

# Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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## HOLE



## NOTES

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JUNE 1973



10TH HOLE  
FOREST HILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB  
FROM THE TEE.



10TH HOLE  
FOREST HILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB  
FROM BACK  
OF GREEN



PICTURES TAKEN AT  
FOREST HILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB.  
SITE OF MAY  
MEETING

DAVID FEDIE,  
SUPERINTENDENT,  
FOREST HILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB,  
HOST to the  
MAY MEETING

**a message  
from president  
larry g. vetter**

Spring signifies the halfway point of the MGCSA year. It also means the busy starting point of another golfing season, even though it was an early opening signifying a long summer for many of us. With these things in mind, let's take a closer look at what they mean to each of us.

The officers and directors of MGCSA have had a busy six months. The Membership Committee has prepared a much needed revision of our roster. It is nearly ready to go to print and will be mailed in the very near future. This committee has also updated our mailing lists with the information assembled for the roster.

The Educational Committee has made substantial progress toward making our 1973 Conference one of the best that we have ever had. Already confirmed are several nationally known speakers. Also scheduling monthly speakers has been accomplished for the benefit of all our members.

The Tournament Committee has selected a site and is currently discussing the final arrangements for the September get-together.

The OSHA Committee has been attending meetings and accumulating information in order to keep our members informed on this timely, important subject.

The Arrangements Committee has selected excellent meeting sites and now has all dates filled through the Annual Conference in December. However, it is not too early to think of 1974, if anyone wants to host a meeting.

The Research Committee continues to request funds to continue in the field of Turfgrass Management. Current work in the area of Turfgrass Pathology has yielded some interesting results. (See article in this month's "Hole Notes.")

Our Executive Director continues to improve the output and efficiency of MGCSA. This position has now become an integral, functioning part of our organization. A 24-hour telephone message recorder now is in use in the office for your convenience.

All other committees are working toward making 1973 a top year for MGCSA, Inc.

It now appears that most courses came through the winter as good as, if not better than, in average years. Now with some warm temperatures and moisture, the superintendents seem to be getting assistance from Mother Nature to get courses off to a great season. With the expertise assembled in the membership of MGCSA, help from Mother Nature and cooperation of the various Boards of Directors would seem to be all that is needed to make turf greener than ever this summer.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank MGCSA members who have worked so hard for the Association already this year and wish all of you a successful season during the coming months.



FOR SALE

A 1964 Ryan Spikeaire (4-cycle, 3-horsepower engine). Used very little, good condition - \$300.00.  
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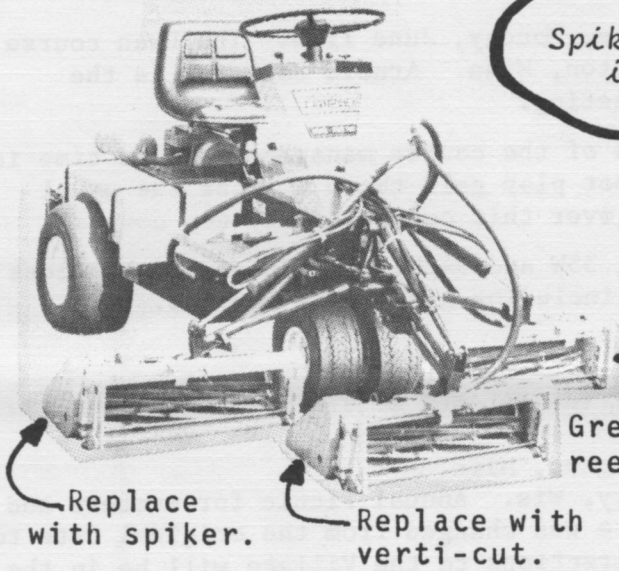
Man wishes position with golf club. Qualified to maintain Building, Cars. Tractors, Equipment and has attended several seminars at the University of Minnesota to keep abreast with ever increasing knowledge on Turf, Trees, Shrubs, Pruning, Feeding, etc. He is 51 years of age, married, three children. His name is John W. Anger, 1345 Arkwright, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Our records are not complete in regard to the status of those holding Class B Membership in the MGCSA. In order to help us update our records with correct information, please complete this form, clip it and mail to the office of the Executive Director, 5600 Chowen Ave., Edina, Minnesota 55410.

