

HOLE NOTES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

DON LINDBLAD

As the 1984 season heads into its final weeks I think it is safe to say it was very successful. Old Mom Nature was definitely on our side, (at least more so than last year), golfers all around the state were delighted with playing conditions, and we have several irons in the fire to help make 1985 more successful.

One of these projects is the demonstration green constructed at the U of M Golf Club by our research committee. This was truly a cooperative effort involving members and associates from throughout our organization. Thanks to the hard work of Dale Caldwell, Russ Adams and Mark Smith, to name just a few, we will be able to garner much new information and provide even better service to the game in the future. Be sure to read Dale's article about the green in this issue.

Congratulations to the teams from Northern Hills and Lake Miltona for their victories in the Scramble at Indian Hills. Our thanks to host Superintendent Dick Grunstom and everyone at Indian Hills for a great day of golf and a fine dinner as well.

Keith Scott and Jim Wodash are hard at work preparing for our annual Turf Conference coming up November 28-29-30 at the Sheraton Northwest you will be receiving additional information in the near future concerning the conference and the many fine speakers that Keith and Jim have lined up.

Be sure to take some time to enjoy the beautiful fall golf that only Minnesota can provide, and samle for yourselves the fruits of a fine season of work well done.

MGCSA RESEARCH UPDATE

by DALE CALDWELL VICE-PRESIDENT

The summer of 1984 was a busy one for the MGCSA Research Committee. The construction of the proposed demonstration green at the University of Minnesota Golf Club was completed.

The 6,000 Sq.Ft. green is divided into 5 sections of different soil mixes. The objective being to determine which soil mix would prove to be the best possible choice in the construction of a new golf This green was constructed green. with proper drainage and a gravel and 12 inches of subgrade the following topsoil mixes; 1.) A 3-1-1 mix of Arsenal sand, Northern peat and an available soil which was tested to insure that certain desirable properties were included. 2.) 85% Arsenal sand and 15% Northern peat. 3.) Straight Arsenal sand with some Spagnum peat spread on the surface and roto tilled in to a depth of approxiametely 3 inches 4.) 85% for seed establishment. Frac sand and 15% Northern peat. 5.) A 6-1-1 mix of Frac sand, Northern peat and the same available soil as in mix #1.

The green was seeded with Penncross in early September and will be exposed to traffic at University G.C. through the coming seasons. As well as visual observations, we hope to test each mix for such things as Bulk Density, Percent Porosity and Percolation Rates in the future. For those of you who are interested, stop by the University of Minnesota Golf Course and check the green out. It is located at the end of the Practice Fairway and can be seen from the Club House.

The Research Committee would like to thank the following clubs, individuals and companies for their contributions to this project. Without these people and organizations this green could not have been completed, under budget no less. Minneapolis Golf Club, Interlachen Country Club, Oak Ridge Country Club, Town and Country Club, Midland Hills Country Club, Somerset Country Club, Southview Country Club, Bunker Hills Golf Club and the University of Minnesota Golf Club for donating labor to this project. Turf Supply Company, R.L. Gould Company, Peat Resources, Inc., Minnesota Frac Sand, Arsenal Sand and Gravel, Southview Country Club, Majestic Oaks Golf Club and Minneapolis Golf Club for donating supplies, equipment and other materials to the project.

We would especially like to thank Dr. Don Taylor for all the time he spent supervising, overseeing and laboring on the project. His knowledge and assistance was invaluable.

We would also like to acknowledge Mike Lietner of the Lietner Company who donated all the trucking and mixing as well as coordinating all the sand, peat and soil. This alone saved us a great amount of time and money and we greatly appreciate it.

We would also like to thank Russ Adams and all those associated with the University of Minnesota Golf Course for donating the site and putting up with the entire project as well as assuring responsibility for future maintenance.

Chances are that we have forgotten to thank someone and we are sorry if we have.

Again, thanks to everyone connected with the project and we would like to add a special thanks to everyone who has contributed to the research fund this year, 1984 has <u>REALLY BEEN</u> <u>A SUCCESSFUL YEAR</u>.

