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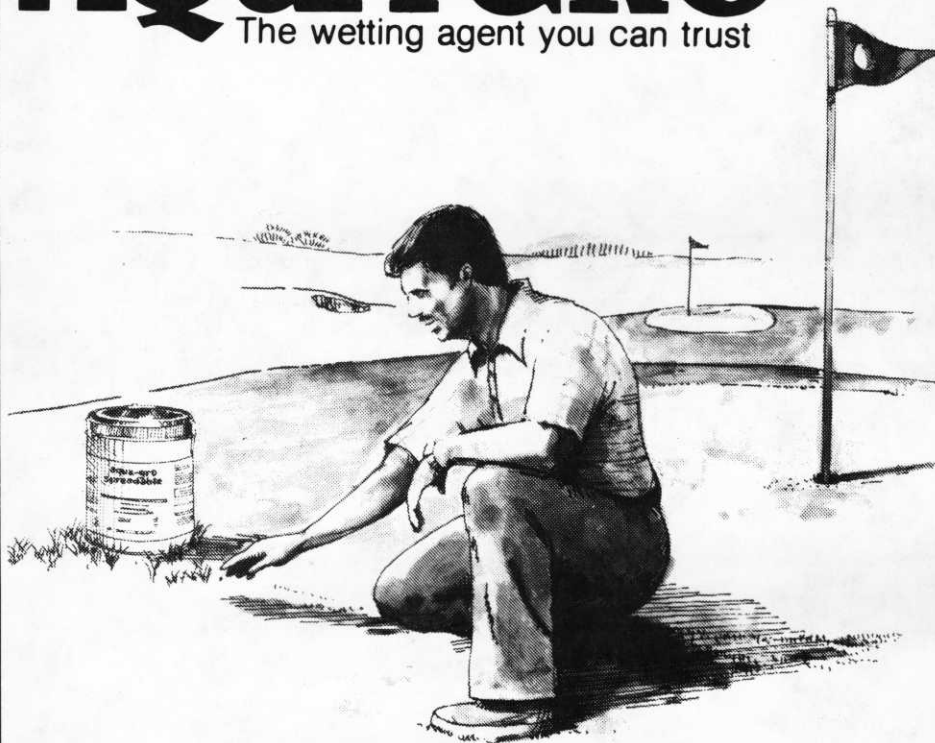
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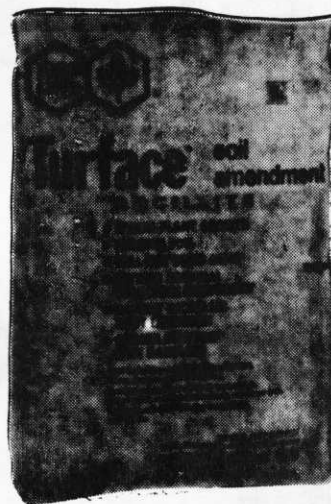
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HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA GOLF
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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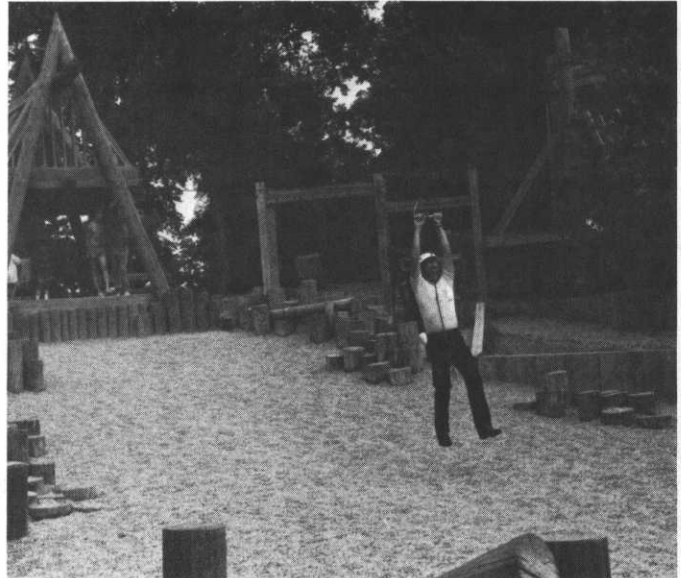
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DON LINDBLAD



Sometimes the keeping of the green is like hanging from the high wire! You don't like hanging there but the choice of letting go is not too inviting, either.

