



Editor's Corner

By Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
Monticello Country Club

It's Almost Over

Well I never did find out if Punxsutawney Phil ever saw his shadow. I guess I don't pay much attention to what happens in the East, mostly because that weather has already been here. Besides I can never remember how that whole groundhog thing goes - is it he sees his shadow and 6 more weeks of winter or the other way around. Needless to say its March, and that means the golf season is soon to start. I hope all of you have had a relaxing and productive winter, with all your preparations having been made for this upcoming year.

Retirement

It was really nice to see such a large turnout for Larry Muellers' retirement party. Larry has given a lot to our association, serving as a board member and past president. He also has helped many get their start in this business, so it felt good to see so many wish him well as he trades in his stimpmeter for a fishing pole.

GCSAA Conference

I am writing this just after the GCSAA conference in Dallas. If you were able to attend, I hope you had a good time. I was able to play in the golf tournament for the second year, and found the golf courses to be in great shape even if my golf game wasn't. The GCSAA does an excellent job ensuring that there are plenty of opportunities for participants to interact, and most take advantage of the hospi-

Mayo Clinic Says It May Have Figured Out the "Yips"

According to the Associated Press, a study by the Mayo Clinic has shown both physical and psychological causes for what golfers have long called the "yips."

The study, published in Sports Medicine, says more than a quarter of avid golfers get the yips, and that this affliction can add as much as five strokes to a sufferers score 18-hole score.

It turns out the anyone who assumes an abnormal posture repeatedly and for a prolonged period can develop a similar condition. Victims also include musicians and dentists, among others. Mayo researchers said yips sufferers have higher average heart rates and increased muscle activity, particularly in the wrists.

tality. The camaraderie at that event is definitely worth mentioning. Superintendents from all over the country are socializing and commiserating about their courses and their games. I almost feel sorry for those southerners, when they talk about all the pesticides they need to apply to make it through the heat of the summer, as well as the hassles associated with overseeding. Then again I come home and look at 3 feet of snow and remember how nice it was down there not to have to put on a heavy jacket.

Staffing

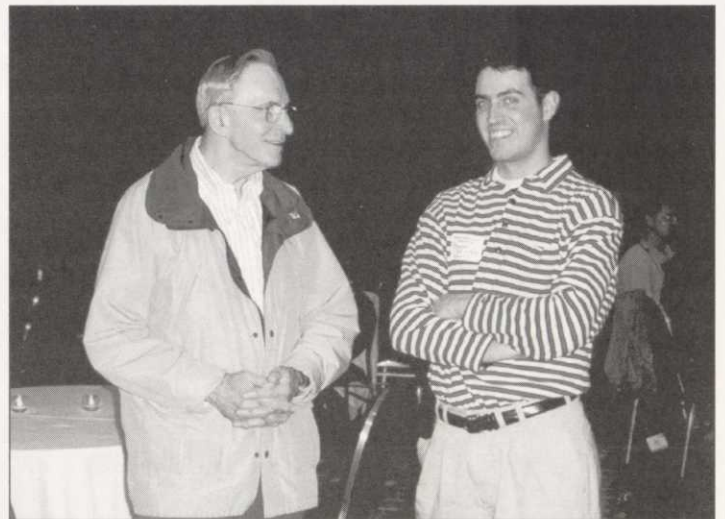
This time of year I always look back at the previous year and send out invitations to the seasonal employees that I would like to see return. Included with the invitation is a reply card, and when it is due. I was pretty lucky last year with quite a few of my staff members and hope that this year will be the same. I know several of the metro courses are looking at or have hired staff members from Hispanic or Latino origins to fill their seasonal crews and it has worked out really well for most everyone. For our course we have turned to retirees to fill many seasonal positions. They are a very dedicated and reliable section of the workforce.

Articles

As always we are looking for a few talented superintendent / journalists to write articles for the Hole Notes. I understand several of our members went to the British Isles for their winter education. This would make an excellent topic for an article in the Hole Notes. (Hint-Hint) There are many of us who would love to visit St. Andrews and may not get the chance for quite some time. Please let us know how it was, why you chose to go there etc....

With that I will say see ya-all. I hope to see many of you at the March Mini-Seminar. Remember it's at a new location this spring, the Radisson South in Bloomington.

--Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
Editor



DR. DON WHITE, University of Minnesota Department of Horticulture, chats with Brandon Schindele, Edina Country Club, at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas.