It's May again and most of the courses I know of are in mid-season condition already. April seemed a bit too cool to make the turf pop out of the ground which gave the superintendents a little more time to get the courses cleaned up before a great deal of cutting was necessary. Though the turf came out of the winter in good condition, we may pay in July for not having a good deep frost in January and February. One might consider aerating as much as possible in May to elevate what I see as being eventual heavy compaction this summer.

Our April meeting in Owatonna was quite well attended and believe it or not, we had the great fortune of being able to play golf. The sun was out in full but our great host superintendent Randy Nelson certainly has no problems with air circulation (at least he didn't that day). Winds were howling at 30-40 mph. Dr. John Ball of U of M Waseca was also on hand to give a presentation on arboriculture and some of the newly researched tree maintenance practices. Look for Dr. Ball's recap of this discussion in HOLE NOTES and our thanks to him for making our day more informative and worthwhile.

While on the subject, plan to attend our May 14 meeting at Hastings Country Club with host superintendent Steve Schumacher. Russ Adams has lined up another guest speaker, Dr. David French of U of M, who will update us on new injection procedures and chemical compounds involved in the treatment of Dutch Elm Disease.

Many thanks to last month's HOLE NOTES contributors Larry Mueller of Minnesota Valley Club and Scott Kaercher of Turfco Mfg. I really appreciate the fact I'm able to find enthusiastic superintendents and associate members willing to share their ideas. I hope that trend continues. Have an enjoyable May.
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