

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Rob Panuska
Waseca Lakeside Club



Thanks to all who participated in the MGCSA Amateur Championship held at Rush Creek Golf Club on August 18th. Congratulations to all the individual flight winners. Look for more details and pictures in this issue. Special thanks to Superintendent Tom Fuller, Club Manager Ed Money and the entire Rush Creek staff for providing superior service and a great event.

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Nominations are now being accepted for the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award. If you know a fellow superintendent who has served the profession or our association above and beyond the call of duty, please take the time to nominate him or her for this award. Just give Scott a call at the office.

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It seems as though the older I get the faster time goes, or is it that I am just slowing down and don't get as much done or maybe I'm just too fussy and can't be satisfied with my performance any longer????? Whatever the cause, here it is September already and I haven't accomplished half of what I thought I could at the beginning of the year. I'll bet my expectations were out of line with my abilities and available time.

Speaking of expectations, do your expectations match those of your course management or members??? It seems to be a guessing game for most of us and the key to success seems to be keeping our expectations just ahead of those who play our course. Damage control comes into play when those expectations/demands exceed our budgetary and course capabilities. This is where good communication skills and a keen knowledge of your own course's internal politics becomes so important. We all walk a tight rope in this business and even the best walkers fall sometimes. The difference can be that communication NET that can break your fall.

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Please take the time to read the reprint on lawn chemicals from Don Gordon out of the *Mankato Free Press*. This is a very well-written column with a good message for all concerned about chemicals and our environment. As those people who know me well would tell you, this is one of my biggest beefs. We as turf management professionals — who do not even have to be licensed (because we don't apply restricted use pesticides) BUT ARE because we know it's the right thing to do — are subject to all the EPA, MDA, OSHA regulations regarding storage, application and record keeping. Yet average Joe Blow homeowner can walk into ANY discount, hardware or mega-store and pick from hundreds of products that will

kill any and every "pest" he can think of.

Not only can he buy these products without any training or application knowledge, he also can let his 5-year-old help him. If those who are up-in-arms about pesticide use in our country really want to have positive impact on their proper use, then go after the retail markets and require people who purchase these products to have a minimum level of training....just like we require our kids to have completed a minimum level of training before they can swim in our public pools without supervision. Enough said!!!

—Rob Panuska
Editor

WANTED

The MGCSA wants your talents and energy. Please consider serving on the MGCSA Board of Directors. Contact James Gardner for more information at (612) 496-0037.

The Watson Fellowships

The goal of The Watson Fellowships program is to identify and recognize outstanding post-graduates who will be the leading industry educators and researchers of tomorrow.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic excellence, peer recommendations, communication skills, accomplishments in research and education and the potential to contribute significantly to the industry. The four winners will receive \$5,000 scholarships and an expense-paid trip to attend the GCSAA's 69th International Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif.

Financial need is not a consideration in the judging.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled and registered in post-graduate studies in a field related to turfgrass science and/or golf course management. Typically, this includes candidates for master's degrees or doctorates in appropriate fields of study.

For more information or an application, call the GCSAA Foundation team at 800/472-7878, ext. 445. An application may also be found on GCSAA's Home Page at <http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa>.

Application deadline is October 1, 1997.