It seems to me that it is like that when you are standing between two factions in your club! One faction wants the putting surface as slick as a new car's just waxed hood, and the other faction wants them so long you could lose a quarter when you mark your ball. That's when the virtue of prudence comes into play. The ability to chart the middle course while letting each faction think they have gotten at least the better of the compromise. The ability to keep your cool and get along with the crew and the members in times of stress and negotiate some compromises when needed has nothing to do with growing grass but is oh, such an important part of being a good superintendent.

Be sure and read the article in this issue by William Smart of IBB Country Club.

SAND TOPDRESSING RIVER FALLS STYLE

by SCOTT AINSWORTH
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT
RIVER FALLS GOLF COURSE

Over the past several years I have read many articles and talked with countless superintendents about sand topdressing. I would like to take the opportunity to tell you how I have handled sanding greens. I established a sand topdressing program in 1977. My objective was to improve water infiltration and create a smoother, more puttalbe surface.

The procedure for aerification is much the same but the thought of creating a layer on top of a soil green is different. I aerify twice yearly, once in spring and again in the fall, using a Terra 200 roll type aerator. By going over each green twice (three and four times in bad areas) I can raise about the same number of cores as a Ryan Punch type aerator. I allow the cores to dry on the surface and add Par-Ex (20-0-16) at the rate of two to two and a half pounds Nitrogen per 1000 square feet. I overseed with Penncross where and when needed. Then comes the sand.

I chose a local mortar sand from Roberts, WI. It is a sharp sand but has a good partical distribution. Approximately 76% falls between course and medium. It has a P.H. of 7.6.

In the first years of the program, when the cores were 100% original profile, I topdressed heavily with pure sand, 1/4 inch or more. As the years went by and the sand layer began to build I put on less. My thinking is that more soil in the cores should be offset by more sand. I topdress only when I care to eliminate any chance of creating pure sand - dirty sand layers. I mix the cores, sand and fertilizer together with a verticutter in two different directions and drag it back into the holes with a small drag mat. Brushing the greens is the final step.

After eight years I have built up a layer of "dirty sand" one and one-half to two inches thick. The sand layer is fairly uniform; pure mason sand mixed with cores form the original profile. It has worked!

The greens putt better, accept water faster and compact less between aerifications.

There are drawbacks, however. The sand layer dries out too fast and it becomes hard and crusty. I have had to increase irrigation amounts two to four times. Each year that goes by I see more and more local dry spot. It has become my number one problem. The only successful treatment is wetting agents and they are short-lived.

I have another problem...what to do in the future. Now that I have a two inch layer, the cores have less and less original profile. I am faced with adding something, either soil, peat or both, to the sand before topdressing. This will keep the pure sand "dirty".

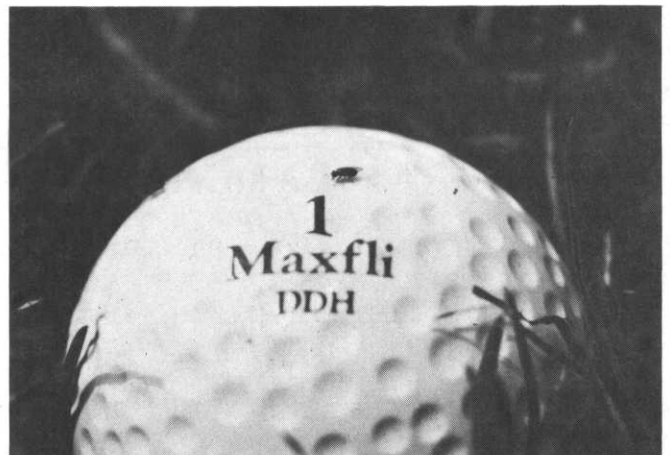
The questions I have yet to answer are: 1) What to use? 2) How to mix it? 3) Can I keep the new profile uniform as the years go by?

Topdressing greens with sand has its pros and cons. Many of us are doing it and as you are all aware, it is an on-going program we must all face. I wish us all well!

