

HOLE NOTES

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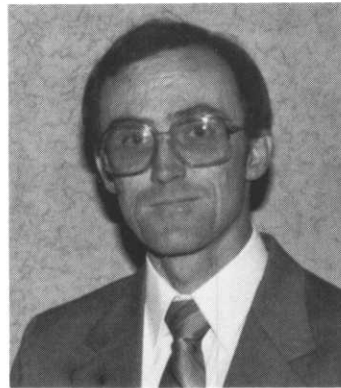
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DALE CALDWELL

Seldom have I enjoyed anything as much as I did the day of September 9 at the Hazeltine National Golf Club. Chris Hague had his course in excellent condition. The height of the rough, the length of the course and the "U.S. Open pin placements" brought me, and many others, to our knees. The greens weren't as disasterous as I had imagined. However, I don't believe anyone in attendance really envies Chris' position and the big project which lies ahead this fall and next spring. Chris' greenschairman, Reed Mackenzie, gave a very interesting presentation as to what Toronto C-15 decline is all about.

The real highlight of the event was the awards presentation and the honoring of Harold Stodola by our group. That man is absolutely incredible. Gerald Murphy did an outstanding job in regaling Harold's biography and achievements in golf course management. The beauty of the event lay in the attendance of sixteen members of Harold's family and friends. Some came from California and Arizona. Tears were glistening in the eyes of many and it was a very proud moment for MGCSA.

For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a very memorable event and I, for one, was extremely pleased and proud to have been a part of this tribute to Harold Stodola.

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irrigation, results in much of the potassium being leached from the rootzone and a subsequent reduction in potassium uptake by the plant. Light, frequent topdressing with sand results in similar potassium management problems as those encountered with high sand content rootzones. Superintendents need to be aware of these relationships and to adjust their nutrition programs accordingly.

Potassium is not a miracle element; it is an essential nutrient, and superintendents should keep its role in perspective. A fair degree of evidence supports potassium's role in turfgrass stress tolerance, but controversy exists among turfgrass researchers regarding its potential benefits. For example, concern has been raised about high potassium levels increasing *Poa pratensis* competition in turfs, but little research evidence supports this concern.

More work is needed to further delineate the role of potassium in golf course fertilization programs, and superintendents should be willing to approach its use for enhancing stress tolerance in a reasonable manner. A

concerted research effort with potassium is being conducted at the University of Nebraska. This research is part of an extensive cultural practice research project supported by the USGA.

(Credit: USGA Green Section Record)

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