

Face Change Head On

Accept the challenge of our profession. Rise above adversity and be the best!

Our business is not unlike others, filled with politics, personalities and the whims of nature. But each of us has learned that dealing with these uncertainties is our real strength. We all face change and compromise daily. For us to become rigid and inflexible would be contrary to our success as golf course managers.

A truly successful manager not only deals with changes, but initiates them. Becoming complacent means one has accepted mediocrity. In today's competitive world, being average just doesn't rank. Setting our sights on being the best drives improving performance. Even innovation is spurned by this type of drive.

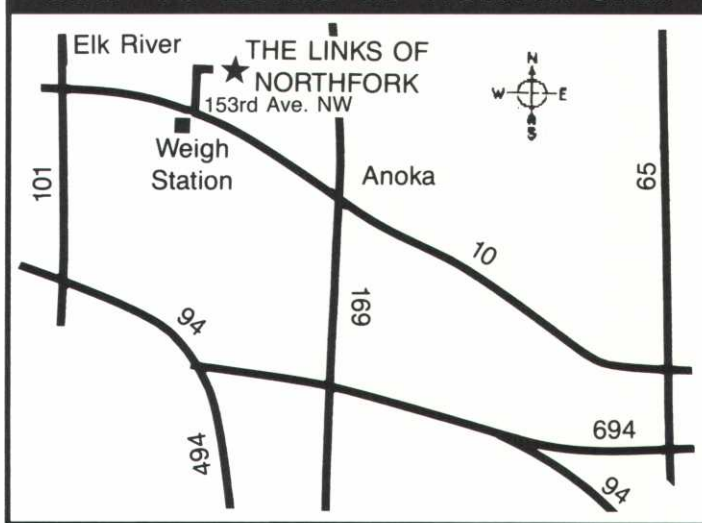
Understanding the desires of our golfing populace and implementing them through our management skills is the real name of the game. Face it, right or wrong, we can't always have it our way. But dealing with compromise in a positive direction takes talent. Demands placed upon our golfing facilities by the players are a real test in balancing nature with science. On occasion, ridiculous requests are made by greens committees, which challenges our abilities. Without direct defiance from nature, using our resource-

fulness, we can usually find a compromise that will keep everyone happy, and keep our jobs at the same time.

As stewards of the environment, it is our business to find the balance between nature and man. Golf is most definitely on edge between sanity and insanity. But everyone must enjoy the challenge or they wouldn't partake of the sport. By showing up at that tract of land called a golf course, superintendents and players prove their love of sport by facing the frustration and enjoyment each day.

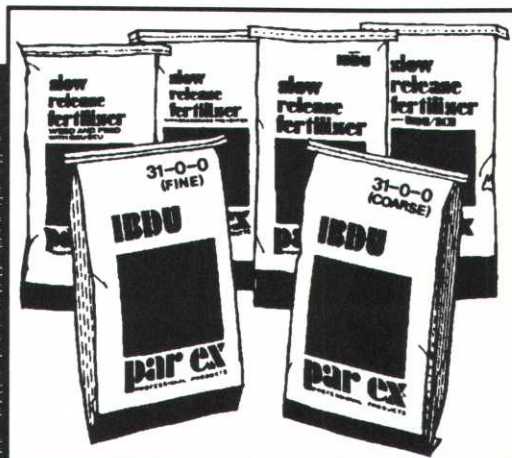
—Dennis James Orsborn, California Fairways

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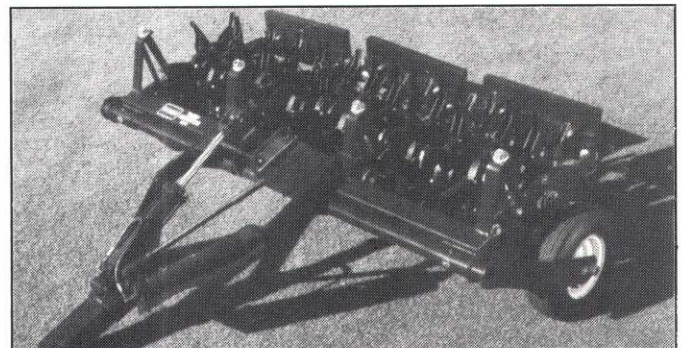
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Fund Raiser To Commemorate U.S. Open Champion Caddie Scholarship