INSECT PEST OF GOLF GREENS TO BE STUDIED IN OHIO

by HARRY NIEMCZYK, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR OF TURFGRASS ENTOMOLOGY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The frit fly, *Oscinella frit* (L.), is a small black fly often present in large numbers on golf courses and seen by golfers when it lands on white clothing or golf balls.



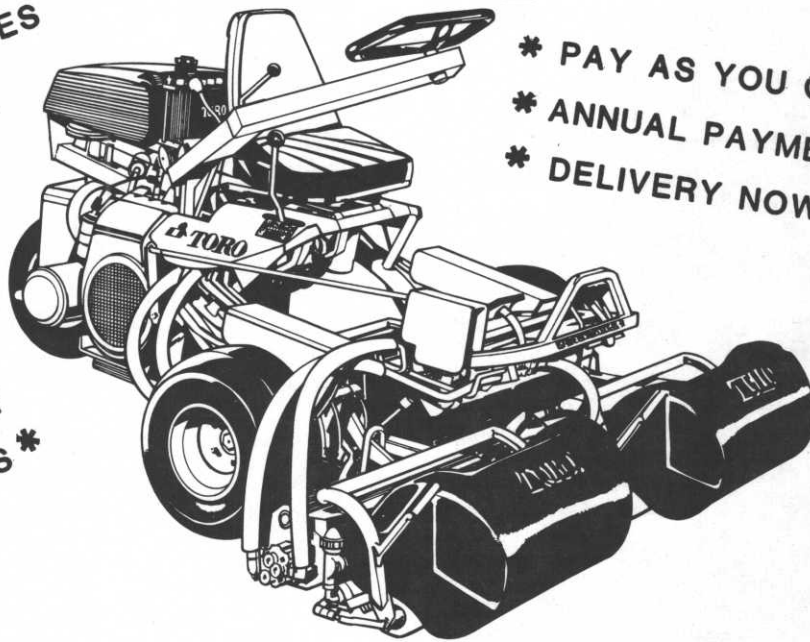
FRIT FLY ADULT ON GOLF BALL
continued on Page 5

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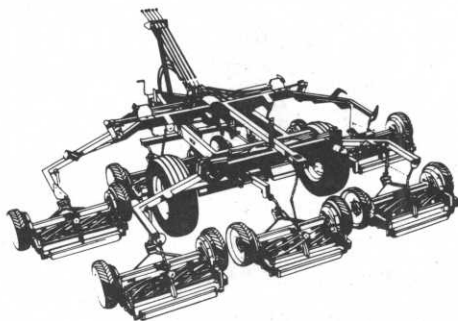
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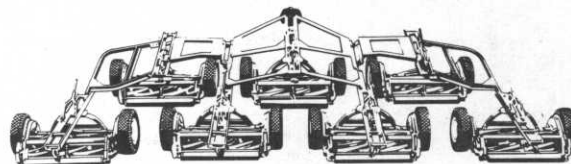
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Recognized as a nuisance to golfers, the frit fly larvae can and do cause damage to turfgrass, especially greens, collars and aprons. Adults lay eggs that hatch into small maggots which tunnel into grass stems to feed on growing tissues. Little is known about the insect; in fact, it has never been studied on turfgrasses in the U.S. Research is currently underway to study the biology, seasonal life history and distribution of this pest on golf course turf. The work is being conducted by Mike Tolley, Ohio State University Ph.D. graduate student, under the guidance of Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, Professor of Turfgrass Entomology at OSU's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster. The project is being supported, in part, by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation.



FRIT FLY DAMAGE TO GREEN

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SLATED FOR WASHINGTON D. C.

"The early bird gets the worm". This old adage takes on new dimension when used by James W. Timmerman, CGCS, President Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) in discussing "Early Bird" plans for GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Washington, D.C., February 5-13, 1985.

When asked to explain this concept, Timmerman replied, "The Early Bird registration was introduced for the 1984 Conference and Show and was very successful. This plan allows members to

take advantage of savings on Conference fees provided they register prior to September 15, 1984. They will also receive preferential housing and preferential banquet seating for the first time this year, as well as other discounts".

Early Bird registration allows members a 10 percent discount on all conference fees, a 25 percent discount on educational tapes purchased during the Conference, preferential banquet seating, preferential housing assignment and preference in seminar assignments.

