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by Steve Keating

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# TALKING TURF

## NORTH CENTRAL TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2023

## President's Message

### By Tim Fleegel, MTI Distributing

Greetings NCTGA members,

It's already the end of August! Students are heading back to school, leaving you short handed on the course. Member's expectations haven't changed despite this challenge. You've been battling the hot summer conditions and are planning aerification. Many of you are probably counting the days until blow-out and are ready for the season to be over. Be careful though, winter will be here sooner than we want.

This summer has been busy for me as well, although different than the previous seven years. Instead the countless miles and hotel stays, I've been able to attend numerous little league baseball games, and drop off my girls at dance what seems like every other day. Undoubtedly, the best change has been the ability to tuck them in each night, a simple yet cherished experience.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all who joined us on May 15<sup>th</sup> for the spring golf event at Dakota Winds Golf Course in Hankinson, ND. We understand that taking time in mid-May can be challenging, and your support is appreciated. Our intention is

to continue this event, and we hope you can join us in the future. A special thank you to Tyler Foster and the staff at Dakota Winds. If



you haven't had a chance to see the course, I encourage you to do so. Tyler's dedication is evident as the course continues to improve.

We're only a few weeks from the 2023 scholarship golf tournament on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Grand Forks Country Club. Informal shop tours begin at 10:00 AM, followed by registration and lunch at 11:00 AM. The 2-person scramble format kicks off at 12:00 noon. Feel free to bring your team, board members, and friends – the event welcomes both NCTGA members and non-members. Let's aim for a great turnout as we work together to raise money for the scholarships.

September 12<sup>th</sup> we're back at Grand Forks Country Club, where we're set to host our 2<sup>nd</sup> First Green...

Continued on page 3...

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# President's Message continued

Continued from page 1...

...event. We're expecting approximately 50 fourth graders, it will be a busy and fun morning. Randy Robinson from the GCSAA will be in attendance, accompanied by Scott Griffith CGCS, a GCSAA board member and Director of Agronomy at the University of Georgia Golf Course. Scott's presence will bring more great visibility to the event.

In closing, your commitment and dedication to the NCTGA is appreciated and truly valued. Your support is what keeps us moving forward to

continue serving and supporting you, the members.

Sincerely,  
Tim Fleege

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
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## 2023 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Monday, September 11th at Grand Forks Country Club

The North Central Turfgrass Association would like to extend an invitation to all members and non-members to join us for the fall scholarship golf tournament. Proceeds from the tournament go to support turfgrass student and legacy scholarships in North Dakota and surrounding states. Our tournament coincides with the NDRPA conference being held from Sept 12th-14th in Grand Forks. Join us for this fun-filled day of golf, networking, great food, and prizes.

### Format

The golf format will be a two person scramble with two flights. The scramble will begin as a shotgun start at 12:00 pm noon (Central time). Registration and lunch will begin at 11am. Informal shop tours will be available starting at 10am. Prizes will be given out for First Place in each of the flights, along with proximity prizes and door prizes. Bring your partner or come alone and we can pair you with an NCTGA member. We hope you can join us!

### Registration

Register at: <https://nctga.net/event-5345922>



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# Board Member Profile: Collin Cannon

## Employer

Grand Forks Country Club

## Job Title

Golf Course Superintendent

## Education

Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management Major from North Dakota State University

## Years of Service in Your Position

8th season as the superintendent

## Favorite Part of the Turf Industry

The community of turf professionals is my favorite part of this industry. We recently had a shop fire in 2022 and lost everything. The next day I had more phone calls, texts, and emails than I ever imagined I would have from professionals in the turf industry. Everyone reached out and was willing to lend a hand in some sort of way. I have seen the same thing happen for many others in the industry when they are in need.

## Favorite Tool in the Shop

I have a lot of favorite tools in the shop, but I think my cell phone has become one of the best tools for golf course superintendents. I have access to our irrigation system from my phone from anywhere in the world. This makes it easy to run irrigation while out on the property or from the comfort of my couch. I also use my phone for ordering parts, checking our weather station, and keeping an eye on our maintenance shop from the security cameras. Finally, I can record and collect moisture meter data from our moisture meter to my phone. Apps are getting better and more and more things are being run from phones.

