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RICK LUCKEN, Benson Golf Club, tells Paul Jones, Tee Shot Marketing, that his drive home is longer.
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26 • HOLE NOTES

NOVEMBER 1996
WINNERS of the October Mixer at Fox Hollow scramble to pick out prizes.

A-NO. 1 BALL HUNTER Steve Garske, Par Aide Products Co., successfully finds his golf ball along the banks of the Crow River.

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E. Paul Eckholm Receives Professional Certification

E. Paul Eckholm, superintendent at Heritage Links Golf Club, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Eckholm has been superintendent at the Lakeville, Minn., course since February, 1996.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,600 active GCSAA members currently hold "CGCS" status.

To become certified, a candidate must have five years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific educational requirements of college credit or continuing education units. The candidate must then pass a rigorous six-hour examination covering knowledge of GCSAA and its certification program; the rules of golf; turfgrass management; pest management, safety and compliance, and financial and organizational management.

As part of the certification process, an on-site inspection of Eckholm's golf course operation was conducted by two certified golf course superintendents: Paul Diegnau, CGCS, at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood, Minn., and James Gardner, CGCS, at The Wilds Golf Club, Prior Lake, Minn.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS—SEPT. 30, 1996

Jim Elling
Hiawatha GC A
319 Walnut, Mankato, MN 56001
W: 605-987-4909

Daniel Carlson
Pine City CC B
925 1st Ave. NW
Pine City, MN 55063-1008
W: 350-432-3645

Wesley Salo
Ridgeview CC B
519 Anderson Rd., Duluth, MN 55811
W: 218-728-2583

Thomas Eschete
Crystal Lake B
15261 Greenhaven Dr., Apt. 141,
Burnsville, MN 55330
W: 612-955-3656

Jason Balko
Redwood Falls GC C
Rt. 51, Redwood Falls, MN 56283
W: 507-637-8901

Richard Meyer
GC at Whitehawk Ranch C
P.O. Box 20432, Graeagle, CA 96103
W: 916-836-0944

Greg Lewis
U of W — River Falls Student
120 S. 3rd St., River Falls, WI 54022
H: 715-425-8116

Joseph Tart
U of W — River Falls Student
465, 184th Ave., Somerset, WI 54025
W: 715-247-8116

Jim Pollock
Midland Hills CC D
11700 Kumquat St. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
W: 612-631-1545

Jerry Parker
Midland Hills CC D
12866 Ingersoll Ave. No.
Hugo, MN 55038
W: 612-631-1545

John Quinlan
Wilbur-Ellis F
4826 Chosen Ave., Mpls, MN 55440
W: 612-309-6424

Rick Gabler
Superior Tech Products F
8320 Fern Lane, Loretto, MN 55357
W: 612-934-1205

James Shone
Zeneca Professional Products F
1715 Cambridge
St. Charles, IL 60174
W: 708-377-1342

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Jay Stadler
Central Irrigation Supply C to F

Jay Gustafson
Swan Lake CC B to A

Ron Furlong
Buffalo Heights GC C to B

Jerry Schirm
Golden Valley CC D to C

Kurt Hadler
Hilltop Creek GC Student to C

Michael Cohrs
Buffalo Run GC D to C

David Sime,
MGCFA Membership Chairman

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14900 - 21st Avenue North, Plymouth, MN 55447
An observation, as I sit with my peers at a meeting to listen to a self-proclaimed expert about the down side of pesticide use:

My mind is aghast with the comments made about just what the side effects of chemicals will do to the soil organisms, birds, cats, dogs, wildlife and my family. Granted, years ago when DDT was prevalent and used exclusively on almost everything, there might have been a case of over use.

But now, Golf Course Superintendents are so well-trained, the Superintendent can usually predict when Dollar Spot is going to hit what green within two days. Is that an overstatement? No, I don’t think so. I can relate to IPM; it’s either Integrated Plant Management or Intelligent Plant Management.

To look at “integrated” in the dictionary, you find it means to bring together, to make useful. Now when utilizing IPM, you bring together several facets, sampling, scouting, logging environmental conditions and identification. Once you have determined the pest, then you will decide to go into a problem solving mode.

I think the most overlooked aspect of IPM is like the “Intelligent” part. Golf Course Superintendents know that you can’t do certain things, like grow Bermuda grass in Minnesota. Grass is a very viable plant; it is alive. Grass needs the micro-climate and the macro-climate. In the micro-climate and macro-climate there are living organisms that benefit the grass plant; it does not make sense to remove one’s livelihood.

I read an article put out by the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A comment was made that “golf courses must be one of the most chemically addicted systems in nature.” It seems again that people are misconstrued about exactly what happens at a golf course. This time let’s look at the Big Picture.

Let’s start up the economic side. There’s employment for people not just on the golf course either. There’s the aesthetic view, and then there are trees and grass-producing oxygen and filtering the dust from the urban arena. Now, I suppose, you could put family values out on that golf course. My son misses the time we would spend together cutting cups and setting tee markers, good bonding time.

Are we chemically addictive? Not on your life! We use different ways to control diseases, and we know that aereification will provide us with healthier grass, even though our member-bosses dislike it. Years ago things might have been different, but, the future is now! And now we make our stand and educate ourselves constantly. I know sever-

al people who always have had a level of intensity several planes above everyone else; these are amazing people who can spin circles around the best. When it comes to IPM, these people know the route to take when dealing with pests of turfgrass, trees and aquatics, keeping in mind that the “Big Picture” will not be affected adversely.

* * * *

Congratulations to Jim Nicol, CGCS, for being appointed to the Golf Course Superintendent’s position at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

* * * *

I had a chance to read an article in the Star-Tribune about harvesting peat. The article was very informative and actually explained the process that is required for getting 3,000 to 5,000 year old reed sedge peat. I was amazed by the care that is exercised by the companies to “re-bog” these areas after the harvest is completed.

* * * *

The 1996 golf season is almost over. It’s time to review and evaluate everything. The traditional questions remain. The comments from the Green Committee over the summer will be addressed and acted upon (if they haven’t been already) and a new game plan for a successful 1997 will be implemented. The following list will offer you an idea.

- You must clearly identify what your responsibilities are as golf course superintendent.
- You must constantly analyze the methods you are using to implement strategies and determine the capabilities of your staff and equipment.
- Determine your goals for the season.
- When determining your goals, educate your membership through the club’s newsletter or bulletin board for everyone to be aware. Communication is key!
- When training your staff, make them aware of your expectations and the goals that you have set forth. Make it so that the goals can be identified, practiced and implemented by the entire grounds staff.
- Plan for every conceivable contingency your staff will face, no matter how unusual the circumstances may seem.
- You should be as detailed and specific as your time and materials allow.
- Make sure you are using all the tools available to you.
- Recognize that the most important factor in your plan is the human element, and that the way you interact with your staff and membership affects any and all preparations you make.

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