

## MINNESOTA IN THE CROSSHAIRS

### Education

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Education is expensive. Just ask anyone with children attending college. But it doesn't always have to be. Look no further than the industry you belong to. Sure you can jet away to warm (usually), sunny (usually) locations every February and attend the always impressive Golf Industry Show. Sure, the educational opportunities are almost endless but the financial commitment can be a bit steep, especially for the smaller golf clubs or those experiencing budgets on the decline. There is an option out there that I think few are aware of and I know few have tried. I am, of course, referring to GCSAA Online Education, specifically the webcast offerings. It is truly one of the slickest ways to learn a thing or two while kicking back in the comfort of your office, without putting much of a dent in your budget.

As a current member of the GCSAA Online Education Task Group, I have been exposed to the vision that our national association has for this technology and its membership. The potential seems unlimited. Having participated in

at least a half-dozen web-based seminars and several web-based meetings, I can honestly say this communication medium is amazing! It is truly convenient, yet powerful, and something that everyone should experience at least once. Once you try it you will be impressed and probably will try it again. All you need is a PC with an Internet connection, either a dial-up or high-speed connection will do. Log into the GCSAA education section and click on the webcast link. On this page is a link to a site that will verify if your PC is up to the task. This site will also install the webcast software that makes this entire process possible. PC requirements are minimal and, of course, you will need speakers. Communication among seminar participants is achieved either by typing or by using a microphone. There is one drawback...as of right now, the webcast software will not work on Mac machines.

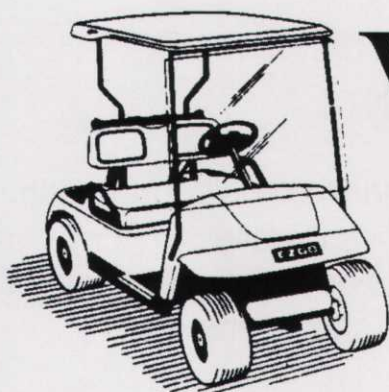
The seminars last 1.5 hours and are presented by many of the same professors and researchers that present at our local and national educational programs. These

e-learning sessions cover a variety of topics and deal with current issues, problems, and research and are offered in real time. Currently on the docket are seminars by Dr. Bruce Clark and Dr. Mike Agnew on managing Basal Rot Anthracnose, Dr. Thomas Nikolai on green speeds, resume writing for the green industry, coaching your team with positive feedback and many more. New seminars are constantly being added. In addition, you receive education points for participating and members of your staff can participate at the same time as well. Best of all...it only costs \$30! So, check it out. You won't be disappointed!

On another note, the child labor law session that was held during the March Mini-Seminar proved to generate a great deal of interest among members of our association. As was suggested at the seminar, we have put together a committee of MGCSA members to work with the Minnesota Department of Labor to further define the role of the teenager in MN golf course maintenance operations. Our main meeting will be held on March 30, which will already have occurred by the time this issue of *Hole Notes* reaches your door step. We will keep all members informed of the outcome of this meeting. It only makes sense that the less we leave open to interpretation by Department of Labor inspectors, the more clear our responsibilities become as employers.



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