

Introducing Greg Hubbard, Our New President

It's rather natural that Greg Hubbard, newly-elected president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, became interested in golf. He grew up at Galls Golf Club (now known as Manitou Ridge) where his father, Merrill, was the head golf professional.

Greg began playing the game at the age of five, and now after more than 20 years of handling various responsibilities at Galls/Manitou, Greg leases the course from Ramsey County. During those two decades-plus he has filled all department head positions, including managing the pro shop, overseeing food and beverage service, heading administration and, of course, serving as head golf course superintendent.

Born on March 29, 1950 in St. Paul, Greg was graduated from White Bear Lake High School in 1968, then earned his B.A. in economics at the University of Minnesota. He took over as manager/superintendent of Galls in 1971. (The name was changed to Manitou Ridge in 1980.)

Encouraged by superintendents Bud Larson and Jerry Bibbey, Greg joined the MGCSA in 1983 "to fill a void in my education."

Since then he has been an active member. He served on the Research Committee from 1987-1992, was the editor of *Hole Notes* in 1988-89, led the Membership Committee in 1989-90 when he also directed the Executive Director Search Committee, was elected Secretary in 1991, then Vice-President in 1992 before taking over as President at the association's annual meeting in November.

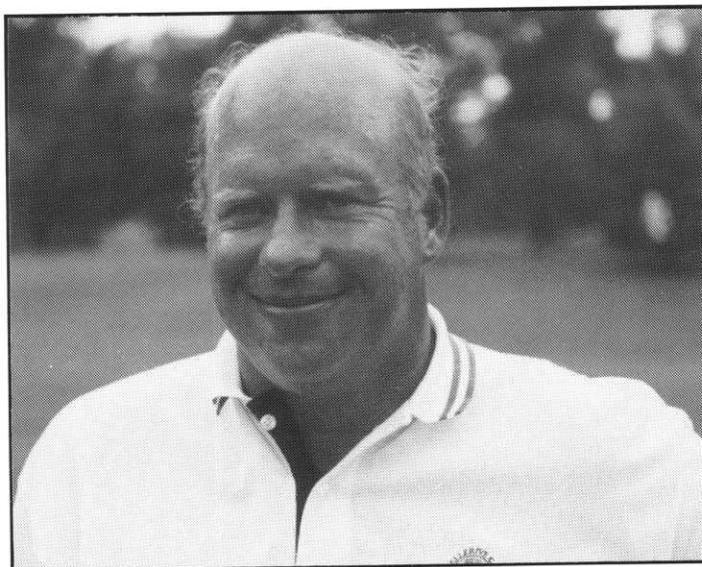
"I strongly urge superintendents to become MGCSA members, primarily to continue their education, both formally and informally, in their pursuit of quality playing conditions," Hubbard said.

"During the past decade our association has experienced significant achievements," he said, while noting "improvements in the Annual Conference, a better quality of *Hole Notes* publication, the move to hiring an executive director and having our own association office, expanding our scholarship efforts and producing the Environmental Guidelines booklet."

Looking ahead, Greg sees three major challenges:

- 1) Environmental and regulatory concerns;
- 2) Enhancement of the professional image of superintendents;
- 3) Integration of management skills with maintenance skills.

During his forthcoming year as president, he would like to further coordination of the Board and the Executive Director, investigate activity with the Minnesota Turfgrass Foundation, expand membership classes, if warranted, and have golf course



superintendents become recognized as friends of the environment."

A member of the GCSAA since 1984 "when Boots Fuller and Keith Scott signed an unknown kid's application," Greg earned his CGCS in 1988 and has renewed it through 1998.

"Golf course superintendents should strive for this certification," he said. "It's a symbol of excellence in our field, it fills an educational void and there is considerable personal satisfaction in attaining certification."

The time-consuming demands of his responsibilities at Manitou Ridge don't allow much time for golf. He plays about once a week while maintaining an 11 handicap. He has been a Sunday School teacher in White Bear Lake for five years and also is a member of the Optimists' Club. In addition, he occasionally finds time for hiking, canoeing, swimming and playing chess.

Greg and his wife Bonnie are parents of daughter Elizabeth, 11, and son David, almost nine.

And what do you like most about your profession?

"The satisfaction of seeing a well-maintained golf course," he said.

For some 37 years he's been admiring golf courses. In his case, it certainly was neat to see summer jobs lead to a lifetime avocation.