

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Bill Johnson
Edina Country Club



President Kerry Glader assigned John Harris of Lafayette Club and myself, Bill Johnson of Edina Country Club, to the editorial committee of *Hole Notes*. After taking a look at previous editorial chairman Greg Hubbard's picture along side the title of his editorial, *Off the Top of My Head*, I decided I could not stand to lose any more hair, and so changed the title back to *Editor's Corner*.

As Greg has pleaded so often in the past, we need your help as we continue our efforts to improve *Hole Notes*. To refresh your memory, there is a \$50 check awaiting those members submitting an article that is published. In addition, those articles will be judged at year's end, and the winner will be presented with *The James Watson Award for Journalism*. If you don't feel up to writing an article at the present time, but have some thoughts about topics for articles you would like to see in *Hole Notes*, please contact John or me. We also welcome any other comments you might have regarding this publication.

This is the first issue of *Hole Notes* produced by Turtinen Communications. I'd like to welcome them aboard. I sincerely hope that this arrangement is one that benefits both the MGCSA and the Turtinens—Ralph, Scott and Jeff.

"What are you going to do differently this fall in preparing the course for winter?" is a question I'm often asked after a difficult season like the one just passed. Last spring members seemed convinced that it was not a matter of what we did or did not do that resulted in the loss of turf. Basically, the loss of turf we experienced was due to the type of grass (*Poa Annua*), poor drainage and unfavorable weather conditions.

Members have a somewhat surprised look on their faces when I am not doing anything differently this fall. That is not to say I pretend to know all of the answers, or that I am not willing to try anything new. The methods we use are the same as those used by many area superintendents, and are sound.

I'd like to suggest, if any of you ever experience a severe turf loss, be it winter or summer, that you don't hesitate to ask for help. Your fellow superintendents, as well as many of our associate members and members of the staff at the University of Minnesota, are all willing to help. Be visible. Let your members know with whom it is you are consulting. They will respect you for it.

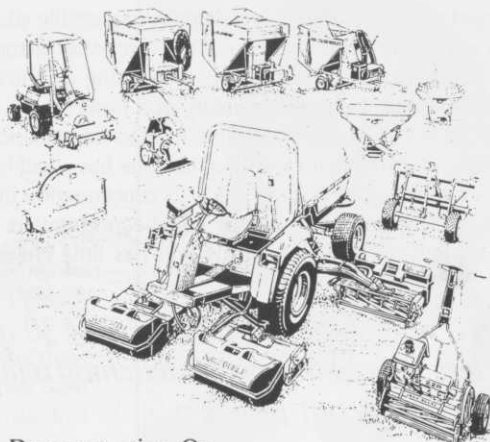
The 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held February 19-26 in Orlando, Florida. Minnesota is always well-represented at the national conference. It is a great time for learning and fellowship. It does wonders for your spirits if you are able to catch a few rays of the sun while you are there.

If you are not a member of the GCSAA or do not make attending the annual conference and show a high priority, you are missing the boat. Preceding the conference the golf championship will be played on five golf courses, with an expected 600 participants.

Each year I look forward to playing the variety of challenging courses. The fellowship of playing golf with superintendents from other areas is also a highlight. This year the MGCSA Chapter team will be made up of Paul Mayes, Jim Lindblad, Mike Olson and myself.

Our next meeting will be January 8 at Woodhill Country Club. There will be paddle tennis, ice hockey and maybe a card game of two. Anyone interesting in joining the hardy group of souls going ice fishing should call Joe Moris at 612/733-3472.

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