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NCTGA
NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

TALKING TURF

NORTH CENTRAL TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018

2018 Conference Report

David Wood, Oxbow Country Club

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2018 NCTGA Conference and Tradeshow. All of our speakers had great presentations, the vendors showed new products to help us out at work, plus reconnecting with colleagues is always time well spent.

Planning has already started for the 2019 conference. Next year's show will be hosted at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, February 26-28.

To accommodate our visitors from out of town, we are going to start our Tuesday seminar at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday will be a full day of seminars, annual membership meeting and tradeshow. We will close the conference on Thursday at noon after several morning educational classes.

Our goal is to offer educational content to both the sports turf and golf attendees. Tentatively we have confirmation from Dr. John Ball, professor of Forestry at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

Dr. Nick Christians and Dr. Adam Thoms, professors of turfgrass management at Iowa State University, Department of Horticulture in Ames, IA.

They will be here speaking on topdressing and cultivation techniques. This seminar was presented at both the GIS and STMA conferences.

Sam Bauer, assistant executive professor at the University of Minnesota will update us on the research that they are working on.

We are finalizing a few more additional speakers and are excited to offer some of the best educational opportunities in the region.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the board members.



Minot's Historic Corbett Field Gets a Facelift

Shannon Paul, Minot Park District

Corbett Field is owned and operated by the Minot Park District. The ballpark was completed in 1937 and in its 81-year history the field has been graced with big league players such as LeRoy "Satchel" Paige, Hank Aaron, Joe Torre and Roger Maris. November 2017 saw the completion of a new \$1 million renovation from a natural grass playing surface to artificial turf.

Improvements included salvaging some of the existing turf to be used in other areas of the Minot Park District. The grass in the new Okapi Exhibit at the Roosevelt Park Zoo literally came out of left field. A complete drainage system was installed that is designed to handle 9 inches of rainfall an hour. Brand new AstroTurf® was used for the entire playing surface with agrilime covering the warning track.

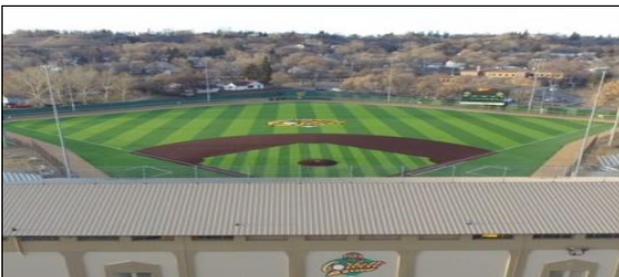
Both an infield and outfield striping pattern were used to give the field a more natural look as it imitates the mowing pattern you will see with live turf. The project was finished right as winter hit and the field was not played on until April of this year. As soon as the weather cooperated it was off to the races with back to back baseball games. Corbett Field will see close to 150 games played in 2018 with numerous practices thrown in. The advanced drainage system and

durable surface will allow teams to play and practice without having the inconvenience of postponing games due to difficult weather conditions, which is a major plus for seasons that typically start in March.

The new surface still needs routine grooming and cleaning but requires much less maintenance than the previous natural grass. Corbett Field is home to multiple teams - two Legion baseball squads, two local high school teams and Minot State University. It will also become the home for the Souris Valley Sabre Dogs of the collegiate wood bat Expedition League.

For more than three decades we have had the same ground keeper at Corbett Field. Mike Littler started with the Minot Park District in the 1980's and will be here to usher in a new era for baseball to be played on artificial turf.

Throughout the years, Corbett Field has been a beautiful, timeless ballpark and will continue to provide lasting memories for years to come.



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President's Message

Victor Heitkamp, Fargo Park District

Spring Greetings! I hope this message finds you all well and you have been able to make the quick leap from winter to spring. For many of us it definitely was the winter that didn't want to end, leaving me to wonder if we would ever get to open our facilities. Like the saying goes, if you don't like the weather in the upper Midwest (Minnesota/North Dakota) give it a day, it'll change! Man has it changed. I find myself scrambling to stay caught up and ahead of the game. If you find yourself in the same predicament my thoughts are with you, the struggles are real!

Our 2018 conference and trade show was held this past February/March at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. We had another great lineup of speakers and we hope you took away some valuable information that will help you in your jobs. We also hope you were able to spend a little time on the tradeshow floor visiting with our vendors. We continue to receive great support from them and on behalf of the board of directors I would like to say thank you!

