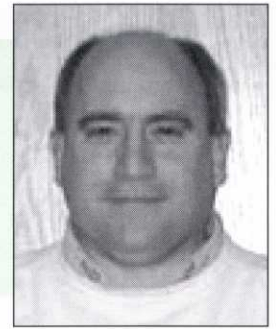




# Musing the Minutes

By Rick Traver, CGCS  
Monticello Country Club



Hello to all my fellow brethren of Golf Course Superintendents. I haven't written a column all summer due to an open Board Schedule (thanks Rob!) and a missed meeting on my part, but I am back again. Aren't you all lucky! What a summer it has been, too. I would like to start by thanking Brad Zimmerman our Arrangements Chairman, and all the superintendents who have offered their golf courses for MGCSA events this summer. To have so many fine venues for golf and social gatherings for our association has been fantastic. I was able to golf at all of them except Edina C.C. and what a great job every one has done to maintain their turf. Kudos to all.

While I didn't get to play Edina Country Club, I understand Mike Kelley had his facility in great condition. I must say, however, being a very poor wind player, as I drove out of the driveway to Edina C. C. and saw the trees swaying in the wind I almost looked forward to going back to work. To the business at hand, your MGCSA Board met at Edina Country Club on September 13th to conduct its latest slate of business.

Scott Turtinen reported that a membership recruitment brochure will be sent out to specific non-member clubs with an issue of the September *Hole Notes*. Turtinen also reported that 53 members could not receive their e-mails from the MGCSA business office due to a policy change/unsettled agreement between America On Line (AOL) and Time-Warner concerning mass e-mails. (*Editor's note: this problem has since been resolved.*)

President Rob Panuska (attended) the Delegates convention for GCSAA on September 24, 25 and 26. One item of concern for the Board of Directors was the consolidation of so many associations at the GCSAA Trade and Education show. While we all understand that there is strength in numbers, it was felt this is an item that should have gone through the membership. Of concern also was how this might dilute our association and the motivation for such a decision.

Panuska also voiced his concern for the number of clubs in Minnesota who are not members of our association. Much discussion ensued and listing all the benefits for membership would take too much space in this column. Rob stated that he will talk to our Membership Chair, James Gardner, CGCS, in an effort to develop a program. He also asked that we all talk to other members and get an idea why so many clubs haven't joined or rejoined the MGCSA, especially with the new Facility Membership.

In other news James Bade reported that the local GCSAA seminars are set for Jan 24th & 25th at the Double Tree in St. Louis Park. One topic is *Developing a Hazard Communication Policy*, the other is *Effective Soil Water Management for Quality Turf*. He also reported that the March Mini for 2005 is set for March 9th at Bracketts Crossing.

Paul Eckholm, CGCS reported that the Minnesota Lakes Association has an agenda to push for the ban of phosphorus fertilizers in the state. This is one issue that will need to be moni-

tored in the future. He also discussed the drinking water on the golf course. The FDA has made some changes to their original guidelines; however Paul stated he has been told that water/ice baths are a definite infraction of FDA rules. It appears that there are more bacteria in that situation than in the water coolers, so all beverage carts must have drains open when carrying beverages so the cans and bottles are not in water.

Dr. Horgan reported that there is a new Plant Pathology Head on board at the U of M. He also thanked the MTGF for donating funds to design a new building at the TROE center. Having a design will help substantially in the generation of donations to build the facility. He also stated the fundraising phase will take a concentrated effort by many associations to achieve our goal.

I hope everyone has had a great summer. I know many of you are trying to survive massive amounts of water and our prayers are with you. Good luck in the month ahead and may your aerations and irrigation blow outs go well.

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