I hold a Class B Membership in the MGCSA and I am the Superintendent at my Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hold a Class B Membership in the MGCSA and I am the Assistant Supt. at my Club \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name

Club



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## may meeting

The May Meeting was held at the very beautiful Forest Hills Country Club, Forest Lake, Minn. David Fedie, the Superintendent at that Club was the host and did a great job.

The Club made the course available for golf, as their guests, and some 35 to 40 MGCSA members played and enjoyed the course on a sunny but windy afternoon. There were others who enjoyed themselves by either playing cards, visiting or going out on the course and watching those that were playing.

Later in the day some 55 sat down to a very fine dinner. The dinner was followed by a business meeting presided over by President Larry Vetter.

The applications of the following people were accepted as Class B Members:

Vincent McCann, Purple Hawk C. C., Cambridge, Minn.  
Steve Young, Medina Golf Course, Hamel, Minn.  
Michael Hauan, Cokato Town & Country Club, Cokato, Minn.  
Galen Sabelko, River Falls Golf Club, River Falls, Wisc.

Also accepted to Class F-1 Membership was the application of Mike Redmond, Anoka, Minn., a Technical Representative of O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio.

A hearty welcome to these new members.

The officers and members of the MGCSA wish to extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Forest Hills C. C. and Superintendent Fedie for hosting this meeting.

## June meeting

The June meeting will be at the Dwan Golf Course, Monday, June 11th. The Dwan course is located at Xerxes and 110th Street, Bloomington, Minn. Arnold Bodhaine is the Superintendent at Dwan and he will host this meeting.

The course will be available for golf as guests of the course management. Tee time is between 12 Noon and 2 P.M. For those that do not play golf there will be the usual card game, visiting and an opportunity to look over this comparatively new course.

After golf, etc. we will go to the Holiday Inn, 35W and 94th, for dinner and business meeting. The cost of the dinner will be \$5.50 including gratuities and tax.

### TENTATIVE DATES FOR MEETINGS FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR

Monday, June 11	Dwan Golf Course, Bloomington, Minn.
Monday, July 16	Voyageurs Village, Danbury, Wis. Annual Picnic for members and wives. Remember this date was changed from the original date to July 9th to the 16th. Directions to the Village will be in the July issue.
Monday, August 13	Honeywell Country Club, Lakeville, Minn.
Monday, September 17	Hillcrest Country Club, St. Paul, Minn. Annual Superintendents Tournament.
Monday, October 8	Luck Golf Club, Luck, Wis.
Monday, November 12	Not yet determined.
Wed., Thurs., Fri.	
December 5-6-7	Annual Turf Conference, Normandy Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

Kurt Erdman has advised that he has 91 reservations for the Picnic in July. However, there are several who have not yet made reservations and this is important as the management at the Village insists on reservations so they can make proper arrangements. If you have not mailed your reservation card to Kurt, please do so at once.



RESEARCH PROGRAM

We wish to thank all those who have so generously contributed to the MGCSA Research Fund; however, the contributions have not been what we expected they would be. It may be because it is still early in the year and many clubs have not yet opened. In any case the Superintendents should be sure the Clubs know about the program, its purpose, benefits and need of financial assistance.

Have them complete this form and send it to Robert Feser, 3425 Hamel Road, Hamel, Minnesota 55340 together with their contribution.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as our contribution to the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Research Fund. We appreciate the work you are doing and we pledge our support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club By \_\_\_\_\_ Title

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## the golf course superintendent and greens chairman

To have a beautiful, attractive and well conditioned golf course requires not only that the Golf Course Superintendent be a dedicated man but he must also have knowledge of grasses, soil, sand and gravel, equipment big and small, fertilizers and chemicals and the ability to handle men if he is going to give the members of his Club the best possible course with what he has to work with.

No man is expected to know and do everything on his own and the Superintendent is no exception. Therefore, the President includes in his appointments a Greens Chairman to work with and act as a liaison officer between the Superintendent, the President and his Board of Directors. In selecting a Greens Chairman the President should consider the ability and knowledge of the person he is going to appoint - does he have the time required for this assignment, and is he willing to accept the responsibilities of the job.

In two previous issues of Hole Notes, March and April, we talked about the relationship between the Superintendent, the Golf Course Architect and the Club Golf Professional. The principal thought in those two articles was to call attention to the necessity of a close, cooperative and harmonious relationship between the Superintendent and the members of the other two professions. This same relationship must exist between the Superintendent and the Greens Chairman. There is, of course, one principal difference between the Golf Professional, the Golf Course Architect and the Greens Chairman. The Golf Professional and the Golf Course Architect are professionals, knowledgeable, educated and skilled in their professions; whereas, the Greens Chairman is an amateur dedicated to do the best job he can for the betterment of the course and his fellow members. He should be willing to discuss and listen to the Superintendent's suggestions and at the same time express his own opinion which the Superintendent must honor. He does not necessarily have to agree but if he does not he must be in a position of explaining to the satisfaction of the Greens Chairman why he does not.

