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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Second Garske Scholarship Scramble Another Success



The success of the second annual Garske Scholarship Scramble exemplifies the need to better relations with your staff. Judging by the happy faces at White Bear Yacht Club, a nice round of golf on a beautiful day improved everyone's attitude. Our thanks go to Steve Garske and Par Aide Company for their continued generous support of the scholarship program. Next year, we'll try for a morning and afternoon shotgun to accommodate all those who wish to play.

Progress on the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation is continuing as all participating organizations have committed to membership. The steering committee has been dismissed, and the first Board of Directors meeting will be held soon. This Foundation is the culmination of many years of hard work and will finally allow the Green Industry a unified voice over its affairs. My thanks to all who have made this a reality.

Our Research Committee is continuing its commitment to the University of Minnesota's research programs on snow mold and winter covers as the ban of mercury fungicides comes ever closer. Unrecognized participants in this endeavor are Charlie Pooch and his Bolstad/University of Minnesota golf course maintenance staff, who have diligently cared for our research green, and the Leitner Company, supplier of various topdressing materials over the years. Many thanks for your help.

Another of our members has received national recognition for his fine work. Rod Johnson of Sheboygan Pine Hills Country Club was the driving force behind a \$10,000 donation by the Wisconsin GCSA to the GCSAA research project on pesticide use and superintendent mortality. This important study is exploring possible linkages between pesticide use and causes of death among golf course superintendents. These funds were raised by selling pesticide application notification signs to member clubs with profits earmarked for this project.

Look for Early Bird registration forms for our upcoming annual conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center in November. The Conference Committee, chaired by Bill Whitworth, has done a fine job of preparing an exciting program, and I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Congratulations to Pat and John Harris on the birth of their new 8-pound son, Christian. Just another welcome complication to John's harried life.

Upcoming events this month include the Walker Cup at Interlachen, the LPGA event at Edinburgh and our Annual Championship at the Links of Northfork. Sharpen up your golf games and register early!

> -Greg Hubbard, CGCS President

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Water, Water Everywhere

1993 has already brought a few surprises our way. This summer many of the Midwestern states have seen an excessive amount of rain. Many areas have been devastated with the resulting flooding. Most would agree, situations could always be worse than the present circumstances we may encounter. For instance, the flooding and heavy rains have severely affected some of our golf courses, but most have not experienced the tremendous burden of losing homes and property. As turfgrass managers, flooding of any magnitude is going to present frustrations and challenges while we try to restore the damaged areas as soon as possible.

Fox Hollow has experienced minor flooding in the past, but nothing can be compared to the summer of 1993. Fox Hollow is located along the Crow River, which borders seven of the courses 18 holes. The river, which originates in western Minnesota, passes by Hutchinson, Delano and Rockford before emptying into the Mississippi at Dayton. High waters are usually expected in the spring from snow melt and run-off. However, heavy rainfall on top of saturated soils can lead to rising water levels throughout the golfing season.

The Crow River has already crested well above flood stage on three separate occasions in 1993. The annual spring rise in March/April was followed by extremely high water beginning May 15. The course was flooded a third time June 15 following the heavy rains in the southwestern corner of the state. As of this date (July 18) five holes are still 75% submerged (approx. 8 to 10 acres). Receding has begun and we anticipate flood free turf in 7 to 10 days.

Every golf course has its own plan of action according to its location. Any noticeable rise in water levels initially threatens access to #16 green. To help keep all 18 holes playable for as long as possible, we have purchased an 80 foot portable dock bridge. The structure is stationed over the land bridge

By Chuck Molinari Superintendent, Fox Hollow Golf Club

that leads to the right of #16 green. It is tightly tied to nearby supports for stability, as the conditions worsen. Eighteen-foot planks are placed together which are wide enough to allow safe access for golfers and a walking greensmower.

The par three third hole has an island green that is only reachable by a permanent bridge. Once the water starts flowing over the low end of the bridge, the water level has reached holes #5, #7, #11 and #17, making them unplayable.

One solution to keeping the water off the lowest portion of the course, thus saving as much turf as possible, was to install a temporary pump with the capacity to discharge up to 5,000 gal. of water per minute (approx. 7,200,000 gal. per 24-hour period). At that rate, we are able to shut off the pump after several hours and restart it when necessary. We've been very fortunate to have access to this pump on short notice. Without it, flooding would linger on much longer in low lying areas.

The layout of the course has allowed us to keep nine holes open through the highest water conditions. Mapping out a playable nine holes, with minimum walking distance between each was important to keep golfers interested and challenged. Thru one stretch of time, we went to the extreme of closing the driving range and cutting a fairway down the left side that leads to #17 green. A short, but very playable, par four.

All the greens have been built above the 100-year flood plain. They are dry with the exception of a small portion of #5 green. With high water lasting for an extended period of time, there was a need to get to greens #3, #5 and #16, which had become accessible only by boat. With mowing and other programs hindered for nearly three weeks, it was necessary to reach these greens. The one-half inch plus turf needed to be cut to a manageable height. It was also a good time for a fungicide application. Being in need of a boat, we sought out the fishermen and hunters of the crew. A ten-foot duck boat was quickly provided. The boat adequately carried a walking greensmower, a hand sprayer and two staff members.