Thank you all for making the NCTGA so great! We continue to work hard and bring you the best educational opportunities relevant to the industry. I feel our conference and trade show continue to be an important part of our success and growth. It is a tool we can use to connect with our peers while learning what's what in the world of turf. I encourage you to please contact a board member if you have any thoughts, concerns or ideas that might make what we are doing better.

For those who may not know, the board of directors and Rene Smith chose to part ways in March. On behalf of the board I would like to thank Rene for all she has done for the

association, and we wish her nothing but the best! We are currently seeking someone to fill the role of Executive Director and I have put together a search committee to find the right person to fit the role. We have been visiting with potential candidates, but have not hired anyone yet. In the meantime I want to reassure you that the board has been working extremely hard to make sure the needs of the association are being taken care of and you are all in good hands.

Mark Your Calendar

We are excited to announce that the 2018 Education and Scholarship Tournament will be held on September 10, at Bully Pulpit in Medora, ND. Kyle Fick, golf course superintendent, will host. We have timed this year's event with the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) annual conference in Dickinson, September 11-13. We are still working out the details, but we are working to make this a truly memorable event. We hope you will take the time and invest in this great opportunity.



In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve another term on this board. It is my honor and privilege to serve with these great people, and I am grateful to serve as president of the association again this year. It is very exciting to see the direction this board wants to go and to be a part of it is incredible. Have a Great Summer everyone! Don't forget to take a little time for you and enjoy the many great things this summer has to offer you!

NCTGA Member Profile

Aaron Motl, Grand Forks Park District

Name: Aaron Motl

Employer: Grand Forks Park District

Job Title: Superintendent

Education: University of Minnesota, Crookston. Bachelor of Science in Golf and Turf Management. Bachelor of Science in Horticulture.

Years of service in your position: I've been at Lincoln Golf Course since May 2006. I was the Assistant Superintendent until 2016, then I was promoted to Superintendent in 2017.

Years as an NCTGA Member: I've been a member of the NCTGA since 2006. I was on the BOD for 9 years with 3 of those years as President.

Favorite part of the turf industry? My favorite part of the turf industry is trying to maximize the potential out of not only the turf grass, but also the staff and myself to create the best product possible to create a fun, enjoyable, and most importantly a sustainable golf course.

Favorite Tool in the Shop? Chainsaw. As much as I dislike damage to trees from storms, there is something about a little chainsaw time that I really enjoy.

Favorite Job to perform on the course? It's a toss up between walk mowing greens (which we do on our youth greens) and the sidewinder. I like the workout of walk mowing greens, but I like the stripping patterns that I can do with the rotary sidewinder.

Any on course projects or big events for the year?

We are putting in a couple of flower beds, cleaning up after over 100 trees were removed this winter by the forestry crew, planting more trees, and we're putting in another gravel cart part, this path will be on hole #5.

Favorite Hobby: Ice fishing.





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Annual Fall Golf Scramble

Kyle Fick, Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Hello everyone, and welcome to spring! It has been a long and arduous muddy mess, and like most of you, our golfing season has just gotten underway as you are reading this.

We are busy playing catch up to get into the full swing of things, but I wouldn't have it any other way. First and foremost, I want to thank the NCTGA for selecting Bully Pulpit Golf Course for this year's Annual Scholarship Golf Outing, which will be held on Monday, September 10.

We are honored that we are able to host you turf managers and vendors that are our peers in the NCTGA. If you haven't been out to the far western edge of North Dakota, I encourage you to do so. We at the NCTGA are hoping to add a few non-golf related hours that are set aside the morning of the 10th for our vendors to showcase some demo equipment, and allow our membership to kick the tires and try out something that they may be looking at for their property.

As usual, the format will be a two man scramble that will tee off at high noon (MST) and will take you on a tour of the Little Missouri River, Davis Creek and the scenic Badlands of Western ND.

Course Overview:

Bully Pulpit is a nationally acclaimed 18 hole, par 72 daily fee golf course designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan. We are located on the I-94 corridor in the Scenic Badlands of North Dakota along the Little Missouri River, just 3 miles south of historic Medora. The golf course measures 7,166 yards from the championship tees, but has 4 other sets to choose from. Greens are grassed with Seaside II creeping bentgrass, and the tees, fairways, and roughs are mixture of Kentucky Blues and Fine Fescues.

