

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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From Your President's Desk

The Final Frontier



It was a rather cool day, but host superintendent Steve Hamelau had the course in excellent condition for the Research Scramble. The event raised a significant amount of money for the research fund. Thanks to all who participated. Along those same lines, the research donations forms were sent out recently. Encourage your club to participate, or participate yourself. It is a great cause since it furthers turfgrass research here in Minnesota.

I have been having meetings recently with the Department of Agriculture regarding the use of phosphorous on turfgrass in the metro area, and I am now convinced that there is nothing people won't say or do to further a cause they believe in. This is not necessarily a bad thing if these same people are willing to accept facts, but they aren't. In early September there was a meeting of individuals that were considered stakeholders in the phosphorous debate. It was immediately apparent who was on what side. There was science and there was emotion. The science side was represented by industry and U of M educators. The emotion side was represented by lakeshore property owners and environmentalists. Needless to say, neither side won. It was a seven-hour group therapy meeting with no tangible results but to stake out your ground. I hate these kinds of meetings. I went to this meeting ready to have a discussion about changes to the legislation to allow us to do our jobs as well as have a real impact on the phosphorous pollution in our lakes and streams. What I came out with was an understanding of the political process of doing anything to get a foot in the door even though it will have little or no real impact on a problem. Discussions are continuing, but I fear that the real battle will again be fought at the legislative level through testimony in front of the various committees. I will keep you posted.

On page 35 of this issue of *Hole Notes* you will find an article written by Mike Brower, our voting delegate, on the chapter delegates meeting. Mike offered to write this article to help keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening at the national level. It is a view from the stands and not the front office, so please give it your consideration. Thanks, Mike, for this informative article on the national.

With the end of the season comes time for educational conferences. The GCSAA conference and show packets have been mailed out and should be in your hands. Remember to register early since classes fill quickly. Our State conference in conjunction with the MTGF is quickly approaching and looks to be a great educational program. The Department of Agriculture will again hold its recertification workshop, still required for all classes of license. Along with the MGCSA annual meeting will be a binding vote on the PDI program. Please be sure to attend or vote by proxy, either way be sure to have your voice heard.

--Respectfully,
Paul Eckholm, CGCS

Western Superintendents' Bull Session

9:00 a.m. ~ November 6th ~ Alexandria Golf Club

All are Welcome!

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