

The Link

for Pokegama Golf Course

June

- 1 Bauer Best Ball
- 9-10 Jim Kosak Jr. Grand Slam
- 12 PGA Junior Tournament
- 17 Ladies' Invitational
- 19 Youth for Christ
- 26 Silver Spike at Eagle Ridge

July

- 13 Buick Scramble
- 24 Silver Spike at Pokegama
- 30-31 Star of the North Lions Jr. Golf Event - Qualifying

August

- 8-10 Grand Slam Amateur
- 21 Grandmothers' Event
- 23 Ladies' Club Championship
- 23 Men's Club Championship Flight - Qualifying

September

- 5 Log-A-Load for Kids
- 6-7 Men's Club Tournament
- 13 Ladies' Lions - Hoky
- 14 Men's Lions - Hoky

At the Pro Shop

In the market for new clubs? The Pro Shop features two top-of-the-line, custom-fit clubs, Ping and Henry-Griffiths. You'll find our prices are equal to or less than those at major discount stores anywhere in the country. Looking for something a little less pricey? We also have some knock-offs! Come in and see what we have in the Pro Shop.

Hook into PGC history

Did you know that in 1924, a Mr. Anderson from Hibbing contracted to "lay out the course, supervising all work including cutting of the brush, plowing, discing, seeding, making the greens, tees, bunkers, and any other work necessary to put the ground in shape to use as a golf course."

WHEW! And all for \$250!



Welcome to The Link, the electronic newsletter for Pokegama Golf Course

In an effort to communicate more closely and more frequently with our patrons, we have decided to establish an electronic newsletter for Pokegama Golf Course. In this first issue, we are introducing the sort of information we think will interest you, our patrons. We are planning to have eight issues in the next 12 months. Each issue will have tips from the golf pro (Bob Cahill, director of golf), information about the improvement and maintenance of the grounds (from Dan Peluso, grounds superintendent), a calendar of events at the course, highlights of patron activities (both events and personal golf accomplishments), and glimpses into the history of the course. In time, we also plan to feature short articles on patrons' travels to other golf courses, and brief profiles of staff and patrons.

Of course, that's just what we've thought of so far! As we progress with this communication link, we'll have one goal in mind — an ever-improving vehicle of communication for our patrons. So, let us know what you like, what you'd like more of, and how we're doing in our goal of providing you, our patrons, with the best service on any course you visit.

And now — read on!

Straight shooting from the Pokegama Pro —

Soling your club

When you are ready to hit your golf ball, is your golf club pressed into the ground, resting heavily on the ground? I hope not, but I suspect it might be. To help you get started on your swing motion, whether it's a drive, an iron, a chip, a pitch or a putt, here's how to set up to the ball — make sure your golf club just barely touches the ground behind the ball. Doing this will help you have the proper grip pressure and will help you have a smooth, less jerky start to your swing. This technique also prevents you from catching the grass as you begin your takeaway. This is especially beneficial



in putting and in chipping the ball. Give it a try, and watch your swing smooth out!

— Bob Cahill, director of golf

Thanks to the Flower People!

Every year we have beautiful flowers around the golf course thanks to the hard work and good taste of several patrons.

This year's team (shown left to right) was Shirley Jacobsen, Bob Urista, Jere Urista, Elaine Aune, Paul Tveite, Keith Stolen, Carolyn Stolen and Harry Aune, plus several others not pictured here.

Thank you all!



More news on the next page —

High School teams go to state tournament and Clint Cornell ties for first place



The Grand Rapids High School boys and girls golf teams both won the 2003 Region 7AA tournament at Sugarbrook on May 26, which sent them to the state Class AA Golf Tournament June 3-4. At state, the boys' team placed fourth, with 619, and the girls team finished in 8th place. Clint Cornell tied for first place, with 144. He joins past Grand Rapids state champions Mike Christensen, Kelly Kirwin and Jeff Nielsen. An indicator of the girls team improvement is that they shot three

better than last year, when they placed fourth! Sarah Edwards had the low two-day score for the Grand Rapids girls team.

Pictured at the regional tournament are (left to right): back row — Buzzy Christensen (boys coach), Jon Northard, Leah Grozdanich, Max Bauer, Abby Bobich, Bob Cahill (assistant coach), Kimbra Kosak, Clint Cornell, Kelsey Kruger, Arie DeGrio and Lyn Ellingson (girls coach); and front row — Aaron Ous, Sarah Edwards, Ryan Warren and Afton Pender.

Getting a grip on ground news —

As we all know, this past winter's weather was not kind to the ground of Northern Minnesota, our golf course included! The lack of snow and a late December rain, followed by subzero temperatures caused some of the poa (annual bluegrass) to freeze out from the rain and ice or dry out from lack of snow cover. This damage is evident on some of our greens, tees and fairways. These areas will recover when the soil temperatures reach the high 50s and the poa seed begins to germinate. We are fertilizing and watering both day and night. During June we will oversee these areas in hopes of establishing a hardier bluegrass.

Here's what else you should know — **Aeration**

On May 12 and 13, all our greens were core-aerated and heavily top-dressed with sand. This allows toxic gasses to escape and fresh oxygen to enter the root zone. The result is deeper, healthier, stronger roots. At the same time, we are relieving compaction in the upper five inches of soil, which allows better drainage and a softer feel to the green. We mix silica sand to the soil extracted from the greens and brush this soil mixture back into the holes. This process allows water and nutrients to reach the root system, resulting in a healthy grass plant during the heat-stress months of July and August.

Many ask why we don't fill the holes completely when this process is done. The

fact is we do. It is important to water the greens immediately after the brushing is complete, but the heavy watering washes much of the top-dressing deeper into the holes, creating a void near the top of each hole. We do not add more sand because if we do we will create a thick layer of sand in the upper turf, which would eventually create a barrier that will slow down or stop downward root development.

Green enlargement —

More than 20 years of constant mowing of our greens has caused them to slowly creep toward the center. In an attempt to bring the greens back out to their original size, early this spring I lowered the mower's height of cut (HOC) to .250 inches and then to .156 inches on the outer loop on most of the greens. As time went on, I realized I should have waited a bit before starting this process. To repair the problem, I aerated, top-dressed, fertilized and seeded these green expansions. Once they've filled in, I will take them back to the .156 HOC. Again, once the soil temperatures start to climb, we should see these areas green up. My intentions were good, but my timing was poor. I apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

Please be patient with us and with Mother Nature as we get our grounds back in shape!

— Dan Peluso, grounds superintendent

Help us develop a new logo for Pokegama Golf Course

We've decided it's time for a new logo, and we want you to help us come up with one that will illustrate — in one quick look — how magnificent our course is. So, the next time you're at PGC, look around, let your mind wander (but not too far from your swing) and imagine a symbol that captures this beautiful course on Pokegama Lake! Bring us your ideas (via e-mail with the subject marked logo or to The Pro Shop in an envelope marked logo). Be sure to add your name and your telephone number. The deadline for entries is July 15, so start thinking!



Instructor Jeff Nielsen keeps a watchful eye on a group of juniors in the June Pokegama Junior Golf Camp.

Pokegama Golf Course Board

Chris Carlson
Tom Lagergren
Larry Nelson
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Larry Schlauderaff

Pokegama Golf Course Staff

Bob Cahill, Director of Golf
Dan Peluso, Grounds Superintendent

Pokegama Golf Course is located on the shores of Pokegama Lake, just west of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The course was built in the 1920s and is currently owned by the City of Grand Rapids. It is one of the finest municipal 18-hole golf courses in the state of Minnesota.

The Link editor & designer

Ann K. Ryan

Until July —
enjoy the game!