

HOLE NOTES

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of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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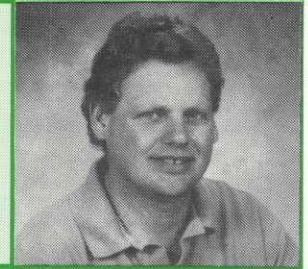
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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

With a Little Help From Our Friends



At a recent impromptu gathering of a few local superintendents, the need for support from peers became very clear. Of the six superintendents in attendance, each had a story of losing some turf, losing their temper, or in some instances, just plain losing it. The stories, although different in each case, held similarities to experiences that we all have had at one time or another. It's not that we could cure the woes of the world, or even have formulated all the answers to our problems, but we had compassionate listeners, and sometimes that is what a person needs to get through the tough times. Most of us have that network of friends that we call for information and advice, or just to chat with after the weekly four-inch rainfall event. These are the friends that we share our frustrations with, friends that understand.

Support can come from many sources, usually starting at home. For those of us that are married, our spouses endure many hours of venting — listening to the tales of Pythium outbreaks and brown patch run amuck, all the while nodding in agreement, soothing our broken spirits. Think of how many times you've gone home and spewed at length about job-related frustrations. What would you have done without that encouragement?

Another important source of support can be co-workers and staff. In an outburst of frustration following the July 26-27 turfgrass bloodletting, I was calmed by Allen Starke, one of my assistants. "Just remember Fred, it's God, Family and Friends. Beyond that, things aren't that important." With those words and a pat on the shoulder, things were again under control.

A superintendent's job isn't easy, and there are few people that really understand that. Take the time to recognize the family, friends and co-workers who help you get through it all.

* * * *

If you haven't got the network of friends in the business that you would like, start by attending MGCSA meetings and activities. The MGCSA roster is also a great resource for contacting superintendents in your area. Remember, the greatest asset to any association is its members.

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The employees at Cushman Motor Company in Minneapolis, are saddened to report the death of their service manager, Steve Sturgeski. He was 37 years old and had worked at Cushman Motor Company for the past seven years.

— Fred Taylor
MGCSA President

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