"This Early Bird registration is available only to GCSAA members. We are continually striving to offer the best to our members and this is one way we can offer substantial savings to those members attending our Annual International Golf Course Conference and Show," said Timmerman.

Savings are also available to those members taking advantage of advance registration. However, the savings are not as great as through the Early Bird registration. Non-members can realize a savings through advance registration but are not eligible for the special Early Bird registration.

Non-members can also take advantage of a special savings plan. All individuals who become new members of the Association between February 2, 1984 and December 31, 1984 receive complimentary registration for the Washington, D.C. Conference and Show. And those who join and register prior to September 15, 1984 will be able to receive the Early Bird benefits.

Special Early Bird registration forms will be mailed to all GCSAA members around July 15. Any member not receiving this special registration form should call 1-800-GSA-SUPT.



No Excuse for Course Abuse

Noticed any ball marks on your greens lately? How's the litter around the litter basket; has it found a home inside the barrel or are your members off the mark again? How about your tees; are the rough riders still making figure-eights with tire marks?

If you accent the positive in response to these on-going questions on the incidence of a much-ignored wing of golf etiquette, maybe it's time to raise the possibility of subjecting frequent offenders to a clinic of another kind.

Golf clinics, as we know them, are confined to the intricacies of the golf swing. There, the pro tells you how to grip the club properly, how to take it away in a straight line, come back with a lateral return - all the little things that go into hitting a golf ball far and straight.

This type of tutoring is very nice, essential, especially if the golfer doesn't know the difference between the Vardon grip and the pro putting side of the cup. But it takes in only half of a golfer's education. The other half, or appreciation of the golf course, usually is left to work itself into the player's head by accident or chance. How unfortunate - for the golfer and the golf course superintendent.

Some of the scenes on the golf course are cause for alarm, not to mention cause for the superintendent to wonder if those playing the layout realize they have an obligation to treat it as they do their own homes or places of business.

There are countless ways to abuse the golf course. A foursome of junior golfers race out of the clubhouse - their pockets stuffed with candy bars and their hands full of soft drinks. Before a second or third shot is taken, the fairway takes the form of the city dump with papers flying in

all directions and paper cups challenging the grass for squatting rights.

Tees are a particular sore spot, a locale where golfers do more damage with their carts than they do with their tee shots. It's almost automatic for a golfer to drag his cart across the tee, select his club, make the shot and then rip his way back to the fairway. Abuse? What takes a superintendent months to transform into a smooth and inviting area is turned into a scarred battleground in a matter of hours.

Greens constitute another area where golfers, whose minds are stuck on a single track of making their putt, ignore ball marks and perform other acts that inflict damage on the most significant product of a superintendent's maintenance efforts. It takes only a few seconds to repair a ball mark and weeks of conditioning to restore its place to its original state if the golfer allows the penetration to go unattended.

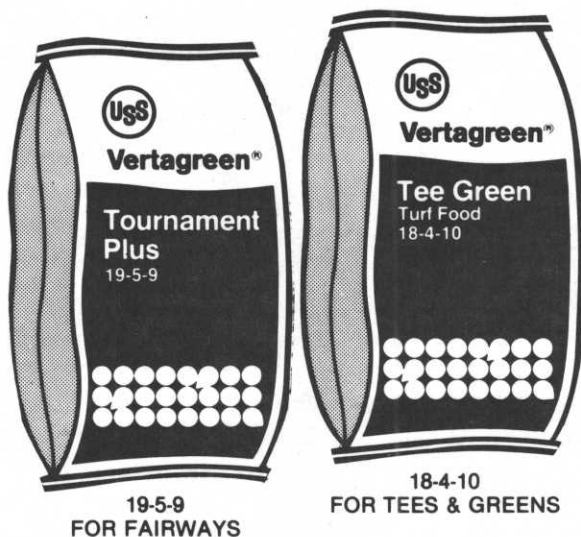
One could go on and on with examples of course desecration, most unintentional but recurring because the golfer refuses to take a few moments to appreciate the grounds on which he plays. How many burnt-out cigarettes work their way into the delicate turf? Don't count them. You'll be there forever.

These and other forms of course abuse never will be completely eliminated. It's the law of the beast. However, a course appreciation clinic could help to keep it at a minimum. But it does take cooperation and the makings of a new and constructive relationship between player and superintendent.

