

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson
New Richmond Golf Club



Chop, blow, vacuum time! Fall, like spring, sort of sneaks up on us each year. Coming back to the course Monday morning after a weekend off was when fall snuck up on me. Leaves down all over the place brought on that sense of urgency to clean up all those loose ends before snowfall. Get that drain tile in, build that tee you said you'd do, call that final sod order in and order that topdressing. Let's see, did I get my request in for that compressor to blow out the irrigation system? Turfgrass disease problems are just a distant memory. How easy growing grass would be if we had fall weather all the time! Bring on the white stuff!

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There are two kinds of stores I like to browse around in: Hardware stores and fly fishing shops. There's always something that you can use or absolutely must have. The last visit to my favorite fly shop added some 'stuff' to my already overloaded fishing vest. But it also gave me an opportunity to discuss with the owner of the shop how pesticides and fertilizer are used on the green spaces. The owner's concerns primarily were the leachates getting into streams and how they affect water quality. His impression was 'maybe' golf courses were harmful to the environment. The key word was maybe, and after our discussion he had at least some facts rather than hearsay and misinformation. In fact, he just found out that you can actually get a degree in turf management! There are a lot of people who could go either way on the issue of pesticide use, so whenever possible they might as well get the correct information. The conversation reinforced to me, that we have a responsibility to our environment and to our profession to use pesticides wisely.

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The USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship was held at Somerset Country Club last September and was a great success. **Jerry Murphy** reported the contestants enjoyed the course and had terrific cooperation from all those involved in making that event possible. Many MGCSA members or their employees helped out during that week and Murph appreciated that very much. You know what Jerry? We appreciated the opportunity to help out!

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Congratulations to our friend and U of W Turfgrass Professor, Dr. Frank Rossi and wife Barbara who had a baby girl, July 28th! Nicole was 7 lb., 13 oz. and 21 inches. Easterner turned Midwesterner, (forget about the Mets), Dr. Rossi has been a great asset to the UW Madison Turfgrass program, and has spoken at our turf conferences.

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Long time MGCSA member, Gerald Bibbey, as of September 29th, is enjoying retirement. Gerry has been a member of our association since 1971 and plans on attending monthly meetings so he can laugh at the rest of the working fools. He was superintendent of Keller Golf Course from 1974 until 1982 when he took over the helm at Goodrich where he stayed until retirement. Congratulations and good luck!

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Got any ideas for *Par for the Course?* GCSAA is looking for ideas.

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Is it Pebble Beach or Pebble Creek C.C.? People in Becker couldn't be any happier with the additional nine and its new pond and waterfall. **Cary Femrite** reports a successful year with now 27 holes of golf in spite of having 17 days of over 90 degrees. They have installed a Course Aleret Lightning System which is operated by the clubhouse with a beeper pager. Cary said it has worked out very well. It sounds like in the future those systems will have to include strobe lights for the hearing impaired.

CAUCUS

On Thursday, Dec. 7, 1995, there will be a MGCSA caucus to discuss various GCSAA activities. This will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center at 1:00 p.m.

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