

MGCSA President Responds to Various Questions

Questions for the President

So far it's been a busy couple of months for the new president of the MGCSA, Kevin Clunis (and he's only just begun.) I thought it would be interesting for the readers of *Hole Notes* to find out a little something about Kevin and what he feels is important for the organization and the golf industry in general.

After graduating with a degree in education from St. Cloud State, Kevin decided that a career as a golf course superintendent was what he wanted. The five years working under Lyle Cran at Stillwater County Club helped him make that decision with no regrets. Kevin has been superintendent at Stillwater C.C. for 10 years and whatever you hear him preach about responsible maintenance practices, he practices on his course.

Kevin, Nancy and their four children live in Mahtomedi.

What are your goals for the MGCSA during your presidency?

Goals, or Presidential Directives, that I have issued to the Board of Directors of the MGCSA include issuing an environmental impact statement, involving the media at one of our monthly meetings and to increase the membership from non-member golf courses.

Talk about some of the problems that face golf course superintendents in Minnesota through the rest of the century.

One problem is the public's misperception of the positive environmental impact that golf courses have. We as superintendents must continue to communicate to our communities the positive ecological and economic impact the golf industry has. Another problem will be an increased pressure from regulatory authorities on how we operate our

facilities. It will take all of our professional abilities to understand, conform and implement these policies.

What can the MGCSA do to reach out to golf courses that are not members of the organization?

We must show them the value of a membership and insight into educational opportunities available. We must be able to demonstrate need of involvement and the capabilities of improving the prospective superintendent as well as his or her course.

How do you see the relationship between the MGCSA and the newly formed Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation?

The MGCSA is still the lead organization within the newly formed MT&GF. We will remain in that capacity for awhile until the foundation has enough resources to establish itself as an industry leader. The MGCSA will still remain with its own identity, but by being a member of the MT&GF, we can only strengthen our position in the green industry.

Give us your thoughts on the relationship between the MGCSA, MT&GF, MGA and the University of Minnesota's involvement in the turfgrass industry.

The U of M will have to step forward with a significant involvement if the MT&GF is to be a recognized player of the turf world. It will bring credibility to any research or findings from the Foundation. As for the MGA, Ross Galarneault, MGA Executive Director, has communicated to me in his own way how excited the MGA is to work with our association on all concerns of the golf industry. This could open up new resources for the MT&GF to tap into as it gains strength and involvement in the turf industry.

AT THUNDERBIRD HOTEL MARCH 16-17

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Set For 5th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Fifth Annual Hazardous Waste Conference on March 16-17 is designed to help Minnesota generators comply with the state's hazardous waste rules. It is recommended for all managers, company personnel and government officials, and is open to anyone interested in hazardous waste management.

The conference will begin with a general session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 16. Concurrent sessions will follow Thursday afternoon and all-day Friday. A vendor display area will be set up on Thursday featuring environmental consultants, hazardous waste equipment manufacturers and others involved in hazardous waste management.

The price of the conference is \$75 and the price of a workshop is \$35. The price for both the conference and workshop is \$100. The price covers tuition, instructional materials, meals and refreshments.

For more information, contact Diane Wetzstein at (612) 297-8467. (TTY users call (612) 282-5332).

Topics For Member Articles

- Maintenance tips on your course or equipment.
- Major changes on your course or maintenance area, your role and how things were done.
- Environmental issues on your golf course or in your area.
- A personal goal achieved or human interest story.
- What has worked and what hasn't in maintaining your course.
- Photographs are welcome!