Therefore, what's being suggested here is another kind of golf clinic - one with the welfare of the course in mind. Setting it up is simply a matter of rapport among the golf professional, green committee and course superintendent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Sulfate of Potash (K ₂ O)	10.00%

*Derived from Urea-Formaldehyde

Secondary Nutrients:

Calcium (Ca)	2.00%
Magnesium (Mg)	1.20%
Sulfur (S)	10.00%

Micro-Nutrients:

Copper (Cu)	0.05%
Total Iron (Fe)	0.28%
0.03% Iron Chelated (Fe)	
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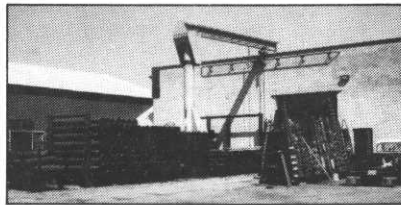
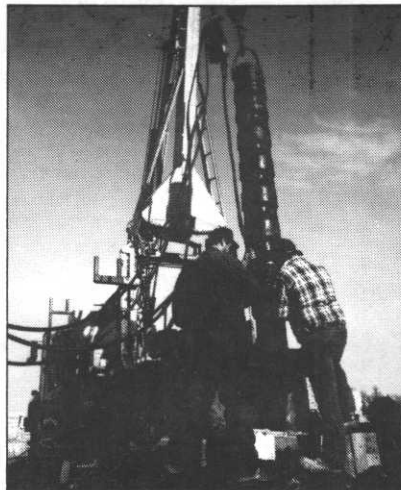
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ON THE MEND



As reported in the last issue of HOLE NOTES, Mark Smith of the Minneapolis Golf Club had an accident with a chain saw in a tree he was trimming. The above photo shows Mark explaining to Guy Green of the M.G.A. and M.G.C.S.A. how the whole thing happened.

Mark is now back at the helm at his club but is somewhat restricted by the soft cast and leg brace he must wear while the healing continues.

He surely is going to look funny with one tan leg and one pale one when he sheds the medical paraphernalia!





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affect the putting?" (Again, notice the golfer's interest in playability). I replied, "No, but they look like hell." He asked when they would recover. With a knot in my stomach and a lie in my teeth, I said a week or two. He said not to worry, easy for him to say.

I was worried at the reaction of the club in general. Much of it was similar to that expressed by the Chariman and quite a few voiced their concern about my feeling badly about the damage to "your beautiful greens." I received one hundred percent support from the club. I don't like to think what might have happened if my relations with the club had been poor. Factually, I have seen many more jobs lost due to poor interpersonal relations than due to poor work performance. To put it in very basic terms, If They Love You, You Can Get Away With Just About Anything.

Due to the nature of our work, our personal stress period usually coincides with the stress period for turf. Roughly the one hundred days from June first to September. It happens to be September 8 this year. The work load and the golf are at their peak, and you have the heat and the summer help to contend with. However, it is a fairly short period of time compared to many jobs that have no seasonal limitations. One can reduce the margin for error effectively in the one hundred days by limiting the activity to the absolute basic grooming necessary for the grooming of the course. You can determine what is basic by asking one question - Will it benefit my golfer in the short term? Raking traps will, edging traps will not, moving greens will, aerifying will not, mowing rough will, applying weed killer will not. That is not to say that all these long term projects are not desirable, they are... but in their proper time, not in the Hot One Hundred. Most golf courses are geared for maintenance and that in my opinion is what we should do - maintain. Do the projects in the spring and fall, get down to basics in the summer, and lower your stress factor by at least half.

I lost the center of the tenth green when I was playing at carpenter - I didn't check the course and see the puddle that the

night water man left for the July sun. Incidentally, night watering should be a thing of the past... dawn is much more efficient, if dealing with a manual system. Watering is certainly basic and the key to summer survival; yet try to find any written material on it.

A good friend was not paying attention to basics when he almost lost his job spending three days putting in a blacktop parking lot for his club. It was his idea and he saved the club two thousand dollars. The course was very shabby that weekend and the Greens Chairman had to put up with a lot of irate golfers. Do you know what he told my buddy? "I don't give a damn how much money you saved the club; your responsibility is maintaining the golf course, not building parking lots" - and he was right.

