



ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

*By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club*

"Criky, where's me roster?"

Not an unusual question this time of year, and one brought up at the last BOD meeting. Everyone wants to know why the roster arrives so late in the season and seems to be outdated before it is even used. This is a serious dilemma and can be attributed to several factors including sloth, forgetfulness, procrastination, indolence and apathy.

You see, the roster is directly related to the timely payment of annual dues. Although requests were sent out last April, the MGCSA is still waiting to receive payment from 132 Members. That's right, because 15% of our members haven't paid their dues, relevant information concerning vendors, members and updated bylaws and association data cannot be disseminated. What is a Board to do?

Send out an incomplete roster? Sort of defeats the purpose if many members are not included. Perhaps request payment earlier in the year? It didn't work the last time! Charge a late penalty to defer the cost of amended mailings of updated addresses? How many loose sheets would end up in the wastebasket?

Paul Eckholm came up with the idea of creating a small three-ring notebook roster. Those who pay on time would be included in an annual "update" package. Late applicants and new members would be included in future mailings. Vendor, honorary member and bylaw information would retain their individual sections. To take the system another step, industry movement could be addressed using peel and stick labels; this could potentially allow roster mailings to occur every other year.

Because the cost of binding is so very expensive, the new system could decrease the burden upon an already frugal budget and offer great flexibility. Updates would be done as frequently as necessary. New phone numbers or a change in job would be a simple "peel and stick" to modify. And most importantly, the roster would be out in a timely fashion. Now what does the BOD need do about late payment of dues?

We are open for suggestions. Penalty charge? Posting of delinquent members? Cancellation of status within the organization? Do nothing and hope payment is received? All the while mailing out membership magazines, outing and employment information and even the roster itself. This seems pretty expensive considering postage today. Unable to come to a good remedy, the Board meeting moved onto the Fertilizer Training Program being developed by Dr. Brian Horgan.

As most of you know, during the last legislative session, a law was passed requiring golf course agronomists to either prove the need for phosphorous applications or maintain the right to use phosphorous through attendance in a continuing education program by the end of 2003.

Dr. Horgan has worked hard to develop the following program schedule. In the year 2003 several four-hour "base" programs would be offered at various locations across the state of Minnesota. Each following year, only one "base" four hour program would be offered as well as several opportunities for applicators to become "retrained" in the art of fertilizer application. The "retraining" events would include some base material as well as industry updates. It is planned that the "retraining" efforts will be scheduled in conjunction with the Green Expo, mini programs and even at a monthly meeting if necessary.

For example, in order for me to apply phosphorous upon my course in the year 2004 without soil testing, I would need to take a four hour "base" information educational program in 2003. This would provide me with an appli-

cators certificate stating that I had achieved the requirements according to the law. Because the certificate lasts for two years, I would schedule myself to take a refresher course at the Green Expo in 2005 or attend one of a several educations to be offered that year to assure I was covered for 2006-07. This every- other- year program will be handy for me because it is opposite of my pesticide applicators license.

And speaking of the applicators license, HAVE YOU GOT YOURS FOR 2003-04? If you do not want to have to retest for next year, take advantage of the educational opportunities offered through the MGCSA, MTGF and the Department of Agriculture this fall. (See Schedule on Page 12.)

It is tough to be a nagging "father." In fact, it is somewhat embarrassing to have to tell my peers information that has been made available to them multiple times over the last few months. But here I go again. Pay your dues! Re-certify for your 2003-2004 pesticide applicators license! And plan to attend one of four fertilizer training seminars offered next year if you are going to be using phosphorous in the future without taking soil tests.

Catch you next month in black and white! --Jack

MGCSA Membership Report

New Members: August 20, 2002

Vincent Dodge, CGCS The Wilderness at Fortune Bay.....	A - GCSAA
W: 218-753-6400	
Scottie Hines, CGCS Wind Song Farm Golf Club.....	A - GCSAA
763-479-3535	
Jared Finch The Legend at Giant's Ridge.....	B - GCSAA
218-865-4143 ext. 435	
Jacey Harmon Beaver Creek Golf Course.....	B - GCSAA
507-673-0019	
Sally Berens Dellwood Hills Golf Club.....	C
651-426-3218	
William Sarafolean Phalen Park Golf Course.....	C - GCSAA
651-772-7554	
Dan Stang Rich Spring Golf Course.....	C
320-685-4322	
Paul T. Wohlert Monticello Country Club.....	C - GCSAA
763-295-3323	
Brandon Nusbaum Madelia Golf Course.....	Student
507-642-3436	
Jason Bass StrataPoint, Inc.....	Affiliate
651-905-8940	
Doug Daniel Cycle Works of Minnesota.....	Affiliate
952-892-8572	
James O'Neill Cycle Works of Minnesota.....	Affiliate
612-751-0305	
Dan Sanford Grove Nursery Center.....	Affiliate
763-420-4202	
Jeremy Stafne MTI Distributing, Inc.....	Affiliate
612-250-2583	

Submitted by Daniel Swenson
Membership Chairman