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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Taking Advantage Of Educational Seminars



What a great turn-out in LeSueur. Dick and his staff had that course in midsummer condition!

I met Richard Hoffman for the first time. He told me he worked as an assistant for Larry Mueller at Minnesota Valley for 13 years. Larry, you should be proud Dick brought a lot of your meticulous turf care with him.

I have gone to a lot of meetings over the years, but I have never seen the generosity that was shown after golf with a full table of snacks and dips, compliments of the chef.

It really created a great time for camaraderie.

* * * *

As you all well know, we are having several meetings out of town. For this, I have been taking a bit of criticism.

The morning I was writing this column I received a call from a metro person saying these out-of-town meetings are really great. I really agree, and I will say it again: I am thankful we have superintendents that will host a meeting, in or out of the Metro area.

Remember, the "M" in MGCSA stands for Minnesota, not just Metro, and yes, Wisconsin, and other border areas, you're in there also.

* * * *

Many members have indicated how nice it is to see more name tags again. This will improve as time goes on, I hope.

* * * *

I recently spoke to Bill Cox at Tianna C.C. He said the snow is gone, and he will be ready for us on June 13.



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Enviromation

What is the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program?

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses is an environmental program designed specifically for golf courses. Through the program, golf course personnel receive information, support, guidance and recognition for undertaking proactive environmental projects to enhance wildlife habitat, conserve natural resources and protect environmental quality on the golf course. The program is administered by the Audubon Society of New York and is sponsored in part by the United States Golf Association. The Audubon Society of New York is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of the environment through education, research and public involvement.

Why is habitat enhancement important for golf courses?

The "open space" of your golf course not only provides challenging opportunities for golfers, it can also provide valuable wildlife habitat. This is especially pertinent in urban and suburban areas where population expansion and development have significantly diminished existing wildlife habitats. By undertaking projects to enhance habitat in non-play areas, your course can attract and sustain a diversity of wildlife species.

Why is environmental quality important for golf courses?

Over the years, golf courses have been criticized for their use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Concerns have also been raised regarding the displacement of natural plant communities and the introduction of exotic plant species to the manicured golf course landscape. To reduce potentially adverse impacts to the local environment, golf courses need to protect and conserve natural resources and preserve the character and integrity of the land.

How does the program work?

When your course joins the program, course personnel receive a Resource Inventory Handbook to fill out. The handbook asks for information on course layout, natural features, management strategies and goals, and current conservation practices. Once this information is returned to New York Audubon, they prepare a report for your course which suggests habitat enhancement and environmental conservation projects that are suited for your site. The course then determines which projects to pursue and forms a team to implement Audubon suggestions. Over time, New York Audubon staff and course personnel communicate about projects taking place to ensure the success of your golf course sanctuary.

How will the program effect the game of golf?

Through participation in the program, your course may choose to naturalize non-play areas to create better wildlife habitat. In some cases, naturalized areas may present a challenge should your ball go astray. However, diversity

of vegetation and wildlife will add uniqueness and distinction to your course, and will offer you a chance to enjoy the variety, complexity and beauty of the natural world while playing golf.

Will Audubon be checking up on us or making demands on the course?

There are **no restrictions** placed on the golf course as a condition in the program. All decisions concerning the implementation of Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary suggestions remain with the golf course superintendent and course officials. However, New York Audubon is interested in keeping in touch to see how projects are proceeding. If your course needs assistance or special information, New York Audubon staff available to help. By working cooperatively together, your golf course sanctuary will be a success.

What do we have to gain by participating in the program?

As a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, your course will be recognized for its commitment to wildlife and environmental quality. Certificates of Recognition and press releases are issued to highlight the outstanding efforts of golf courses involved in the program. The projects you undertake to provide wildlife habitat will also add beauty and distinction to your course and enhance enjoyment of the golfing experience. In addition, conservation measures adopted by the course may result in financial savings from reduced maintenance costs. Finally, your course's care for the environment will set a positive example for others to follow and preserve a healthy, diverse and beautiful landscape for future generations.

How can I get involved in sanctuary projects on my course?

Call or write to the Audubon Society of New York or the United States Golf Association for further information.

Audubon Society of New York State
46 Rarick Road
Selkirk, NY 12158
(518) 767-9051

USGA - Green Section
Golf House, P.O. Box 708
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What a great and easy way to become proactive about the many environmental assets that your golf course has for the positive influence in your community. Try it you'll be glad you did!

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—James D. Gardner



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Here Are Some Tips On Keeping An Eye On Weather Formations

Professional weather forecasters arrive at their predictions with the assistance of such instruments as barometers, hygrometers and thermometers, each of which measures some aspect of the ever-changing atmosphere: air pressure, humidity and temperature, respectively. The wilderness is filled with indicators every bit as accurate, if not so nicely calibrated. Knowing how to read them is one of the skills of outdoorsmanship.

Masses of cold and warm air move across the earth from west to east at a rate of about 600 miles a day, propelled into and around pools and eddies of high and low pressure. Air blows clockwise away from the center of a high pressure area, where it escapes upward, cooling as it rises and leaving behind the moisture it contains. Thus a drop in air pressure (a falling barometer) generally indicates the ar-

Migrating geese maintain their altitude by sensing air pressure; the more the pressure, the higher they fly. Low-flying geese mean a falling barometer, an omen of bad weather.

rival of a pocket of humid air, clouds and often rain or snow, particularly when the low pressure area is at the front of an air mass. There are many signs of an approaching low pressure area; smoke hovers and turns downward; birds tend to roost; swallows and bats swoop low; ground odors arise from ditches and marshes; clouds form at low altitudes; the rising humidity makes hair limp, causes distant objects to appear closer (because the usual evaporation haze is missing) and precludes the formation of morning dew. These signs are all prominent among folklore's favorite foul weather warnings.

