

Editor's Corner

By Rick Traver, Jr., CGCS
Monticello Country Club



Hello, Hello, Hello

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of my editorial career. As embarrassed as I am to have it happen, you all are blessed with the privilege of looking at the above mug shot at least once per month for the rest of the year.

Hopefully the glare from my dome won't cause too much of a reflection, so as to bother your reading. As of course my writing will be of such fantabulous quality, you'll be more interested in reading than looking around.

Thank You

My first order of business is to thank my predecessor, Steve "Shu" Shumansky for the many years of service he has contributed to editing this publication as well as the years he has/is spending on the Board of Directors. Hopefully my column will be as eloquent and insightful as his has been.

MTGF Conference

I am writing this just after the MTGF conference and I hope everyone that attended felt they got their money's worth. I personally attended a couple of seminars that I found very

informative. Some of the seminars I find to be the most interesting are when other superintendents describe their maintenance practices. While some get a lot more complicated with their programs than I choose to, I am a "keep it simple" kind of superintendent.

I always find a piece of useful information in each and every talk, whether it be confirmation of a practice I am already using or something entirely new that had never occurred to me. Ultimately, it also always reminds me of the many ways there are to achieve the same goals.

I also hope everyone made a strong effort to make all the vendors in the trade show feel welcome. As many of you are aware, the vendors and their contributions to our organization and the trade show, help to make our dues and the fees for our conferences a lot more palatable. So if you didn't get the chance to talk with some of the vendors who attended, please make an effort through the year to thank them for their time and efforts.

Final Applications

One of the many things I heard people talk about at the conference was their final fungicide applications. Did they get them on before the snow or after?

Some talked about getting out the Saturday before the rains with a chuckle and implication of how lucky they were. Others like myself had to mention that we were busy shoveling the light white ice off the greens and spraying the following Thursday and putting on covers Friday. It is times like that by the way when having done the Golf Pro and Clubhouse Manager some favors over the previous summer become very valuable. One thing I did notice was everyone was smiling no matter how much work it was, because the chemicals are down and the slower season has started. I hope everyone has an excellent winter.

Articles and Information

As always we are looking for a few talented superintendent / journalists to write articles for *Hole Notes*. Please don't feel you have to write a six-page technical article. Like I mentioned earlier, there are many ways to achieve the playing conditions our golfers are looking for, and if you have a unique way of doing something, please let us know.

Also while I try to talk to as many people over the year as I can, if you have any newsworthy information regarding the membership, please E-mail me at supytrav@soncom.com, so that I can include it in our publication.

Holidays

As I look out onto the course and see the blanket of snow which makes it look rather pristine, I can't help but think of how lucky I am, from my family to my job to my co-workers. Make sure you take this time of year to "smell the roses," refocus, or find your direction.

My wife Barb, my daughter Maggie and I wish that all of your compasses are working and that you have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

GCSAA Education

TURFGRASS ECOLOGY

Monday, March 5, 2001
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN

Member Fee: \$110
Non-member Fee: \$165
CEUs: 0.7; Code: 01RS029-01

Textbook: "Turfgrass Ecology & Management"
(11450815) Strongly Recommended
GCSAA Price: \$31.00

MAXIMIZING TEAMWORK

Tuesday, March 6, 2001
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN

Member Fee: \$140
Non-member Fee: \$210
CEUs: 0.7; Code: 01RS056-01

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For more information or to register,
Call (800) 472-7878