



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Handling the Stresses of Spring*

By *Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS*

Spring is a great time of year, but as another superintendent and I discussed the other day, it can also be one of the most stressful as well. We both know our courses like the back of our hands, having been at them over 20 years. We also discussed that for the most part we get a ton of support from our members, yet there is always some member or small group thereof that makes us entirely uncomfortable because he/they believes that the course should be open "today."

Despite the snow banks, ponds where ponds shouldn't be and the fact that one can't get the staples that hold the covers out of the ground because the frost is still only inches from the surface. Adding to my personal stress this year, spring break this year for my teacher wife and daughter fell on the third week in March and we were going down to Branson for a vacation. A vacation I almost cancelled (Man, is my wife a saint) except that the weather did a 180 and the pressure to open the course subsided.

I know many superintendents open their courses earlier than I usually can and to those people, God bless you. You give my members a place to play so that the spring itch to golf that coursed through their bodies gets scratched. I have always opened when I felt the course was ready, but my work ethic and concern for the club's finances has always stressed me out in the spring. Here's hoping all of you handle it better than I do and have a wonderful start to the golf season.

**We had a great turnout at the March Mini-Seminar** despite the threat of terrible weather. Thanks to Wes Stoneback, superintendent at The Wilds, for arranging to have us use the Wilds beautiful clubhouse. Thanks also to Paul Diegnau for the excellent job he does in bringing in all the speakers for these events. His speaker this time was Dr. Rossi from Cornell University and what an engaging speaker he is. Whether you agree with what he says or not, you have to love his enthusiasm and passion. Being the conservative person that I am, dropping all my phosphorus and potassium fertilizer from my program is too drastic a change for me, but for those of you looking to save a few bucks, it may be the way to go. Thanks also to Syngenta, our platinum sponsor, for stepping up and supporting this event.

On the Board, we are looking at a proposal by the Class C members to designate one of the directors positions such that a Class C member will be seated as that director. It would be a position that is voted on by everyone, much the same as all the other directors' positions. It will also require some bylaws changes so everyone will ultimately have a voice in whether this takes place or not. If you have any input or questions, please contact one of the current board members or myself.

**I am repeating this paragraph from last month because it is important.** I hope everyone took the opportunity to renew your phosphorus certification. Even if you plan on following a fertilizer program with no phosphorus, please renew your certification by sending in the form found in the last March issue of Hole Notes, it can also be found online at [www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org). All that is needed from you is to read the article and send in the signed response form. This is extremely important to the MGCSA, MTGF and MNLA, as it is a method of handling hot issues with the legislation. If we can prove to the legislators that we can self regulate, it will help us to continue to get written out of upcoming regulatory bills. If you are participating, encourage others to do so as well.

*Take Care,  
Rick Traver*

# HOLE NOTES

Official publication  
of the MGCSA

Editor  
Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
[jmackenzie426@msn.com](mailto:jmackenzie426@msn.com)

## 2009 Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

**President**  
**Rick Traver, Jr., CGCS**  
Monticello CC  
763-295-3323

**Vice President**  
**Paul Diegnau, CGCS**  
Keller GC  
651-766-4174

**Secretary**  
**Matt McKinnon**  
The Legacy Courses at Cragun's  
218-825-2751

**Treasurer**  
**E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS**  
Heritage Links GC  
952-440-4655

**Ex-Officio**  
**James Bade**  
Somerset CC  
651-457-1161

### DIRECTORS

**Shane Andrews**  
MTI Distributing, Inc.  
763-592-7549

**Brian Brown**  
Chisago Lakes GC  
651-257-8734

**Eric Counselman**  
Somerset GC  
507-775-3743

**Scottie Hines, CGCS**  
Windsong Farm GC  
763-479-6524

**Jeff Ische, CGCS**  
Golden Valley G&CC  
763-732-4152

**Tom Meier**  
Le Sueur CC  
507-665-3665

**David Oberle**  
Excel Turf & Ornamental  
651-681-8050

**Tom Proshak**  
Brackett's Crossing CC  
952-435-2543

**Jeff Vinkemeier**  
Glencoe CC  
320-864-6872

### MGCSA OFFICE AND HOLE NOTES OFFICE

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Scott Turtinen**  
P. O. Box 617  
Wayzata, MN 55391  
952/473-2582 Fax: 952/473-2586  
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227  
[scott@mgcsa.org](mailto:scott@mgcsa.org)

[www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org)

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly November/December, January / February for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the MGCSA, 217 Minnetonka Av. S., Ste. D, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, P. O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.