As a note, our event is the day before the start of the ND Parks and Rec Conference in Dickinson, which will be held September 11 - 12. So, take an extra day to do a little networking with your peers and supporting your vendors. Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces to help welcome in the fall golf season come September!

From butte-top tee boxes to a green among a sea of Badlands, this is one golfing adventure you're not soon to forget.



2018 NCTGA & NDGA Scholarship Recipients

The North Central Turf Grass Association and the North Dakota Golf Association are proud to present scholarships to the following students at the 2018 NCTGA Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Your participation in the annual Education and Scholarship Tournament fundraiser is vital in providing scholarships to students in local turf programs, which strengthens our organization and the industry as a whole.

Leah Withrow attends North Dakota State University and has been awarded the 2018 North Central Turfgrass Association Scholarship. Leah is a Senior at NDSU majoring in Sports & Urban Turfgrass Management with an emphasis on athletic field management. In addition to that, she is pursuing minors in Horticulture, Crop & Weed Science, and Business Administration.



Leah has completed internships with both Triple A and Major League Baseball teams, including the Milwaukee Brewers. During her time at NDSU, Leah has served as the Turf Club President, along with membership in other organizations. With her strong work ethic and impressive resume, Leah is a repeat recipient of the NCTGA Scholarship from both 2016 and 2017.

Chad Blank attends North Dakota State University. He has been awarded the 2018 North Dakota Golf Association Scholarship. Growing up on Alexandria's Lake Miltona Golf Club, a course his family owns and operates. Chad learned to love the golf industry at an incredibly young age.



After developing an interest for turfgrass throughout his childhood, his passion eventually led him to pursue a degree in Horticulture & Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management from North Dakota State University.

Now in his second year of studies, he will be interning on Long Island this upcoming summer at the Maidstone Club. In his spare time, Chad enjoys spending time with family, reading, traveling and being outdoors.



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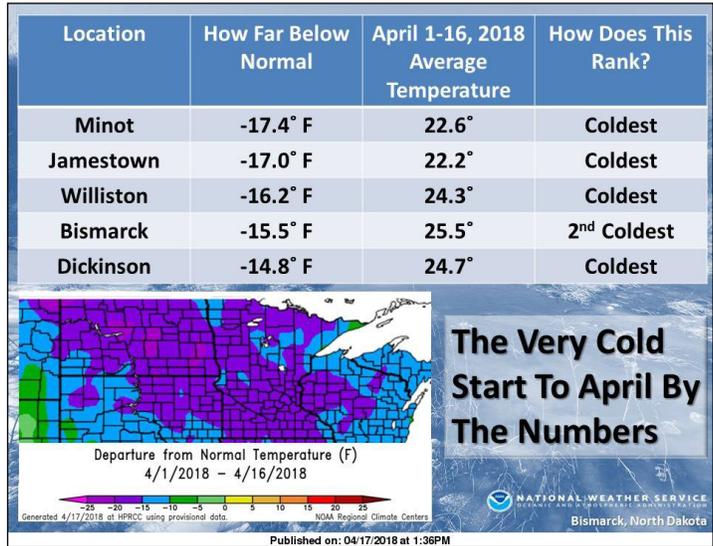
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Spring Weather Update

The winter weather and temperatures in the upper Midwest seemed to drag on longer than normal this year. The cold temperatures delayed turf managers throughout the area, and the phrase “I don’t remember a spring ever being this cold!” could be heard in maintenance shops all around the Dakotas and Minnesota. How cold was it actually? The graphic, supplied by the National Weather Service in Bismarck, North Dakota, gives us a snapshot of the historically low temperatures.



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2018 MINNESOTA GOLF CALENDAR

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Championships?

