# **HOLE NOTES**

Official Publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

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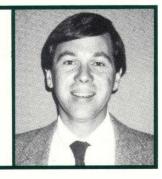
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# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's So Important To Keep Abreast Of All Developments



Our January meeting at Woodhill Country Club was a great time for everyone. I would like to thank Rick Fredericksen and his staff for providing food and entertainment. A special thank you to Joe Moris for setting up the ice fishing and for his successful effort in the golf club collection for our troops in Saudi Arabia.

## After attending the GCSAA International Conference and Trade Show

for the past 12 years, one could ask what's new? Our industry is evolving so rapidly that a person truly cannot afford to miss attending on a yearly basis.

There are vast changes in the laws concerning right-to-know, the environment, underground and aboveground storage tanks and pesticide use and storage to name a few. I participated in a Golf Course Safety, Security and Risk Management seminar that was very informative. The seminar emphasized that ignorance is never an excuse for not complying with the law.

The conference talks and seminars play an important role for superintendents to keep abreast of what is happening throughout our profession. Attending the national convention is an asset to oneself.

The expense of the conference with its informative impact is minor compared to the cost of a lawsuit and/or court fees that could accompany a fine for not complying with the new laws and regulations. Our role of maintaining standards is an enormous responsibility. When it comes to protecting our environment, we need to be leaders, not followers.

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**GCSAA and the USGA** have helped to support numerous projects in determining if we are destroying the environment. Tests show that  $0_2$  is created and released into the atmosphere. Soil and thatch layers filter out some of the chemicals as rain washes through the soil. These facts are good news, but more testing must be done so that this information can be applied throughout the entire U.S. and not be restricted to the Northeast.

**Please consider joining our organization** at the state or national level if you are not already a member. The monies invested by membership dues reap many dividends by keeping us current with changes in the laws as well as technical data on growing turf.

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**A note of thanks** to Steve Garske, Dan Miller and other associate members for a fine evening of entertainment at the Las Vegas Country Club.

—Tom Fischer MGCSA President

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