

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Minnesota Vikings Football Organization

The sounds of clanging aerifiers have ceased; thoughts turn towards leaf removal, budgets and winter disease applications. It's becoming to be the time of year that the grass slows its growing, your seasonal staff has left for school, with the exception of a few dedicated souls. Sooner than you know, the grounds will be covered with a blanket of white slow release water. But first, let's make sure we make it through October first. Then take it one day at a time.

* * * *

Kudo's to Mary Burg(o), Superintendent at Brightwood Hills Golf Course, for the outstanding job that she did on designing the MTGF brochure. The brochure outlined the upcoming meetings for the Allied Associations and the Big MTGF Conference that will be held in December.

* * * *

Mother Nature has not treated the Mankato and St. Peter area well this year, with at least two, five hundred year return storms within three months of each other. My how time flies when you're having fun. For some reason that does not seem normal, but nothing is the norm when you're a Golf Course Superintendent.

* * * *

What constitutes a job? What is a career? Are these two the same? Or is a job the same as a career? We all need jobs, the mortgage has to be paid, you need to eat, but when does it become a career? How often do you see the word "professional" associated with anything? It seems that anyone can be a "professional" in today's world.

* * * *

Upon further review, the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement is in the hands of the MGCSA membership. It (the agreement) is in your hands for you to review, form ideas and to question. The agreement is a very powerful document, and it will affect your professional career as a Golf Course Superintendent.

This document will forever affect the MGCSA and the GCSAA. Now the Board of the MGCSA was elected by the membership, and they have your best interests at heart. Whenever a subject comes up as critical as this, it is up to the MGCSA membership to let their elected officials know the membership's opinion, or to ask questions so that the MGCSA Board can ask questions to find the answer. During anytime of year it is important that you, the member, let your elected officials know how you feel about a specific piece of legislation.

* * * *

The point after, is this: Should you feel the need to further investigate the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement, do it! However, I think you will find that the MGCSA Board did do its job. The play stands as called.

Winter Preparation Checklist

The cultural maintenance practices implemented to prepare for winter vary greatly by climate and turfgrass variety. Following is a general checklist of activities, programs and policies superintendents use to get ready for cold weather.

Cool Season

- Tees, greens, collars and fairways** — Aerify, seed, fertilize and topdress to insure turf is as healthy as possible to survive the winter.
- Irrigate** — As late in the fall/early winter as possible to prevent winter desiccation and to reduce mites which can cause winterkill.
- Green covers/topdress** — Place prior to first snowfall.
- Divots** — Seed all on the range, in the fairways and on the tees for better turf condition in spring.
- Equipment** — Overhaul.

Cool and Transition

- Snow mold control** — Apply prior to the first snowfall.
- Irrigation system** — Winterize by draining and using an air compressor to blow out.
- Golf car traffic policy** — Develop one in cooperation with the golf professional, facility manager and green committee, then communicate the policy to golfers early.
- Winter spikeless policy** — Consider instituting "no-spike" or "soft-spike" policies for winter play.
- Temporary tees** — Reseed and begin mowing. Locate in sunny areas where snow won't accumulate.
- Storage** — Separate materials that must be kept from freezing and store away from those that can tolerate freezing.
- Education** — Plan to attend regional and national conferences.
- Soil tests** — Sample and have analyzed in the fall to have the results over the winter to plan next year's fertilization program.

Reprinted with permission from the GCSAA