In past high water periods we were fortunate enough to see the water recede anywhere from five to 14 days after the turf had been covered. Within this time frame, both the bentgrass fairway landing areas and existing bluegrass held up remarkably well. But the restoration and clean up of the fairways was still of great concern.

As soon as possible, we connected hoses to nearby sprinkler heads and power washed the silt layer that had accumulated on the surface. The excess water was then squeeged off and hand-raked to stand turf up and improve the drying out process. When conditions dried out enough, a twodirectional aerifying took place to improve air circulation. The biggest concern with this type of clean-up is the time-consuming task of washing the turf. It was slow going but very effective.

The current flooding has lingered into its fourth week, and, as stated earlier, seven to 10 more days are expected before all water has completely receded. This time reseeding is a certain, with turf being submerged for at least five weeks. Our current plan of action is to slit seed wherever possible. If that is not effective, a seedbed will be prepared by verticutting heavily and broadcasting the seed which will then be dragged in. For safe measure, an application to prevent pythium from developing will be done due to the heat and humidity expected in late July and August. Lower humidity would be welcomed.

It is our hope the unusual flooding of '93 will not be a regular occurence. At times, the condition of the course can be overwhelming. But it is good to know that this will soon pass and the flooding of 1993 will only be a memory of new experiences and challenges.



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For Steve Hamelau, It All Came Together in Alexandria

If a person has the opportunity to live where he *really* wants to live, does the type of work he *really* wants to do and can engage in recreational pursuits he *thoroughly* enjoys, that person is indeed fortunate.

Steve Hamelau, head golf course superintendent at Alexandria Golf Club in west central Minnesota, considers himself *most* fortunate. As a young Iowa farm lad who loved to fish, hunt and trap, he used to vacation with his parents in the Alexandria area and thought that some day here's where he *really* wanted to live.

That opportunity came 13 years ago and Hamelau, now 44, thoroughly enjoys an unusual lifestyle that not only includes tending to the challenging responsibilities at Alexandria Golf Club but also involves serving as a respected fishing guide, producing a 30-second weekly fishing show on KSAX-TV, an Alexandria television station, and overseeing the production of various outdoor promotional videos with his two sons, Mitch and Jonathan.

Moreover, his outdoor pursuits also have the blessing of the Board of Directors of Alexandria Golf Club and, it is said, appreciate what he has done and is doing for the community "as long as every blade of grass is where it should be on the golf course."

"This type of situation would not work out for all golf course superintendents, but in my case it does," said Hamelau. "My primary responsibility, of course, is Alexandria Golf Club, and I have an excellent assistant superintendent in Greg Olson and an excellent crew that takes pride in what each one is responsible for. My other activities result in working some weird hours."

Born in Winnebago, Minn., Steve moved with his family when he was less than a year old to Nevada, Iowa, where he was graduated from high school in 1967. His appreciation of the outdoors led him to Iowa State University in Ames, where he started to major in fisheries and wild life but later switched to earn a degree in natural resource development for outdoor recreation. At the time he thought he might get involved with a state or federal park system.

During his college days he managed a county park on the edge of Lake Miami in Albia, Iowa in 1969. During the summer of 1971 he assisted the superintendent at a 9-hole course the city of Ames had acquired. The following year he became superintendent at a Nevada course, then was hired for the same position at an 18-hole municipal course in Waverly, Iowa in 1976. That lasted only two months since he was asked to become superintendent of public grounds for Waverly's Parks and Recreation Department, a position that involved overseeing 20 parks; a huge, year-around cemetery and all the public areas—plus the 18-hole golf course.

While working in Iowa, he became a member of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association and,



STEVE HAMELAU (center) and friends out on the lake in Alexandria.

among other benefits, received the periodic announcements of job openings. When he noticed the Alexandria Golf Club position was available, he remembered his boyhood activities in this area, applied for the job and was hired in 1980. For Steve, it was a dream that had become a reality.

Alexandria Golf Club is a prestigious Minnesota course, well-known for its annual Resorters' tournament and as a major tourist attraction. In June it attracted considerable media attention when Tom Lehman PGA Day was held here. (See July 1993 issue of Hole Notes.)

"We usually work our course to peak for the Resorters," said Club President Jon Haaven. "This year we peaked for our Tom Lehman Day, then aimed at maintaining it well for the Resorters in August."

Hamelau began guiding in the Spring of 1982, acknowledging that "it's a lot of fun but must be accomplished without interfering with our golf course work."

"A true guide," he said, "understands what his clients desire. Getting a limit is not the main thing. Companionship and teaching things of value, in and out of the boat, are particularly important."

Said Club President Haaven: "Steve does a fabulous job on the golf course and his weekly television show."