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MAY	Tue	May 8	U.S. Open Local Qualifying 1	Troy Burne GC
	TUE	MAY 8	MGA MEMBER DAY	RUSH CREEK CC
	Mon	May 14	U.S. Women's Open Sectional Qualifying	Stillwater CC
	Mon	May 14	MGA Players' Qualifying	Austin GC & Meadowbrook GC
	Tue	May 15	MGA Players' Qualifying	Southern Hills GC
	Tue-Thu	May 15-17	Minnesota PGA Match Play Championship	Windsong Farm
	Wed	May 16	U.S. Open Local Qualifying 2	The Wilds GC
	Wed	May 16	MGA Players' Qualifying	Geneva GC & Mankato CC
	Fri	May 18	MGA Players' Qualifying	Mesaba CC
	SAT	MAY 19	MGA WOMEN'S SPRING SCRAMBLE	DAKOTA PINES CC
	Sat-Sun	May 19-20	MPGA Four-Ball Championship	New Richmond GC
	Mon	May 21	MGA Players' Qualifying	Baker National GC, Heritage Links GC & Red Wing GC
	Wed	May 23	MGA Players' Qualifying	Elk River GC & Wildflower at Fair Hills
	Tue	May 29	U.S. Senior Open Sectional Qualifying	Minneapolis GC
WED	MAY 30	MGA/PGA CUP MATCHES	WHITE BEAR YC	

JUNE	TUE-WED	JUN 5-6	MGA WOMEN'S SENIOR AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP	MAJESTIC OAKS GC
	Tue-Wed	Jun 5-6	Minnesota Senior Open	Dakota Pines GC
	Fri-Sun	Jun 8-10	Tapemark Charity Pro-Am (Women's Pro-Am, Jun 10)	Southview CC
	Tue	Jun 12	U.S. Senior Women's Open Sectional Qualifying	Bent Creek GC
	Tue-Wed	Jun 12-13	MSHSL State Tournaments	A: Pebble Creek GC, AA: Ridges at Sand Creek AAA: Bunker Hills GC
	TUE-THU	JUN 12-14	MGA MID-PLAYERS' & SENIOR PLAYERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS	BRACKETT'S CROSSING CC
	Sat-Sun	Jun 16-17	MPGA Mid & Net Public Links Championship	Goodrich GC
	MON	JUN 18	MGA MEMBER DAY	BURL OAKS GC
	Mon	Jun 18	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Dahlgreen GC & Pebble Creek GC
	Tue	Jun 19	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Marshall GC
	Tue-Wed	Jun 19-20	Minnesota Girls' Junior PGA Championship	Minnewaska GC
	Wed	Jun 20	U.S. Junior Amateur Sectional Qualifier	Pioneer Creek GC
	Wed	Jun 20	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Eastwood GC & Inver Wood GC
	Thu	Jun 21	U.S. Girls' Junior Sectional Qualifier	Pioneer Creek GC
	Fri	Jun 22	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Green Haven GC
	Sat-Sun	Jun 23-24	Twin Cities Men's Championship	Baker National GC/Majestic Oaks GC
	Sun	Jun 24	Twin Cities Net Four-Ball Championship	Hiawatha GC
	Mon	Jun 25	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Cannon GC
	MON-WED	JUN 25-27	MGA PLAYERS' CHAMPIONSHIP	THE JEWEL CC
MON-WED	JUN 25-27	MGA WMN'S AMATEUR & WMN'S SR AMATEUR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS	FARIBALT CC	
Tue	Jun 26	Twin Cities Junior Championship	Victory Links GC	
Tue	Jun 26	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Detroit CC - Pine to Palm	
Wed	Jun 27	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Giants Ridge - The Legend & Valleywood GC	
Fri	Jun 29	MGA Amateur Qualifying	Kimball GC & Tanners Brook GC	

JULY	MON-TUE	JUL 2-3	MGA MIXED AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	FOREST HILLS GC
	Thu	Jul 5	U.S. Women's Amateur Sectional Qualifying	Edina CC
	SUN-MON	JUL 8-9	MGA MEMBER DAY	GIANTS RIDGE - THE LEGEND/THE QUARRY
	Mon	Jul 9	U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifying 1	Dacotah Ridge GC
	MON	JUL 9	CHICK EVANS 7-CLUB FUNDRAISER	OAK RIDGE CC
	MON-TUE	JUL 9-10	MINNESOTA STATE JUNIOR BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP	THE BRIDGES
	MON-TUE	JUL 9-10	MINNESOTA STATE JUNIOR GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP	MONTICELLO CC
	THU	JUL 12	MGA FAMILY DAY	CHASKA PAR 30
	Thu-Fri	Jul 12-13	Minnesota Boys' Junior PGA Championship	Breezy Point (White Birch)/Deacon's Lodge
	MON-WED	JUL 16-18	MGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	HAZELTINE NATIONAL CC
	Tue	Jul 17	MPGA Junior Public Links Championship	Heritage Links GC
	Fri-Sun	Jul 20-22	Minnesota State Open	Bunker Hills GC
	Sat-Sun	Jul 21-22	MPGA Senior Public Links Championship	Southern Hills GC
	Mon	Jul 23	U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifying 2	Olympic Hills GC
	MON-WED	JUL 23-25	MGA WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	WHITE BEAR YC
	Wed	Jul 25	U.S. Senior Amateur Sectional Qualifying	Mendakota CC
	Tue-Thu	Jul 31-Aug 2	Minnesota PGA Junior Players' Tour Match Play Championship	Cragun's Legacy - The Dutch

