

## **HOLE NOTES**

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SCOTT HOFFMANN, CGCS

Overwhelming probably best describes this year's GCSAA National Conference and Show recently completed in Houston.

As superintendents we have placed tremendous demands on the golf maintenance industry to provide us with the tools necessary to give the golfing public the best maintained golf courses for their golfing dollar. One needs to look back no futher than a few short years to realize the very positive industry response to meet these demands. Choices concerning aerators, lightweight mowing, computerized irrigation, and management tools, to name but a few, have increased dramatically in the last five years. With so much available and options no longer limited to two or three choices, we owe it to ourselves and our employers to be aware of what is available and be able to make the correct choices for our particular circumstance.

With 30 one and two day seminars, dozens of educational sessions, hundreds of exhibitors, and over 12,000 superintendents and industry representatives to exchange ides with, the GCSAA National Show is an educational investment that will provide your club with a great return on its dollar. If not already a priority item in your budget, it may be one you should consider.

Conference notes should include a little about this years GCSAA Golf Tournament but, for some mysterious reason, scores from our Minnesota Group were difficult to come by. Heard something about one of those strong Texas winds gusting the scorecards away to that great scoreboard in the sky. Better luck next year guys!

We may have to wait until next year for a little national golf glory, but one of our members has recently been noticed in Golf Course Management Magazine as having been a member of GCSAA for 55 years. This milestone is shared with only eight men in the country. Our congratulations to MGCSA past president, Woodhill superintendent, and Minnesota Turfgrass Pioneer, Mr. Carl E. Anderson. Unbelievable!

A special thank you to George Jennrich and his staff for the frosty frolic at Woodhill in January. We had a real good turn out for a perfect day of Hockey, Platform Tennis, and other winter pursuits.

(Continued on Page 3)

## PRESIDENT'S DESK from Page 2

The education committee has put together an excellent March Mini-Seminar again this year to be held at Majestic Oaks on March 7. Following this on March 8 & 9 will be a GCSAA Regional Seminar on Basic Turfgrass Botany and Physiology. Due to the exceptional response to these regional seminars we will attempt to follow our miniseminar each year with a new regional seminar offering.

Hope to see you all at Majestic Oaks.

## SUPERINTENDENTS GATHER IN HOUSTON

#### by Rick Fredericksen, CGCS Rolling Green Country Club

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America held its 59th Annual International Golf Course Conference and Show February 1-8 this year in Houston. Jim Tunney, a referee in the National Football League, delivered the keynote address on Thursday evening. In addition, several awards were given out and the new slide presentation promoting golf course superintendents was shown.

Friday morning found many superintendents in the concurrent educational sessions brushing up on everything from irrigation and construction techniques to public golf operations. In the afternoon a Black Layer Forum was held. While we were learning the latest innovative ideas, our spouses were taking in the sites of Houston through the Spouse Program.

In the evening, the MGCSA Distributors hosted our annual hospitality suite at the headquarters hotel. Thanks are in order for those distributors who contributed toward this event. A western theme was enjoyed by many attending.

With the ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday morning, the Trade Show opened with over 400 exhibitors showing their wares to superintendents. This event represents the best opportunity to discover the newest products and services available in the industry. It gives all who attend an opportunity to talk with either a representative of the company or possibly an engineer who developed the equipment.

The annual Golf Championship held earlier in the week had four Minnesota superintendents involved in the tournament. Fred Anderson, medalist in the Minnesota group, would only comment that they looked forward to redeeming themselves in Anaheim next year.

On Saturday, Scott Hoffmann, Keith Scott and Tom Fischer presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to William Bengeyfield, National Director of the USGA Green Section and Research Committee, for the purpose of USGA/GCSAA Research. They also presented a check to Bill Roberts, GCSAA Director, in the amount of \$1000 for the GCSAA Research/Scholarship.

Saturday and Sunday featured sessions with several major allied golf and turfgrass associations. With us this year were the USGA, the National Golf Foundation, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders of America, and the Sports Turf Managers' Association.