The ghost of 1916 U.S. Open champion Chick Evans will roam the fairways and greens of the Minikahda Club September 20 during the Chick Evans Memorial Seven Club Fund Raiser.

The event commemorates the amateur golfer's stunning Grand Slam victory in which he used only seven golf clubs to shoot a then record score for the championship, two-under-par 286. The proceeds from the event will benefit the Minnesota Evans Scholarship Fund, the college scholarship Evans founded for deserving caddies.

Entries are available for the event, which will include 18 holes of golf with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start at the renowned Minneapolis club. KARE-TV news anchor Paul Magers will host the dinner banquet to follow. Golfers will be allowed to use only seven clubs and will be encouraged to dress in the fashion of the early 1900s. Evans scholars from the University of Minnesota will caddie for participants and coordinate many of the day's activities, which will feature a scoreboard displaying Evans' hole-by-hole scores for his final round during the Open.

The field is limited to 120 golfers — men, women, amateur or professional — with prizes being awarded in both gross and net categories. The entry fee is \$200. Entries close on August 20. To obtain an entry blank, contact the Minnesota Golf Association office at 612/927-4643.

After his U.S. Open victory, Evans remained an amateur golfer. He then dedicated his earnings from an instructional record to form the Evans Scholarship Foundation.

Since 1930 more than 5,000 Evans Scholars have graduated from universities across the country. Almost 400 of those graduates are from the University of Minnesota, which founded an Evans Scholar chapter house in 1954.

The Evans Scholarship Foundation is the largest privately funded scholarship in the country. It collects more than \$5,000,000 from golfers, Evans Scholar alumni and the Western Open each year.

Minnesota golfers contributed more than \$310,000 last year through \$150 Par Club memberships and \$25 Bag Tag memberships to the Evans Scholarship Foundation.



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FTC, EPA Crack Down on Misleading Product Claims

Cooperative efforts between the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are resulting in a crackdown on false or misleading advertising claims for turfgrass products.

The two agencies joined forces recently to develop advertising guidelines that take into consideration everything from product performance

claims to alleged environmental benefits imparted by the products. EPA is defining the guidelines and the FTC is enforcing them.

Already, the cooperative is producing results.

Orkin Exterminating Co. recently agreed in a government order to stop advertising that its pesticides were as safe as shaving cream and suntan lotion.

The settlement will halt brochures that advertised certain Orkin lawn-care products as "neither harmful to

you or your soil," and "practically non-toxic."

No fines or penalties were assessed, and Orkin does not admit to violating the law, according to the agreement.

For more information about the advertising claims guidelines, contact GCSAA's government relations program.

EPA Outlines Recall Proposal

Pesticide recall procedures under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) have been issued in an EPA proposed rule.

The proposed rule would establish procedures for voluntary and mandatory recalls, criteria for acceptable storage and disposal to be eligible for reimbursement of storage costs, and procedures for indemnification of owners of suspended and cancelled pesticides.

EPA Moves Ahead With Reduced Risk Policy

One of EPA's primary objectives this year is to launch a pilot reduced risk pesticide program through the Office of Pesticide Programs' registration division.

Larry Culleen, acting director of the division, says the goal is to accelerate the agency's review of applications for registration of pesticides that may pose a lower risk to public health and the environment than products currently on the market.

Under the pilot program, EPA would test how the agency would deal with risk issues. Several product registration applications accompanied by justification for reduced risk status already have been received, Culleen said.

