

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



About 257 superintendents in the MGCSA belong to the GCSAA. For those who attended the Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco, it proved to be an interesting and worthwhile week. If it's education you're after, this certainly is the premier event in our industry. This education comes not only from the structured classroom situation, but the exchange of information between superintendents from all over the world.

The cable cars are fun to ride, but some of the operators need to brush up on public relations. I can't imagine talking to golfers in the manner which some of them talked to riders. It reinforces the idea of good public relations in any business, especially when serving the public.

There were several reported cases of shin splints even *before* the trade show started. That city makes you feel like your leaning all the time, and it's always uphill!

All of the Associate Members of our organization who are locally based in Minnesota and participated in the trade show in San Francisco are pictured in this issue of *Hole Notes*. They not only support the MGCSA but the GCSAA as well. We are fortunate in this area of the country to have the good relationship most superintendents have with all the Associate Members. It just isn't so in many other areas of the U.S. Hats off to these members for the support they give the MGCSA!

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After turning down the opportunity to attend the Masters Golf Tournament the last few years, I'm finally going to go. The timing isn't the best, what with the normal opening of our courses in the Midwest, but no more excuses. I accepted the invite with the intention of making it an enjoyable learning experience. It's been suggested that some superintendents and others in the golf industry charter a bus some year from here to Augusta. I will be writing about my experience in the next issue of *Hole Notes*.

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A thank you to **Dennis Hendrickson** for volunteering to help take photos for *Hole Notes*.

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Did you see the article in the February 27th issue of *USA TODAY* about old-fashioned alternatives to pesticides? Mike McGrath of *Organic Gardening* magazine and Debra Lynn Dadd, author of *Nontoxi, Natural & Earthwise*, suggested some solutions: **Ants** - boric acid. **Roaches** - dry things out with a hair dryer and mix equal parts of oatmeal and Plaster of Paris and spread around infested area. **Fleas** - for one month put a shallow pan of soapy water

with a light bulb over it each night and turn off all the other lights. **Garden pests** - suck them up with a hand-held vacuum cleaner. (I'm trying to adapt some of the attachments for the Kirby now). **Flies & mosquitos** - fix screens and vacuum them up. **Lawn weeds** - raise the cutting level on your lawn mower (very practical). But here's the good one: douse with fresh human urine to burn the weeds. No, that's not a Wisconsin herbicide.

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With some exceptions, we should be embarrassed to live here after having such a mild winter. Admittedly, one tends to think in terms of a winter that's good for turf. A few inches of frozen ground in the fall, good snow cover all winter and a slow thaw with none of that freeze-thaw business towards spring. Selfish, isn't it?

Reports from around the state on the first week of March vary on snow cover, frost depth and ice. **Todd Carlson**, assistant at the Northland Country Club, reports snow cover all winter, presently with 2½ feet on the ground. They have four to five feet of frost and very little ice on greens. Depending on this month's weather, Northland could open anytime from mid-April to the first week in May. Springfield Golf Club's long time superintendent, **Richard Loomis**, reports very little snow cover and no problems with ice on the course. Richard said golfers were actually hitting balls on some holes recently. Incidentally, Mr. Loomis is recouping from an illness but says he'll be ready to play golf this spring. He will be retiring this spring so should have more time to look at courses through the eyes of a golfer! A mild winter so far at Somerset Country Club. **Jerry Murphy** tells me he has had 4-6" of snow all winter, and although there are pockets of ice, it isn't solid and has only been on the turf three weeks. He feels the fall topdressing and continual snow cover has offered good protection on his greens.

Like most of the northwest area of Wisconsin, **John Ganske**, from the Spooner G.C., has had 3"4" of snow cover throughout the winter. John is trying covers on four greens and reports no ice with 3½ feet of frost. It will be a busy summer at Spooner where they will be adding to 10 tees and planning an additional nine holes.

The western part of the gopher state and the Benson G.C. recently had 19" of snow but **Dave Sime** said there's been 2"3" of cover on most of his course this winter. No ice out there but Dave expects the frost depths to be way down.

Mankato G.C. has had some ice problems on a few greens. **Scott Ness**, said they have applied milorganite to help break up the 1" layer of solid ice. Recent snows covered the course but they have had bare areas.

Good Luck to everyone this spring!

Is it me or does anyone else feel overwhelmed with all that is offered each day of the National Conference? There is just so much you can absorb and so much you can get to in one day.

See you at the Cannon Golf Club April 10th, where **Jeff Backstrom** will host the monthly meeting.