

## Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Site of the 2018 Scholarship Golf Tournament



# Talking Turf

Summer 2018

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BY THE NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Message

By Victor Heitkamp

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you all well and you have been able to enjoy a little bit of this great summer! It's hard to believe that school will soon be back in session, which means that many of us will start losing a majority of our help. I am already scrambling to find help to finish the season. The one positive I take away from this time of year is that it gives me a chance to strap the laces a little tighter and spend extra time doing the things that hooked me into this industry years ago. Who doesn't look forward to the nice fall days jumping from mower to mower in an effort to keep the course in pristine condition?

The board of directors have been busy this summer. We have all had to step up and put in a little extra time with the absence of an executive director. The biggest task the board had been working on was the search for a new director. I would like to thank Garrett Schultz, Cammi Campbell, David Wood and Alex Orr for all the work they did while

serving on the search committee. I am excited to announce on behalf of the committee and the rest of the board that we have hired Sam Bauer. Sam has been in the turf industry for more than 20 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and many great opportunities to our association. Please join me in welcoming Sam.

The board has also been busy preparing for the upcoming scholarship and educational golf outing at Bully Pulpit, September 10. Thank you to the golf committee for the extra work you have been doing behind the scenes. Alex Orr, Melissa Grafenauer and Kyle Fick have been working hard to make this event one you will not forget. You can find all the information on the website (NCTGA.net). Check it out today and be sure to register for this memorable event.

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### Executive Director Update

Sam Bauer introduced as NCTGA's new Executive Director. Learn a little more about Sam from his introduction.

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### 2018 Golf Tournament and Field Day

Join the membership on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the annual scholarship golf tournament and field day. This year our stop is the magnificent Bully Pulpit Golf Course in Medora, ND.

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### 2019 Conference and Trade Show

Preparations for the 2019 NCTGA Conference and Trade Show are ramping up. Be sure to join us for three great days of education and networking.

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### Member Profile: Kyle Fick

Golf Course Superintendent Kyle Fick is featured here. Kyle manages Bully Pulpit Golf Course, site of the 2018 NCTGA Golf Tournament and Field Day.

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# Executive Director Update

by Sam Bauer

Greetings NCTGA members,

It is with great pride and appreciation that I write to you today as the new Executive Director of the North Central Turf grass Association. I have been relatively involved with the NCGTA for the past several years, speaking at the winter conference and developing relationships with your members. I have truly valued working with many of you over these years and am eager to take on a larger role in your outstanding association.

A little about my background....I'm originally from a small town outside of Eau Claire, WI and started working on a golf course in high school. My love for working outdoors with turf brought me to the University of Minnesota for degree in horticulture. After several golf course management positions in Wisconsin and Minnesota, in 2007 I moved to Hong Kong and worked at two golf courses there. In 2010, I moved back to finish my M.S. degree at the U of M. I then worked in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL for a couple of years prior to taking my most recent position as an educator with the U of M Extension. I recently stepped away from my position at the U of M and started my own business of consulting, educating, and conducting turf research; managing this association will be a large part of what I do.

I'm very passionate about the turfgrass industry and the environmental benefits of properly managed turf. In my six years as an educator I focused on teaching the average homeowner basic lawn care skills and troubleshooting problems of the professionals. I found that by surrounding myself with a network of people more knowledgeable than me, I could find most answers with a simple phone call.



Minnesota is home to me, but I look forward to spending more time in North Dakota. I'm game for just about anything outdoors, especially fishing, hunting, and golf. In my spare time I captain (along with several other adults) the Wayzata High School fishing team, fishing bass tournaments across the state. If you want to hear a fishing story you don't even need to ask just come near me (haha). I'm also a member of the Minnetonka Sportsman's Club.

Going forward my hope is that this newsletter will continue to grow with a breadth of inspiring content and updates from NCTGA members and NCTGA sanctioned events. Our first choice for inspiration is a short article written by Steve Keating titled "If it Ain't Broke, Break it?" Hopefully this article will encourage you to embrace change in some facet of your daily life. We've also packed this newsletter with a great member profile of Kyle Fick, and information regarding the NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament and 2019 Winter Conference and Trade Show.