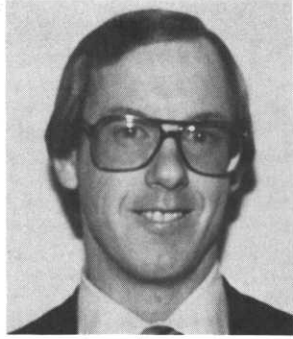
A good assistant can go a long way toward keeping the stress factor low. I find that the interchange during a discussion helps me sort out my own thinking. It is not necessary that the partner be an "expert." Experts tend to be locked into conventional solutions and answers. Some lucky people can bounce ideas off their best friend or their mate. Some very lucky people have this one person. I talk a lot to my assistant. Sometimes I am amazed at what I say, and I think, I didn't know that I knew that! Not all my ideas are winners, either.

The hectic pace of our lives contributes to stress—so breaking the stride might help. If you have been working seven to thirty, work down to noon for a week or so. My crew likes early—we beat the traffic (IBM traffic is like the L.A. Freeway, only on two lane blacktops) and the major part of our work is done before we see a golfer. We head them off at the pass, as big Duke Wayne would say.

One of the best stress easers is to call ahead and have lunch with a fellow Superintendent - then tour his spread. If you are having a problem in a special area, see how he is coping with it. If he is coping, find out how, pick his brain. If he is not having any success in that area, and as often happens, he is worse off

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

EDITOR'S CORNER



by DOUG MAHAL
CHAIRMAN
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Did that July weather suit anybody but me? Some very timely rains and moderate temperatures created some gorgeous July turf this year. Yes, "Mother" was dealing "royal flushes" this past month and most superintendents were happy to play the hand.

Attendance at our July picnic was astonishingly low and none of the board of directors can really figure out why. If you've got any ideas along those lines, please let one of us know. We'd like to make this a big day for all the superintendents and their families. We had a beautiful day for the picnic and Jim Lindblad's acreage out there in Wayzata was exceptional for a round of golf beforehand. He had that links in great shape for the National Junior event.

You all may recall in last months HOLE NOTES I mentioned the Minnesota Employee Right To Know Law of 1983. I've gotten some feedback from some of the membership stating that they are somewhat confused about the law. It's a law which became effective January 1, 1984 and was designed to ensure that an employee has access to information and be provided with training regarding hazardous substances, harmful physical agents (noise, radiation, heat, etc.) and infectious agents that they are routinely exposed to. I have obtained a 31 page report on the law describing the components of the law, businesses affected by the law, all definitions and explanation of the law and a list of all hazardous substances and agents included in the law. A copy of this report will be made available to all members for a

nominal fee by calling or writing the M.G.A. office, 6550 York Ave. South, Suite 401, Edina, Minn. 55435, telephone 612/927-4643.

Many thanks to last month's contributors Richard Dicks of Brooktree Municipal Golf Course in Owatonna and Richard Taylor of Golf Car Midwest. We all get extremely busy during the summer months. We can really appreciate the extra time these fellas put in.

I hope you're all looking forward to our August meeting at Rochester as much as I am. Kurt and company continually produce a great golf track and always supply the best of hospitality. Sharpen up on that golf swing. Wild shots can create some real difficulty. Remember, August is the month for the Annual Superintendent Tournament so if you plan to attend and play, get your pre-registrations back as soon as they arrive.

There has been a change in meeting sites and dates for October. The new site will be Interlachen Country Club and the date will be Monday, October 8. The format will be somewhat different as well. A 9:00 a.m. shotgun is planned followed by lunch and a speaker. Make a note of that change on your calendars.

July is gone...can winter be far away? Enjoy August and take some time to relax.

Starting with the juniors seems sensible. By no means are the newer golfers the only perpetrators in the act of abusing a golf course. However, they would be logical participants in a course appreciation clinic because of their impressionable status.

Sure, it sounds like a dead horse is being beaten because this same subject has been touched on here in the past. However, the incidence of abuse continues and has gone unchecked to the point where competition between golfers damaging the course and superintendents trying to preserve its playing condition has developed.

Actually, the highest station of responsibility lies with the country club officials or park commissions that administer municipal courses. Public courses are a separate entity. Their owners usually wield a heavier hand in demanding cooperation from players.

