

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Mother Nature Can Be Tough To Figure Out



Minnesotans enjoyed one of their mildest winters in a very long time. We kept hearing that it was the result of a weather phenomenon called El Nino. However, while we were enjoying winter, those in the southern part of the U.S. were not as fortunate. Severe storms and cold weather were the norm.

Then we enjoyed a beautiful spring with summer-like temperatures. Golf courses were in full swing. Many of us were aerifying greens in mid-May, looking for rapid recovery that goes along with warmer than normal soil temperatures. After the tornadoes that ripped through the Le Center, Comfrey and St. Peter areas had come and gone, we were ready to embrace the nice weather that June is noted for.

**As the saying goes "when you think you have Mother Nature figured out, she throws a curve ball."** Nighttime temps dropped into the low thirties and daytime temperatures were topping off at about 55°. All growth on putting greens came to a halt. Nuts! If it could have stayed warm for one more week greens would have been perfect. High winds blew over many trees, along with the power lines that feed electricity to our homes. Not once, but twice.

Finally, you have your golf course cleaned up and the membership is able to play. You head home to take the tree off your roof and patch the leak. Thank goodness the city is going to pick up the debris.

Only one or two trees are really going to be missed. Your neighbors are safe. Family life is getting back to normal. We wait. Wait for what?

The next curve ball.

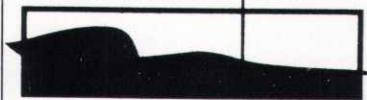
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**Dr. Jon Powell has accepted the new position in the Turfgrass Pathology department at the University of Minnesota.** He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University while studying under Dr. Joe Vargas. Jon is a native of Michigan and his family owns a golf course in the southern part of that state.

While serving on the selection committee, I was able to appreciate the difficulty working with the strict hiring parameters the university requires. Although there were many qualified candidates, Jon showed the most promise. He has a lot of enthusiasm and will be an asset to our turfgrass community. We look forward to his arrival on September 1, 1998.

— Jim Nicol, CGCSA  
MGCSA President

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