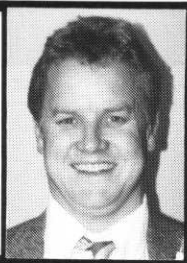


TEE TALK

By
Scott Turtinen
Executive Director, MGCSA



Attending my first national GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show in February was, to say the least, a very worthwhile experience.

Perhaps my most vivid memory of my visit to Dallas was the size and scope of the trade show exhibits. The Dallas Convention Center is approximately twice as large as the one we have in Minneapolis.

More important, from my standpoint, was the three-hour seminar that focused on association management, which I attended with MGCSA President Joe Moris. This, basically, was an informal gathering of chapter presidents, executive directors and executive secretaries.

After a variety of topics were suggested for discussion by the group at large, we broke up into small groups to focus on topics like membership, finances, conventions, etc. Joe went to the membership group and learned, among other things, that the MGCSA is about in the middle as far as dues are concerned nationally.

I wound up in a "financial group" with persons from the Carolinas, Ohio, Virginia and Florida. Investment of available cash was a major item reviewed. It was interesting to find out that the Carolina Association, for example, has

Merrill Lynch invest its money, rather than have that association earning a comparatively small return on certificates of deposit.

I also attended a Cart Path Seminar, which was all right but not as illuminating as the association gathering, and it was enjoyable to participate in the "Minnesota Hospitality Night" put together in excellent fashion by Steve Garske and other Minnesota associates.

Perhaps the nicest part of conferences like this is the opportunity to chat with a variety of people from all around the country. Just a tip here and there can make attendance worthwhile.

In comparison with our Minnesota Conference, the national, of course, is about 10 times as big. However, I don't think we have to take a back seat as far as the quality of our program is concerned.

Aside from attending the GCSAA show, about 30 superintendents and I took a break to watch the North (whoops) Dallas Stars play in the attractive Reunion Arena. It was fun to see a pro hockey game again, even though the Stars got clobbered by San Jose 7-1. The Dallas fans still have some learning to do, like the players sit on a bench and not in a dugout.

Overall, the Dallas conference will be long-remembered, but it was nice to get home, even though the temperature difference was nearly 80°.

Congratulations to Bob Distel and Tim Mihalko of Wayzata C.C. on their bungee jumps.

The renewal of your Pesticide License will take place during the 1994 Annual Conference December 7, 8 and 9th.

Rerouted

By Dick Morey
Southern Golf Magazine

There's an old adage in this golf course business that says that superintendents never unpack their bags! They are always awaiting the next "board meeting" or the next Green Chairman to see if they are still on the staff. What a pity, what a shame, what a waste of talent! The assignment of a superintendent's job is very involved and with all the new environmental "twists" becomes more and more so every day. It's no wonder superintendents "split" from the current position and seek another try at a different facility. But, will that change bring about more satisfaction and a better feeling of security in the job? My guess is it may not. My guess is that the assignment of the average golf course superintendent is so diverse that not many can breach the gap. So, what are some of the pitfalls we as course superintendents must overcome?

Maintenance Pitfalls

When all the "smoke" clears away from the GCSAA euphoria about our being "golf course managers" and we get down to the "nitty-gritty" of our job, we are "caretakers" of our golf facility. Experts in such a multitude of maintenance assignments, that it's no wonder we often consider

a "re-routing" and "greener fairways" elsewhere. The November/December issue of the *USGA Green Section Record* presents and summarizes some 20 "pitfalls" we as superintendents encounter. What a list! What a challenge! This list is so complete in delineating the responsibilities of the superintendent, and since it is probably not seen by too many of our working superintendents, *SOUTHERN GOLF* would like to list these 20 "Maintenance Pitfalls." Then we would like to make one summarizing statement at the end of this listing on why superintendents very often consider a "new assignment" and move to a supposedly better situation at another course. Here they are:

- 1) Communications & PR
- 2) Overwatering
- 3) Fast Green Speeds
- 4) Excessive Use of Pesticides
- 5) Continuity of Course Officials/Green Chairperson
- 6) Pesticide Storage and/or Maintenance Buildings
- 7) Tree/Landscape Management
- 8) Amount of Pay
- 9) Labor: Not Enough/Under Qualified

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