The show wrapped up on Monday with the GCSAA annual meeting and election. This year's officers elected were John Segui, President; Dennis Lyon, Vice President; and Gerald Faubel, Secretary. The Directors elected were Bill Roberts and Joseph Baidy, and Kenneth Sakai was appointed.

Monday evening the annual banquet hosted a sellout crowd for the closing ceremonies. During this time, the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award was given to Gene Sarazen. With this award the GCSAA recognizes the Squire as having a continuing and selfless commitment to further the game of golf in the spirit of Old Tom Morris. The show concluded with a stimulating performance by Ronnie Milsap.

The 59th Annual International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show was a huge success. Many were already making plans to attend the next year in Anaheim.

Many thank to the following companies who helped host the MGCSA Hospitality Suite in Houston:

Cushman Motors	National Mowers		
Dakota Turf	Northrup King		
Kromer Company	Par-Aide Products		
Leitner Company	Par-Ex		
MTI Distributing	R.L. Gould & Co.		
M.T. Wiley	Turf Supply		
Mound Spraying	Turfco		



# LORGANIZING

## is more than fertilizing

Milorganite is a natural ersanic fortilizer that provides a balanced diet of essential nutrients. Along with the major nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, Milorganite also contains boron, zinc, copper, sulfur and iron. This entire spectrum of nutrients is released slowly in amounts your grass plants can more completely absorb.

Milorganite supplies iron, an important element vital for growing healthy and beautiful green turf. Just as your blood needs iron for strength, grass needs iron to form the chlorophyll that gives it a dark, green color. What's more. iron-rich grass greens up faster in the spring, without excessive growth, and maintains its color better and longer during dry weather.

Milergenite gives full nutri-ent value. Milorganite's organic composition ensures almost total nutrient uptake by plants. You get what you pey for. That is not true with many synthetic fertilizers where much of the nutrients evaporate into the air and leach out of the rootzone.

## Landscape & Turf

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Milorganite doesn't burn. Milorganite does not contain chemical sales as synthetic fertilizers do. It is an organic product that breaks down slowly and naturally. It will not burn and is safe for YOUR grass.

Milorganite adds valuable humus to the soil, improving the soil's ability to grow and nurture grass. The humus:

- · improves the soil's ability to hold moisning
- increases the soil's efficiency in holding nutrients, releasing them when needed.
- expands the soil's buffering capability, helping to withstand the effects of wide swings in soil pH (acidity).
- makes the soil more resistant to damage caused by the addition of potentially harmful chemicals.

Milorganite reduces thatch by promoting the buildup of beneficial microorganisms which decompose the thath.

Milorganized turf is less succeptible to grass diseases and other damage Milorganite promotes a healthier grass which:

- is more resistant to pest attacks and recovers quickly from damage.
- reduces the effect of many grass diseases such as Fusarium blight, dollar spot, red thread, snow mold and others.
- reduces the effects of winterkill.
- reduces damage caused by harmful nematodes that attack grass roors.

Milorganite is easy to apply and does not have to be "watered in." Because Milorganite is granular, it is easy to apply. It flows easily through any spreader. For high quality turf use a spinner spreader (open wide) or a drop spreader (set at #10).

Because is does not have to be watered in, Milorganite can be applied under the driest conditions and during the hottest months without endangering the lawn. And, because it's virtually dust free, it can be applied even under windy conditions.

## **GOLF COURSE FERTILIZERS**

PRODUCT	MQ WI.	RATES LINS/M LINS/A	BAQ COVEMS	en/m	NITROOFF	PRATURES
MILORGANITE PRO NATINO 20-3-5 + TEAM®	804	1 <u>550</u>	10,000	1.0	BA WIN 194 UREA	40% MILORGANITE 1.9% IBOR 1.9% SULFUR POTASSIUM SULFATE
MILORGANITE PRO "SUMMER" 20-3-5 + IRON	809	8 120	10,000	1.4	S'A WIN 15% DEEA	40% MILORGANITE 1.9% IRON 1.9% SULFUR POTABBIUM SULFATE
MILOBOANITE PRO "FALL" 10-5-15 + JRON	804	8 320	10,009	4.5	2.7% WIN B.9% UREA L.IN AMBIORIACAL	BOW MILOBOANITS SM IBOR S.SM SULFUR SULFATE & MURIATE OF POLASE
GOLF FRG 12-4-8 (BMALL GRANULAR)	404	\$ \$78	<b>8,000</b>	1.0	T.SM WIN 4.SM UREA 6.SM ANDRONIACAL	SON BELORGANITE SN IBOR Potasside Sulfate Tees & Pairways
GOLF PRO 6-1-13 (BMALL GRANULAR)	404	8 876	8,000	8.8	S.AM WOR S.AM UREA	OF MILOBOANTE S.4% IBON FOTASION SULFATE ORIENS & TEES

## JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS



WARM WELCOME TO FROSTY FROLIC. Host Superintendent George Jennrich shared his winter wonderland.



WHY NANNE RETIRED. Tom "The Enforcer" Dawson displays some deft stick handling.



<u>RIDING THE PINES.</u> Tom McCann enjoys some rare January downtime.



<u>JUST CALL ME GUMP.</u> Goalie Dale Wysocki faced some wicked shots. "Sort of like a Greens Committee Meeting."



FORE RIGHT! Jim Lindblad displays his awesome serve.



VEXED OFFICIO. Taj Mahal sends one into the nickel seats.



## EDITOR'S CORNER

**BRAD KLEIN, CGCS** 

What a difference one year makes in our lives. In last years February-March Hole notes Tom Fischer made mention of the mild winter we were having and all the projects that were getting done because of it. That's not the case this year but I'm sure we all have had enough time to make up, improve, change, alter and figure out how to live with our 1988 budgets.

At my house my better half is probably experiencing more cabin fever and is looking forward to the spring even more than I am. At least then I would have an excuse for only getting half of her winter projects done. I hope we have all had a chance to reacquaint ourselves with family and friends before another growing (or not growing) season is upon us.

For anyone who missed the January meeting at Woodhill your body is probably the better for it. I have never seen so many fine physical specimens in action on the hockey rink or on the platform tennis courts. I'm sure there where some body checks and slams out there in retaliation for money lost on the golf courses the season before. Those that didn't actually play surely were entertained by those that did. I heard rumors that the North Stars and Jimmy Connors have reason for concern. George Jennrich and his staff are the consummate hosts and all our thanks go out to them.

I wish I could report on the annual conference in Houston but I was unable to attend. From what I understand the weather wasn't to good but the programs and show were excellent. I have attended numerous national turf conferences in the past but, I must admit, I have enjoyed and learned more at our state conference and mini-seminar.

There were some questions about why no beer was available at the Woodhill meeting. George Jennrich took it upon himself and apologized for something he had no control over. As an association we can't give out or allow any outside vendor to dispense alcoholic beverages unless purchased through the host club. When this is done the liability goes on the club or establishment and not the association. It may be too bad, but we live in a sue or be sued world and, if we can avoid it, we should.

March 7th is the Mini-Seminar at Majestic Oaks and another great slate of speakers is planned so we'll see you there.



## **MINNESOTA'S GOLFING HERITAGE**

## (continuation from September HOLE NOTES)

#### by Dennis Schoenfeldt Superintendent

The 1930's, 40's and 50's produced little as far as course improvement was concerned. The "Great Depression" took its toll, but the course held on with labor and course equipment being kept at a minimum. Not only the scarcity of money, but the drought years also were especially hard on the course. During the World War II period, labor and maintenance was provided by members contributing their time to the mowing and needed upkeep, to keep the course playable.

The 1960's provided a surge of golf course improvements. With a continuous program of golf equipment acquisition, the course has been improved over the years to where the Minnewaska Golf Course is recognized as one of the best 9-hole golf courses in central Minnesota.

1967 produced the first watering system to include fairways, with labor for installation of water lines and electrical equipment being provided by the members. While not a 100% improvement, it was a start. In 1968, using the Farm Home Administration financing, a new clubhouse was built. Also a new metal cart shed now houses 85 gas and electric carts owned by members, plus 12 course owned carts for rental income.

