As I started writing this column late Sunday night, I found myself drifting into the events of this past season. I went to my calendar and looked over the major weather events, the tournament schedule, fertilizer and pesticide applications, project work scheduled and I began to realize why I seem to get run out at this time of year. I also came to the conclusion that I take my job WAY too seriously. My priorities get all messed up by this time of the year, especially after the July and August we had this season. I want to thank our president Fred for his very timely and well-chosen words of advice in his September president’s message. Thanks also to Allen Starke, one of Fred’s assistants, for getting us to think about our priorities. If you haven’t done so yet, take the time to thank those around you for all the support they give.

Special thanks to Dave Sime, Benson Golf Club, for taking pictures at the Stodola Research Scramble held at The Preserve on September 14. Thanks to all who participated. Look for more throughout this issue.

I found a very timely article in Golf Course News that we reprinted in this issue of Hole Notes. It is written by Dr. Michael Hurdzan and is found on Page 21. The article entitled Design, Maintenance: A Crucial Marriage is very well-written. According to Hurdzan “the single most important element of a golf course is DRAINAGE.” Well, when I said timely I meant perfect timing after the July and August we just passed. In Waseca, our course received just short of 17 inches of rain. I know others who were well above that in the Twin Cities and West. We flooded at our course to the point of closing four separate times, the last being Labor Day weekend. The end result of all that “down time” was the approval of a major drainage upgrade project which includes the replacement of a 25-year-old, undersized mainline and the addition of several “detention areas” to catch the runoff and hold until the tile system can take it away. I will be writing an article about the project and let you know what we did and how it went. If anyone else has done or will be doing a similar project, please give some thought to writing an article for Hole Notes.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the MTGF Conference and Show on December 10, 11 & 12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Look over the program in this issue and mail in your registration soon. The program is loaded with great speakers and topics. Thanks for your time...until next month.

—Rob Panuska
Editor

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