There will be many times when the Superintendent will recommend the purchase of equipment and/or material, a change in the course, etc. In making these recommendations or requests the Superintendent must keep in mind the real need and the financial condition of the club. It might be necessary to make some of these purchases, changes in the course, etc. on a long term planning program, with the most needed items scheduled first. If this condition exists the recommendation should be made accordingly.

As was suggested in one of the previous articles, that the Superintendent and the Professional play an occasional round together, the same thing applies and maybe more so with the Superintendent and the Greens Chairman. It could give each one of them a more practical view of what the other is suggesting. After that has been done and there has been an agreement between them, the Greens Chairman should present the request or recommendation to the Board with his approval and strong backing of the Superintendent. After all, anything of this nature is for the benefit of the members.

There may be times when after the Superintendent and the Greens Chairman have agreed on a subject to be presented to the Board for their approval, they would want to talk it over with the Club Professional and ask for his support before presenting it to the Board. It could help.



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Because it cuts a huge 19 foot swath, one man can mow about 76 acres in an 8-hour day, at realistic mowing speeds. And the F20 moves between mowing areas up to 25 mph.

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To see the new F20 in action contact us, and we'll arrange a demonstration. When you stop in, be sure to ask about our leasing program for any of the Jacobsen turf-care equipment.

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## a golf course superintendent

In previous articles in Hole Notes we have talked about the relationship between a Golf Course Superintendent and a Golf Course Architect, a Club Professional, a Greens Chairman, President of a Club and the Board of Directors. However, we have not discussed "What is a Golf Course Superintendent and what makes him tick."

A Golf Course Superintendent is a person that is born as such and is not made. First of all he is a man who likes to be outdoors and is not afraid to get his hands dirty or his boots soiled. He loves the earth and what he can get out of it. I think we can safely say that he was born with a green thumb and is dedicated to making the most out of what he has and to getting the course (land), under his jurisdiction, in the best possible condition for a golf course.

He must know grasses, soil, terrain, irrigation problems and be willing to work at all cost to get the most out of what he has to work with. He must be educated either by formal education or from practical experience, or both; he must be able to accept suggestions and constructive criticism; he must be a businessman, have the ability to work within a budget, be able to make decisions, be able to work with and handle other people; he must know various chemicals and how to use them and he must know and understand the equipment being used and how to keep it in condition. It is helpful if he is a better than average golfer as his knowledge of the game will help him understand the players' problems and put him in a position to correct conditions that are detrimental to the playing of the game.

The Superintendent has so many duties and obligations that it is hard to describe them all. He must know what to do under all adverse weather conditions (winter and summer) to protect tees, greens, fairways and, yes, the rough. Fairways must be cut the right width, the rough cut the right height from the edge of the fairway back several yards on a graduated scale; in most cases he is responsible for the placing of the tee markers, the cutting of cups on the greens, repairing damage to the cups, if any, and to arrange for the course to play at the yardage shown on the score card. This can be done when placing the tee markers by alternating them at tee to tee - the first set in the center, the next hole 5 yards in front of center and the third set 5 yards back of center and alternate them in that manner over the entire 18 holes.

The duties of the Superintendent are on a twelve month a year basis. He, of course, has specific duties and obligations during the playing season and from then on until the start of the next season he has other duties. He must protect the course, and particularly the greens, from permanent damage by the elements or by vandalism. In most cases damage to the course by the elements can be, to a degree, anticipated and action taken to prevent it. However, from vandalism there is no yardstick. About all that can be done is to erect fences, barriers, post signs about trespassing etc. and then pray.

If the problem is with specific situations such as skiing, tobogganing or snowmobiling the Superintendent can ask the Club to provide rangers to police the hills and slopes where the skiing and tobogganing might cause damage; then contact the snowmobile club in his area and ask their cooperation in keeping their members off of the golf course with their snowmobiles. This should solve a big part of the problem and the rest would have to be played by ear.

All in all the Superintendents and their Staff are a great bunch of people and the golfers should be thankful that there are people devoted to this kind of work.