The golf course appreciation clinic, then, deserves to be explored and employed. There is nothing uglier than a course bent out of playing and aesthetic shape because golfers refuse to take part in retaining the condition a superintendent effects. If going to school will remedy the situation, so be it.

Gerry Finn

CREDIT: NEWSLETTER, New England GCSA

Stress and the Golf Course Superintendent/Basic Survival

by William Smart, IBM Country Club, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

There seems to be two general types of stress and anyone involved in golf course management will have experienced them sometime in his career. In fact, one is rather common and is more or less present every season.

I'll call the first type **Seasonal Stress**. It usually happens mid-season and gets progressively worse as the days get hotter and the play gets heavier. It can be described as a general uneasiness, being uptight and tense. As one of my friends puts it, "You're not having any fun." "There is no specific problem, in fact everyone is complimenting you on the condition of the course. What is the problem here? Why do you feel so down when all around are giving you strokes? I can sum it up in one word - Attitude. You think like a Golf Course Superintendent while the feedback you get is from people who think like (of course) a golfer.

Put on a pair of golf shoes and walk up to the first tee... as a typical golfer. You have been looking forward to this for days... a day with some friends away from your responsibilities. Everything looks soft, fresh, green and beautiful. You don't notice that the hedge around the first tee needs trimming, the crabgrass on the tee is in the two-leaf stage, the divot marks, or the infestation of clover. You look down the fairway and mentally pick out a landing area for your first shot as you take a few divots with your practice swings. The drive is not too great, but it is on the fairway and sitting pretty. You never notice that the fairway head hasn't been working properly and that the turf is brownish, and that straw-colored pock marks indicate the presence of some disease or other. Your thoughts are on the green, the traps and the location of the pin. Your shot is short and in the sand and as you blast up and out, you couldn't care less that the trap needs edging and the once white beach sand is the color of topsoil. The ball is on the collar, should you chip or putt, is the break to the right, left, is it downhill, up, fast or slow, do it hard or easy? With all this running through your thoughts, you have little time or desire to check out the maintenance of the area... and as a layman, you don't notice that the mow lines are curved instead of straight, one unit on the greens mower is not

adjusted properly, and the operator has nicked the collar for the third straight day. Your foursome putt out and walk off the green, leaving behind two unfixed ball marks.

Why do you suppose that so many ball marks are not fixed? Or divots replaced? It is because the golfer is thinking about the game of golf, not the golf course. He is thinking about the next shot, what club to use, why did the last drive fade. It always mystified me that I saw so many divots laying around when in fact, most golfers I saw did replace them. I finally realized that it was my presence that prompted their action.

The whole thrust of this is that your attitude about the course will be markedly different than that of the average golfer. I can recall the local district attorney saying to me, "Bill, the course is in great shape." He never noticed that the green we were standing on was wilting badly in the ninety-plus heat and in fact I was hand watering it to save its life.

The general overall playability of a course is important to a golfer. He does not notice the technical turf problems that scream out to the superintendent day in, day out. We tend to get so caught up with the bad stuff, we overlook the acres of good stuff. A buddy of mine said, "If I could only cut out the junk and put it in one corner, no one would ever notice it." The truth is

CUSHMAN ECONOMY \$3995.00

" NEW FOR 1984 " MODEL 534 RUNABOUT

SEAT: Two-passenger, vinyl-clad seat with backrest and hip restraints/
hand holds

STEERING: Wheel-type

SUSPENSION:

Front: Leading-link type supported by 2 tension springs; front shock absorbers

Rear: Two multiple leaf-type springs and shock absorbers

TIRES:

Front: 18-8.00 x 6, 4-ply turf rib

Rear: 18-9.50 x 8, 6-ply turf softtrac

PERFORMANCE:

Payload: 1000 lbs. (454 kg)

Speed (Maximum): 18 mph (29 km/h)

POWER:

Engine: 12-hp

Clutch: 6½" (165 mm) commercial

Transmission: H-shift pattern; 3 speeds forward and 1 reverse;
synchromesh in second and high

Differential: Worm-gear with 10.25:1 axle ratio

Governor: Mechanical overspeed



"SINCE 1949 - SATISFACTION GUARANTEED"

Jerry Commers

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