I'm excited to take on the role of Executive Director of this great association and I look forward to getting to know you all much better. I hope to see many of you at Bully Pulpit on September 10<sup>th</sup> for the annual golf tournament and at the winter conference. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at: [info@nctga.net](mailto:info@nctga.net) or 904-271-0250.

Sam

## Continued from page 1 (President's Message):

The conference committee continues to work on finalizing details for the 2019 conference and trade show to be held February 26-28. David Wood, Gordy Flesberg and Kevin Gruber have tackled this task early and just have a few details to wrap up. As soon as everything has been finalized we will post the information on the website. Stay tuned...

The last thing I want to touch on is a meeting David Wood and I had with Steve Randall, Director-Chapter Outreach from the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America). The GCSAA started an initiative a couple years ago to get all 50 states to complete and have a BMP (Best Management Practices) in place by 2020. Steve has talked about BMP at our conference in the past and our meeting on August 2 was a meeting to brainstorm ideas on how to best accomplish this by 2020. We also came up with a list of people to serve on a committee to help put the document together. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available, but it is our hope to have a committee selected and to start working on North Dakota's BMP by December 1.

Best wishes to you all as you go through the fall, and I hope to see you in September at Bully Pulpit.

Victor

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## Equipment Demonstration

Event participants will have the opportunity to test and evaluate equipment from several manufacturers and distributors from 8:30am to 11:00am (Mountain time).

## REGISTRATION

[www.nctga.net](http://www.nctga.net)

Online registration can be found on the NCTGA website. You will find options for registering yourself and multiple people, hole sponsorship opportunities, and paying for the charter bus.

[Badlands Motel](#)

Single and multiple person accommodations can be reserved at the Badlands Motel in Medora, ND.

Use NCTGA reservation # **6688**

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*Scenic Bully Pulpit Golf Course is a spectacular site for the 2018 NCTGA Golf Tournament and Field Day*

## 2018 Golf Tournament and Field Day

### Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Bully Pulpit!

The 2018 NCTGA Scholarship Golf Tournament and Field Day will be held on **Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** at scenic Bully Pulpit Golf Course in Medora, North Dakota.

In addition to the annual scholarship fundraiser golf tournament, this year's event will feature a Field Day where you will opportunity to test equipment from leading manufacturers in the industry.

A charter bus, leaving from Fargo at noon on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> is available and can be registered for online. The bus will make several stops along highway 94 during the four and a half hour drive. The bus will return to Fargo on Monday afternoon following the golf tournament. The fee for riding the bus will be \$50.00 and we would like to thank Winfield and Bayer for sponsoring the bus to keep this cost low.

Hotel rooms are available for \$89.00 per night at the [Badlands Motel](#) in Medora for Sunday (9<sup>th</sup>) or Monday (10<sup>th</sup>) night.

## Golf Tournament

The format will be a 2-person scramble with two flights. Prizes will be given out for First Place in each of the flights, and for longest drive, longest putt, and closest to the hole. The scramble will begin at **12:00pm noon** (Mountain time). Lunch will be provided, along with snacks following the golf. A special thank you to MTI Distributing and C&B Operations for sponsorship of the food.

## Equipment Demonstration

Come early to get a first-hand look and test of some of the newest equipment available for the turf grass industry. The equipment demonstration and networking session will begin at the Bully Pulpit Pro Shop Facility at **8:30am** and will run until 11:00am. Address: 3731 Bible Camp Rd, Medora, ND 58645

# Bully Pulpit™

## GOLF COURSE



## Course Profile: Bully Pulpit



Golf Course Superintendent: Kyle Fick  
 Architect: Dr. Michael Hurdzan  
 Greens variety: 'Seaside II' creeping bentgrass  
 Fairways, tees, rough: 60:40, fine fescue:Kentucky blue  
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2018

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# 2019 NCTGA Conference and Trade Show

Preparations are ramping up for the 2019 NCTGA Conference and Trade Show to be hosted at the Holiday Inn in Fargo from February 26th-28th, 2019. Be sure to join us for this annual education and networking event! Full registration details will be made available on the NCTGA website ([nctga.net](http://nctga.net)).

