

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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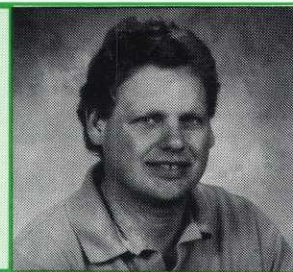
Editorial and Business Office

Scott Turtinen, Executive Director
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association
240 Minnetonka Avenue South/P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-1617
TEL: 612/473-0557 • FAX: 612/473-0576
TOLL FREE: 800-642-7227



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Retro



There is a new fad among the fad-driven pop culture that makes me a bit queasy. It's the return to the '70s. Look around at the malls, clubs and on television. Flower-Power is making its comeback complete with hip-hugging, low-riding, bell-bottom pants and tie-dyed shirts. I don't know about you, but I'm suspicious of an era of Afternoon Delight, Moonlight Feels Right and that White Boy Playin' That Funky Music. It may be cool to relive the Age of Aquarius, but when I think of how far our industry has come since those days, the urge to go back is quelled.

While the Partridges were driving their psychedelic bus around the West Coast, we were mowing fairways with pull gangs or the "Turfasaurus Rex" commonly known as the Parkmaster, or F-10. Automatic irrigation was as yet a dream to many. Hoses, sprinklers and quick couplers were the most common means of application. A looped system likely referred to the inebriation level of the night water man rather than the piping configuration. Pesticide applications were made with low-tech apparatus, and with products that proved later to be more toxic or hazardous than is acceptable today. Worker safety was not yet in our vocabulary, and the effects of the sun's rays, equipment emissions, pesticide exposure and sexual harassment were yet to be deemed significant.

So, who gets the recognition for changing the way we do business in the late 1990s? Credit can be spread across the board from individual superintendents whose genius helped fuel equipment advances; distributors and manufacturers who filled voids in plant health products, mowing equipment, etc; environmentalists, who at times are obnoxiously irrational and unrealistic, but have driven us to examine everything from sunburn to sun chips.

We shouldn't, however, overlook the function of the GCSAA or MGCSA in forging the advances in our industry. As a clearinghouse for information, our associations get the message to the member. Educational opportunities offered by the MGCSA and GCSAA are the cornerstone of a successful superintendent's continuing education program. Research programs initiated through our associations have contributed to advances in maintenance practices, turf breeding and nearly every other facet of turf management. In addition, our associations serve as the link between the superintendent and the other associations and agencies that affect our industry such as the USGA, the MGA, PGA and the governmental arms such as the EPA. I'm convinced that without strong participation by our associations, our industry may be like groovin' in platform shoes, man.

As the current term winds down for your Board of Directors and officers, I'd like to express my sincerest gratitude to the membership for entrusting the association's affairs to those of us who work on your behalf. Personally, it has been a challenging, yet rewarding experience serving as your President, and I thank you for the opportunity with my most humble appreciation. In addition, I'd like to thank the current officers and directors for their dedication and hard work, along with Scott Turtinen, who, with his brother Jeff, do an outstanding job of running the daily business of the MGCSA. Finally, thanks to Scott, Al and the rest of the staff at Mankato Golf Club for their support, and to my wife Amy whose understanding and encouragement has been an inspiration.

— Fred Taylor
MGCSA President

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly December/January, February/March for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617. Scott Turtinen, Publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617.