

# HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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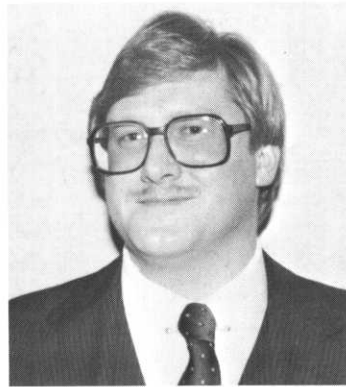
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KERRY GLADER

Our thanks go out to the Detroit Lakes Country Club and host superintendent, Brad Klein, for a splendid day at their beautiful club in northern Minnesota. The weather was superb, and many of our members enjoyed Brad's fine golf course. Special thanks to the Turf Supply Company for having Dr. Clinton Hodges from Iowa State University up to speak to our group. Dr. Hodges had many points to make about sand topdressing and high-sand mix greens. Much research needs to be done on rootzone disease organisms, and the future will require more than just a single source for answers to our turf problems. I quote Dr. Hodges, "We are entering a new era in turf maintenance, and all in this field should prepare themselves with the needed information to respond to these problems." Hopefully, we will have Dr. Hodges up to speak again soon, so he can let those of you not at the meeting enjoy his words of wisdom and scare you with his slide presentation.

The 1986 Annual Picnic WILL NOT be held this year. Due to technical difficulties and declining interest, we have decided to skip this year and make a go for next year at Tartan Park Golf Course. Host superintendent, Joe Moris, has expressed his desire to have our annual picnic every year. The 1987 Picnic Arrangements Chairman, Mike Leitner, has many plans for next year. With Tartan Park's facility we will have the best of both worlds for our families recreational activities and the use of a great Minnesota golf course. The date will be out soon for next year, so please mark it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

Dr. Don Taylor is at the University of Minnesota - St. Paul Campus, and has asked me to let you know that he is available

President's Desk to Page 11

## President's Desk from Page 2

for any soils related service. To contact him, call 624-3478.

Plans for the annual conference in December are well under way. Chris Hague, Scott Hoffmann and Jim Nicol have preparations well in hand, and we look forward to being at the St. Paul Radisson. With our change of facilities, we are going to better serve our spouses by offering some activity for them. A survey was sent out in May, so please see to it that your spouse has the opportunity to respond to this effort.

Our July meeting will be at the Purple Hawk Country Club on July 14. This is a good opportunity for us all to visit the "traveling superintendents" (Fred Anderson, Jr.) golf course to pay homage for all of his use on our own courses.

See you on the course!

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# BROADENING HORIZONS

by FRED V. GRAU  
President  
Musser Int'l. Turfgrass Foundation

The letters "CGCS" after a golf course superintendent's name indicate that this person has attained a level of professionalism far removed from that of the early 1900's image of the "the grass cutter at the barn." Today's professional golf course superintendent often enjoys a comfortable office in a modern maintenance building that is the nerve center of multimillion dollar golf course grounds and associated facilities, including the clubhouse.

Old-time "greenkeepers" typically had crews but no assistant. Quite often, some of the equipment was operated by the head man.

With CGCS following his name, today's golf course manager may have an assistant being trained to become a superintendent himself. In addition, some superintendents have a secretary to handle phone calls, file papers, answer correspondence, process articles and

prepare specifications.

And yet, even with such professional amenities and support, there is still dissatisfaction over the recognition superintendents receive for the work they do to provide near-perfect playing surfaces, beauty and serenity of surroundings.

In their efforts to improve their visibility and garner attention to enhance their image, many superintendents could accomplish those goals by broadening their horizons. Day after day devoted exclusively to the golf course without any outside relief tends to develop "tunnel vision" similar to that of a horse with blinders.

Outside interests are essential to broaden the mind and to share the unique knowledge of growing things that superintendents possess in such abundance.

What are some of these other interests in which the golf course superintendent might become involved so that more people get to know him and his unique abilities?

First, consider the fact that golf courses occupy sites in the midst of people, many of whom do not play golf. Their interests should be considered as one potential starting point.

Garden clubs, for example, frequently seek out speakers who can tell them more and more about how plants grow, how grass grows, what kinds to plant and when to plant. Country clubs, golf clubs and other kinds of golf operations, should be proud to know that their superintendent is public-spirited and is carrying the name of the course wherever he or she goes.

Service clubs also are frequently looking for interesting speakers at noon luncheons. Some superintendents have prepared themselves for this volunteer service by taking Dale Carnegie or GCSAA courses.

Businessmen belonging to various service clubs enjoy hearing about growing grass, shrubs, trees, flowers and other plant materials. This broadens their horizons. As they follow the teachings of the speaker they tend to improve their properties, which adds to their value.