

Under the Gun—

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Education helps. The oldest generation of superintendents may well not have gone to college at all, but the men and women trained today by the likes of Rossi and Clarke are likely to have four-year degrees in the appropriate sciences, plus all sorts of specialized certificates and licenses. Technical training is needed too, because now they spend so much time monitoring the shrinking number of chemicals they can use and precisely how much of each.

Long gone are the days when superintendents could rely on the old heavy metal fungicides which shotgunned everything. The chemicals are out there, but they must be applied far more carefully and only to treat specific problems—and that brings up another problem supers contend with: “They don’t want to be seen spraying because a lot of guys really believe it’s out-of-sight, out-of-mind,” Rossi says. The GCSAA surveyed golfers and found that “seeing workers on the course” was one of their top complaints, not far behind the top answer, which just happens to be another maintenance necessity, aeration.

Clearly, maintenance is a conflict for a lot of club golfers: they want it out of sight, but they also want a perfect course. It’s also clear that they must acquire realistic limits, if not for the sake of being reasonable and fair to their supers, then for the health of the club’s turf. “We’re reaching the biological limit of these plants,” Rossi warns. “And it would be nice for golfers to at least recognize that their expectations are driving this.”

It's In the Hole...

Stephen and Amy Kimball had a new girl, Sara

Michelle Kimball was born June 18th, 2003 at about 4pm. She was 7.6 lbs, 20.25 inches long. Baby, Mom and Stephen are all doing well, and getting some sleep ...



Don White and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 27 June ...

Jack MacKenzie was married on June 21st. His brides name is Kim MacKenzie ... **Steve Roxberg** was presented with this year’s MGCSA Scholarship at the Scholarship Scramble in New Richmond on June 30. Steve attends Penn State when he’s not attending to his assistant superintendent duties at Wayzata Country Club...This year’s Turfgrass Research Benefit Week raised over \$11,000 for local turfgrass research.



Pictured left to right at North Oaks Golf Club during the 17th Annual MGCSA Turf Research Benefit Week are AJoe Fischer, Quality Insulation, St. Louis Park; Tom Osberg, JNR Adjustment Company, Plymouth; host superintendent Jack McKenzie and his dog Nugget, and George Harper, Spartan Promotional Group, Tonka Bay. “North Oaks was in excellent condition, the greens were flawless and the fairways were impeccable -- not that I used them for hitting shots but they were nice to walk on! I want to make this an annual stop on my golf calendar,” said Harper, who has participated in this benefit for the past 10 years and has contributed over \$3,000 towards turfgrass research. Not pictured with this group is Alan Lanners, Dial Lawyers, Plymouth.

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