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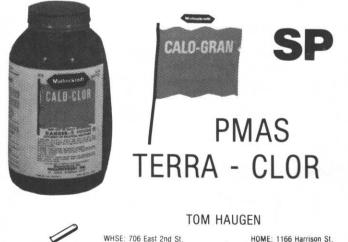
EDITOR'S CORNER

by DOUG MAHAL CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Fall is officially here as if a golf course superintendent couldn't tell by the vivid fall color and some morning frost. early Grounds departments have changed gears once again this season - the grass has slowed down considerably as has I'm often surprised their play. isn't more play on some of the warm October days. In my opinion, some of the most enjoyable golf of the year can be experienced in the fall. Mosquitos have been replaced with ducks and geese and some of the green color has been replaced by vellows, reds and oranges. October is also the month many on the grounds staff starting thinking about a little well-deserved time off for fishing, hunting or other badlv needed forms of recreation.



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The fall airations are complete and plans have already been made for blowing irrigation systems so there is a little "lull in the action" to get out and enjoy the fall.

Our annual "Scramble Event" went off with out a hitch again. Wind definitely played a role in the scores, although it didn't show on some of the low ones that were turned Congratulation to all in. the winners and especially superintendent Dick Grundstrom and the Indian Hills staff. They really put on a winning performance with the magnificent conditions of the golf course and a superb meal. Many thanks Dick, it was a great day.

you've all made plans hope to I October Meeting attend the at Interlachen C.C. on the 8th. Remember, golf is at 9:00 AM, with lunch and an informative talk by Dr. Don White following.

Planes are already underway on Green Industry Expo 85. All the allied groups of this new conglomerate association are gathering input from their respective membership and also from the various vendors involved. The long range goal of this conglomerate is to create a strong, united voice for the green industry as a whole. Expo 84, considering its infancy, went very well, in fact made a profit of \$100.00. Even though the present MGCSA board is excited about becoming involved in a united turf association, rest assured, we in no way wish to jeopardize our present identity or disrupt any of the functions MGCSA members now enjoy. You'll hear more on this in the coming months.

Thanks to last months contributors Andy Lindqust of Brookview Golf Club and Bob Meary, associate member from Meary Mfg. One can be thankful that a renovation of the magnitude being done at Brookview is not being done at your club. Thanks fellas for taking the time.

Enjoy the great month of October and We'll see you at Interlachen on the 8th!

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ASSOCIATE'S CORNER

by MARK KUBES HOWE, INCORPORATED

Howe, Inc. began 40 years manufacturing and blending a ago, full line of guaranteed, top guality fertilizers for farmers in Hennepin and Anoka counties. As the fertilizer business grew, Howe Chemical was added to service the growing customer demand. Howe's customers have changed over those 40 and so has Howe. With vears continued growth and expansion, Howe has become a major supplier in the fertilizer and chemical business in Minnesota. Over the years, Howe has developed an extensive dealer network, primarily in Minnesota, but also in Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota. This was accomplished by having products that are the highest quality available, an excellent service program and three generations of experience in fertilizers and chemicals.

Today Howe has two major wholesale outlets located in North Minneapolis and Shakopee. The Minneapolis plant is headquarters for manufacturing dry fertilizers, blending, bagging operations, chemical warehousing and is also the equipment center. The Shakopee plant is the liquid fertilizer manufacturing headquarters, with dry fertilizer and chemical storage. These two offices are the centers for Howe's dealer network.

Since their beginning, Howe has been pioneering new products in the fertilizer business. The Minneapolis plant is the only ammoniator (chemically combining fertilizers) in Minnesota. The liquid plant in Shakopee is one of the most modern liquid facilities in the United States. Both of these plants represent Howe's commitment to improving product lines and educating their customers about new technologies in soil fertility and fertilizers application.

Along with the changes at Howe have

come the entries into new markets. Howe has taken on the ever expanding turf market with the same commitment to quality products that made them successful in the agricultural sector. The custom blending of both dry and liquid fertilizers with micronutrients, such as iron and sulfur, have become a favorite of the turf care specialist associated with Howe. Also Howe has a wide selection of turf care chemicals to compliment their turf fertilizers.

The fertilizer products available to the turf industry include such premium products as : Nitroform, a nitrogen, slow release dry, Formolene, a liquid non-burning nitrogen and Stoller micronutrients. The capability to custom blend these products to specific fertilizer requirements has attracted the attention of the golf course managers who want specific fertilizer products.

