

# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki  
Faribault Golf & Country Club



Recently a very large finger has been pointed in the direction of golf courses, claiming that Golf Course Managers have been attempting to do ill will to the surrounding facilities that we manage, by applying numerous types of plant protectants with little or no regard for the environment.

Well, that is just not so! Like all Golf Course Managers, I am an environmentalist. Just look at all the benefits we gain by having healthy turf, oxygen production, dust reduction and glare reduction. During heavy rains healthy turf slows down the runoff. Think of the aesthetics that a healthy green turf provides, plus the habitat that, along with trees, shrubs and flowers, is provided for nature.

**I am aware that many misconceptions** abound about plant protectants. Our membership must take the necessary steps to educate the golfers at their facilities by forming Environmental Committees to advance the knowledge of the golfing members. Then we can work together and spread the word about how plant protectants are developed and what type of testing is required by the EPA before the plant protectants make it into our very capable hands.

In addition, how many golfers are aware of what kind of research is taking place regarding breeding more disease- and drought-resistant turfgrasses? Just think of the potential that we, as Golf Course Managers, have to educate the people who use our facilities.

**Sometimes it is so easy to blame someone** because people don't know the entire story or it's just an easy target. If more people were able to investigate an item thoroughly before making statements or drawing conclusions before all the evidence is gathered, life could be a little less hectic.

Final thought: just how much oxygen does an asphalt parking lot produce?

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## **Golf in Minnesota is just getting better all the time.**

Are you aware of all the USGA events coming up? Starting in 1993 there's the Walker Cup being played at Interlachen Country Club. The PGA Senior Tour is going to make a stop at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, and, in the near future, the USGA will also be making stops at Hazeltine National Golf Club, Wayzata Country Club and Rochester Golf and Country Club. This most certainly is a testament to the conditions of the golf courses and a testament to the dedication of the Golf Course Managers who care for these fine facilities.

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**Have you ever witnessed an accident on your golf course?** If so, what did you do? At many golf facilities there is an Emergency Response Plan in effect to deal with anything from pesticide spills to coronary arrests. Since the Grounds

Crew is the most visible part of a golf course operation, in the event of an emergency on the golf course, golfers are most likely to contact grounds crew personnel to report an accident. Make sure when forming an ERP that all parties within the club are correctly in place, so that when an accident or emergency occurs, you and your staff has everything in place.

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**With the Harold Stodola Scramble coming up** on September 14th at Wayzata Country Club and Rolling Green Country Club, remember that the dinner is held at Wayzata Country Club and a sportcoat and tie is considered appropriate dress.

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**Congratulations to Monty and Renee Montague.** New daughter Sonya Marie was born on August 2nd.

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**What's it like on the Board of Directors for the MGCSA?** I enjoy assisting in running the organization like my other 11 brothers. Being on the Board is an honor, and it does take work. Nothing can be accomplished unless work is involved; we know that from just the way we make our golf courses appear. With the annual meeting not very far off, take some time to think what could make our organization better, and if you are interested in running for the Board, contact Tom Fischer.

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**The MGCSA wishes to express its deepest sympathy** to the George D. Ostler family. Lorraine Ostler, spouse of George D. Ostler passed away recently. George D. Ostler was President of the MGCSA in 1979.

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**Congratulations to Kevin and Nancy Clunis** on the July 30th birth of their newest daughter, Kira.

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**Reality struck me like a ton of bricks** on Friday, August 21st. Our families lost a good friend. I had found out about Roger's illness down in New Orleans. There wasn't much I could do. Roger underwent all the standard treatment for this illness and a glimmer of hope prevailed. We played golf a couple of times in years past. Nothing serious, just fun. We never kept score. On Friday, we received a phone call that Roger was very, very ill. We planned to see him later that evening. At four o'clock the phone rang again. No trip to Elk River tonight, the pain and suffering was over. Wasn't much I could do. Roger is gone now, but I will remember him. I will remember. Time to pick up and go forward there is still a lot to accomplish, the horizon is bold and new, and there will be more challenges to come.

— Dale Wysocki  
Editor

