

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



What a March! It seems as if there was a lot of scrambling to get those last minute tasks completed before opening. This could be the earliest first rounds of golf in years! Playing that first round of golf each spring must make the world right for some golfers. Their enthusiasm for golf surely is important for all of us in golf course management. Their zeal for the sport certainly can make our jobs more interesting. I don't think we'd have it any other way.

I'm continually reminded that we're in a public service arena. though a golfer may make a tee time for a certain day, that experience starts a few days before and can last until he drives out the course parking lot. Their experience has to do with more than the conditions of the course. All the people they come in contact with affect this experience including both the pro shop and maintenance staff. How might you respond to a golfer who wants to play when there's still some snow and frost in the ground? 1) "Are you nuts? Nobody plays until I say it's ready!" or 2) "I understand and can appreciate your eagerness to play after the long winter. You can be sure we'll open as soon as the course is playable." The second statement won't kill the enthusiasm that's so important in the game of golf.

* * * *

What is the worst thing a superintendent can do when asked a question about pesticides and the environment? The worst thing is to say nothing. If you don't know the answer, by all means tell that person you will find out and get back to him or her! It is so easy to do, and from a public relations standpoint very important. Golf courses are easy targets. As members of the MGCSA, one of our goals is to get the correct information to the golfer. Let's not ever pass up the chance.

* * * *

In terms of public relations, The Great Minnesota Golf Show, is a big plus for the MGCSA. It's always fun to talk with golfers about the game and about what we do. If you haven't worked the MGCSA booth at this show, consider it for next year. **Bill Cox** did a great job organizing and setting up this year's booth for our organization.

* * * *

For those new employees: *Competence is the way you work as much as what you know...Work habits and the character traits they reflect — such as honesty, teamwork, reliability and self-discipline — are as crucial to success in the adult world as familiarity with the subject matter in the curriculum.* Author unknown.

As if you didn't have enough to do department. Kevin Clunis will be on the Government Relations Committee for the GCSAA. Pat Jones called him and asked him if he would serve. Kevin's experience with the Minnesota State Legislature will prove to be a plus.

* * * *

The New York Audubon Society reports that currently 1,400 golf courses are enrolled in the Audubon Sanctuary Program in the U.S. and that 35 of those are certified.

* * * *

Computers can be frustrating, especially if you sometimes have to use MS-DOS for any commands. In the computer world, "DOS makes the poison."

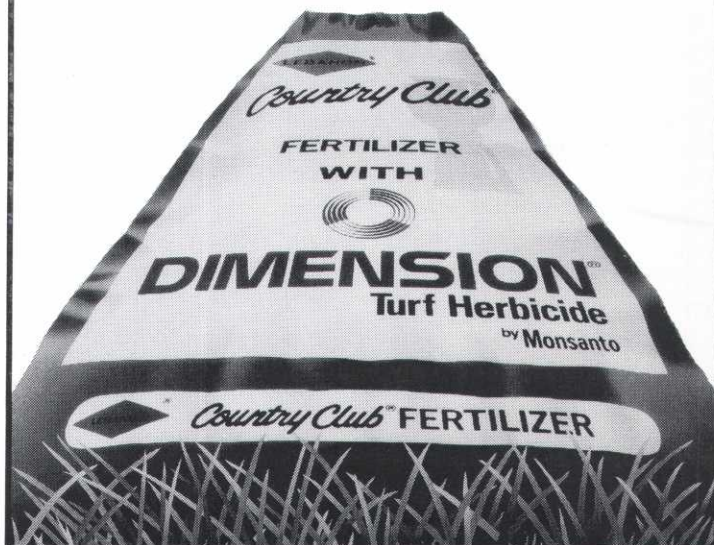
* * * *

Next golf outing is at River Oaks Municipal G.C. May 8, with host superintendent **Thomas Parent**. By then the weather will surely have straightened out!

* * * *

More from OSHA. There is a book of OSHA rules and is available when you call (612) 657-3757. Are you interested in having OSHA come to your golf course for a free inspection? If so, call their Consultation Division at (612) 297-2393. Any violation they find will have to be corrected in a certain time period without penalty.

**The Toughest Thing To Emerge
Since Crabgrass
Just Got A Whole Lot Tougher.**



Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(319) 332-9288