

# Our Future —

(Continued from Page 20)

### 3. Professional baseball field manager:

- Certain specialized courses required
- Less equipment required for maintenance
- Less labor
- Dealing generally with one type of turf
- About 80 games a season played on the field over a six-month period

### 4. NFL field manager:

- Certain specialized courses required
- Field takes terrible abuse for short periods of time
- Maintaining one type of turf
- Less equipment and labor required

These are three jobs in the sports industry that receive a great deal of attention. Justly so, as these positions require dedication and hard work from the people who occupy them. Often during a game we hear statements made by the media on how good the ice or field conditions are. Or we hear about the challenges faced by the field manager to get the playing surface in shape for the big game. You will often see these people interviewed on TV explaining details about their job. Except when it comes to golf on television. Very seldom, if ever, do we hear the names of the superintendent mentioned or commended for the great course conditions. Instead we hear statements like “what a great course”, “the greens are in great shape”, “what a beautiful golf hole”, “the fairways are immaculate”. I often wonder who they think put the course into this condition? You may ask yourselves the question, “Why do we not enjoy a higher profile?” The answer in part, I believe, begins with us.

Superintendents should not be shy to take credit for the time, sacrifices, dedication and hard work required to maintain a golf course. Most of us had an opportunity to see courses like the Devil's Pulpit and Glen Abby on television this past year. The incredible job performed by those two superintendents helped to raise the stature of our profession in the eyes of many Canadians. Superintendents have talent that is in short supply and we need to learn to market ourselves. I am not advocating a “big-headed mentality” or “conceited attitudes”, but we need to recognize the contribution that we make. The sport has taken leaps and bounds and we must not be ashamed to take some of the credit. Together with our Association, we continue to bring to the forefront our contributions to this ever growing sport. As individuals we can help promote our profession by:

- Referring to ourselves as “turf managers”
- Becoming involved in the Association, communicating to the representatives of the board our concerns and ideas
- Attending seminars and courses to upgrade our knowledge
- Taking up the game to have a better understanding of the concerns of golfers and board members.
- Taking financial courses during the winter to improve our understanding of financial and budgetary questions

and problems.

- Inviting the greens chairman, pro or board member to attend certain job related golf tournaments with you. This will help them better understand you and your job.

- Creating an open dialogue between ourselves, the golfers, pros, managers, members of the board and greens committee. When this exists it creates an environment of respect, understanding and mutual admiration.

These small changes can go a long way to improving the perception of our profession. We cannot change everything overnight, but we need to begin somewhere.

We owe it to ourselves as a group to work together towards creating a stronger tomorrow. Our profession has grown, with the help of our Association as well as dedicated superintendents past and present. We must continue to build on these positive accomplishments to help create a better future and establish the credit due to our profession.

*Robbie Hellstrom is Turf Manager, Balmoral Golf Club, Morin Heights, Quebec — Green Master*

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—O.J. Noer

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## In Brief...

■ **Gruesome, but effective.** EPA just approved registration for a new compound that uses boric acid as the active ingredient to control fire ants, roaches, termites and weevils. An EPA official said that the compound "eats the guts out of the bugs"...

■ **Good news/bad news.** More than two-thirds of municipal planners agree that golf courses are good for the environment, according to a new

study by the National Golf Foundation. The full study, which was released at the Golf Summit, also suggests that 39 percent of all golfers believe that golf course pesticides and fertilizers pollute nearby lakes and streams. Nearly half of the non-golfing public believes that golf courses are polluters...

■ **It's getting easier to obtain wetlands permits,** says architect Rees Jones. The noted designer told attendees at the International Association

of Golf Administrators Conference that the Corps of Engineers has fallen back to the 1988 EPA standards, which provide much clearer definitions of wetlands and remediation techniques. Jones also said that environmental laws "have been a real benefit to golf course architects because we're now working on the high ground" instead of undevelopable but environmentally sensitive lowlands...