On KSAXTV Steve does a 30-second shot on the 10 o'clock news for 26 weeks. Most of the time he films about four shows in three hours during off-duty time.

The television filming led to related video productions for chambers of commerce and resorts. Sons Mitch, 19, a sophomore at St. John's University in Collegeville, and Jonathan, 16, a junior at Alexandria High School, handle most of the film production in the Hamelau home, where a full video studio has been set up. They also work part-time on the golf course. Steve's wife, Darlene, handles

(Continued on Page 25)

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Golf Course Photography

Photographing your golf cource can be a challenging undertaking, one that might lead to frustration and disappointment if not approached with the proper understanding of what it takes to succeed in capturing the beauty that you see there so often. There are a lot of details to be considered before a finished picture can be created. The purpose of this article is to familiarize you with some of the procedures that will increase your percentage of good golf course photographs.

The first consideration should be what kind of equipment to use. The larger format cameras, such as 102 and 4X5, will yield the best quality negatives and slides for enlargements and reproduction in magazines, but realistically speaking, most people reading this article will be using some type of 35mm camera. Some of this equipment will be a fixed lens type with no options for changing lenses. Others will have the capability of adding wide angle and telephoto lenses to the equipment for increased flexibility. But no matter what type of equipment that you have at your disposal, you can get better photographs if you become more aware of what to do with your equipment. My recommendations would be to have no smaller than 35mm format with both wide angle and telephoto lenses when possible. I'll discuss the use of these lenses later.

The type of film that you will use will be determined by your primary end use of the images. If your primary use is for reproduction in a magazine, then your choice should be slide or transparency film. Magazine publishers use slides and transparencies to make color separations for printing and can get the highest color saturation and detail from this medium. Slide film is more exacting in its exposure and therefore can be more difficult to get good results for the inexperienced photographer.

Print film would be easier to use because the exposure isn't as critical and it will be less expensive for enlargements, but you will not be able to get the deep color saturation that you can get in slide films that are properly exposed. Remember that the lower "ISO" rated films render the highest quality results, with finer grain structure for enlargements and reproductions. Proper care of your film both before and after exposure is very important to your color stability. Always refrigerate your film before and after exposure. Be sure if you do refrigerate your film that you allow a couple of hours for the film to warm up in the canister before using to avoid condensation. Have your film processed as soon after exposure as possible for the best color. Above all, don't store film in your car during hot days.

Perhaps the single most important element in your photograph is the lighting. It makes or breaks a landscape photograph. Cultivating an ability to recognize good lighting when you see it should be your highest priority. Look at any photograph that you like and ask where the lighting is coming from and why it makes the photograph good. Study the direction of light every time you view a picture and become aware of its effects on the landscape. Low afternoon light can define shapes on a golf course that you were not aware of at noon. Dark foregrounds and brightly lit greens can lead the eye to the green, which is the main subject. Undulations in the green that are such an important factor in every golfer's game become well defined in the low angled light of late afternoon. The way that light strikes the green or fairway of a golf hole can make a remarkable difference in the impact of a photograph.

Generally speaking, having the light source at your back or sides will render the best color saturation on your shots and will define landscape shapes. When shooting with the light at your back, be careful not to get your shadow in the foreground of your photograph. Because the layout of your course doesn't change from hour to hour or day to day, the only variable that you have is to view the lighting on your course at different times during the day and determine which is the optimum time for a particular hole. If you are dealing with late afternoon diminishing light as your optimum time for a particular hole, there may be only a few minutes during that time that the hole can best be photographed. Other holes can only be photographed on overcast days because the greens are always showing shadows from surrounding trees when bright sun is used. Being aware of this and taking advantage of the lighting will render the best possible image. Shooting on a crisp clear day that has a mixture of deep blue sky and white clouds adds another dimension to your photographs. Avoid those hazy, bald sky days because there is no color saturation.

Your images should be well thought-out for both lighting and composition. It is equally as important to know what to include as what to exclude. Try to compose your images to be as simple and uncluttered as possible, eliminating distracting elements and backgrounds so as to focus the viewer's attention on the key element. Get in close, shoot from the back of the green with a wide angle lens, shoot from the tee with a normal lens, get a high angle, or a low angle, shoot from every imaginable angle and you'll surprise yourself with the limitless possibilities that some of the holes present. Be selective about a certain feature that makes the hole unique. Sometimes you can even include two holes effectively in the same photograph.

Be careful to meter the landscape carefully for proper exposure of your film; bracket your exposure by taking photographs at both the correct exposure according to your meter and one F-stop above and below that exposure. This practice will show you, especially in slide photography, that one F-stop can make all the difference in a slide's color saturation. A few extra frames exposed at the perfect lighting time for a hole is cheap insurance that you have the image properly exposed. Make notes of your exposure in a notebook for later reference. This will increase your knowledge for more predictable results every time.

Most important of all is to have fun trying to capture that special beauty that only a golf course can offer. The more that you shoot and evaluate what you shoot, the better you will become at photographing your course.

-Bob Maynard, Through The Green