. Lindsey Hoffman, Texas A&M

With some parts of the United States already receiving snow this year, it appears as though Mother Nature has another unpredictable winter in store for the 2018-2019 season. The degree and severity of winter injury that may occur will depend on a number of different factors including environmental conditions and overall turfgrass health prior to the onset of winter. Although we cannot control the weather, understanding the factors causing winter injury and how to best manage turfgrass to prevent against damage, can potentially help mitigate the extent and severity of injury come spring.

Winter injury (or winterkill) is a collective term used to refer to turfgrass damage caused by a number of different factors associated with winter conditions. Specifically, winter damage is associated with the death of the crown, which is the survival organ of turfgrass plants. Environmental stresses including crown hydration (absorption of water by the crown followed by freezing), anoxia and gas buildup (suffocation of the crown caused by the formation of an ice layer), desiccation (dehydration of turfgrass crowns due to dry, windy conditions), and extreme and/or prolonged freezing temperatures all have the potential to result in winterkill. In addition, certain low temperature fungi (i.e. gray snow mold) can cause significant damage to turfgrass stands. These stresses may act alone or in concert to cause damage to plants and result in the need for costly reestablishment.

Winter hardiness refers to the tolerance level a specific grass has to winter stresses and varies greatly among turfgrass species and cultivars. For example, creeping bentgrass is the most winter hardy cool-season turfgrass species while perennial ryegrass is the most susceptible to winterkill. Differences in plant winter hardiness are primarily associated with the ability to undergo changes in the fall allowing for winter survival (cold acclimation) and the capacity to maintain cold acclimation during warming periods that may occur throughout winter and early spring months (deacclimation).

Although plant genetics largely determines winter hardiness, maintaining a healthy turfgrass stand through-

out the year will help support crown survival. This includes using a balanced fertility program, mowing with sharp reels at proper mowing heights, and utilizing irrigation practices that promote deep rooting. Thatch management is another important component of plant health and practices such as aerification and verticutting should be implemented to maintain thatch levels. During the fall, however, there are several factors to consider for maximizing cold acclimation and promoting winter hardiness. This includes but is not limited to:

- Moisture management: Hydrated plants/crown are more susceptible to damage associated with ice crystal formation following exposure to temperatures at or below freezing; however, in areas where winter desiccation is a major issue, irrigating during winter months may be necessary.

- Mowing: Higher heights of cut will allow for more leaf surface area and increased levels of photosynthesis during the fall when plants are going through the process of cold acclimation.

- Drainage: Standing water during winter months (especially in areas that experience temperatures at or below freezing) will more than likely result in crown death. Solid tine aerification can be used to improve infiltration in areas that are prone to flooding but the creation of channels for movement of water may be necessary under extreme conditions.

- Fertility: Late season applications should consist of mostly slow-release nitrogen sources to avoid any surge/succulent growth during the cold acclimation process.

All in all, the most important (and discouraging) thing to keep in mind is that weather conditions during fall, winter, and early spring months will influence the extent and severity of winter damage that may occur; however, maintaining a healthy turfgrass stand throughout the year and using practices in the fall that promote cold acclimation may help reduce the incidence of winterkill.

- Lindsey



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2018 Scholarship Golf Tournament Recap

The 2018 NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament and Field Day was a huge success! Over 50 NCTGA members played golf and participated in the events throughout the day at the scenic Bully Pulpit Golf Course in Medora, ND. Golf Course Superintendent Kyle Fick and his staff had the course in superb conditions for the event. A special thanks goes out to Kyle and all of the staff at Bully Pulpit for making our day such and enjoyable experience. Thank you to all the sponsors for this event, including: charter sponsors, lunch and dinner sponsors, hole sponsors, and registration sponsors; without you this event could not happen!

THANK YOU!!!

First Flight Winners: Kevin Boe and Dean Ambuehl, Fargo Park District

Second Flight Winners: David Wood and Jesse Lunde, Oxbow Country Club



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Application Deadline: December 31, 2018



**SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**



The North Dakota Golf Association and The North Central Turf Grass Association are offering scholarships to qualified applicants in golf course/turf management studies. This award will be administered and voted upon by the NCTGA Board of Directors Scholarship committee, and the recipient of this Scholarship will be given his/her award at the NCTGA Annual Conference and Trade Show, February 26th-28th, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Fargo, ND. Hotel accommodations will be provided if necessary. Individual award amounts to be determined by the number of qualified applicants.

**Applications and Reference must be postmarked by:
December 31, 2018**

Please include the following with your application:

- Resume
- Statement of Professional Future Goals
(ex. Where do you see yourself five years from now?)
- One letter of recommendation:
 - Professional
 - Scholastic
 - Or one of your choice

Please complete the following, and return application to:

References may be sent separately

NCTGA - PO Box 10823 - Fargo, ND 58106 - phone 904-271-0250 - email info@nctga.net

Name: _____

Advisor: _____

School Address & Phone: _____

**Year in School: (circle) Soph. Jr. Sr. Grad.
Two Year Program Entering 2nd Year
University:**

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Major: _____

Home Address & Phone: _____

G.P.A.: _____

Parents' or Spouse's name for Press Release: _____

Email: _____

Check Out Larry's Pumpkin!:

Pumpkins for Parkinson's Charity Event

NCTGA member Larry Rivard grew this 370lb pumpkin for the 3rd Annual Pumpkins for Parkinson's Charity Event. That's a big pumpkin! Congratulations Larry.

Details from Larry:

- The pumpkin seed was potted in at a local garden center in late February.
- Because of the late spring we waited until June 12th to transplant the pumpkin plant near our turf plots in north Grand Forks.
- A hail storm on June 30th just about wiped it out.
- We harvested the largest pumpkin on September 27th and it weighed in at 370 lbs.
- We took 3rd place behind the winner which weighed in at 620 lbs. on Oct 2nd.
- The fund raiser as of October 2nd had raised nearly \$8000.00.
- Deadline for getting donations in is December 31st.
- To donate, visit: www.gfymca.org



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2018-2019 Pesticide Training Schedule
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Ornamental & Turf and Greenhouse Categories
****Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/ndsupesticide>****

Training Date	Location	Time	Pre-Reg Deadline
Oct. 29, 2018	Bismarck , Bismarck Career Academy/Bis Pub Sch 1221 College Dr./BSC Campus	Registration 8:00 am Training 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	10/22/2018
	Devils Lake , Ramsey County Extension 524 4th Ave NE #5	Registration 8:00 am Training 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	
	Grand Forks , Grand Forks County Extension 151 S 4th St. Suite 302	Registration 8:00 am Training 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	
Jan. 30, 2019	Horace , Horace Community Center 214 Thue Court	Registration 8:00 am Training 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	1/28/2019
Mar. 1, 2019	Moorhead, MN , Concordia, Jones Conf. Ctr. 901 8th St S	Registration 8:00 am Training 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	2/25/2019
Mar. 14, 2019	Bismarck , Burleigh County Extension 3715 E Bismarck Expressway	Registration 8:30 am Training 9:00 am - 4:30 pm	3/7/2019
	Devils Lake , Ramsey County Extension 524 4th Ave NE #5	Registration 8:30 am Training 9:00 am - 4:30 pm	
	Dickinson , Dickinson State University Klinefelter Hall, Room 220	Registration 7:30 am Training 8:00 am - 3:30 pm	
	Minot , North Central Research Extension Center 5400 Highway 83 S	Registration 8:30 am Training 9:00 am - 4:30 pm	

Pre-Registration is Required for All Trainings.

****Telephone registrations not accepted****

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/ndsupesticide>



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