■ **Looking a gift horse in the mouth.** Greenpeace is fighting to make a European aid agency take back 200 tons of pesticide products that have been donated to boost the ravaged economy of Albania. Greenpeace calls the gift "a deadly donation"...

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# Questions for Superintendents Around the State

*Editor's Note: The purpose of Hole Notes is to get information to MGCSA members. Some of the most important information is that from exchange between superintendents. It could be a simple idea, a complex plan or a certain philosophical approach to golf course management. In the next issue of Hole Notes, we will print questions and answers from members of the MGCSA.*

*In this issue, three superintendents were asked the same questions. Sometimes the answers will be similar but the ideas is to exchange information and perhaps learn from a fellow superintendent. A thank you to Keith Greeninger, Baker National G.C.; Jeff Backstrom, Cannon G.C., and Mary Burg, Brightwood Hills G.C.*

## **How has the role of the golf course superintendent changed in recent years?**

*Keith:* Superintendents have to delegate more of the turfgrass management responsibility and spend more time on personnel management and public relations aspects of the profession.

*Jeff:* The percentage of time spent doing hands-on maintenance has been decreasing. Increases in revenues and demand for better playing conditions have resulted in larger staffs and capital outlays. Government regulations, safety and liability, environmental concerns and public relations are issues facing superintendents every day. Therefore, education and personnel management have become an important role in the golf course superintendent's occupation.

*Mary:* As a golf course superintendent, one could once be satisfied to just maintain the turf in the highest quality. As the public has become more demanding, the golf course superintendent's image has become higher profile and the superintendent has to spend more time educating the public as to the value of the maintenance task.

In the era of environmental aware-

ness, there is a greater opportunity to share our mission of fine quality turf through the use of "Integrated Pest Management" (IPM) with golf patrons as well as the general public. The result has been heightened professionalism for all of us in the field.

## **What is the procedure you use for aerifying greens, tees and fairways?**

*Keith:* Turf is fertilized 1-2 weeks prior to being aerified so it is actively growing. The greens on the championship 18 are aerified once in the spring. The course is closed while aerifying and reopened in the afternoon for league play. We use three aerifiers, two GA 60's and a Greensaire (the Greensaire does the greens with the severest slopes). The plugs are mulched with verticut reels on triplexes, dragged with a Keystone dragmat and swept with a Mars sweeper. Greens are then mowed with our oldest triplex and opened up for play. The greens are topdressed lightly twice during the next two weeks. Tees are done with the GA-30's. We do four or five each until finished. Some tees are aerified only once during the season and others two to three times. Plugs are mulched with the verticut reels or the flail mower and dragged with the Keystone mat. Fairways are done with a GA-60. We try to do two or three each day. Plugs are mulched with an Olathe core pulverizer or flail and dragged with a chain link fence.

*Jeff:* The second Monday and Tuesday in May we aerify greens and fairways, closing nine holes each day. Greens aerifiers with 5/8" hollow tines are used on greens, collars and approaches. The cores are removed with a Core Harvester and the greens are topdressed with 80/20 which is worked into the holes with a steel fabricated drag with broom heads. Greens are fertilized with 1/2 - 3/4# of nitrogen and watered in. We don't mow for three to four days and any excess sand is removed using brush reels. Fall aerifying on greens and collars is contracted out, using water

injection and fairways with a tractor mounted 3-point aerifier with 3/4" tines. Cores are broken up with a chain link fence, then a 5-gang reel mower is used once before using the fairway mower to prevent wear on the blades. Tees are not aerified on a regular program since most tees are built with 80/20 mix. I feel aerification is not needed unless problems occur.

*Mary:* At Brightwood Hills, we aerify greens two to three times per season, tees on a monthly basis. While conditions constantly change, as you well know, tasks don't always go as planned. Under normal conditions, we do as follows:

- Fertilize about one week before aerification to hit growth spurt for more rapid recovery.
- Avoid watering 24 hours prior to aeration
- Core aerify
- Remove cores
- Topdress
- Drag
- Brush drag
- Blow off any remaining debris
- Slit-seed tee areas
- Recycle cores to low or worn areas
- We close the hole we are working on and offer a discount on golf.

The best tip for time saving so far has been to hire a contractor to aerify with the Toro Hydroject which we did last fall. Results are unknown as yet.

## **What was one of the most satisfying experiences that you had on your golf course in the last two years?**

*Keith:* Nothing has happened that has been anymore satisfying than doing the day-to-day duties the position requires.

*Jeff:* The Cannon G.C. expanded to 18 holes in 1991, and with construction there seems to be many areas that need to be fine tuned. Working with a pro-active board of directors and having the flexibility to implement programs and projects to improve the course has been very gratifying. One of the most satisfying accomplishments is our tree program. We have planted over 1400 trees and shrubs to add character and wildlife habitat to our golf course.

*(Continued on Page 28)*

# MGCSA COMMUNICATIONS



Kevin Clunis  
Stillwater Country Club  
1421 North 4th Street  
Stillwater MN 55083

December 15, 1994

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to thank you and the rest of the board members and any one who work on this years conference and trade show. It was far the best one I have attended. The speakers were very good and topics interesting.

I also have an idea to throw at you and the rest of the board. About a year ago I wrote a letter to Paul Douglas at channel 11, I was watching a show for Earth Day and it was about the destruction of the Rain Forest. It just showed all the thing we were doing wrong but nothing about what we could do to help. So the reason for my letter was to produce a show on how we could help the earth(Paul had a segment on the news call Earth Care). I talked to Paul about this letter a couple times but nothing really got going, after hearing Mr. Farrentino talk on dealing with environmtionalists and saying how good we have it here and saying we should go on the offensive. I totally agreed with him, so here are some revised ideas from the letter sent to Mr. Douglas. Try and get some sponscerships from some chemical and fertilizer companies to put on a show to help inform the public on safe ways to take care of their lawns, show golf courses, parks turf and sports fields do things to help the earth and show all the positives of maintaining healthy grass and trees.

Also, a couple of years ago there was a column in the newspaper called Mr. Golf, people wrote asking questions about how to improve their game, maybe we could take a spin off of that and call it Dr. Green or Something like that to inform the public under our rules and not some environmtionalists.

Sincerely,

Steve Schumacher



December 14, 1994

Mr. Kevin Clunis, CGCS  
Superintendent  
Stillwater Country Club  
1421 North 4th Street  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Dear Kevin:

It is with sincere pleasure that I formally acknowledge receipt of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association's generous gift of \$10,000 in support of The GCSAA Foundation. This is truly outstanding and we are most grateful for your interest in assisting the research efforts conducted on behalf of the golf course superintendents around the world.

I would also like to say how much I enjoyed meeting you, Joe Moris and others members of the MGCSA during my trip to Minneapolis. Your invitation was very much appreciated and I hope you will visit all of us in Lawrence.

Kevin, on behalf of The GCSAA Foundation and the Board of Directors, many thanks once again to the MGCSA for this tremendous gift. Your support will make a difference. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco and want to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays.

Sincerely,

Burke B. Beeler  
Manager of Development

Steve Schumacher  
Superintendent, Izaty's Golf &Yacht Club  
40005 85th Ave.  
Onamia, MN 56359-9739

January 11, 1995

Dear Steve,

Thank you for writing your concerns and interests to the board of directors of the MGCSA . Your attention to Dr. Farrentino's suggestions on dealing with the emotional side of our business was not missed. We as an association must take the initiative to focus the attention of the public as well as the "enviromtionalists" on the positives of the golf industry .

As president of the MGCSA for 1995, I have set up directives for each committee to accomplish for this year. I have directed Bill Cox, Chairman of Community Relations, to integrate the media into one of our monthly meetings. We on the board will work together to make this happen. I have also directed Charlie Pooch, Environmental Committee Chair, to present to the members of the MGCSA, an Environmental Impact Statement. It will be used by the association as it works with various organizations and/or used by individual members for their own golf courses.