He said EPA is not looking to issue a blanket set of criteria and warned that risk tradeoffs involved in registering the products will not be easy to evaluate. However, he added that it is critical to begin implementing the policy on a case-by-case basis.

A pesticide registration notice will be mailed to registrants soon.

EPA has refused to define the term "reduced risk."

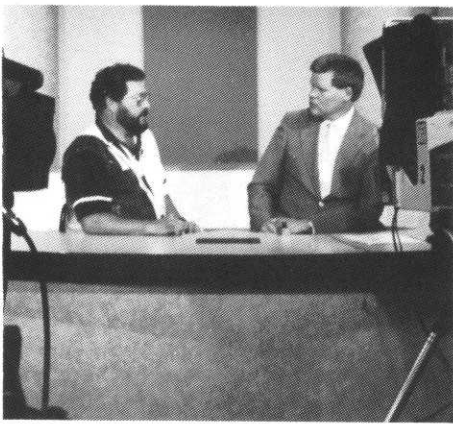


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TV Tipster STEVE HAMELAU on the air in Alexandria.

Hamelau—

(Continued from Page 8)

the books, pays bills, orders supplies and serves as an “unbiased critic” of the films.

“We now have some promotional videos in some of the larger Super America stores in the Twin Cities area,” Hamelau said. “They feature Lake Osakis and some of its area resorts. Now we’re working on a major video on Leech Lake, and that is headed for some Super America stores, too. These films also include information about the specific community itself, not just fishing.”

Hamelau also found himself “very busy” when the Minnesota Governor’s Fishing Opener was held in Alexandria in 1992. He served on the host committee, lined up 117 guides and worked with the media. “Our Board appreciated the fact that someone from the golf club was helping the community in this fashion,” he said.

Hamelau’s fishing experience also has helped to develop a good working relationship with his Board. During Alexandria Golf Club’s annual Board/Management dinner a few years ago, some of the Board members joked about “using Hamelau’s talents to the fullest.”

“They suggested I should take them out as a guide, so I did, two at a time,” he recalled. “It not only provided an opportunity to talk about fishing, but also the responsibilities of a golf course superintendent. It worked out well.”

Overall, it appears that everything came together rather well for Steve in an area that he obviously loves.

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Our Greens Are Putting Greens, Not Landing Strips

One of my "better members" came into my office the other day and handed me a copy of the *USGA Green Section Record*.

An article, written by William G. Buchanan, was entitled "Why Don't The Greens Hold?" If anything had ever been godsent, it had to be this article. I had just received a lecture on not watering my greens sufficiently by one of my "better players."

You know the type. A 5-handicap who plays a 15, fluffs the ball up at every opportunity and hits fliers to the green running 10' 6". This fellow expects every green to accept his poorly hit shots as if they were hit by the likes of a Tom Watson. No matter to him with problems arising from over-watering. Damn the compaction, disease and whatever else we superintendents invented to make our job seem complicated. Just drop his blasted Pinnacles 20" from his ball mark (preferably in front).

Well, I now have some ammunition, thanks to Mr. Buchanan and the USGA, and for this, I am truly thankful. Had this article appeared in *Green is Beautiful*, the *Greensmaster* or *Golf Course Management*, my "better golfer" and his like would surely dismiss it as superintendent propaganda. He will now treat the information as gospel and expound its virtues from tee to tee, as its source is not a superintendent's trade magazine but the prestigious USGA. I am not above accepting charity.

The article is too lengthy to repeat in its entirety, but I will directly quote the summation offered at the end of his paper.

1. Putting greens can be constructed to grow grass that is best for putting.
2. Not all putting greens are created equal; some may be firmer than others.
3. Depending on maintenance practices, some greens will putt faster than others.
4. The coefficient of restitution is a measure of how much a ball will bounce on a green, but not a good factor in determining if the green will hold.
5. Backspin on a ball will make it stop quickly, generally on the third bounce.
6. Golf balls make a difference in the amount of spin a player can impart on the ball. Two-piece balls spin slower than surlyn-covered balls.
7. Close, frequent mowings on fairways and tees will help the putting greens hold.
8. Hardness testers for greens will not solve the problem. They will only give us more numbers to use. (Has the Stimp-meter made putts for everyone?).

