

HOLE NOTES

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6550 YORK AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 402
EDINA, MINNESOTA 55435-2383
612/927-4643



WINTER IS ON ITS WAY

by KEITH SCOTT, CGCS
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Even though most areas received more precipitation in 1989 than in 1988, Minnesota golf courses are still facing severe drought conditions. As cold weather approaches, I am sure that the thoughts of most superintendents will reflect back to the winter of 1988-89. Winter injury is among the most frustrating types of damage a golf course can experience, particularly when it is associated with snow and ice cover. Winter damage is impossible to predict. If turf is lost, the superintendent can be in a precarious situation with club officials because so little is known about the nature of the injury. Even though criticism is often unjustified, it's no wonder that club officials sometimes become suspicious about the superintendent's ability to deal with winter injury. Make it a point to inform your club that whatever means you use to protect your course, you are still at the mercy of Mother Nature. The fact is, there are many questions which remain unanswered.

Andy Lindquist, Superintendent at Brookview GC, has submitted his resignation to the MGCSA Board. Andy will be leaving Brookview to work in a field not associated with golf courses. We wish Andy success in his new venture and thank him for his involvement with the MGCSA.

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association has experienced tremendous membership growth over the past five years. Although education is cited as the main reason for joining, many of these new members are seldom seen at our various meetings throughout the year. Whether it is a financial problem or the demands of the job, I encourage you to discuss this issue with your club, maybe they can assist you in becoming more involved. Golf courses face many environmental issues and in order to be successful, you must continue to upgrade your education. Our Annual Conference, held November 29, 30 and December 1 at the Sheraton Inn Northwest, the one day Mini-Seminar held in March and our monthly meetings are some of the educational avenues available.

Willmar Country Club was the site of our October meeting. Over 50 people were treated to an enjoyable lunch and although the weather was brisk, a few hearty souls played on their fine golf course. Thanks to Superintendent James Wodash, to all the people at the Club for hosting this event and to the Kromer Co. for the equipment display.