



Back to School!

By **Kris Pinkerton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



As we approach the end of summer, it's back to school time for most of us who have children at home yet! Preschool, kindergarten, grade school and high school students have no doubt been in the learning curve for a few weeks already. College and technical students will be returning soon as well. Aside from noticing all those empty seats in our break rooms, it is also the time of year that we as professional golf course superintendents should also give consideration to our own continuing education. I must admit, though, there are times when it seems like we never leave the learning curve. Does this YEAR ring a bell? With the wide range of adversities our golf courses have faced this season, every day presented a new challenge and/or learning experience.

But in life and everything we do, both professionally or away from the golf course, our relationships and all of our activities at some point in time are positioned somewhere on a learning curve. We often learn as we go, and as time and experience increase, so does our ability to grasp more complex

ideas as they apply to each individual task. So how does this apply to our profession of golf course management?

If you were to have an individual who is just beginning in our profession, they can usually only absorb so much information at one time. Now, fill their brain with everything that you know about golf course management and it will probably confuse and bewilder them to no end. It could certainly confuse an individual to the point that changing cups could be an insurmountable task! This has nothing to do with an individual's abilities to learn, but rather the time that it takes for them to implement each new idea and build confidence in that it was done correctly.

Therefore, as we all ascend on our learning curves and become more experienced, we then are able to handle more advanced and technical details. These details are needed to continue to cultivate and maintain superior golf turf, in our ever changing, environmental-

ly sensitive times. That's our creed is it not?

This is why I feel it is so very important for us to utilize every affordable opportunity for continuing education. Attending the Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility every August for the latest in research and new products or equipment. Attending WGCSA Monthly Meetings is a great way to interact with your peers and vendors. We also have education offerings available at the spring and fall meetings. Coming up on November 13-14th, a brand new location for the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium at the American Club in Kohler promises to be a real treat along with one of the finest educational opportunities available to us in Wisconsin. And finally, taking in the GCSAA Regional seminars that are co-hosted by our chapter. All these local events will be coming to you before the year ends. Hope to see you soon! 🌿

**WGCSA MEMBER/GUEST
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