The cool spring that we just had was certainly not what many golf courses needed to recover from last winter’s damage. Soil temperatures remained in the mid-fifties up until June 6th.

Periodic observation of the soil temperature would help to reinforce with your membership the problems associated with slow spring growth and the turf not filling in as well as normal. Another method of monitoring soil temperature would be to have a soil temperature monitor such as that of the Neougen Envirocaster. This multi-functional micro-processor unit has improved greatly over the last couple of years. The disease forecasting information coupled with air-soil temperature, wind, solar radiation, humidity, dew point and leaf wetness information can assist with grounds maintenance decisions and document the historical data needed to reinforce your analysis when discussing course problems with club officials.

Documentation in the future will be a crucial step, especially with environmental issues determining what we may be able to do. Pesticide applications will need to be backed up with hard data to support the necessity of spraying.

The Envirocaster and the Agri-Diagnostics Reveal Disease Detection Test Kits can help support these requirements and assist you in your management decision making.

The MGCSA Board of Directors approved the initiation of a new committee of the Board at our most recent meeting. This new committee is to be officially named at a later date but will deal with environmental issues.

The Minnesota Section of the Professional Golfers Association has recently relocated to the Bunker Hills Golf Club. The headquarters and the newly established Hall of Fame Museum will be inaugurated at a dinner on Monday, July 2. The MGCSA has been invited to attend this dinner and to be a part of the museum. We welcome this opportunity to participate with the Minnesota PGA and other organizations involved in Minnesota golf.

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I would like to thank our host at the June membership meeting, Tom Haugen, and the wet welcome but warm hospitality we received. We hope that you will attend the July meeting at the Northfield Golf Club where host superintendent Bill Whitworth will do his best to keep our wet record intact.

—Kerry Glader
MGCSA President