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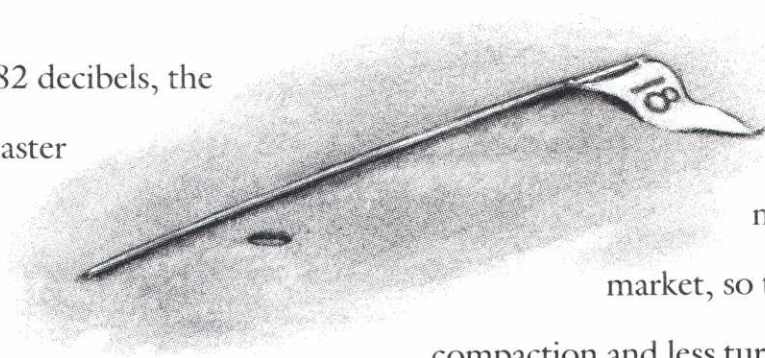
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HOLE NOTES

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Change is Never Easy, But Change is Good



It is between periods of a close hockey game. The coach is diagramming a play to use on the chalk board. The players are attentively listening to the words and watching the gestures as the play is explained to the last detail. The horn sounds for the last period. The players rush to take the ice to follow through with the plan. Or will they?

Does this scenario sound familiar? After listening to Mona Bond at the March Mini-Seminar, are we as an association ready to be proactive in getting the message out to the public and inform them on their environmental concerns? After listening to Dr. Farrentino during the December Conference, are we making the contacts with the proper people and letting them know how good we are for the environment before they pass laws to significantly limit our options of turf management? I believe we are making the change. Change is never easy, but change is good. I asked our members to go out into their communities and get involved, and I can report some progress being made.

I opened my yap and now sit on the board of our local soccer association for developing a field management plan. But now I have access to more people that are in power. At the last MGCSA Board Meeting, we adopted an Environmental Impact Statement. The statement was developed by the Environmental Committee, chaired by Charlie Pooch. A copy of the statement is found elsewhere in *Hole Notes*. It will be printed in our roster next year following the Code of Ethics. Please use this statement on behalf of the association or for your own course.

* * * *

To improve our professional image, the Human Resource Committee, chaired by Bill Cox, is putting a complete survey together to bring out important information to share with our members. The survey questions are being assembled now, with help from the New Jersey GCSA. This survey is so important that each member of the board will be responsible for making sure we have TOTAL participation. You will hear more about this survey, soon but be prepared to fill it out and return it ASAP.

* * * *

I would like to recognize and thank the Associate Members for helping in defraying the costs of our MGCSA gathering in San Francisco. Part of their dues is earmarked for this endeavor along with our local hospitality night during our Annual Conference. Also, I would like to thank those Associate Members who contributed to fund the ice rental at Augsburg Arena for some impromptu hockey games. For those members who participated, please take the time to express your gratitude.

* * * *

The recently completed Mini-Seminar held at the Mall of America was outstanding. The speakers and topics were timely and the information was well-received. Fred Taylor and the entire Conference Committee did a great job of organizing the seminar. We would like some feedback from the membership on the facilities — good, bad or otherwise. Contact any board member with your comments.

* * * *

And finally, a big thanks to Jeff Backstrom and the entire staff at Cannon Golf Club for hosting our April outing (or was it an inning because of the weather). As a former assistant of mine, he did not learn from me how to make it snow in April! Hopefully, we can come back in the future and try it again. See you all at River Oaks G.C. on May 8.

— Kevin Clunis
President

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A Visit to the Masters

By Tom Johnson, Editor
Superintendent at New Richmond G.C.

Stepping foot on Augusta National for the first time was like walking into a different world. It was almost overwhelming to experience the acres of green turf, beautiful trees, the sight and smell of the flowers and the sound of the birds. Indeed, this piece of property may be a little bit of heaven.