Steve, your interest in this field of endeavor would be greatly appreciated by the association. Just by writing your letter to me show your professionalism and interests in making a positive impact on our industry. May we count on your assistance to ascertain the aforementioned objectives?

Sincerely,

Kevin Clunis, CGCS  
President, MGCSA

## United States Golf Association

Great Lakes Region  
11431 North Port Washington Road Suite 203 Mequon, WI 53092  
414/241-8742 Fax 414/241-0974

## Green Section



December 16, 1994

Mr. Kevin Clunis, President  
Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association  
240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Suite 212  
P.O. Box 617  
Wayzata, MN 55391

Dear Kevin:

It was a distinct and humbling honor to receive the Distinguished Service Award from your group during the recent Conference and Show in Minneapolis. Knowing the esteem your Association holds for any honors of this kind serves to enhance this experience.

The years spent working with Minnesota golf course superintendents has, I hope, been as rewarding with you as with me in our quest for increased knowledge in golf turf care. I will long remember visits to your courses as a representative of Milorganite and the United States Golf Association.

Here's the Best Wishes from Lois and me that MGCSA continues to flourish in the future as solidly as it has in the past, and that Minnesota golfers continue to enjoy some of the best venues for play, anywhere.

Sincerely,

James M. Latham

JML:lj



## 1995 MGCSA MONTHLY MEETINGS

- April 10**      **Cannon Golf Club**  
Host Superintendent - Jeff Backstrom
- May 8**        **River Oaks Municipal G.C.**  
Host Superintendent - Thomas Parent
- June 12**      **Bemidji Town & Country Club**  
Host Superintendent -  
Thomas Johanns
- July 10**       **Stillwater Country Club**  
Host Superintendent - Kevin Clunis  
and TBA  
(Garske Scramble)
- August 14**    **Baker National Golf Course**  
Host Superintendent -  
Keith Greeninger  
(MGCSA Amateur Championship)
- Sept. 11**      **Minikahda Club**  
Host Superintendent -  
Douglas Mahal and TBA  
(Stodola Scramble)
- October 9**    **Chisago Lakes Golf Estates**  
Host Superintendent -  
David Zimmer

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## Questions —

(Continued from Page 25)

**Mary:** The most satisfying experience in the past couple of years has been returning to a "normal" year in 1995 after experiencing the "500" year rains in 1994.

**What is the most important summer disease problem on your course and what cultural practices and fungicides do you use to combat the problem?**

**Keith:** The most important summer disease problem is the one that conditions favor at the time. During the summer we try to manage the irrigation to keep greens on the dry side

and fertilize regularly with N to keep the greens growing actively. We use a fungicide program consisting of a combination of systemic and contacts when dollar spot is noticed or when conditions are favorable for brown patch.

**Jeff:** Dollar spot is the most common disease found on our golf course. The greens are treated with fungicides on a preventive program with approximately seven applications throughout the season. During severe disease pressure we may raise the cutting heights as well as groomer heights. The fairways and tees are treated on a curative program with up to four applications of fungicides for dollar spot. During high disease pressure we will

drag hoses on fairways to remove guttation water and mow after they have dried to reduce clumping of grass clippings.

**Mary:** Our most prevalent summer disease has been dollar spot. Since I am responding to this questionnaire from a vacation in Flamingo, Fla., I would not want to give improper information. Generally, with proper fertilization, aerification and preventive pesticide application, we can keep excellent control with less work and expense.