An additional 100 acres, west of and adjacent to the present layout, were purchased to use for an additional 9-holes in the future.

1977 saw the well and pump presenting operating problems, and along with the drought, a resulting weed growth of almost ruinous proportions. However, a new superintendent, Dennis Schoenfeldt, was hired in 1978 and this was the singular most important move our course has made. A year later, a new well was installed, and the course was reseeded. A fertilizer program was started by our new superintendent, which has continued to this date. That move has produced excellent fairways, and over the years, the root system in our greens has lengthened from 2 inches to over 5 inches, producing softer and holding turf.

Since 1930 a few trees have been planted and, starting in the 1960's, 100 Norway pines were added and at least 200 more maple, ash and pines have been planted.

1982 brought an enlarged parking lot and a completely new automatic watering system was installed on greens, tees and fairways. This, along with excellent fertilizing, produced summer rule fairways. 1985 produced a new shelter and toilets in the 9th Tee area. Also a new driving range was constructed. New asphalt cart paths between all greens and tees were finished and to date, we have 10 new traps along with the original nine. 1987 saw a new sewer system connected to the City of Glenwood system and the purchase of 13.7 railroad acres on the north boundary was finalized. Also new 150 yard center fairway metal markers were installed on 6 holes.

The most recent improvement is a new gazebo "lookout shelter" on the second tee, made possible by a donation from the Gilman Gandrud Estate.

Our membership now totals 264 with a large flow of daily green fees. Since 1982 the club has put almost \$82,000.00 in golf maintenance equipment. Plans are now being considered to add the final nine holes.

Again, thanks to Ralph Cheeseman, past president, for his help in preparing this history of the Minnewaska Golf Club.

## **NEW MEMBER**

We are pleased to accept these new members to our Minnesota Superintendents Association:

John E. Gunderman, Sr., Class F, Schumachers, Inc. Jerry Aljets, Class F, E. H. Renner and Sons Scott Benton, Class F, Sustane Corp. Edward T. Hunter, Class F, Sustane Corp. David Solga, Class D, Golden Valley Country Club

## A DAY OFF

So you want the day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work. We are off for 5 holidays per year, so your available work time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year, which leaves only 1 day available for work and I'll be damned if you're going to take that day off!

Shared by Gene Dales, Manning

#### turfgrass.

## **ROY GOSS RECEIVES 1988**

## **GREEN SECTION AWARD**

Roy Goss, a turfgrass educator and scientist for more than 30 years, has been named the recipient of the 1988 Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association.

Announcement of the award was made by Marion B. Farmer, chairman of the USGA Green Section Award Committee.

The award has been presented by the USGA annually since 1961 in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. Goss received his award February 8 in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Houston, Texas.

Goss, who has served as executive secretary of the Northwest Turfgrass Association, has worked on the light intensity needed to grow grass on putting greens, assisted pathologists in disease study and control, and performed variety testing for disease resistance and putting quality, among other projects and contributions related to Perhaps his most significant contribution is his research aimed at determining the effects and importance of sulphur to the turfgrass plant. He also has assisted in the conduct of one of the largest turfgrass variety testing programs in the United States, a project which led to the adoption of better and more disease-resistant varieties.

Goss received the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA in 1978.

#### WINNERS OF GREEN SECTION AWARD

1961, John Monteith, Jr. 1962, Lawrence Dickinson 1963, O. J. Noer 1964, Joseph Valentine 1965, Glenn Burton 1966, H. Burton Musser 1967, Elmer Michael 1968, James Haines 1969, Fred Grau 1970, Eberhard Steiniger 1971, Tom Mascaro 1972, Herb & Joe Graffis 1973, Marvin Ferguson 1974, Howard Sprague 1975, Fanny-Fern Davis 1976, James Watson 1977, Edward Casey 1978, Jesse De France 1979, Arthur Snyder 1980, C. Reed Funk 1981, Joseph Duich 1982, Charles Wilson 1983, Alexander Radko 1984, William Daniel 1985, Victor Younger 1986, James Moncrief 1987, Sherwood Moore 1988, Roy Goss



## TORO INTRODUCES GROOMING REEL FOR GREENS

The Toro Company has introduced a new grooming reel for golf courses. A company spokesman said this new Greensmaster 3000 accessory is the most universal tool available to superintendents and allows more consistency in greens maintenance, truer ball roll and healthier turf.