Sound travels a mile in about five seconds; light arrives almost instantaneously. To find out how many miles away a thunderstorm is, count the seconds between a lightning flash and the thunderclap that follows it, and divide by five.

Other bits of weather lore are also firmly based in fact. Take, for example, the expression "Red sky at night, sailors' delight. Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning." (The setting sun shines through tomorrow's air, 500 to 600 miles westward; the laws of light refraction are such that if the air is dry and cloudless, the sky will be red just after sunset. The same laws decree that a red sky before sunrise means the air that has passed to the east is clearer and drier than where you are.)

There are three basic cloud types: cirrus (wispy), stratus (layered) and cumulus (puffy). Each is produced by a specific air pattern, and each may presage a particular kind of storm. Learn to read the early steps of these developments.

Cirrus clouds form wispy mares' tails before warm air front hits. Next comes cirrostratus, the "mackerel sky", then rain.

Fluffy white cumulus clouds, for example, are formed by warm updrafts called thermals. They are common on clear days and generally foreshadow more of the same, but they are also the stuff of which thunderstorms are made. When a thermal is intensified by the moist updraft of a low pressure area, the result is a huge, billowing thunderhead (cumulonimbus), bringing strong winds, thunder, lightning and a downpour of rain. The telltale step in this pattern is when fair weather cumulus clouds begin to puff upward like the turrets of a castle. Such towering cumulus clouds are not always followed by thunderheads but, when they occur in the west or northwest sky, a little darker and lower than other cumulus clouds, the wise camper begins to make preparations for a sudden storm.

Cumulus clouds, fed by warm updraft of cold front, develop towering form, warning of approaching thunderstorms or snow.

Cirrus clouds are made of ice crystals, formed when warm air suddenly meets cooler air (the way your breath forms vapor on a cold day). Often they signify nothing more than a high altitude wind pattern, but when they begin to form a thin, icy layer (cirrostratus)—causing the appearance of a halo around the sun or moon—it is probably the first warning of an approaching warm air front, with a long, steady siege of rain or snow.

Learn to Read the Language of the Clouds

Cold air is heavier than warm, so the front of a cold air mass hugs the ground as it moves eastward, pushing warm air like wood shavings before the blade of a chisel. Cold fronts give little warning; winds may change to easterly or northeasterly, often creating a squall line (a band of high winds and shortlived thundershowers) a few minutes before their arrival. Layers of cumulus clouds (cumulostratus) or thunderheads may accompany the front itself. Warm fronts move more slowly and give 10 to 15 hours warning. Wispy cirrus clouds accumulate and grow steadily lower, and winds often shift to easterly or southeasterly; long, steady rain from low stratus clouds presage and accompany the front itself. When a cold front overtakes a warm front, the result is called an occluded front; the sky grows dark, and heavy weather, snow or violent winds often result.

To find temperature in Fahrenheit, count a cricket chirps for 14 seconds and add 40. Other insects indicate readings as shown above.

—The Bull Sheet

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After 40 Years at the U of M, Russ Adams Still Enjoys Returning to the Campus

For 40 years Russ Adams, a past president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, was employed at the University of Minnesota.

Even though he's been retired since 1991, he still enjoys returning to the campus where he works as a supervisor at Gophers football, basketball and hockey games.

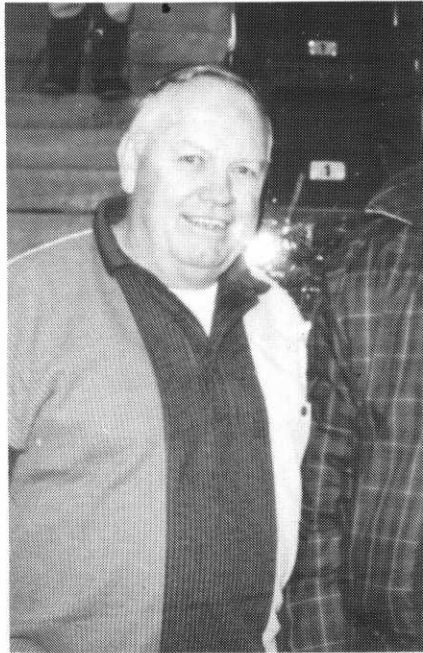
Russ joined the MGCSA in 1962, served as a director in 1967-68 and again for two years in the '80s, was vice-president in 1969, then was elected president in 1970.

"Now that I'm retired, I do miss the association with the people I worked with at the golf course," Russ said.

However, he still manages to keep busy golfing, hunting, fishing, doing yard and garden work and spending quality time with his children and new grandson.

"Another enjoyable aspect of retirement is the opportunity to play as much golf as I want to," he said.

In addition, Russ looks forward to visits with former colleagues like Bernie Zimmer and John Fuller and golf games with Fred Anderson, Tony Magina and Jerry McCann.



Russ Adams

Worked 40 Years at the U of M

He also travels a lot to Northern Minnesota to visit friends or fish.

"And I still enjoy going to the state and national conferences," he said.

Russ and his wife, Marilyn, live at 11011 Bittersweet Street N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.



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