



OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD

**GREG HUBBARD, CGCS
Editorial Chairman**

Many of us were initially introduced to the golf course superintendent's profession early in our lives. Whether it be working, playing, or hanging around a golf course, many career decisions were based on the positive aspects of this environment. The attraction of the outdoors, the seasonal nature of the job, and the immediate satisfaction of a job well done were all motivating factors in choosing our line of work. For me, there was no greater gratification than seeing the results of a finely mowed fairway or green. Compliments from the golfers were a great reward as I finely tuned the golf course for their enjoyment. I'm afraid, however, that those days are quickly leaving us. Rather than mowing grass and tending to the needs of the golf course, we must now respond to the demands of government and concerned citizens. As our job status becomes elevated and more complex,

we must correspondingly become more professional in our duties as golf course superintendents.

This new approach is demonstrated by the MGCSA's current involvement with labor laws and water use in Minnesota and their effects on golf courses. As shown by recent efforts in these areas, superintendents must be keenly aware of influences outside of the golf course which may be making their decisions for them. We must be increasingly concerned with the effects our decisions have on the environment and those around us. Our response to these laws and regulations must be measured and quick. For those who choose to ignore their implications, we must question the professional approach and integrity of the individual. Resistance to response is inevitable, but the government will punish those who ignore its dictates. If you choose to ignore the Employee Right-To-Know Law and its requirements, what about others? Will you violate the Child Labor Standards Act and hire underage people at your course? Do you follow the laws regarding hazardous wastes and pesticides? How long can you avoid the DNR and water management regulations? All these laws and others have been introduced in recent years and it is your responsibility to follow them, insuring safety in the workplace and fairness to your fellow workers and yourself. You, as

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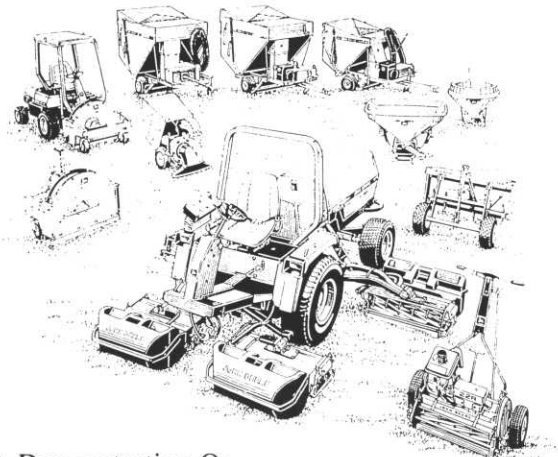
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the manager, must see that these laws are followed or suffer the consequences. MGCSA is trying to keep you informed of your options, meeting the everchanging demands of an increasingly complex job environment.

Like it or not, these laws will define our way of life, at home and at the workplace. Ignorance of the law will not be a defense for those who violate them. As one superintendent recently said, "The days of just cutting grass are over". We can no longer afford to be lackadaisical in our approach to government regulation. It will only become more encompassing and complex, requiring more and more demands on our time and resources.



1989 MGCSA Monthly Meeting Calendar

* Revised

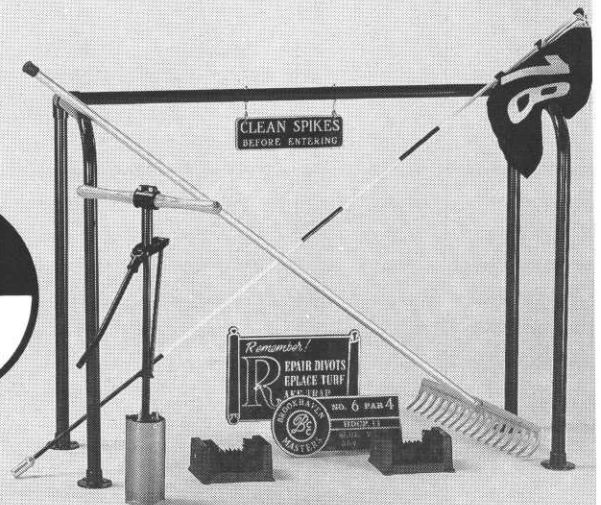
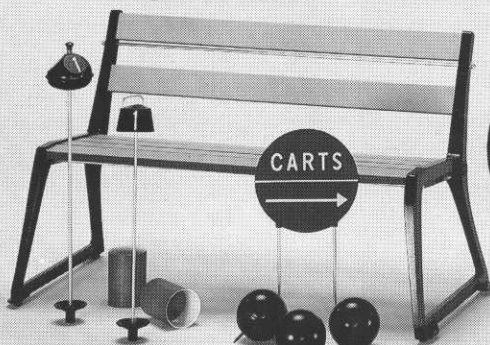
<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>
April 10	New Prague Golf Club
May 8	Edenvale Golf Club
June 5 *	Detroit Country Club
July 10	Pebble Creek Golf Club
August 7	Edina Country Club
September 25 *	Edinburgh USA *
October 9	Willmar Golf Club
November 6	Faribault Golf and Country Club *

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