## odds and ends but important ones

If you have not returned the card regarding attendance at the July Picnic meeting, that was enclosed with the May issue of Hole Notes, to Kurt Erdman at the Rochester G. & C. C. Box 830, Rochester, Minn. 55901, please do so at once and also answer the question regarding going by bus from the Twin Cities. Answers to all of the questions are of vital importance.

We are still short the return of several of the questionnaires regarding salaries, fringe benefits etc. that was enclosed with the April issue of Hole Notes to the Superintendents. If you will please send them in, if you have not already done so, we will analyze them and draft a recap that should be of great value to all concerned. Remember we have not asked for your name or the name of your club and we do not want this information. We would like, however, to have the general location of your club as the information in the recap will be on an area basis.

GROUNDS CREW LEAGUE - Again this year, a league for our crews will be run so that they may see "how other courses do it." It's surprising the enthusiasm this created last year. So that no Superintendent is missed, this note advises that if you are interested in having your crew participate (four-man team, no Superintendents) call or write Bill Johnson at Edina Country Club (612) 922-9012 before June 13, 1973.

--Larry G. Vetter, President, MGCSA

Our research program is of extreme importance. If we are going to be in a position to offset the loss of the use of mercury and other chemicals that have been outlawed by legislation we cannot let up on our efforts to keep and even improve our program. This requires finances. Have you sat down with the President of your club and explained conditions to him and asked for financial help from your club. You are not asking for something for personal gain but are trying to do something that will help that man you are asking for help from. That is, improve playing conditions and keeping them improved. You will not have to be a super salesman to get that support.

I am pleased to be able to say that since the May issue of Hole Notes has been distributed we are beginning to receive additional questionnaires and we are very pleased about it. Several of the Superintendents have taken a little extra time in answering the questions and have made various comments; many of them complimentary and these comments are appreciated. We welcome them even though they may not necessarily be complimentary as long as they are constructive. We want your thoughts. It is hoped that by the time the July issue is ready for publication and distribution we will have had enough returns to give you the result of our analysis and that it will be beneficial to you.

We have learned that Don Jackson, President of the Veterans Golf Course, Dawson, Minnesota, will retire from the postal service June 30, 1973 and will devote considerable time maintaining the Dawson Golf Course. Don is an associate member of MGCSA and we wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

Kurt Erdman, Chairman of Arrangements, has requested that you be advised that only six of the reservation cards returned to him have voted to have a bus from the Twin Cities to Voyageur Village for the Picnic in July. Unless there is a substantial increase in the number of requests for this service, it will not be practical to charter a bus.

We are very happy to announce that Dr. Fred Grau, an honorary member of MGCSA, and Frances Holyoke McCoy, a college classmate of Dr. Grau, will be married shortly after July 1, 1973. They will live at 4604 Amherst Road, College Park, Md. 20740. Our congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Grau and his bride-to-be.

Excerpts from an article written by Charles Price and carried in the June 1973 issue of Golf Magazine. The article was entitled:

"A TALK WITH A NEW BREED OF GREENKEEPER"

"Next to those amateurs who think they can design a golf course better than a professional architect, the ones who bug me most are those who think they can maintain a course better than a professional greenkeeper. No matter how immaculate the course, they always seem to be able to find some fault with it. Let them play three days before the National Open at Pebble Beach or Oakland Hills or Winged Foot, when such courses are as clean as billiard cloth, and they'd somehow manage to find a daisy in the rough and holler holy hell about it.

"This picayune nonsense wouldn't bother me so much were it not for the fact that the golfers who holler the most couldn't keep up the front lawn for a doll's house. Give them a gang-mower and they couldn't find the ignition. And, for some reason that is strange but true, they are the very ones who never smooth out a bunker even though you surround it with enough rakes to constitute a picket fence. If you want the world's biggest weed nursery, just hand your golf course over to them for two weeks. You'll have tees that look as though they had been made out of ripple soles, fairways that play as though they had been planted with creeping-rock, and greens that putt as though they were peanut brittle.

"Anybody who knows anything at all about maintaining a golf course is a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, an organization of about 3,500 persons who are professional greenkeepers. Several years ago, for some reason I have never been able to capture, this group changed their name from the Greenkeepers Association of America to what it now is. Perhaps they got sick and tired of people calling them greens keepers--that is, in the plural--when in fact they were keepers of the green, which is to say, the whole golf course. Hence, the proper term 'greenkeeper,' just as it should be 'green fees' and not 'greens fee,' as though all they had to do was mow 18 putting surfaces and forget the fairways, the rough, the hazards and all the rest of the joint.

