

HOLE NOTES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SCOTT HOFFMANN, CGCS

I wonder if it's too late to buy stock in a good wetting agent manufacturer. This should go down as one of the all time hot, dry summers in Minnesota history, but judging from what I've seen, most of you have been up to the challenge and are providing very playable golf courses. Actually the drought suits my game just fine. I've gained 50 yards off the tee, albeit still not down the middle, but it feels great!

On the more serious side, this drought has taken its toll on a number of Minnesota golf courses irrigating from surface water sources. The irony of surface water irrigation is that when we need it the most, we are most likely to be cut off. As Minnesota water appropriation statutes are written, golf courses are amongst the lowest priority users.

Although up-grading our priority rating may prove difficult if not impossible, there may be some positive changes we can effect. One of these would involve a reasonable warning notice prior to cut-off. As the law now stands, golf course irrigators are not entitled to appropriate notice or opportunity for hearing, and in some instances this year, golf courses have been cut from their water supply with less than two days notice.

I urge that whether or not your water supply is affected, you familiarize yourself with the Minnesota Water Appropriations Statutes, Rules, and Policy #6115.0620-0810 which can be obtained from your Regional DNR Division of Waters, and take time to express your concerns to your local legislators. I can assure you I will do the same.

Mike Netzel had the winter covers off in time for our July meeting at Northland and the superb Donald Ross layout was enjoyed by the more than ninety that attended. This month's speaker provided by Turf Supply was Mark Ascerno, U. of M. entomologist. Mark assured us the drought was not adversely affecting all life in Minnesota, with the insect world having a banner year.

As a result of a poll taken on the July meeting registrations, the MGCSA will not be sponsoring a bus to our August meeting at Rochester Country Club, but we expect a great turn-out for our Annual Superintendents' Championship and retirement dinner for Kurt Erdmann. Can't believe it! Rochester and Northland back to back. I think our arrangements chairmen deserve a raise!