

MGCSA Establishes Environmental Committee

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Research Underway, Findings to Be Published; Your Input Is Solicited

By KEVIN CLUNIS

Chairman, MGCSA Environmental Committee

It is hard these days to pick up a newspaper and *not* find an article on problems with our environment.

Pollution. PCBs. Pesticides. Hazardous wastes. You name it. The various news media are focusing on all of these problems.

Golf courses also seem to be getting their share of finger-pointing on potential problems. Legislators—be it on the local, state or national level—have enacted laws for us, as golf course superintendents, to follow. It's mind-boggling just trying to decipher the meaning and intent of all of these laws.

With this challenge in mind, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association last June established a new committee on environmental issues regarding golf courses. I was volunteered (?) to chair this committee.

Serving with me are Shane Andrews, Hudson Country Club; Scott Austin, Midland Hills CC; Jim Gardner, Rochester Golf & Country Club; Paul Mayes, Brackett's Crossing GC; Dave Krupp, Turf Supply Co.; Bob Mugaas, Hennepin County Extension office; Dean Herzfield, Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Ward Stienstra, University of Minnesota.

At our initial meeting we established some goals, one of them being to inform our membership about the laws and regulations affecting golf courses.

We felt that if we could get information—in printed form—to our members, we would be taking our first step in the right direction.

We also concluded that the main areas of concern to research were:

- Hazardous Waste and Removal;
- Toxic Spills;
- Underground Storage Tanks;
- Above-ground Storage Tanks;
- Pesticide Storage, Handling and Container Disposal.

Water Quality, Irrigation Seminar To Be Held Nov. 26 in Rapid City

A regional seminar titled "Water Quality and Irrigation Scheduling" will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, S.D., on November 26, 1990.

It is sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America with the South Dakota GCSAA serving as co-host.

Speakers will be Dr. David M. Kopec, associate extension specialist with the University of Arizona, and Dr. Clark Throssell, assistant professor of turfgrass science at Purdue University.

Techniques, methods, tools and practices of irrigation scheduling will be presented. Seminar participants who pass the examination at the conclusion will earn .7 Continuing Education Unit and a certificate of achievement from the GCSAA.

Telephone registrations by credit card are welcome. For more information call 1-800-471-7878. Ask for Betsy Evans, education coordinator, or Nancy Benson, education clerk.

Currently we are researching these issues with various agencies associated with these regulations, including EPA, MPCA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, OSHA and local and county governmental bodies.

What we have found out so far is that if you do have a problem, communicate and be open with the agencies, because they are there to help you.

The bottom line to all of these rules and regulations is that if you don't comply or attempt to comply, then you and your facility could face termination of your operations.

There are various other aspects we wish to explore, but, for now, we will try to publish this information by the first of the year. We will include phone numbers and contact persons, and also put the phone numbers in our membership roster.

If any of you have had dealings with any of the issues we are researching, please contact us.

We are looking for any helpful information. Meantime, I will keep our membership updated as much as possible with periodic stories in *Hole Notes*.

The Readers Write

NCTGA Conference/Trade Show Set in January in Fargo

Mr. Ralph Turtinen
Publisher, Hole Notes

Dear Mr. Turtinen:

Thank you for the September, 1990 issue of *Hole Notes*. We appreciate being kept up to date on what your association is doing. You are an inspiration and have many programs that we are aspiring to achieve.

Please include notice of our 6th Annual North Central Turf Grass Association Conference and Trade Show (January 15-16-17) at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, N.D. Our contact person is myself, Betsy Smith, executive director, and our phone number is 701-232-0215. Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M will be our keynote speaker.

We hope you enjoy receiving our NCTGA newsletter. We feel the best way for growth for all is through the free exchange of information and ideas.

Sincerely,
Betsy Smith
Executive Director