

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
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During our tenures as Golf Course Superintendents, we find that everything we do on the golf course is under the scrutiny of somebody, be it city managers, greens chairmen, owners and the golfers that play the golf courses that we care for.

All Golf Course Superintendents, regardless of where they're at, spend countless hours educating themselves in new ways to manage their fine turf. During the winter months, just because there is snow on the frozen dormant turf, does not mean that the Superintendent is not concerned about what is happening under the snow cover. Many Superintendents regularly trek their golf courses in the middle of winter to see what, if anything, is happening on the areas that we care about.

What happens if something is seen that is not the norm? We start the process of communicating there is a problem and how do we communicate the problem? As Golf Course Superintendents we must always maintain an extremely positive attitude, no matter how serious the problem is!

When communicating a potential problem, the earlier you can get started educating your membership the better. A positive meeting starting with the Green Committee will start the educational process. Then you can follow up the meeting with "This is my proposal on how to correct the situation at hand." Be prepared for the meeting of your career. The Green Committee is going to ask very pointed questions. Diagrams of what a turf grass plant looks like and where the effects are going to be seen will help you out in explaining the problem. Remember the people that you are talking to are not experienced turf professionals like yourself, so keeping the terms simple is important. The key will be your solution; don't look just for why it happened, but focus on the solution.

When you look at your position, how much time do you spend solving problems? You have to realize that there are some days that just don't go well. A greens mower springs a hydraulic leak; there is a new strange patch on the putting green that is consuming a 1,000 sq. ft. of bentgrass every hour. We spend a great deal of time solving crimes of fine turf. Focus on the solution. Any time spent on mulling over "Why me?" is time wasted. You will have time to think "why" later during the season. When all is said and done, and when your menacing problem is gone, you will realize that everything that you did, educating your bosses, educating your membership, presenting a positive self-image with a solid solution in hand all will attest to your professionalism.

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Recently Dr. Michael Hurdzan responded to the article that EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner wrote in January's edition of *Golf Course News*. Dr. Hurdzan's reply was published in the March edition of *Golf Course News*, and asked for the specific examples of pollution of drinking water. I feel that when "Environmentalists" make unfounded charges, or when they resort to scare propaganda, that someone, with extremely reputable credentials, can answer or separate the factoids from the whole truth.

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Do you have someone on your staff who has really accomplished a special task or has just earned a reward? Why not compliment this person with an official MGCSA shirt, jacket, pullover or sweatshirt. The staff person will appreciate this gesture, and the proceeds go to benefitting well deserving turf students. It's a definite "win-win" situation.

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There are some changes afoot this year. The LPGA Minnesota Classic will now be played in June. Superintendent Tom Fischer, CGCS, will have Edinburgh U.S.A. in fantastic shape and his staff will have their work cut out for them. Remember the staff at Edinburgh U.S.A. does all the work from assembling scoreboards to putting up the gallery ropes. To top it off, they also set the golf course up for the tournament. After the tourney is over the staff does the teardown. The Edinburgh staff is definitely a group of hard-working individuals.

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In November members of the MGCSA are going to become Happy Campers. That is, it's time for a lot of quality time at Camp Snoopy. Watch your favorite publication, *Hole Notes*, for more details.

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Eric Johnson has joined the staff at Interlachen Country Club as the new Assistant Golf Course Superintendent.

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With spring in the air, it's very nice when you can get the members of your club involved with a member "clean-up day". This is a very good chance to do some excellent PR and get out and meet the new members that have joined your establishment during the past year. It is also a great time to show what your goals are for the year.

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