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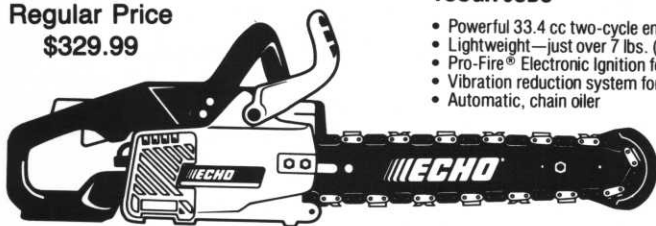
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# 'Par for the Course' Begins its Second Season By Moving to ESPN

*Par for the Course*, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) national television program, moved to ESPN on Jan. 1, 1995.

GCSAA will air 30 episodes of *Par for the Course* on ESPN, the total sports network that reaches more than 63 million households. Beginning Jan. 1, the show was scheduled to air on 19 Sunday dates and on 11 Thursday/Friday dates (see schedule attached) throughout the year.

In 1995, ESPN is launching a golf "block" of programming that airs on Sunday mornings. In addition to GCSAA's show, *Inside the PGA Tour* and *Inside the Senior PGA Tour* also will be part of ESPN's Sunday golf block. *Par for the Course's* Thursday/Friday dates will be adjacent to ESPN golf tournament coverage.

In addition to the show, GCSAA also will produce a series of feature segments for ESPN that will appear during the network's televised PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour golf tournaments. These short segments will highlight issues and trends in golf course management in an entertaining and informative way.

A comprehensive look at the world of golf and golf course management are the main attractions of GCSAA's program. Every episode of *Par for the Course* takes an innovative look at the world of golf by covering cutting edge topics in an entertaining half-hour program. It seeks to entertain and educate viewers not only about how to play the game of golf, but also what goes into making the game enjoyable.

Every episode of *Par for the Course* highlights great places anyone can play, conversations with major golf figures, practical golf instruction and trends shaping golf's future. Features about golf's environmental attributes, entertaining education on etiquette, golfers' responsibilities and rules of the game are also emphasized.

Veteran sportscaster Duke Frye returns as host of *Par for the Course*. GCSAA Public Relations Manager Scott Smith also returns as producer of the show.

Included on the *Par for the Course* production team are Creative Communications of Kansas City, Great Plains Television (Overland Park, Kan.) and PGA Tour Productions (Jacksonville, Fla.). Each will provide creative services, and field and post-production.

Thirteen weekly episodes of *Par for the Course* appeared in 1994 on the Prime network from March through June.

## GCSAA's Par for the Course Program Clearances Sunday Morning Golf Block (Remaining)

March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

April 2nd, 9th, 23rd

July 9th

October 22nd

November 5th, 19th, 26th

December 3rd, 10th, 17th

## Adjacent to Weekday Golf Coverage

May 5th 12:30 p.m. PaineWebber Invt.

May 12th 12:30 p.m. Cadillac/NFL Classic

June 15th 3:00 p.m. U.S. Open

June 30th 1:00 p.m. U.S. Senior's Open

July 21st 1:00 p.m. British Open

Sept. 8th 1:30 p.m. Bell Canadian Open

Nov. 10th 1:30 p.m. Sr. Tour Open

*At printing, exact time slots for the Sunday Morning Golf Block were not known. Please consult your local TV listings for show times.*

## Toro Honors Don Merschman With Green Blazer Award

Toro honored Don Merschman as a distinguished commercial sales representative for MTI Distributing Company, Plymouth, and presented him with its Green Blazer award at the annual Toro recognition banquet held January 26, at the Innisbrook Hilton in Tarpon Springs, Fla.

In presenting the Green Blazer award to Merschman, Mike Anderson, Toro's Director of Commercial Sales and Service, said, "Don achieved an amazingly high increase in his equipment sales goal." He added that Merschman has sold Toro products for over 10 years and is customer service driven.

The Green Blazer award is presented annually to an individual who consistently achieves the highest sales levels and customer satisfaction. The winner receives a green blazer as a symbol of excellence.

## Member-Generated Articles

Articles written by members are the key to the success of a publication such as *Hole Notes*. We listen to each other's ideas and trust each other's common sense and advice, so why not share it?