"Greenkeeping has never been one of the more glamorous professions in this ancient game, although to this day in Scotland the greenkeeper's word is law, above even that of the head professional, the Club Secretary or the Captain of Golf, which is a high-falutin' title for the unpaid president of the club. When the greenkeeper over there says the course is closed, for example, it's closed, and he wouldn't care if the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales were standing on the first tee getting ready to play a match for the crown jewels."

\* \* \*

"Now there is a new breed of greenkeeper, no more heralded than the old, but in most cases college-educated in agronomy and so sophisticated in herbage, sedges, rushes, stems, leaves, flowers, bracts, fruit, grain, pesticides, insecticides, and all the other ins and outs of this little-known field as to make you feel they could build a Japanese garden blindfolded.

"At my home club--The Sea Pines Plantation Club, on Hilton Head Island, S. C.--our three courses and a fourth still under construction are supervised by one of these younger Turks. His name is Bill Carson, and he knows grass the way a pianist knows a keyboard. Carson holds a degree in landscape design from Clemson University, one of the pioneering schools that teach some of the intricacies of golf course superintendence."

\* \* \*

"Do you know that it wasn't until last year that our association got around to officially declaring that poa annua is a weed? Now, weed or not, poa annua has been around as long as people have thought grass is worth taking care of. But it is not necessarily bad for grass. On the contrary, it can be good for grass in some parts of the country. Lord knows, there's not a better maintained golf course in the whole world than Augusta National. The people there spend all year bringing the place to perfect fruition for the week of the Masters Tournament. Despite all their efforts, though, poa annua keeps creeping in every three years or so. It doesn't



hurt the turf there and, when you lower the mowers as low as they do for the Masters, it putts just as true as any grass strain you care to name. But poa annua is white, not green, and if you are the sort of perfectionist they are at Augusta National it becomes unsightly. So they keep trying to kill it off for appearance's sake, just as I do."

\* \* \*

"Would you believe my posting a sign on the first tee of any of our courses saying "Please Do Not Replace Your Divots"? I mean would you believe that? Well, our courses are planted in two different strains of Bermuda, Tifway and Tifdwarf as they are known in the trade, depending upon how old the course is and whether the Bermuda has been planted in the fairways or on the greens. But the point is--and this is argumentative among even professional greenkeepers--that replacing a Bermuda divot can do more harm than good to a golf course.

"Bermuda, you see, grows almost sideways, whereas rye grass grows, comparatively speaking, almost straight up. By replacing a Bermuda divot, then, you are in effect impeding its natural growth; the divot keeps the grass strands from reaching each other. Consequently, by not replacing the divot, you give Bermuda a better chance to grow and incidentally, let the mowers chew up the divots so that they can regerminate the golf course. But, as I say, this is a debatable point among superintendents. I happen to think that not replacing a Bermuda divot is wise, although lots of others will disagree with me. So why shouldn't I listen to the suggestions of members who have been playing golf 30, 40 years or more?"

"There you have it, then. Among modern-day greenkeepers--superintendents--there is consternation over whether or not you should replace a divot, a subject that would have been dismissed with a toss of the hand in my day and would have been considered heresy in Emil Loeffler's. Poor Bill Carson. Just think! Fifty years from now he'll be sitting in his wheel chair and some member will come up to him and tell him he's doing everything old-fashioned. He's still raking sand traps."

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It's driven through a hydrostatic system that's simple, silent and dependable. No belts, no chains in the power unit.

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**HEIGHT OF CUT:** 1½-6" adjustable front and rear, ¼" increments.

**WIDTH OF CUT:** 72".

**BATTERY:** 12 volt, 54 plate, 50 Ampere hour capacity.

**STEERING:** Ross Gear Steering Gear Assembly. 15" steering wheel.

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**TIRES:** (2) Rear Steering Tires—16 x 6.50 x 8 - 2 Ply, Rib. (2) Front Traction Drive Tires—23 x 8.50 x 12 - 2 Ply, Xtr. Demountable drop-center rims.

**OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:** 60" hard surface broom, 54" adjustable snow blower, 60" flail mower. All-weather cab, with removable window screens. Optional pressurized blower, heater, windshield wipers, rotating beacon, AM radio.

Road and night-operation kit—directional signals, sealed-beam headlights and taillights.

**TORO**

**MINNESOTA TORO, INC.**

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