For three days I had the opportunity to walk every inch of Augusta National, enjoy its beauty and watch golf. What is so amazing is how perfect the grass looks. The carpet-like appearance of the turf has something to do with there being virtually no rough. One quarter of an inch height difference defines the rough and fairways. The bermuda grass is dormant this time of the year in the South, so with the exception of the greens, the entire 365 acres is overseeded with three varieties of perennial ryegrass. The greens, which were converted to bentgrass a few years ago,

Otherwise, greens are maintained by more familiar cultural practices. They are topdressed with 80/20, core aerified and hydrojected, rolled or brushed, and carefully monitored for disease. Augusta has its own soil lab where pathogens



The cabin Bobby Jones stayed in when he played at Augusta.

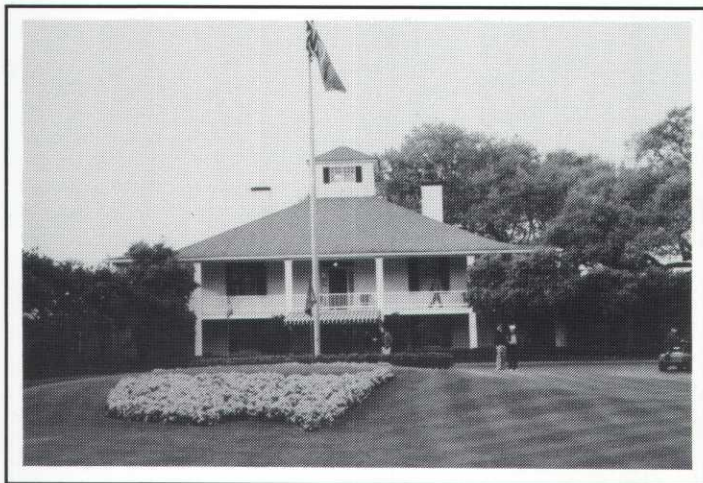
are identified and photographed. Some of the common turfgrass diseases include: Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Fusarium Patch and Pythium Blight.

The only watering I saw was by hand on selected areas around the course after the day's play. During the Masters, tees are mowed at 1/4", fairways at 3/8" and greens around 1/8". Greens are mowed as many times as necessary to get the desired stimpmeter reading and mowing is done each morning and evening. Rolling is also used to raise the speed but only when needed. Watching fairways being mowed is like watching a Disney ride. Thirteen lightweight 5-gang mowers drive down the fairways in tandem, mowing in the same direction.

Schools and colleges in Augusta are closed for the week of the Masters. This golf event brings in about \$100 million to the local economy. The commercial aspect is evident in the golf shops at Augusta National as well. The golf shop sells around \$9 million in merchandise during that week. Although the golf shop merchandise is expensive, food on the course is very reasonable.

Each hole on the course is named after a plant. The property Augusta National is built on was a nursery, and all the plants were used on the course after it was built for a beautification program initiated by Clifford Roberts and Robert Tyre Jones, Jr. The original course was co-

(Continued on Page 6)



The view from Magnolia Lane as you approach the clubhouse.

are Pencross, but more recently Pennlinks is the grass of choice when overseeding or sodding. Maintaining bentgrass during the hot humid summers at Augusta National requires some unusual maintenance practices. Heating and cooling of number 12 green is done with a series of pipes about a foot below the surface. This system keeps the soil temperatures between 72° and 82° F. Since trees surround the 12th green, additional light is provided during the winter months. Sixteen grow lights are turned on over the green for 12 hours a night, five nights a week from October until mid-February. On number 13 green, the Azalea Hole, there is an experimental underground air system that allows moisture control. In the summer months, large fans are used for air circulation around many of the greens.

Augusta National —

(Continued from Page 5)

designed by the Scotsman, Allister McKenzie, and by Bob Jones. The course opened in 1932 and the first Augusta National Tournament was held in 1934. Horton Smith won the tourney.



Dr. Joe Duich, Penn State University, takes stimp readings on Augusta National's number nine green before play begins.

