

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### It's Been a Difficult Year To Keep Turf Alive



Just when you thought summer was going to be one of the best growing years of the last five, Mother Nature decided to throw a curve and make this summer one of the more difficult for keeping turf alive. The third week in July where nighttime temperatures stayed in the mid to upper 70s with daytime highs in the upper 90s was the start of the turf distress. The turf looked fine on Friday, but by Monday morning some of the turf had stressed out due to the heat and disease, most likely pythium.

The second week became worse when some mornings the temperature began in the 80s and the dewpoint was in the mid-70s, creating excellent weather for an epidemic of several diseases. Superintendents had a difficult time controlling the turf losses, trying to grow cool season grasses in weather similar to that of Florida where bentgrass and Poa annua is almost unheard of. We were fortunate to have applied plant protection products before the weather turned bad but still lost some turf on three different fairways.

This golf season was the first time in my career that I had to send the crew home by lunchtime due to the fact the heat index was over 110. The temperature was 100+ and the dew point was around 75 or higher. The weather has now changed and things are back to normal. This would be a great time to take a weekend off and recover from a very stressful two weeks.

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**September is our Research Scramble.** This year's scramble will be held at The Legacy Courses at Cragun's, one of Minnesota's great new resort golf courses. Bring a team and enjoy a challenging day with friends.

— Thomas Fischer, CGCS  
MGCSA President



Wade Tollison, Club Car, hits his wedge towards the 15th hole. Wade shot 75 to finish one shot back of winner Jeff Pint.

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