



Editor's Corner

By Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
Monticello Country Club

What a Month!

As I write this there is a cool front that just moved through. I have my office window open, feeling the cool breeze and am looking out at a beautiful sunrise. That is the way I started this column last month. Believe it or not, there is again a cool front moving through, and I again have my office window open feeling the cool breeze. The problem is this is the first cool front that we have seen since last month.

This past month for me has been a dilly, and I imagine for many of you the justifications for your choice in occupations has become a little unclear. There are golf courses in the state that have or had holes under water. The dew points and humidity levels have been extremely high for weeks, causing disease like we have not seen in a while. Many of us have been dealing with a limited staff due to the financial shortfalls of the spring, and in my case a mechanic that has been gone due to illness. There are many chal-

lenges we as superintendents have to face in a typical season and this summer has been no exception. So, if that summer burnout is coming a little early this year, don't forget you have a huge support group within your association. Use these guys, they are all willing to lend an ear and, if asked, give advice.

Mechanic Schematic?

Never, and I repeat never, underestimate the value of a good support staff. As I mentioned earlier, my mechanic has been out for a bit due to illness. It initially was just going to be a few days, which has turned into several weeks. A few days is easy to manage around. Make a few adjustments, replace a tire here and there, but a few weeks has me removing a radiator to get to a hydraulic pump. While I have always considered myself fairly mechanical, greasy hands and I do not necessarily get along. Thank goodness for my assistant, and my staff. They have been extremely helpful and patient as I have muddled my way through fixing these (would-be) minor repairs.

Chaska Town Course

As the rumor mill moves fast within our association, many of you have already heard about the fire at Chaska Town Course. The inferno caused extensive damage to its maintenance building and also caused a majority of its equipment to be ruined. It seems that an electrical short in a small utility truck may have started the truck on fire. This truck was parked underneath the garage door opener. The thought is that the opener shorted out when the fire hit it and opened the door fueling the fire with fresh oxygen. They have received a lot of support from their neighbor, Hazeltine National Golf Club as well many equipment vendors, especially MTI. Good luck guys and if you need anything don't hesitate to ask.

Dr. Powell

As you may have also heard, Dr. Powell is leaving the University of Minnesota. Since there is plenty of information about that earlier in this issue of *Hole Notes*, I will leave the explanations to him. We would like to thank him for his contributions and wish him the very best in his and his family's future endeavors.

U of M Field Day

As I write this column the next event scheduled for our association is the U of M Field Day, on Thursday, July 25th. However, you will all have attended and had a great experience by the time you receive this publication. Therefore I will report more on that next time.

The following event is the MGCSA Championship on Monday, August 26th. Tom Kientzle, CGCS is our host as we play the Legacy Course at Cragun's. The Board of Directors was privy to a free round there last week, and while I wasn't personally in attendance I understand we are in for a great round of golf.

—Rick Traver, CGCS
Editor

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