

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's Time to Utilize Our Stored-Up Energy For Course Clean-Up



Now that Spring is upon us, the time has come to utilize the energy we have stored over the winter. There is course clean-up and the start of special projects. A philosophy of mine is to make at least one annual improvement to the agronomic management program of the golf course. This year it will be two-fold: a new irrigation system along with fertigation. I am looking forward to being able to spoon feed every time we irrigate. Fertigation is a relatively inexpensive proposition. You may want to look into it and see if it may enhance the nutrient programs you already have in place.

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Our March Mini-Seminar was well attended. There was a lot of good information. However, some people did not share the same opinions of the presenters. It proves we all take different paths to the same end. Will there ever be one answer to managing our golf courses? I hope not.

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It is apparent that many courses are signing up for Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. This program not only provides a great learning experience but puts you into a proactive position concerning your golf course and the environment. Mike Brower at Hillcrest CC has been designated as our State Steward for this program. If you have any questions or need help, he can be reached at (612) 777-5186 during regular business hours. Rick Fredericksen, CGCS at Woodhill CC is also available to provide any needed guidance. He can be reached at (612) 473-5811 during regular business hours. What a great profession we are associated with that our colleagues are willing to share their expertise to those of us in need.

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Dr. Ward Stienstra wants me to inform our membership that he will retire from the University of Minnesota early this summer. He does plan to continue his research obligations. Ward's health will not permit him to continue the current pace at the U of M. He looks forward to spending time with his grandchildren and family. As many of you know, Ward is one of the leading authorities on snow molds. His research and recommendations have influenced many of our winter management programs. He is a great friend and supporter of our industry. We have all looked to him for assistance when a strange looking patch has appeared on our golf courses. We wish him the best and I know he will still be there for us.

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I look forward to seeing you at Bearpath and hearing about new ideas you would like the Board to explore.

— Jim Nicol, CGCS
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.