SEPT	TUE-WED	SEP 4-5	MGA AMATEUR NET TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	THE PRESERVE/THE PINES AT GVL
	SUN	SEP 9	MGA WOMEN'S TEAM/CLUB	RIVERWOOD NATIONAL CC
	Sun-Mon	Sep 9-10	Gopher Invitational & Gopher Individual	Windsong Farm & Pioneer Creek GC
	Mon-Tue	Sep 10-11	Minnesota Invitational	Prestwick GC
	WED-THU	SEP 12-13	MGA SENIOR AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP	NORTHFIELD CC
	Sun	Sep 16	MPGA Combination Championship	Bunker Hills GC
	Sun-Wed	Sep 16-19	Annika Intercollegiate	Royal GC
	MON-WED	SEP 17-19	MGA SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	BEMIDJI T&CC
	Tue	Sep 18	U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Sectional Qualifying	Bent Creek GC
	MON	SEP 24	MGA MEMBER DAY	WHITE BEAR YC
	MON	SEP 24	MGA SENIOR TOUR FINALS	SOMERSET CC
	Fri-Sun	Sep 28-30	Minnesota Golf Champions	Golden Valley CC
	Sat-Mon	Sep 29-Oct 1	MIAC Women's Golf Championship	Pebble Creek GC

OCT	Sat-Mon	Sep 29-Oct 1	MIAC Women's Golf Championship	Pebble Creek GC
	MON-TUE	OCT 1-2	MGA/WSGA SENIOR TOUR CUP MATCHES	WILD ROCK CC
	TUE-WED	OCT 2-3	MGA WOMEN'S MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	LEGENDS CLUB
	TUE-THU	OCT 2-4	MGA MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	LEGENDS CLUB/WILLINGERS CC
	Tue-Thu	Oct 2-4	Minnesota PGA Senior Match Play Championship	Island View GC
	Thu-Sat	Oct 4-6	UMAC Men's & Women's Golf Championships	Pebble Creek GC
	Fri	Oct 5	U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Sectional Qualifying	Chaska TC
	Fri	Oct 5	U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Sectional Qualifying	Chaska TC
	Sat-Mon	Oct 6-8	MIAC Men's Golf Championship	Ridges at Sand Creek
	MON	OCT 29	MGA ANNUAL MEETING	OAK RIDGE CC



Green Section Record REGIONAL UPDATE

March 16, 2018



A clean, well-maintained maintenance facility sets a positive tone for employees and helps lengthen the lifespan of equipment.

TIDY MAINTENANCE FACILITIES YIELD QUALITY COURSE CONDITIONING

BY BRIAN WHITLARK | AGRONOMIST, WEST REGION

The maintenance facility is the hub of the golf course agronomy team. It is where maintenance staff report for work, have breaks and eat lunch. It's also where the agronomic team holds meetings and where hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions of dollars in turf care equipment is housed.

An attractive, organized maintenance facility is important. It sets the tone for staff members and guests while also reflecting the professional attitude and standards of the entire maintenance staff. This spring, take a close look at the maintenance facility and its surroundings. Consider making operational changes and commit to maintaining an organized, clean facility daily. Here are a few areas to focus on:

- **Equipment Storage** – Storing turf maintenance equipment outside and on gravel or dirt reduces its lifespan and sets a poor example for staff members. It is ideal to keep all equipment parked inside a secure building. Also, pave around the entire maintenance facility with asphalt or concrete to reduce dust and erosion. These tactics not only prevent vandalism, they help protect equipment from premature weathering and extend its useful lifespan.