## Schedule of events:

### Tuesday, February 26th

Afternoon- educational seminars

### Wednesday, February 27th

All day- educational seminars

### Thursday, February 28th

Morning- educational seminar, annual membership meeting, tradeshow



## Speakers:

**Dr. Nick Christians**, Iowa State University

**Dr. Adam Thoms**, Iowa State University

**Dr. John Ball**, South Dakota State University

**Steve Randall**, GCSAA

**Sam Bauer**, NCTGA

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## NCTGA Member Profile: Kyle Fick

**Employer:** Bully Pulpit Golf Course/Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

**Job Title:** Golf Course Superintendent

**Education:** University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, B.S. Environmental Horticulture

**Years of service in your position:** 12+ years

**Years as an NCTGA member:** 5 years

**Favorite part of the turf industry:** The challenge each day brings coupled with the necessity to be creative in times of need. This job forces me to adjust on the fly and adapt to so many scenarios. Growing a healthy golf course is the objective, but the forces of nature and the combination of the golfer's expectation and abuse make it fun. I consider myself a non-people orientated person, but it's the employees that really do make for the fun part of the day.

**Favorite tool in the shop:** Wow, tough question. I don't know if it's my favorite, but I can't survive without my central controlled irrigation system. It is the single most important piece of technology for me outside of the pump stations themselves.

**Favorite job to perform on the course:** Anything involved with construction or renovation

**Any on course projects or big events for the year:** I was going to re-build two greens this fall, but due to labor shortages and some budgetary constraints, that won't happen. As with most off-seasons, we'll be focusing on drainage installation and traffic orientated projects going forward this fall.

**Favorite hobby:** I like to get out and dabble with my small cow herd. I find after a long day at the golf course, dealing with the critters is a great way to unwind with something cold in my hand!



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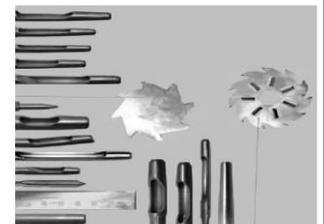
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# If it Ain't Broke, Break it?

By Steve Keating (@LeadToday)

*(Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission from the blog of Steve Keating. NCTGA would like to thank Steve for his contribution to our members. To view Steve's great content, visit: [stevekeating.me](http://stevekeating.me))*

You know, try as I might I'm just not a big fan of change. Unless of course I'm driving the change. But I'm also fully aware that perhaps the most dangerous words in business are, "because we've always done it that way."

So the first part of this post is written for me and those of you who share similar sentiments about change. We need to get the heck over it and realize that the pace of change is only going to continue to accelerate. We can either get on board that bus or that bus is going to run us over.

Imagine the world if everyone lived with that "we've always done it that way" philosophy. No cars, no airplanes, no TV, no internet, and oh my gosh, no cell phones. (I guess no phones for that matter)

Obviously we only need to think for a few seconds to realize that change can be very good. The challenge for many people is stopping to think for those few seconds. The reality is that almost everything we use in our daily lives will one day be replaced by something even better.

If you can't embrace change you can't grow and if you can't grow you can't get better. The first thing you may want to consider changing is your instinct to resist change. Replace it with an open mind and at least a "we'll see" attitude, you never know, you may just be pleasantly surprised.

Now for the second part of this post. It is written for those of you just itching to change stuff because you can. You should take a quick lesson from Winston Churchill who said, "there is nothing wrong with change, if it's in the right direction."

Change for the sake of change is seldom good change. Before you change what's worked for a long time you may want to consider exactly why it's worked for a long time. While I'd agree, there very possibly is a better way, make certain you're not also discarding the part of a process that works and replacing it with an untested process that may not.

"We've always done it that way" is a proven method of failure. "Let's blow up what works and start over" often is as well.

Moving forward with little or no knowledge of your starting point is a quick path to nowhere. Go ahead and change, just be certain that your "better" direction indeed has a solid, realistic chance to be better.



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