



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking Back, Looking Forward!

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

It looks like the weather patterns are finally beginning to shift. The stacked up rain events were getting a bit monotonous and taking a toll on facility bottom lines. Always looking for the bright spot in the clouds, I must say it could always be worse. Our friends in eastern Wisconsin have been inundated with rain. Chatter on the Noernet listserv reveals many clubs have received 9 - 11+ inches in the month of June. A little closer to home, Spring Hill was hammered by large hail and was closed for two days (see photo on Page 3). How does one go about repairing nature's handiwork in this instance? I am thinking along the lines of a large roller and lots of topdressing. Ouch! I bet other golf courses in the area experienced similar "catastrophes." In the future, please feel free to share photos with your colleagues via *Hole Notes* and maybe a short explanation on how you dealt with the crisis.

Here are some updates from past events and reminders for upcoming events:

- The Turf Research Benefit netted \$14,811, a new record for this program. Thank you to the local clubs that generously donated tee times to help us in this endeavor. The research that is funded by these monies ultimately benefits you, me and our industry.
- Greystone Golf Club hosted the 2010 MGCSA Scholarship Scramble and raised \$4,000. I was unable to attend but was told all had a good time and rain drops were kept to a minimum. Thank you to Lee Mahnke and the staff at Greystone for hosting this annual MGCSA event.
- As you may or may not know, the MGCSA Board of Directors has been exploring the option of producing *Hole Notes* magazine as an online digital version. Such a move would cut production costs substantially. We recently surveyed the MGCSA membership for their thoughts on this issue and 144 responded. It was almost two to one in favor of retaining the hard copy version. The BOD will discuss this issue further at our next Board meeting. In the meantime, please check out several examples of electronic versions produced by other GCSA chapters. Most are in PDF format but some, such as Iowa GCSA, use software that presents the publication so that it makes you feel you are reading a hard copy. Many chapters across the country have made the switch:
 - <http://www.epaperflip.com/aglaia/viewer.aspx?docid=f2689ce614954b23a2f4cefb1e52b4ed> Iowa GCSA
 - <http://www.hagcsa.org/Heartbeat/July2010.pdf> Heart of America GCSA
 - <http://carolinagcsa.org/uploadedFiles/Home/MayJun2010feature.pdf> Carolinas GCSA (partial)
 - <http://www2.cybergolf.com/sites/images/527/tee-to-green-Jan-2010fin.pdf> Met GCSA
- A BIG thank you to all who showed up to assist with moving the rain shelter at the TROE Center. It took all of five minutes but required many bodies. We really do have a great bunch of members who are always willing to help when needed!
- MGCSA event sponsorship raised \$14,000 in 2010! Please keep this in mind the next time you pick up the phone to place an order. Make a conscious effort to support vendors that support MGCSA.

• The **MGCSA Golf Championship** will be held on August 16 at The Jewel in Lake City. Doug Mahal, CGCS, will host the event.

On September 20, the **MGCSA Research Scramble** will take place at The Classic in Brainerd. Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, will host this event.

University of Minnesota Field Day is set for September 16 at the TROE Center on the St. Paul Campus.

The **Wee One Tournament** in honor of Tom Fuller is set for Sept. 27 at North Oaks Golf Club. Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, will host this event.

Registration information for all of the above will be available soon. I hope to see you there.

Legislative Update

Keep your eye on "America's Commitment to Clean Water Act" introduced by Jim Oberstar (D-MN), H.R. 5088. This bill is an expansion of the 1972 "Clean Water Act". It would remove the word "navigable" from the current law to include ALL waters within the U.S. This would remove any connection to the interstate commerce clause which was used to prove constitutionality in the original 1972 law. The introduced bill would expand federal regulatory authority to "activities affecting these waters," which essentially gives the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers control over all the land and water in the U.S. In a nutshell, the Feds could regulate the wet spots in your fairways! If at all concerned, you may want to do some personal research on this attempted power grab.

Until Next Time,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS

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