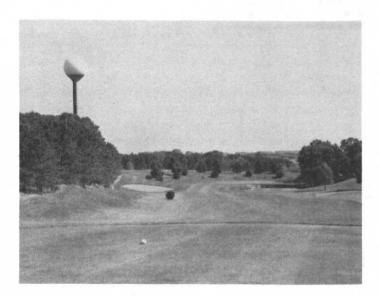
The full transportation fleet of trucks at Howe is capable of hauling dry or liquid, bagged or bulk fertilizer. There is also a wide variety of fertilizer spreaders and applicators available to Howe customers. These services contribute to Howe's reputation as a full service distributor.

Howe's secret to 40 years of satisfied customers is stated best by the President of Howe, Inc., Bill Howe, "We are committed to the fertilizer and chemical business by family tradition, but we are driven to improving our product line and services by faithful customers that have contributed to making Howe an industry leader."

FOR SALE

Hazeltine National Golf Club has the following for sale; Call Chris Hague at 448-3626.

Meter/Matic Topdresser; Flymo; 7 gang Toro spartan reels and frames, excellent condition; 70 Aluminum bunker rakes; 31" Toro Whirlwind rotary; Fairway deedoes airifier; Parker sweeper, walking model; Cushman PTO spreader; Other miscellaneous items.



The tenth hole at Landmark. Indian Hills features a downhill drive and short iron over water to the The water reservoir on the green. left painted like a giant golf ball on a tee can be seen for miles. Perhaps some day Paul Bunyon will stop by and play a hole or two.



MGCSA SCRAMBLE REPORT

The day was sunny, windy, and warm and the superintendents and their enjoyed to the fullest the quests of Indian Hills Golf challenges division The low gross Club. featured a winning score of 60 and a low net division a score of 58.15, what ever that is. The results are listed below. If your name isn't there, that just means you had a great time but didn't excell at golf. Perhaps you had a winning raffel ticket.

Low Gross Team

- 1. Northern Hills Score 60 Harvey Boysen, Jake Manahan Steve Oster, Bill Manahan
- 2. Brainerd Score 61 John Beyer, Jerry Hoffman Marv Bollig, Bud Henderson
- Bunker Hills Score 62 3.
- Jim Nicol, Bill Folkes (tie) Bob Folkes, Frank Wileen Score 62 Stillwater Lyle Cran, Mike Tracy Dick Sawyer, Mike O'Brien

Low Net Team

- Lake Miltona Score 58.15 1. Mike Hemquist, Bob Shields Rich Odden, Scott Hoffman Purple Hawk Score 61.25 2. (tie) Fred Anderson, Joe Washleski Chuck Johnson, Dick Burmaster Lake City Score 61.25 Cliff Reynolds, Bob Seberg Tom Kennedy, Jim Huelle Davtona 4. Tom McCann, Bruce McCann Bob Dahl, Ron Olson 5. Owatonna (tie) Randy Nelson, Jim Wagner Dave Reitan, Carrol Nelson Tartan Park
 - Joe Moris, Randy Allen Terry Sullivan, Dennis Gavin Cottonwood
- 7. Dale Melom, Jim Jesevity Eric Anderson, Lyle Huso Wayzata 8.
- (tie) Jim Lindblad, Homer Martinson Don Hennings, Wayne LeNeave Golden Valley Mike Olson, Don Fink

Ralph Atlas, Tom Tsatsos

7

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Special Advanced Registration mailing to detail Reservations will be sent to all members shortly. Lodging at the Sheration Inn Northwest should be handled directly with the Inn.

HUNDREDS of policemen entered a contest to find "America's most creative excuse for speeding." Among the entries were:

"My car is so light that the wind blew it over the speed limit."

"I was speeding to get away from my mother-in-law."

A woman claimed she was speeding to keep up with the cars behind her.

A man said he had a "right to speed" while making up for time lost in a construction zone.

Another man was speeding after being detained at a farewell party, where speakers included a lot of stuttering children.

Still another man was speeding because he was furious that his wife had just received a ticket for speeding. (This one incidently won the contest.)

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Fairway Recontouring by David Ward Ravisloe Country Club

The initial interest in a fairway recontouring program at Ravisloe Country Club was caused by membership complaints about the lack of definition between the fairways and the roughs. This lack of definition was caused by changes in the mowing patterns through the years and because the rough was mowed at a height which allowed the annual bluegrass and bentgrass to invade the Kentucky bluegrass. After investigating the possibility of recontouring, the club decided the program could offer many benefits other than improved rough - fairway definition.

