

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
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During the course of the year we, as superintendents, get a multitude of information sent in our direction, be it from other magazines, info-mail or video. Before the GCSAA Annual Conference in Dallas, *Golf Course News* had a guest commentary by Carol M. Browner, administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

As I read her commentary about working together with golf course owners and managers, I felt comfortable. Then I came to the fourth paragraph. I am not going to reprint the paragraph because it's a FACTOID! Where on Earth these things come from is beyond logic. My stomach turned, the blood pressure was hitting new heights and a possible hissy fit was averted.

Reopening my mind and going farther in the commentary was possible, and onward I proceeded. She spoke of IPM and that IPM is a sound principle. Setting allowable thresholds for disease and weed infestation is always good, and so is continuing education that is offered by the GCSAA, MGCSA and by our MGCSA Associate members who take the time to put on "clinics" that further our awareness of proper fertilization techniques, or how to identify turf disease.

Actually I find that golf courses are always improving the environment around them. The habitat that is already there allows robins to set up housekeeping, the Canada geese that bring in another six goslings each year is great to see, the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program gets the club membership involved with mapping out areas of habitat.

Somewhere, someone came up with an idea that all Golf Course Superintendents go out and apply plant protectants to our golf courses to keep them lush, green and forever neat and tidy. These people forget what a golf course *DOES DO* for the environment. Oxygen is supplied by turf, trees, shrubs, flowers. Air conditioning, which is most uncomfortable? A bituminous parking lot or under a linden tree surrounded by 2" rough? I guess no matter what the actual truth is, there will always be an "environmentalist" out there to distort the truth. Maybe before they put themselves in my shoes, they should walk in my shoes.

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The MGCSA had a booth at the Great Minnesota Golf Show (see Tom Johnson's associated article) February 18-21. The booth was staffed by MGCSA members who volunteered their time to promote the image of the Golf Course Superintendent. Public Relations Chair Tom Johnson had this to offer about the booth; "The booth is a great

way to promote our organization and the Golf Course Superintendent's image."

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The Lesco Store on Wheels will be operated by Bob Simondet. Welcome Bob!

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With the GCSAA Annual Conference over for this year, there now is a little time for reflection. The Editorial Committee noticed that there were 25 companies that have their headquarters here in Minnesota or western Wisconsin. For us in this region that rates an additional "bonus." When we have comments about a product or service, the headquarters are right here in our backyards.

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Congratulations are in order for Dr. James R. Watson of the Toro Company. He will receive the 1994 Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects on April 18 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. On being recognized by the ASGCA, Dr. Watson replied, "A professional achievement of the highest degree."

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Pat Walton, Golf Course Superintendent of Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel, has passed all the requirements set forth by the GCSAA to become Pat Walton, CGCS. Outstanding!

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George Carroll, General Manager of Town and Country Club in St. Paul, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Club Managers Association of America. George spoke to the MGCSA during last year's Annual Conference.

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Shane Andrews has been named Golf Course Superintendent at Bristol Ridge Golf Club, Somerset, Wisconsin.

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James Kassera has been selected as Golf Course Superintendent at Willinger's Golf Club, Northfield.

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Well, Spring is right around the corner. The Masters is going to be played soon and motorcycles have been out and about since mid-March. What's going to happen this year? We have put everything in place, the mowers are sharp, personnel hired are getting ready for right-to-know training, emergency preparedness programs are in place and proper allotments for family. It's also time to get the golf clubs out of seasonal retirement. The MGCSA is going places this year, and they're places we look forward to going to. So when you survey the monthly meeting list, don't hesitate to sign up early and join the best group of Golf Course Superintendents there is. You will enjoy the outing.