

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Weather Or Not



As I write this column, weather warning sirens are sounding as another rainmaker approaches. This signals another day of pumping bunkers and low spots and further delays in completing projects which have already been delayed too long. Weeds are growing profusely, course construction areas are too muddy to work, and people's attitudes are as stormy as the skies. Will nice weather ever come? Weather or not, our jobs are tough enough without dealing with an overly fickle Mother Nature.

I can handle the pesticide and fertilizer applications, daily maintenance of the golf course, personnel relations and other management variables. However, as GCSAA President Randy Nichols recently wrote, we cannot control the one great variable — the weather. As MGCSA President, I've been in contact with many superintendents concerning turf problems. Because of a cool, wet spring, problem greens are again a problem this year as are many other areas. Winter-damaged turf has been slow in healing as poor weather further hinders turf density. Biological, cultural or chemical man made management approaches just don't seem as effective as a few good days of sunshine and warmth.

Don't be discouraged over situations over which you have no control. If your course is under water or your turf is thinner than desired, make sure you communicate your concerns and feelings to your membership, greens committees and bosses. Identify your problems and how you expect to resolve them in both the short and long run. And remember, in the battle with Mother Nature, you are never fighting on equal terms. Soon we'll be fighting heat and humidity.

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In spite of poor weather, the Burnet Senior Classic was well received by the public and the senior touring pros. Superintendent Jim Nicol and his staff received special recognition from the Senior PGA Tour for their fine efforts under trying circumstances. Nice work! As the summer progresses, Jim Gardner will host the USGA Senior Women's Mid-Amateur at Rochester, John Katterheinrich and Interlachen will host the Walker Cup and Tom Fischer and his Edinburgh staff will once again host the LPGA in August. Not many states can brag of so many prestigious events. Good luck and fine fortune to these clubs.

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After long discussion, the Board of Directors has accepted a break-even financial forecast for the upcoming year. Due to operating profits from the last two years, we feel we can accept even a small loss without having to raise member dues or lowering member services. Let's hope our financial crystal ball is accurate.

Our July meeting features the Garske Scramble for member clubs and their staffs at the fine White Bear Yacht Club. Reward your staff for their fine efforts by attending this event. I'm sure host superintendent John Steiner will have an interesting and challenging golf course for our enjoyment.

—Greg Hubbard, CGCS
President

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