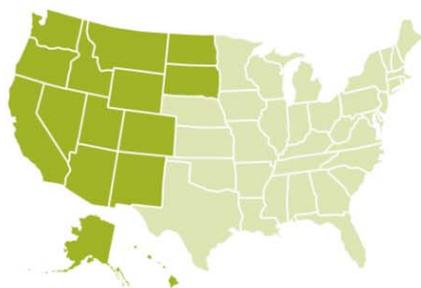


- **Equipment Technician Work Area** – Maintaining a clean and organized equipment technician work area is essential for the safety of all employees. It also demonstrates the importance of equipment maintenance. Consider using a polymer coating to protect the floor in the mechanic’s work area. Floor coatings facilitate cleaning and can be used with anti-slip additives that improve safety.
- **Equipment Wash Area** – Equipment wash areas can be a major source of odors and poor appearance. Install a self-contained wash rack system along with a compressed air cleaning station to optimize equipment cleaning efficiency. Also, conduct regularly scheduled maintenance to reduce odors and improve the appearance.
- **Trash Bin** – Consider recessing the trash bin or build a ramp along the side of the bin to facilitate loading. Making it easy to dispose of trash will help reduce the debris that often collects near trash bins.
- **Employee Break Room, Locker Room and Lunch Area** – Maintain clean areas for employees to begin and end their day, eat lunch and take breaks. The organization, upkeep and appearance of these areas makes an important statement to employees. Add a fresh coat of paint every few years and upgrade the appliances and amenities to help improve morale and demonstrate the value of your employees.
- **Landscaping and Garden** - Consider adding simple, attractive landscaping around the maintenance facility. Employees may also welcome an outdoor break area with ample shade. Some courses have even added gardens for growing vegetables and fruits that the staff members can enjoy.

 For information on the USGA’s Course Consulting Service Contact the Green Section Staff. [Learn More](#)

Do not underestimate the importance of a clean, safe and inviting workplace for maintenance staff. Commit to cleaning the maintenance facility daily. Rotate the responsibility among employees or consider hiring an outside service to conduct regular maintenance. A daily commitment demonstrates the importance of a clean, safe environment for staff members and makes for a happier, more efficient work environment.

For more strategies about optimizing a maintenance facility, please contact the [USGA Green Section](#).



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[Information on the USGA’s Course Consulting Service](#)

[Contact the Green Section Staff](#)



2018 North Dakota Golf Association Tournament Schedule



Event	Dates	Venue
NDGA Scramble Championship Mid-Am	May 18, 2018	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Scramble Championship Seniors	May 18, 2018	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Scramble Championship - Open & Net Divisions	May 19-20, 2018	Bully Pulpit GC, Medora
NDGA Mid-Am 4-Ball Championship Ages 30-54	June 2-3, 2018	Minot Country Club, Minot
NDGA Senior 4-Ball Championship Ages 55 - and up	June 2-3, 2018	Minot Country Club, Minot
NDGA 4-Ball Championship - Open Division	June 2-3, 2018	Minot Country Club, Minot
NDGA Senior Stroke Play State Championship 55+	June 16-17, 2018	King's Walk GC, Grand Forks
NDGA Mid-Am Stroke Play Championship ages 30-54	June 16-17, 2018	King's Walk GC, Grand Forks
NDGA Stroke Play Championship Open Division	June 16-17, 2018	King's Walk GC, Grand Forks
USGA Junior Amateur Qualifying	June 25, 2018	Fargo CC - Fargo
NDGA State Junior Championship 18 and under	July 9-10, 2018	King's Walk GC, Grand Forks
USGA U.S. Amateur Qualifying	July 9, 2018	Fargo CC, Fargo
State 13-Under Championship	July 18, 2018	Jack Hoeven Wee Links, Minot
NDGA Mid Amateur Match Play Championship 30-54	July 20-22, 2018	Maple River GC, Mapleton
NDGA State Match Play Championship Open Division	July 20-22, 2018	Maple River GC, Mapleton
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Nicklaus Division 55-64	August 2-5, 2018	Apple Creek CC, Bismarck
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Palmer Division 65-74	August 2-5, 2018	Apple Creek CC, Bismarck
NDGA State Seniors Championship - Hogan Division 75-up	August 2-5, 2018	Apple Creek CC, Bismarck
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Open Division	September 15-16	The CrossRoads - Carrington
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Mid-Am 30-54	September 15-16	The CrossRoads - Carrington
NDGA State 3-Man Best Ball Championship Senior 55-up	September 15-16	The CrossRoads - Carrington



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