

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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From Your President's Desk



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
MGCSA President

Winter's Been As Unusual As the Summer of 2001

This past winter has been as unusual as the previous summer. I am sure every course in our Association has experienced the extremes. Often times these extremes take their toll on the turfgrass. Crown hydration, desiccation, snowmold – you may have one or a combination of all three this year.

Dr. Brian Horgan, Turf Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota, has a site that is linked to our website. The site has a "turf" chat room for questions, comments, or to discuss turf related subjects. Log-on to www.turf.umn.edu and you may be able to help another superintendent that has questions or you may have questions relative to what has happened on your own course. Brian will also do a live time period on the web site for "active participation."

– **The MGCSA Research Committee** has been active in supporting research to help superintendents take the guesswork out of preparing greens for winter extremes.

Dr. Jon Powell, University of Minnesota, is in the second year of his cover study being done at Rolling Green Country Club. The Association contributes funding to this project. The MGCSA also contributed 50% funding along with the GCSAA, for a three-year winter topdressing study done by Dr. Don Taylor, University of Wisconsin-River Falls. You can find their results complete with pictures on our Website www.mgcsa.com.

The "Drive for the U" program started last year by Paul Eckholm is still very active. The University has 16 acres committed for the turf research. There presently is a project being completed by another department on this site. Our goals are to have the site secured by early-summer with construction on a research green to begin by July 1 and be ready for our membership's inspection on the Field Day, July 25. I would like to thank those individuals and companies that have contributed equipment and made commitments to Paul. The project was originally planned to start last summer with the green being built on another site. This new site will allow for research, teaching, and a research station.

I would like to thank James Bade, Education Committee Chairman, for lining up the speakers and securing a site for our March Mini-Seminar. All good chairmen have great supporting committee members. Special thanks to James's committee of Greg Hubbard, Jeff Johnson, Mark Moers, and Mike Olson for providing the leg work. The seminar was held at Minnesota Valley Country Club and with Superintendent Mike Brower's help, turned into a superb venue to host the Mini-Seminar. I would also like to thank Scott Austin from Midland Hills and Jack MacKenzie from North Oaks for their presentations. Both speakers had well prepared talks and involved the audience in active participation. I did receive some feed back pertaining to the cost of the seminar though. After breaking out the cost of meals, breaks, audio-visual equipment, speaker costs, and mailings, the Association made a small profit. We build this into the cost to cover weather related issues and attendance figures. Fortunately the weather was nice and the seminar was well attended.

Our first golf meeting this year will be held May 13, at The Ridges of Sand Creek in Jordan where Scott Wersal is the superintendent. This will be a great golf course to start our anniversary year off with.

– Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
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HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly December/January, February/March for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617.