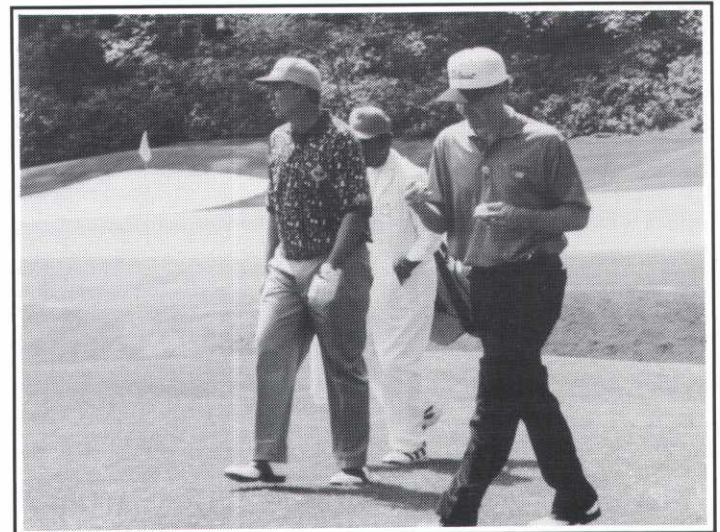
The magnitude of this place with its beautiful turf, Azaleas, Dogwoods and Southern Pines has to be seen in person to be fully appreciated. And yes, GCSAA class A members get in free. They said almost as many superintendents as PGA members attended the Masters this year. It was an exceptionally pleasant learning experience.



A classic clubhouse of the South.



Arnold Palmer on his way to accept the plaque commemorating his 40 years of Masters competition.



Minnesota's Tom Lehman with Lee Janzen walking off the famous Azalea Hole, number 13.

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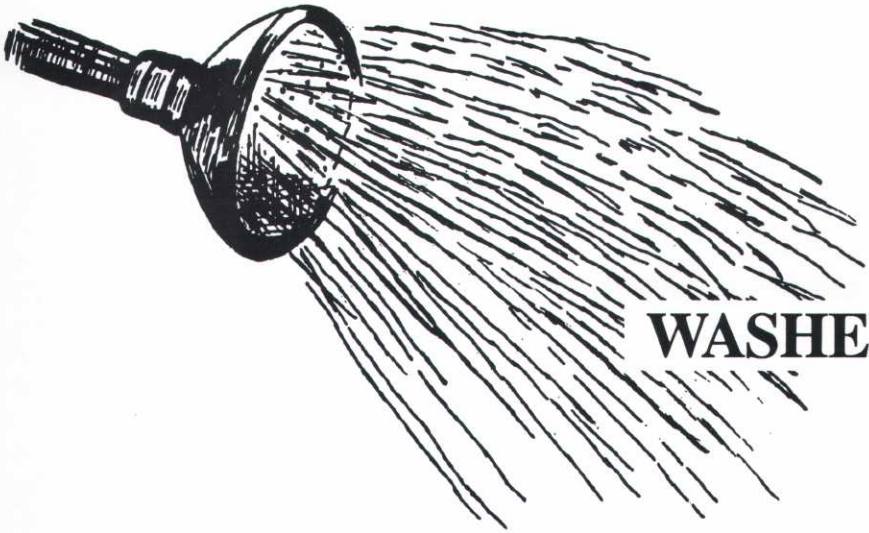
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Here Are Types Of Garbage Banned In Minnesota—Plus Tips on What to Do

By Tom Johnson
Hole Notes Editor

The fall edition of *Environmental Update*, the Washington County Department of Health, Environment and Land Management's newsletter, discusses waste reduction at home and work. The State of Minnesota has banned certain types of garbage that we should be aware of. They have done this to help protect the environment. Included in this are:

Lead Acid Batteries: Return to a retailer that sells lead acid batteries.

Motor Oil: Take to a service station or garage that accepts used motor oil, or to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility. Call 612/430-6655 if you would like a list of outlets for used motor oil.

Brake Fluid, Power Steering Fluid, Transmission Fluid: Bring to the HHW Facility.

Fluorescent and High Intensity Discharge Lamps: Take to the HHW Facility.

Rechargeable Batteries: Take to the HHW Facility or to your local Radio Shack.

Mercury Containing Products: (thermostats, thermometers, mercuric oxide batteries): Take to the HHW Facility. Call Honeywell at 1-800-345-6770, ext. 733 for information on disposal of thermostats.

Used Oil Filters: Effective January 1, 1995 oil filters are banned. Take them to the HHW Facility.

These materials are illegal to throw away, and it is every citizen's responsibility to do his or her part in reducing the toxicity of the garbage by disposing of hazardous waste properly.

(Continued on Page 33)

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