These other benefits include:

- 1. Improving the aesthetics of the golf course. Ravisloe is a relatively flat course without a great deal of interesting terrain. By changing the contours of the fairways, aesthetics could be improved without costly and inconvenient earth moving.
- 2. The amount of turf maintained as fairway could be reduced. This reduces maintenance costs and also makes triplex fairway mowing feasible. The recontouring actually reduced our fairway acreage from 42 to around 30.
- 3. Playability would be improved because of a more uniform rough grass and because various sized landing zones could be established for golfers of differing abilities.

The first step in the recontouring program was testing the proposed technique for regrassing the rough boarders on a limited area. In the fall of 1982, the edges of two fairways were killed with the nonselective herbicide, Roundup, and then seeded six days later with various blends of Kentucky bluegrasses and mixtures of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Through this test, potential problems were identified, techniques were refined, rates were adjusted, and materials selected. The test also sold the membership on the merits of the program.

During the summer of 1983, the grounds and greens committee at Ravisloe made the decision to proceed with the program that fall. Half of the fairways were to be done in the fall of 1983 and the other half in the fall of 1984.

Next, a golf course architect needed to be hired to design the new contours and stake out the new fairway edge. Several architects were interviewed until the committee found one it felt comfortable with. The selected architect then staked and painted the new fairway - rough boarders the week before the herbicide was to be sprayed. The design took into consideration landing areas for golfers of all abilities, the location of present and future bunkers, and the natural terrain of the course.

On September 6, 1983, the day after Labor Day, the roughs around the newly established fairway boarders were sprayed. The herbicide Roundup was used at a rate of 2½ quarts per acre. A modified Cushman sprayer, with diaphragm nozzles and flat spray tips, was used to do the spraying. The herbicide was sprayed just after sunrise while the wind was calm and the dew was still on the grass. A dye was added to the spray mixture to help avoid skips and overlaps. As an added precaution, one man followed the sprayer to watch for plugged nozzles.

In all, eleven acres we re-sprayed with the herbicide. The width of spray around the fairways varied from eight feet, one pass, to more than thirty yards depending on severity of the contour change and on how far the annual bluegrass and bentgrass had crept into the rough.

The course was closed for the entire spraying day and the maintenance crew was instructed to avoid the spray areas. In addition the course was closed the following morning until the dew was off of the grass. Being closed the second morning is very important because our 1982 tests showed that roundup tracking will do severe damage to nontarget areas on shoes and cart tires, if play is allowed while the dew is still on the grass.

The roughs were seeded three days after the Roundup application. The 1982 test showed that a three way blend of Kentucky bluegrass with 50% Baron, 25% Glade, and 25% Majestic, seeded at a rate of ½ pound per 1,000 square feet produced the best results. The test areas with perennial ryegrass were not satisfactory due to the different growth rates of the bluegrass and the ryegrass. A slit seeded was used to apply the seed in one direction following the contours of the fairways. Four days after the seeding, triple superphosphate was applied at a rate of one pound per 1,000 square feet.

Twelve days after seeding the first seedlings were visible and by the time winter dormancy set in, the new seedlings had grown to the height of one inch. The fall of 1983 was very good for seed germination. Unfortunately, the annual bluegrass seed, already in the soil, germinated as well or better than the Kentucky bluegrass. This was also a problem the previous year during the test. Ronstar, applied the next spring did a good job of reducing the competitiveness of the annual bluegrass when used at a rate of four pounds active ingredients per acre. Various rates of Rubigan and 2, 4-D will be tested next spring to try to eliminate the remaining annual bluegrass and bentgrass in the new rough area.

Other problems encountered in this program include:

- 1. The establishment of turf in high traffic areas. The only solution to this problem in areas which cannot be roped off is sod.
- 2. Irrigating newly seeded areas without over-watering the fairways requires considerable hand labor.
- 3. The activity of skunks and crows searching for white grubs devastated many seeded areas which had high grub populations. Next year a grub control product will be used on all areas to be seeded.

With the need to reduce fairway acreage to contain maintenance costs and to allow for triplex fairway mowing and to increase the beauty of the course, many more courses may find the need to convert fairway grasses to rough grasses. It is hoped this discussion will be of some benefit to other superintendents considering this program.

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named everybody, somebody, anybody and nobody. There was an important job to be done and everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was everbody's job. Everybody thought anybody could do it but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done.





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