



## Editor's Corner

By Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS  
Monticello Country Club

### Striving for Perfection

Superintendents as a rule of thumb are overachievers and perfectionists. If we weren't, would we be able to maintain our courses at the level we do? We also take a lot of pride in what we do and how well we do it. Which ultimately leads us into a workaholic type lifestyle.

With that having been said, I ran across a quote last month in the GCSAA NewsWeekly. It goes like this:

*"It is possible to have too high a degree of perfection. If we have never had a bad lie we are not likely to appreciate a good one, and moreover, the ability to play from a bad lie differentiates between a good player and bad one."* --Dr. Alister MacKenzie

I personally don't think Dr. MacKenzie is trying to tell us that we don't want to maintain our courses at a high level. But think about this, how many times have you heard the saying, "If you give 'em an inch they want a mile"?

As we get rockin' and a rollin' this summer, keep in mind that it doesn't have to always be perfect. Take some time out for the wife, kids, friends and family.

### How Much are you Worth?

There was a hardware engineer who had an exceptional gift for troubleshooting automotive robots. After serving his company loyally for more than 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later, the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem it was having with one of its multimillion-dollar machines. The company had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work, but to no avail. In desperation, the company called on the retired engineer who had solved so many problems in the past. He reluctantly took on the challenge. He spent a day studying the intricate and complex machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated, "this is where your problem is". The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly. The company upon receiving a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his services demanded an itemized accounting of his charges. The engineer responded briefly:

*One chalk mark: \$1*

*Knowing where to put it: \$49,999*

The bill was paid in full and the engineer retired again in peace.

### Drive for the Wow!!

That is about the only way I can summarize the feeling I had at the last MGCSA Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Brian Horgan made a presentation on his and Dr. Powell's efforts at the University of Minnesota with regard to the new research facility. They are making some super progress and with the help of Jack MacKenzie will be reporting on this over the next several issues of this periodical. I personally am excited and believe once you see the progress they have made, you all will be too.

### Speaking of the U

It has been great to see so much communication on the Turf Talk hotline. If you haven't yet tuned in, please do. There are a jillion of talented people in our association and the more we communicate the better our profession becomes.

### Spring Meetings

Thanks to Scott Wersal and The Ridges at Sand Creek for hosting our spring meeting. As I write this we are weeks away from that meeting; however we certainly appreciate their offering of the facility for our outing. By the way, mark your calendars for Monday, June 17, and set your cruise control for St. Cloud C.C. Dan Hanson will be the host superintendent this year for the Scholarship Scramble.

—Rick Traver, CGCS  
Editor



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