An experience of a superintendent at one golf course may be of use to a fellow superintendent at another course. *Hole Notes* needs you to put down those thoughts on paper and welcomes your suggestions for articles.

Please contact Tom Johnson, Editor, *Hole Notes*. Phone 715-246-4850 or FAX 715-246-7059.



# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Johnson  
New Richmond Golf Club



**"Buckle up for safety, buckle up!"** Get used to wearing hard hats and fastening up your seat belt on your Cushman. The initial reaction to the new OSHA regulations and the now enforced existing rules may be one of rage. "What, more government when we thought there was going to be less?" "Nobody has been hit on top of the head with a golf ball at my course!" But remember, these laws are an attempt to make the workplace safer for employees, period. Mr. Strot is not on a mission to get golf courses. Being a golfer himself, he is doing what he thinks is best for safety in our industry. We as professionals who want to be proactive in so many safety issues need to accept and implement these regulations immediately. A month into wearing a hard hat or buckling-up will become a habit.

\* \* \* \*

**Eye to Eye, the CBS show with Connie Chung**, aired a story, January 12th, about the insecticide Dursban. Of all the stories the media has done about pesticides, this probably was the fairest of them all (mirror-mirror on the wall). Basically we found out that some people are ultra-sensitive to some substances whether it is perfume or "bug spray" (sic). If there is more concern about this particular insecticide, then more testing should be done by the EPA. But not based on a man having to live isolated in a tent because he claimed Dursban made him sensitive to every odor on the planet. Some facts snuck into the story such as Dursban not causing cancer and that people can be sensitive to some chemicals, pesticides being just one of many substances.

And golf courses were not even mentioned.

\* \* \* \*

**Coon Rapids** and the Burnet Senior Classic have extended their contract through 1997, keeping the Senior PGA Tour event at Bunker Hills. After 1997, two one-year options go into effect, meaning the tournament could stay at

the city-owned course through 1999. The fact that Jim Nicol has had the golf course in excellent condition has a bearing on that decision.

\* \* \* \*

**On Misinformation** "It's not that people know too much but they know so much that ain't so." *Mark Twain*

\* \* \* \*

**Public Relations** can be good or bad depending on how you respond to a problem. Intel Corporation recently found out how not to handle a public relations issue when it was announced that there was a technical glitch in the Pentium processor. Their response was to try and explain the problem by giving the consumer too much technical detail and jargon. People like a choice and Intel didn't give them one. Intel decided who was going to get a replacement chip and who wasn't. Keep this in mind when you, as a superintendent, deal with golfers and the public when talking about such issues as pesticides or course maintenance practices. Treat their concerns with respect, and don't get too technical!

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**Golf Digest** reports that Bill Gates, the billionaire Microsoft magnate, prefers to buy used golf balls. Somehow the trite statement, "That's why he's got money", just doesn't seem to fit. Although have you priced a dozen golf balls lately?

\* \* \* \*

**Landscape Management** featured an article on **Kevin Clunis** and Stillwater C.C. in the December issue, an article on **Jim Nicol** and Bunker Hills Golf Club in the January issue, and Jan./Feb. issue of *Golf Journal* did a real nice story about another local superintendent, **Patty Knaggs**, from Hazeltine National. Both stories were well done and well deserving.

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**No more equipment** at monthly meetings. At the Industrial Relations meeting during the annual conference they voted unanimously to end the monthly tradition. It was felt that the time and expense could be put to much better use during demo's at a particular course and the annual conference. This was long overdue.

## OSHA Update

Don Strot, Senior Safety Investigator, will be speaking at the March Mini-Seminar on New Regulations.

At this time, I can tell you that Hard Hats and R.O.P.S. will be required on golf courses. R.O.P.S. will be required on all off-road vehicles and mowers 20 h.p. and above. If you need more info before March 13 call Don Strot at (612) 297-4470.

— Joe Moris

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