## Favorite Job to Perform in this Position

I like most aspects of my position, but one of my favorites is to drive the course each morning while the crew has started for the day to make sure everything is running smoothly. I watch each machine to make sure they are cutting correctly and the operators understand their task. My other favorite part is getting to know and work with all of my staff. I think that is a very important part of this industry and being successful at our property.

Continued on page 7....



## Member Profile: Collin Cannon, cont'd

Continued from page 6...

### Any Projects or Big Events this Year?

This year we built 10 new Forward Tees. This was a huge upgrade for our facility as we have so many new members at the club. These new forward tees will provide the proper teeing distance for many golfers. We shaped the tees with soil, added 4-6" of sand, and sodded the hitting space with 007 bentgrass. We also completed a massive drain tile project on 4 of our fairways. For this project, we had a member



pull in drain tile with the proper equipment and everything was pulled with GPS to have the correct slope for drainage. The prep work and clean up was a ton of work, but will pay off in the near future by saving us many labor hours squeegeeing and pumping fairways after rain events.

We are also excited to host the NCTGA Scholarship Tournament!

### Favorite Hobby

I enjoy many hobbies such as hunting pheasant, duck, and deer, as well as projects around our home. My most favorite hobby is to spend time with my wife, two children, and dog.





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# 39th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Tuesday - Thursday, February 28th - March 2nd, 2023



Dr. Paul Koch  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Featured Speakers



Dr. David Gardner  
The Ohio State University



Chad Braun  
Town and Country Club

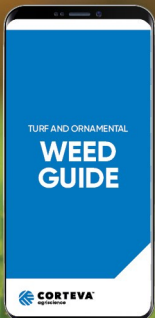


Steve Keating  
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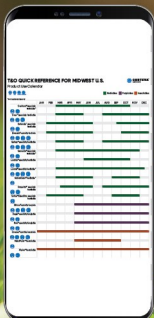
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# NCTGA to Host **First Green Event** at Grand Forks Country Club

For the 2nd year in a row, NCTGA board members will be hosting a GCSAA First Green Event for elementary school students on a North Dakota golf course. This year, superintendent Collin Cannon and his team will be offering their property as an outdoor learning laboratory for these kids on Tuesday, September 12th, with the help of GCSAA staff. We look forward to teaching these kids what turfgrass management and environmental stewardship is all about.



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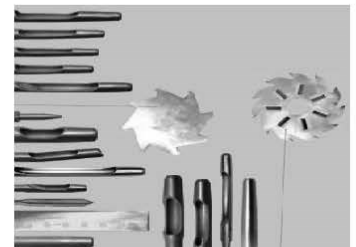
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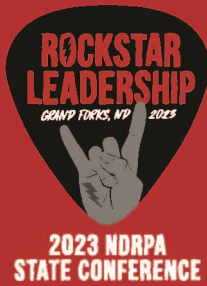
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# CONFERENCE SET LIST

## TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

- 11:00 AM LUNCH & ATTENDEE REGISTRATION – *King's Walk Course*
- 12:00 PM GOLF TOURNAMENT – *King's Walk Course*
- 1:00 PM RALPH & DOWNTOWN BREWERY TOUR – *Shuttle departing from Canad Inn*
- 5:30 PM “ROCK THE PARK” SOCIAL & DINNER – *Live Band & Food at Lincoln Dr. Park*

## WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

- 7:30 AM ATTENDEE REGISTRATION | BREAKFAST/PAST PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST
- 8:00 AM CONFERENCE WELCOME
- 8:15 AM KEYNOTE | “LIVING & LEADING ABOVE THE LINE”  
*Chris Langei | National Motivational Speaker, Skating Coach, Certified PT, and Founder of Langei Edge*
- 9:15 AM BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
- 10:00 AM ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
- 11:30 AM LUNCH
- 12:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- *Risk Management - Corey Olson, NDIRF*
  - *Turf Maintenance - Sam Bauer, NCTGA*
  - *Communicating Across Generations - The Village*
- 1:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- *Bonding - Brian Osowski, AMKO Advisors*
  - *Facility & Event Management - Jody Hodgson, REA General Manager*
  - *Adaptive Programming*
- 2:30 PM BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
- 3:30 PM GF PARK DISTRICT FACILITIES TOUR
- 5:30 PM BREAK
- 6:15 PM SOCIAL
- 7:00 PM AWARDS BANQUET

## THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

- 7:30 AM BREAKFAST & NDRPA ANNUAL MEETING
- 8:30 AM WAYS TO CONNECT WITH NDRPA
- 9:00 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- *Feasibility Studies - Pat O'Toole, Manager at BerryDunn*
  - *Mental Health in the Workplace - Andrew McLean, MD, MPH*
  - *Updates in Aquatics - TBD*
- 10:00 AM BREAK & HOTEL CHECKOUT
- 10:30 AM KEYNOTE & GUEST PANEL | “THE FUTURE OF PARKS & REC”  
*Pat O'Toole | Manager at BerryDunn - Pat has also held various positions at GreenPlay, PROS, Leon Younger, and OATS, and has served as Director and Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation agencies in Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, and Indiana.*
- 12:00 PM GRAB & GO OR GRAB & STAY LUNCH



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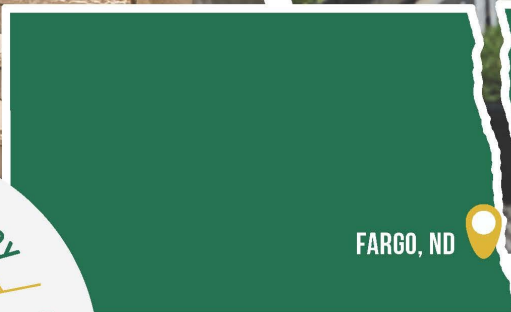
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# Last Second Sam

By Steve Keating

There are people who claim to believe that procrastination helps them be more successful. To them I would say that once you become comfortable misleading yourself you can, and most likely will, mislead anyone. Procrastination will kill your opportunity for success. Maybe not today and maybe not tomorrow but eventually it most definitely will. That much is certain!

People who believe procrastination helps them because they think better under pressure are not being honest with themselves. People who believe they are more productive when working under stress are fooling themselves. Approaching deadlines do not make people smarter, calmer, more productive or more logical. They make everything more challenging.

The real reason many people procrastinate is that they see low value in the task. It's either not fun enough or they see no reward for doing it. Some people procrastinate because they do not have confidence in their ability to complete the task. Fear of failure is a driving force behind many a procrastinator's behavior. For some people procrastination is part of their personality. They are just more impulsive than other people. These are the people I call last second Sam or last second Sally depending on...well you know what it depends on.

One of the most effective tools for overcoming the tendency to procrastinate is a Prioritized Daily Task List. A prioritized task list is a to-do list on steroids. You list all the things you need to accomplish on a given day but you list them in order of importance. You DO NOT do the second most important thing until the most important thing is accomplished.

Don't worry about working on one thing all day if it's truly the most important or most productive thing you could do that day. You'll still be better off than if you spent the day doing a bunch of unimportant or unproductive things.

Many procrastinators put off doing things that are quick and easy to do. They don't see a lot of fun or reward in doing them so they just put it off. Answering an email is a good example. A quick answer might take only a minute but they still open and read the email several times before answering it.

So here's a good rule of thumb to help stop at least some procrastinating. If a task takes a minute or less to do then do it immediately. No delay, no hesitation, and NO PROCRASTINATING! You will be amazed at how many things you do in a day can be completed in under a minute.

Don't kid yourself into thinking being a last second Sam or Sally has one ounce of benefit. You will not find even one very successful person who will tell you their success is due to putting off until tomorrow what should have been done today.

And you're highly unlikely to be the first.

*(Editors note: Steve Keating is our Keynote Speaker for the 39th Annual Conference. His blog (<https://stevekeating.me/>) has a plethora of excellent content. This particular post hit home to me.)*



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