



## EDITOR'S CORNER

RANDY NELSON

While I was negotiating with my pickup the curves of Highway 65 north of Cambridge, I could see a faint glow in the dawning western sky. As I drove further the glow grew brighter and brighter until I was nearly blinded by this intense light. Being somewhat curious I stopped my pickup along the side of the road and attempted to determine what was causing this tremendous reflection. Lo and behold, I found that the glow was caused by the morning sun reflecting off the forehead of this giant figure of a man named Big Freddie. Yes, fellas, I had found the stomping grounds of our resident MGCSA touring 8-handicapper and what a nice course it truly is.

I could tell by visiting with Fred earlier in the morning that he was apprehensive about having 100 turf experts inspecting his course, but as our members arrived and saw the superb condition he and his staff had provided for us, the compliments started flowing and Fred's nervousness subsided. The staff at the Purple Hawk Supper Club also served a nice choice of lunches which by all reports were filling and delicious. I am confident that everyone had a super day and hope that our MGCSA group will be invited back to Fred Anderson's course again soon. How else can we get back on all those complimentary rounds we grant for Minnesota's own golf travel guide. Thanks, Fred, we had a great time.

Just a few reminders to our membership.

(1) Remember to sign up for our MGCSA golf championship coming up at Stillwater Country Club. The course is an interesting layout with a lot of elevation changes and should be a good test for all players.

(2) Now is the time to get your scramble teams together for our annual Guest Day Scramble event. We will have the

privilege of playing at Midland Hills Country Club which is a popular spot for state events. Paul Mayes will, I am sure, have his greens rolling extremely smooth and fast for this event.

(3) The November meeting which was originally scheduled for Edinburgh U.S.A. in Brooklyn Park had to be shifted to Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids. Tom Fischer reported that construction on the clubhouse ran into too many snags and wouldn't be able to be completed in time for our meeting. Jim Nicol stepped forward graciously and offered to host November's meeting again. We just hope the weather holds so we can get in one more round of golf.

Well, I hope your summer continues to go smoothly or should I say smoother than it has been going and I look forward to everyone teeing it up at Stillwater Country Club.

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### PRESIDENT'S DESK from Page 2

as Harold and to further develop our own association's research and educational goals, we are proud to be a part of Minnesota Turf Heritage.

The MGCSA will be adding new duties to our current committee structure. The Board of Directors has developed a position of "Media Representative" to help coordinate new information about association activities, membership events, and or problems. Also the GCSAA has asked that we make available someone for our national headquarters to keep in contact with. Both positions should help develop further awareness of our state association and keep us in closer contact with our parent organization.

Stillwater Country Club is the site of our annual amateur championship on August 11, 1986. Host superintendent, Kevin Clunis, is looking forward to our visit and we to playing another fine Minnesota Golf Course.

See you on the Course!



# THE NATURAL LOOK — SO OLD IT'S NEW

by PAUL VOYKIN  
SUPERINTENDENT  
BRIARWOOD COUNTRY CLUB  
DEERWOOD, ILLINOIS

Perhaps golfers in our state would be interested in knowing that it was a golf course superintendent from Illinois who helped initiate golf courses to the natural Scottish golf course look, including wild grasses and wildflowers. Some people still think it was the golf course architects Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus who started the trend toward this Scottish look. Almost everybody now is taking credit and I think that's expected. Famous people always bring highlights to whatever they are doing. Their influence certainly has promoted what I helped start and brought to attention with a controversial speech about 15 years ago in New York at the August U.S.G.A. meeting entitled "Overgrooming is Overspending". Since that eventful presentation, I have

given the same speech more than a dozen times across the country and in Canada. GOLF DIGEST published my story and the prestigious industry magazine, PUBLIC WORKS, gave me much credit for pioneering golf course perimeters into wild grass and flower meadows and allowing some areas to grow natural like St. Andrews and other old country courses.

In essence my presentation was simply that we superintendents should not overgroom the WHOLE golf course so meticulously. Yes, concentrate even more on greens, fairways and tee management, but don't carry out the ridiculous wall-to-wall manicuring and overgrooming to such a steep degree that we are pricing ourselves out of golf course business. Leave some golf land for wild animals, birds and flowers. Make the golf game more challenging and enjoyable, the way it was meant to be by the founders and architects of this wonderful game, and not this present-day look of synthetically manicured and expensive backyards clipped to an unnatural perfection.

Whenever I gave that overgrooming talk to  
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## NATURAL LOOK from Page 12

my fellow superintendents and others, or wrote about it, or was quoted in articles and magazines, the reaction by some was that I had lost my marbles. Most of the others didn't take me seriously. Some even wrote strongly against my "natural look" concept. But then something happened. The high cost of maintaining country clubs drastically accelerated in the 70's and rose each year at a relentless pace and everything changed. Concern set in about the high cost of maintaining golf courses, and slowly my idea of wildflowers and the natural look suddenly didn't sound so looney because it saved money. Now the elite golf course architects were the first to begin shouting its virtues whenever they broke expensive land for a new golf course. Something else happened, also. People began to be deeply concerned about our ecology and environment. Scientists who had been warning us for years about old Mother Earth and the dangers facing it due to too much technology and poisonous emissions began to be closely heeded. A little old lady from Texas began planting wildflowers along our highways and roads. The natural look was now definitely in!

Today I am happy to say thousands of golf courses have set aside natural areas to prosper and spread. Many golf courses enhance these restful areas even more (like I have) with beautiful native flowers and grasses. And, of course, golf course architects continue to build courses with that "Scottish Look". Landscape firms and seed companies are making a bundle by providing the natural look to golf courses, parks, industries, schools, highways, verges and even homeowners. The natural look has taken over in our landscape and not just grown and forgotten in old graveyards and railroad rights of way. The great Walter Hagen whose poignant quote, "Be sure to stop and smell the flowers as you go by", makes it easier for all of us now to do so. I am glad I had a part in providing this opportunity.



## HANDLING OF PESTICIDES

Hazards associated with exposure to chemical, physical and infectious agents are commonplace in today's environment. Serious injury, illness and even death can occur if we are not informed and aware of the potential risks we come into contact with every day.

A training package for golf course operations titled "Hazard Communication: Your Right To Know" is now available to members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The package contains two VHS video cassettes and a master file binder containing extensive training and chemical information.

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- Safe Handling Guidelines
- Chemical Terminology
- Training Guidelines

This program has been designed to assist pesticide users in complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and State Right to Know Laws.

In providing those who deal with potential hazards the information needed to work safely with reduced exposure to chemical and physical risks, this program describes chemical labeling, types of toxicity and symptoms, methods of exposure, chemical agents, first aid, Material Safety Data Sheets and much more.

Manufacturers are required to make Material Safety Data Sheets or the equivalent for each hazardous agent in the workplace. The program describes the importance of this information and how to understand the knowledge that it provides.

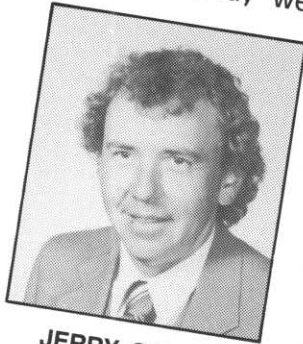
For additional information, contact James G. Prusa, Associate Executive Director, GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66046.



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