



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Midst of the Wettest Spring Since '03

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Does it seem to you like it never stops raining these days? I just heard on the radio that this spring is the wettest since 2003. This is not helping the cause for those of us attempting to nurse turf back to health. But such is the life of a golf course superintendent! As I have said many times before, Mother Nature holds all the cards. For all I know, by the time you read this column we could be dealing with 90 degree temperatures and entering the throes of a drought!

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Vendor Appreciation Day hosted by Superintendent Jake Schmitz and the staff at Olympic Hills in Eden Prairie on May 17. The golf course was in excellent mid-summer shape and very enjoyable to play. In addition to golf and lunch in the clubhouse, MGCSA vendor representatives Joe Churchill and Luke Dant led a discussion on the 2012 MN Hospitality Night at the GIS as well as an overview of the upcoming digital transformation of our *Hole Notes* magazine. Bob Fitch, Executive Director of MNLA, was also on hand to discuss trends and issues affecting past Northern Green Expos and changes planned for the upcoming 2012 event. This was a good event and we would like to see more participation in the future. Thank you Jake for sharing your facility with the MGCSA.

The MGCSA 2011 Turfgrass Research Benefit appears to be on its way to another successful run at raising funds for research. As I write this at least 38 foursomes worth of tee times are sold with more to follow. None of this would be possible without the participation and generosity of many of our member clubs. Thank you!

By the time you read this, several of our association golf events will have come and gone. The Spring Mixer was held at the New Prague Golf Club on May 24. As you know, this event is held annually for our Assistant Superintendent members, though anyone is welcome to participate. The weather cooperated and many assistants were able to get away from their clubs and enjoy some camaraderie and a relaxing round of golf. Thank you to Superintendent Jeff Pint and the staff at New Prague GC for hosting this event.

The 2011 MGCSA Research Scramble was played on June 13. Thank you to Superintendent Curtiss Conkright and the staff at the Victory Links Golf Club for hosting this important event. Please make a special effort to thank your fellow members who so graciously offer their clubs to host our events. This ongoing participation keeps our association financially viable and socially active.

This year we travel to the Brainerd area for the 2011 MGCSA Championship. The August 15th event will be hosted by Superintendent Joe Wollner at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Make plans to participate. I hope to see you there.

The *Hole Notes* magazine is in the process of being archived by the Turfgrass Information Center at the Michigan State University Libraries. This will be a lengthy process as their intent is to archive the newsletters of all local chapters from across the country. I have been told our collection will probably be accessible sometime this fall. In addition to this historical archive, there is a wealth of turfgrass information available on this website. It can be accessed by most members of the GCSAA via their website. I encourage you to check it out.

On a final note, Bob Mugaas, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, is retiring at the end of this year after 34 years of service. He has been actively educating our membership over these years and his knowledge and wisdom will be missed. I have a feeling that post-2011, you will find him on the waters of Lake Minnetonka hunting the elusive state record large-mouth bass. Make sure to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement and wish him well.

*- Until next month,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS*

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Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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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

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