



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Those who do not learn from history  
are doomed to repeat it."*

By Richard B. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

I don't know the origin of this quote or the exact phrase, but it goes something like this: "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." This comes to mind for me when we start talking about the dreaded Emerald Ash Borer or EAB as it is referred to in all the latest newsprint. I can't help but think back to days when Dutch Elm had devastated neighborhoods of elm tress along the beautiful boulevards of many cities and towns in America. The common replacement for the Elms at the time were Ash trees as they were fast growing, relatively inexpensive and had a growth habit that in time would give some of the same aesthetic affect.

**My grandmother's street was beautifully lined with elms** that reached across the street to each other, creating a shaded tunnel to drive through. We visited her about once a month and upon one of our visits, all the elms were gone and replaced by ash trees. That stretch of road just didn't have anywhere near the same character as before. I remember hearing a passing comment from my father, and it must have made an impression on me at the time as I actually remember this and usually I remember practically nothing, just ask my wife. Anyway, he commented on the fact that they were all ash trees and wondered when the day would come when they would all have to be cut down from some ash disease. Now, I am not sure that this particular town replaced "all" the elm with ash, but on the block my grandmother lived they certainly did.

**A lot of the same character has returned to her old street** and I would certainly hate to drive down that road again after all the ash trees are removed. I do believe, however, that this is a potentially ugly situation that could have been avoided had the people in charge of purchasing trees not been so concerned with recreating the look and focused on diversity. In that case EAB would still be a threat, but certainly not the devastating problem it may turn into. Don't get me wrong. It will be a shame if we have to go through the same tree removal programs that took place when Dutch Elm hit us so hard. I have found a pretty good website at [www.treereseach.org](http://www.treereseach.org), which could be of some benefit if you do have a lot of ash trees and would like to invest in them. Many lessons were learned with Dutch Elm disease and many new lessons will be learned with the EAB. The Arborists have developed new varieties of trees and methods of control that we didn't have at our disposal back in the '70s; it's just too bad we have to learn the lesson twice.

\* \* \* \*

**Thanks to Dave Deem and the good people at Wild Marsh Golf Club** in Buffalo for allowing us to have our scholarship scramble at their course. I am writing this prior to the event, given our close proximity, I have heard that the course is in great shape and am looking forward to the opportunity to play there again.

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**Thanks also to Bill Gullicks and his crew at Bellwood Oaks Golf Club** in Hastings for allowing us to host our spring mixer in May. I wasn't able to attend this event, however, it sounds like everyone had a great time.

\* \* \* \*

**I can hardly believe we are into June already.** I hope everyone had a good start to the golf season despite some of the turf damage I am hearing about and the poor recovery weather.

*Thanks and have a great month,  
Rick Traver*

# HOLE NOTES

Official publication  
of the MGCSA

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Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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**MGCSA OFFICE  
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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

[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.