HOLE NOTES

Official Publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

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From Your President's Desk

Use of Phosphorus Fertilizers Will Be Issue for Legislators



The new board has had it's first meeting and by the time you get this we will probably have had our second. The transition of committee chairs has gone smoothly and the committees are hard at work completing their needed tasks. The focus of the board is the budget for fiscal 2000/2001. We tend to get the budget done just in time for its start, so we are trying to get this task completed before we all get too busy.

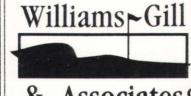
The business office is currently updating our database system so if any of your personal information has changed or you have a new e-mail address please call Scott and let him know. Once the new system is in place we will be better able to customize our mailings or possibly cut down on mailings through e-mail mailings instead. Watch

Many of you may have heard the discussion on talk radio and the articles printed in the papers touting the detriments that golf courses pose to the environment. Some of our members wrote responses to the printed items including one written by me on behalf of the association. I normally view these people as radicals who don't even deserve a response however, since this one topic was so widely spread I felt we needed to respond. Time will tell if we had an impact.

On the heals of this push by environmentalists comes some legislation written by the Department of Ag. which will limit the use of phosphorous fertilizer. At this time the legislation is just a draft seeking support in the current legislative session, but the initial input to draft this legislation came from the office of the Governor so you can bet that someone will bring it forward. I have a copy of the proposed statutory changes and at first look they look benign enough. But upon further examination the statutes would not only limit the use of phosphorous in the metro area but will eliminate its use all together. The thrust of the statute is clearly aimed at the general public but it does specifically list golf courses and public lands. If action becomes necessary we will certainly be there with support from the GCSAA to be sure that the golf industry is not adversely affected.

Steve Shumansky and I attended a chapter leadership forum held at the GCSAA national headquarters in Lawrence, KS. (GCSAA paid for the trip) It was a very informative meeting. For three days we planned and discussed with 23 other chapters how to grow our chapter as well as the national. The GCSAA staff outlined all of the programs and materials they have available to us at no charge. There are many programs we can and will be taking advantage of in the future.

-Respectfully, Paul Eckholm President



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