The new Toro grooming reel operates similarly to a verticutter and limits thatch build-up and runner growth but, more importantly, its correct application promotes vertical and upright growth through its more frequent use at a lighter depth setting. This results in healthier turf that better endures stress periods.

Two grooming reel models are offered to accommodate a wide variety of growing conditions and customer needs. The model with 1/4-inch blade spacing is recommended for the fast growth periods of spring and early summer, while the model with 3/4-inch blade spacing is recommended for the slower growth periods of late summer and fall.

For additional information, contact Commercial Division at MTI Distributing Co., 14900 21st Avenue North, Plymouth, MN 55441. Phone 612/475-2200.



## BACKLAPPING REEL MOWERS FOR PRECISE CUT KEEPS TURF ATTRACTIVE

Frequent grass cutting with a sharp, well-adjusted reeltype mower is one of the factors in creating and maintaining attractive turf.

Proper watering, seeding, fertilizing, as well as fungicides, weed killers, and insecticides, are needed for top quality turf.

Each of these problems is a symptom of incorrectly sharpened and adjusted reel mowers, according to the turf care specialists.

Backlapping of reel mowers with a quality pre-mixed reel sharpening compound will help avoid these problems and save time and money for turf care professionals.

Pull gang mowers, and hydraulic power driven reel mowers create a scissor-like action between the reel blades and the bed knife. Properly ground and adjusted, this reel action slices grass cleanly, leaving no torn or jagged edges.

It is the raw and torn edges on grass that takes on a brown appearance, no matter how well the turf is otherwise cared for. These jagged tips also allow a greater opportunity for fungus and other diseases to attack the turf.

Grinding and lapping are complimentary steps in sharpening a reel mower.

Although there has been much debate, relief grinding seems to be recommended by more experts than flat grinding. Better adjustment, closer cutting action plus longer life for bed knives is the reason or favoring relief grinding.

A ground, reassembled, and adjusted reel mower will cut fairly well. However, backlapping will improve the cutting action by removing nicks and high spots from the knives. A perfect mating between blades and the bed knife is created to cleanly slice off grass.

Many grounds care specialists backlap their reel mowers after every cutting to insure the sharpest blades. The few minutes it takes each day for backlapping is time well spent for healthier grass.

Grinding is generally done twice a year.

There are major drawbacks to regrinding more often. 1) Grinding is time consuming for the personnel and keeps grounds care equipment out of action. 2) A significant amount of metal is removed every time a reel mower is ground; thereby shortening blade life. 3) Regular grinding of reel blades is unnecessary with the easy-to-use pre-mixed and biodegradable reel sharpening compounds now available across the country.

In contrast to grinding, lapping with reel sharpening compounds takes very little time and removes very little metal from the blades.

Pre-mixed lapping compounds offer several advantages over the varied combinations created by some turf care people.

The ready-to-use compounds provide a consistent composition using high quality grit and carrier. The labor costs and time spent in preparing dry grit mixtures as well as the potential or variability in combining ingredients are all eliminated when compounds are used.

Various grades of pre-mixed reel sharpening compounds are available: 50 grit for heavy-duty lapping, 80 grit for regular lapping on fairway mowers, 120 grit for geen and tee mowers, 180 grit for extra sharpness, and 220 grit for super fine honing.

The key benefit from lapping is extreme sharpness. A much more precise fit between reel blades and the bed knife can be obtained.

Backlapping with ready-to-use compounds to complete a grinding job, or to renew the cutting edges after use requires minimal set-up time and work. Specialists using compounds recommend the following basic steps...always being careful to keep your fingers and hands away from all moving parts.

1) Set the reel turning backwards. Hydraulic driven reels can be run in reverse, while wheel friction driven reels



Use of a backlapping machine (lower right) allows the reel of a wheel friction driven mower to rotate backwards. A reel sharpening compound should be applied across the entire width of the blades while they are rotating.

