

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



Not surprisingly, the first golf outing of the season was snowed out. Under the white stuff, **Jeff Backstrom** and crew had the course ready for the 60+ MGCSA members who attended the April meeting. There was plenty of warm hospitality at the Cannon Golf Club and a great lunch followed by speaker Mark Stennes of the Rainbow Tree Service Company. Several superintendents visited Jeff's maintenance area and exchanged information on golf course matters. Thanks to Jeff and the Cannon Golf Club for hosting the snowy April MGCSA meeting!

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Soft spikes are generating a lot of interest around the area. After several positive articles in golf publications they have gotten the notice they deserve. Wouldn't it be great to have greens that weren't spiked up, blacktop that wasn't pitted, wood that wasn't chewed up and carpet that lasted more than a season? Savings in \$\$\$s as well. My experience with them has been very good. Although I have a swing that could make a golf coach scream, I never once slipped on wet or dormant dry turf. Some member courses are really promoting their use. Let us know about you and your club's experience with them. This information will be published in *Hole Notes*.

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How's your business ethics? Any Rotarian will recognize this four-way test but it's something we could all ask ourselves when dealing with employees, other superintendents and our employers. Ask yourself these four questions:
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

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This spring I had to renew my Wisconsin pesticide license which will be valid for another five years. It's a simple procedure that works well and is readily accepted by licensed pesticide applicators in Wisconsin. Each five years you are notified and have to purchase a \$30 training manual for each category in which you want to be licensed. You then have the option of attending a training session and taking a closed book exam or just taking the exam at a prearranged time and place. The State gives the exam at the cost of \$10. The training session is taught by the U of W Extension staff, Dr. Frank Rossi and Dr. Julie Meyer. I mention it because Minnesota is still in the process of changing its licensing procedure and even though Wisconsin may not be "the Brain Power State," this method has worked well.

Thomas Johanns and the Bemidji Town & Country Club will host the monthly meeting on June 12th. I always look twice when I see Tom's name in print. Check that spelling out, Tom. You're missing an "o" and the "n" is in the wrong place! Let's have a big turnout in this beautiful part of the state!

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Middle age is when anything new in the way you feel is most likely a symptom. — Laurence J. Peter

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Here is a list of some new courses in the metro area as reported by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in the April 23rd edition:

- The Wilds, Prior Lake
- Mississippi Downs, Cottage Grove
- Creek's Bend, New Prague
- The Bridges, Mounds View
- Hidden Creek, Owatonna
- Elmdale Hills, Cannon Falls
- Bristol Ridge, Somerset, WI
- Kilkarney Hills, River Falls, WI

The article also stated that Minnesota and Wisconsin continue to rank 1-2 nationally in the percentage of residents older than 12 who play golf. There are currently 372 public courses and 59 private courses in Minnesota. With the addition of new golf courses in outstate areas and those being constructed, that number will continue to grow. I will try and get the names of other new courses in the state that will open during the 1995 season.

— Tom Johnson
Editor

No state has played host to all 13 USGA national championships — yet. In September that'll no longer be the case as Minnesota becomes the first. Somerset Country Club will host the 34th Senior Women's Amateur.

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