In conclusion, all aspects of golf must be considered with any problem relating to the golf course. Large numbers of golfers have been raised on soft putting greens. They have

(Continued on Page 27)



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Keith Faber

Putting Greens—

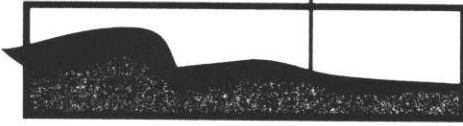
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not played on firm putting surfaces. Golf courses of the future will be forced into conserving water, and the game will be better for it.

Players who have not played under firm conditions are in for a treat, once they learn to adjust for the roll. In golf, the player should adjust his game to course conditions. The superintendent is employed to maintain the grass so it will best suit the play of the game. It is both unfair and unreasonable.

—Neil Acton, *Green is Beautiful*

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Methyl Bromide Case Reinstated

A Florida appeals court has reinstated a product liability action against seven manufacturers and distributors of a pesticide containing methyl bromide.

According to the court, only claims alleging inadequate labeling and warning are pre-empted by federal pesticide law. The court based its decision on a Supreme Court cigarette labeling case.


The ruling overturns a previous circuit court decision, which found all the plaintiff's claims—for negligence, breach of warranty and strict liability—completely pre-empted by FIFRA.

However, the appeals court ruled that the cigarette labeling case it cited vacated the earlier case by which the circuit court judge rendered his decision.

Plaintiff alleges a product containing methyl bromide is unreasonably dangerous because of faulty testing, research, labeling and warnings.

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Court Upholds Citizen's Right To Sue Under EPCRA Rules

A citizen's right to sue under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act was upheld recently by a Pennsylvania court.

The plaintiff in the suit alleges that a decorative foil manufacturer was late in filing reports required under EPCRA. The manufacturer did not contest the charge, but asked that the suit be dismissed on ground that Congress had unconstitutionally delegated executive power by allowing any citizen to sue, thereby violating the separation of powers doctrine.

However, a U.S. District Court judge for the District of Eastern Pennsylvania ruled that citizen lawsuit provisions similar to EPCRA have been incorporated into environmental statutes for more than 20 years and never have been declared unconstitutional.

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In fact, the results show that well-managed turf areas have very little runoff and virtually no potential for chemical contamination. Applications of these findings to land-use, city planners and environmental interests are very promising.

Funded in large measure by the U.S. Geological Survey, this study was initiated in 1986 to examine the water quality impact of pesticides and nutrients used in the urban landscape. A total of nine test plots, with slopes ranging from nine to 14 percent were prepared for the study. Water runoff and leachate trapping and measuring devices were installed on each plot, followed by the installation of identical irrigation systems and soil preparation. A sophisticated array of scientific instruments and specialized computer apparatus were connected to monitoring devices to measure and record what was taking place on each test plot.

Three of the plots were seeded with a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass/fine fescue, while three others were seeded with a "contractor" mix of annual rye, common Kentucky bluegrass and creeping red fescue. The final three plots were covered with three-year-old turfgrass sod grown from a blend of 100 percent certified Kentucky bluegrasses.

The plots were mowed weekly at a height of two inches and given four annual treatments of pesticides and fertilizers in accordance with label recommendations. After establishment, irrigation was applied only when the need to collect runoff was scheduled (two days after the chemicals had been applied).

Runoff Results: To examine the potential effects of turf on water quality as a function of runoff, Penn State researchers used a carefully con-

trolled irrigation system to uniformly apply known amounts of water to the test areas. After failing to obtain even the slightest amount of runoff from the sodded area with irrigation applications equal to a 3-inch per hour rain, the system was revamped to create a 6-inch per hour output in order to be able to collect runoff from sodded slopes for chemical analysis. According to rainfall probability data, a six-inch per hour storm in central Pennsylvania is not likely to ever occur.

