

HOLE NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance

By Robert Panuska



Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. The 6 Ps to success as I was taught in my 6th grade social studies class. I don't remember many specifics from my grade school days, but this one really stuck. It's very simple and very practical for everyone, especially those of us in the golf course maintenance profession. Now, if we could get our turf to adhere to this simple practice, wouldn't life be grand? I would anticipate the fact that we are going to cut it down to near nothing, verticut it, topdress it, aerify it, drag it, roll it, fertilize it, spray it, over-water it, under-water it, hit it, compact it with equipment and golfers and expect it to stay alive and thrive! In reality, I think plants do live by the 6 Ps, the problem is that we push our turf well beyond what it was designed to deal with. So we take over and *Properly* put our own *Plan* into place *Prior* to the anticipated *Performance* in the hopes to *Prevent* any problems that could cause *Poor* conditions. Every course is different and we all have expectations to meet, be they our own or our patrons, usually both. While we cannot possibly know all things that may challenge us, this profession forces us to be "on top of the ball" so to say. As you all know, multiple factors come into play every day and even the best plans are sometimes reduced to ashes. The good news is that "next time" we will be better equipped to respond, be that a turf health issue, an employee situation or a Board member concern.

* * * *

Thanks to everyone who attended our first three meetings of the year. Don't forget to mark off Thursday, July 29th to attend the U of M Field Day. We purposely do not schedule a regular meeting in July so that we can take advantage of this opportunity. This is a great event to bring your assistant(s), staff and interns to help them "see the future" of our profession. Brian and Eric and the entire U of M staff put in HUGE time to pull this off and they deserve our support by attending.

* * * *

I would encourage you to submit an article to Jack for publication in *Hole Notes*. He has "opened the door" to many possibilities for your contributions, from pictures and captions to full manuscripts. As I have said before, this publication can sit right alongside any national publication that I receive. Thank you to those who have submitted material and again to Jack for the outstanding job you are doing!

*Until next month,
Rob*

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