

HOLE NOTES

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From Your President's Desk

Time To Regroup



E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

What a beautiful day for golf. Finally a string of good weather and full golf courses. It would seem that the pent up golfer was just waiting for some good weather to play in. Let's all hope for a long fall to help all of the revenue pictures. The NGF reports that rounds golfed so far this season in our area are down by as much as 10%, and rounds nation wide are down by 3%. The majority of those decreases are directly attributable to weather, however, there is growing concern that golf has peaked and the competition for golfers is now on. The high end public courses are expected to be the first to feel the crunch of the softening economy and the saturation of the championship golf market, but all courses will eventually feel the effects. What can we as Golf Course Superintendents do, keep a lid on the costs, think about ways to attract more golfers or to keep the golfers we already have and voice those thoughts to your boss. In short show management that you have more to offer than just great agronomic skill. If you are short on ideas, talk with your other area superintendents, your staff and the members, they are all good sources of fresh ideas.

So you thought that local government didn't affect your life. Well you were wrong. With the failure of the state legislature to enact a comprehensive working piece of legislation to control phosphorous we now have every single municipality working on their own. This means that there could be over 300 separate ordinances in the state with regard to phosphorous. It is time to get involved. Speak to your councilman or city administrators to get an ordinance you can live with. If you need a guide I can provide you with the model we were using at the legislature. This is only the first step in the process for the people who blame our lifestyles for all of the ills of our lakes. First phosphorous then nitrogen and then who solution. Don't get me wrong, I am all for clean lakes and water. I just base my views of the solution on sound science and good conservation principles, not on emotions and class warfare.

As August progresses and our thoughts turn to aerification and scheduling a compressor for blow-out, don't forget to schedule in that personal time. With the season the way it has been, many if not all of us are feeling a little bit wrung out. As much as the golf course needs to be recharged so do all of us. Take some time to recharge those batteries, the fall may be a long one.

The Championship was held at Wayzata Country Club Monday, August 25th and Bob Distel had the course in terrific shape. Cudos Bob and all of your staff. The next outing is at Edina Country Club September 25th, plan on attending this scramble event to support turfgrass research.

There are a couple of new contributors to the Drive for the 'U' campaign. DTN Weather Services has donated a weather monitor for the research facility and Green Image has donated a spray rig. Plaisted Co. Inc. and Eureka Sands have also committed to help in the construction of a green at the research center by providing drainage materials and growing media. The University is currently evaluating the research area for the best location for this research green.

A passing noted. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joe Moris and his family who lost his father recently. Ray Moris was a Life Member of the MGCSA and an active participant in the association for many years, Ray was 91. Our most sincere condolences Joe.

Respectfully,
Paul Eckholm, CGCS
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