The sodded test plots proved to be 15 times more effective than either of the seeded plots at controlling runoff.

Only 0.8% of all of the water applied was collected as runoff from the sodded areas while 13.4% ran off the "contractor" grade seeded area and 11.6% ran off the classic seed area. The 15-fold better runoff control advantage for the sodded slopes has significant environmental implications because there would also be less likelihood that the water would contain significant amounts of sediment, chemicals or other potential pollutants.

Leachate collection devices were also used to capture water percolating through the soil to determine its chemical composition.

Clean Runoff Discovered: When analyzing the runoff and leachate at one part per billion (equal to one teaspoon of sugar in 1.3 million gallons of coffee), researchers found almost no detectable amounts of the eight pesticides and nutrients that had been applied to the turf. In fact, in a vast majority of the tests, the chemicals were not even detected or were below the federal drinking water standard.

While there are no federal drinking water standards for many of the chemicals (indicated above by N/A), the runoff and leachate samples generally contained less potassium than the irrigation water that was used. This seems to further illustrate the grass plant's capacity to trap and hold many of the chemicals that a

sound turf management scheme would require. It is also important to remember that the water samples analyzed were virtually collected in a situation analogous to "curb side". In a "real life" situation, considerable runoff water from other sources would already be in the street which would result in significant dilution of already low concentrations of chemicals.

Potential application of findings: When combined with the other known attributes of turfgrass such as conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen, cooling effects, entrapment of particulate pollution and reduction of noise and glare, turf's water filtering capacities make it a very good candidate for additional environment improvement projects.

Directing urban runoff waters across turf and possibly into grass covered basins could provide not only a water cleansing effect, but also assist in:

A. Flood control and thereby a related reduction of waste water treatment facility requirements.

B. Pollution control from parking lot and/or animal feedlot runoff waters; and

C. Reduction of siltation and topsoil losses at construction sites, farm fields and highway rights-of-way.

While additional research is required to determine the surface areas of turfgrass needed to best serve its purposes on various soil types, grades and natural runoff amounts, considerable progress is being made in recognizing the many unique capabilities of the seemingly simple grass plant.

What has been right under our feet for many years is beginning to be recognized for the contributions it can make to improving our environment. Just as it is man who is creating environmental problems, it will be up to man to better understand and properly use the tools of environment improvements we have available to us, particularly turfgrasses.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By John Harris
Lafayette Club



Happy 50th birthday, Joe Moris! To everyone's surprise who attended the Garske Scramble at the White Bear Yacht Club, we had an unannounced guest speaker, and she was not researching any form of cancer.

It looked as if Joe would have preferred a fatal virus and died long ago. I don't know who the culprit was, but I could see revenge in Mr. Moris' eyes.

* * * *

The Garske Scramble was a huge success. I see that many of you invited members of your staff out for the day, as was our intention. I certainly hope they enjoyed the break and got a chance to see another fine track.

Mr. Steiner and the White Bear Yacht Club grounds department had the course in excellent condition. Imagine those hills and all that rain. No, thank you. My hat's off to John and his entire staff.

* * * *

The Walker Cup matches are fast approaching. I am certain that John Katterheinrich is losing a great deal of sleep about now and will not recover anytime soon. I hope some of you will get a chance to see this amateur event (as if they had handicaps).

This is another chance for Minnesota Superintendents to be in the limelight, so wear your MGCSA logo proudly if you attend.

I am sure John will appreciate the support we can give him as members. (No pressure, eh, John?)

* * * *

By now we have all been up to the Links for our annual MGCSA Championship, so I will thank Paul Mayes and Company in advance for hosting this event.

This month I must keep things short, so that will be all for now. I hope to have seen you at The Links at Northfork.

—John Harris
Editor

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