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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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* * * *

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spirit of Contribution



A few years back, a fellow named David McNally presented a powerful, inspirational speech during our annual conference. The sum and gist of his message was that we all have an inherent need to contribute our talents to something larger or more grand than our own basic survival needs. This concept explains why we volunteer for service work, join athletic teams or serve as Board members for our association. As most golf course superintendents would agree, the intrinsic value of providing the very best golf course possible — with all the natural beauty and color — is more valuable to us than monetary rewards. In other words, our contribution to making our two hundred or so acres a special place for others to enjoy is what really motivates us.

As members of the MGCSA, we need to thank those people who have, over the years, been inspired by this spirit of contribution enough to serve on our Board of Directors. Obviously they haven't done it for the money... there isn't any. They have served for one reason, and that is to use their talents for the betterment of our association. I would especially like to thank those Board members who are ending their term for their dedication and hard work. It has been a rewarding experience to work with (and learn from) these gifted gentlemen. So, to Charlie Pooch, Dick Grundstrom, Butch Greeninger, John Granholt and Kevin Clunis, good luck and Godspeed.

To round out the discussion on contribution, I must make a plea to all members to consider serving the association by either volunteering for a committee, or by considering running for the Board of Directors. I make this request with the knowledge that the nominating committee for the past year had a list of nearly 20 potential candidates and found only three actually willing to step forward and run. Fortunately, all of these individuals are both qualified and eager to go to work for the association. Please take a moment to look at your own situation, and ask yourself if you would have the time and expertise to aid in the administration of our association. I know that you would find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

The new board is now up and running like the proverbial herd of turtles. The committee assignments (listed below) have been made, and directives uttered. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for all of the directors and fellow officers, and believe that this will again be a productive and successful year for the MGCSA. If you have questions or concerns about any issue, please contact any one of the board members or our Executive Director, Scott Turtinen.

The following is a list of committee chairs for 1997:

Arrangements	Dave Sime
Bylaws/Historical	John Queensland
Editorial	Rob Panuska
Education and Conference ...	Tom Parent and Steve Young
Environmental	Bob Distel

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President's Report—

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Membership	Steve Shumansky
Public Relations	Jeff Backstrom
Research	Jim Nicol, CGCS
Scholarship	John Queensland

The 1996 version of the MTGF Conference was again a blockbuster event, with record-breaking attendance and a superb trade show. The Conference Committee, comprised of volunteers from all of the allied associations, again proved that hard work and cooperation can lead to overwhelming success. MGCSA representatives on the 1996 committee include Leif Erickson, Pat Walton, Mary Berg, Patty Knaggs and Jim Nicol. Scott Turtinen again played pivot man, filling the needs of the various subcommittees and doing the lion's share of the paper work. Thanks, folks.

Dale Wysocki is editing his final issue of Hole Notes this month. It was a real act of generosity for Dale to step in and take the reins for the last few issues of the year. Thanks, Dale.

See you at Welch Village!

— Fred Taylor
MGCSA President

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ATTENTION STODOLA SCRAMBLE CD PLAYER RAFFLE WINNER!

The remote and instructions to the CD player that was raffled off at the 1996 Stodola Research Scramble is at the MGCSA office. Call (612) 473-0557 or toll free at 1-800-642-7227 and we will send these to you.

Turf Warriors

A Response to an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune

By John Wiley
Turf Supply Company

(Ed. Note: These comments are in response to an article by Ms. Susan Albright that was published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.)

* * *

Dear Ms. Albright:

I read with interest the article "Turf Warriors Enlist Nature's Weapons" in the September 30 issue of the Star Tribune. Let me congratulate the writer for addressing Integrated Pest Management in golf course care. My industry and my company endorse the use of IPM practices. The same is true with many golf course superintendents, as encouraged by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

However, our definition of IPM is one more universally accepted than that which the article lists, and is similar to that contained in the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act: "IPM is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks." Thus, the major goal of an IPM program is not to exclude conventional pesticides, but to seek the best method of control, given the alternatives that exist, the nature and severity of the infestation, economy of funds and time, as well as consideration of environment, human health and safety.

There also are inaccurate and misleading statements within the article:

- A woman golfer infers that women golfers suffer a higher percentage of breast cancer than other women's groups. However, the spokesperson for LPGA is correct. There is no basis for that concern. Nor is there any finding that today's turf and garden pesticides cause breast cancer — or any other cancer form.

- A statement is made that links pesticides to estrogen disruption in humans. The medical and health research community has not confirmed such a linkage. A great deal of research is now being done, but the science, medical and health "jury" is still out.

- The statement that more pesticides are applied to golf courses than to U.S. cropland is an "apples and oranges" type comparison. U.S. cropland includes vast acreages of wheat, small grain and pasture lands which may receive little or no treatment. Golf course superintendents manage turf "crop" areas that receive extremely high levels of foot

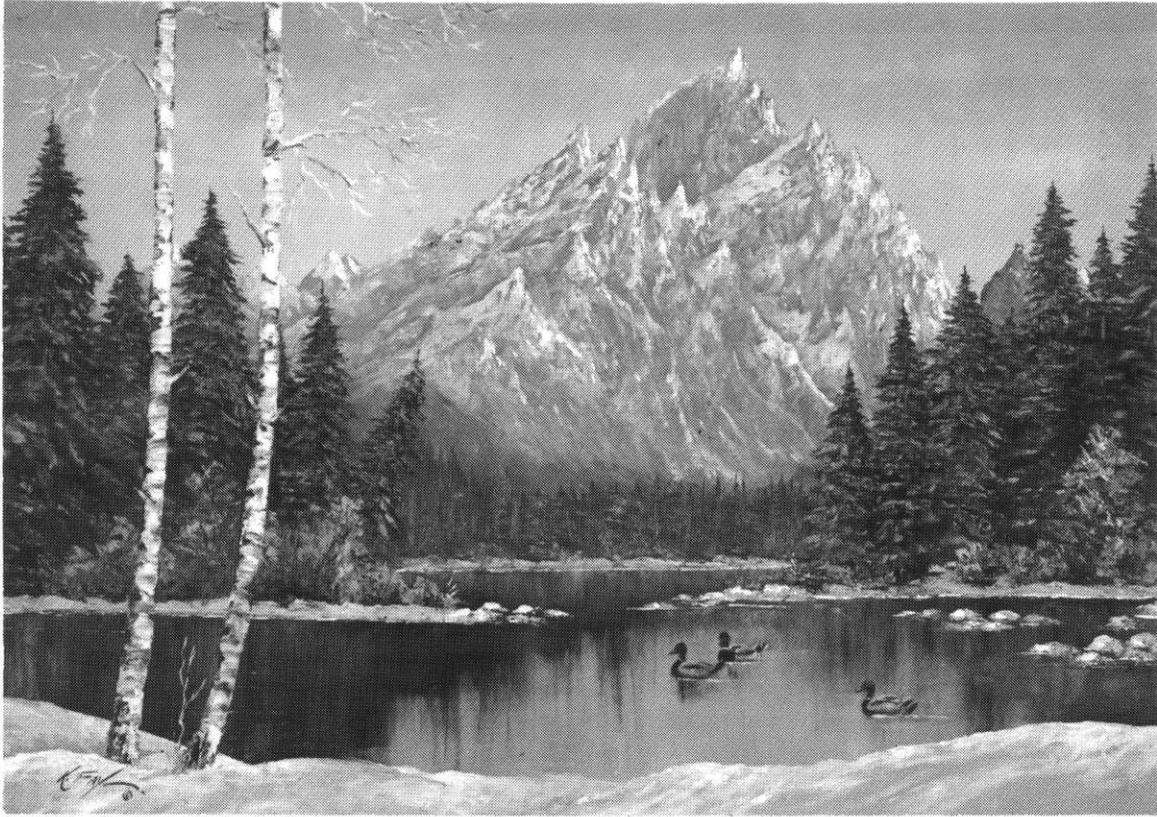
and cart traffic, abuse and stress — areas where a seemingly minor infestation of plant disease or insect pests can quickly develop into devastation. These professionals are knowledgeable and well-trained in caring for such intensely used areas which have pest control problems markedly different from most American cropland.

- The article notes a study for the GCSAA on cancer deaths among its members. The university research leader on the study has specifically targeted smoking as prime suspect for the bulk of deaths, a practice that has been directly linked to lung and other organ cancers (the bulk of cancer deaths noted in the study).

The bottom line is that pesticides are an extremely useful tool in IPM programs. Depending on the pest problem, they may be the first, secondary — or later — line of defense. As with any such useful chemical, label directions should be followed explicitly. Such EPA-approved instructions are backed by an average 8-10 years of product research and 120 or more tests, many related specifically to health and environment, before marketing of the product is allowed.



DON BELKENGREN awards an honorary Boy Scout patch to Tim Commers of the Cushman Motor Co. for donating the use of a Kawasaki mule to the Boy Scouts Summer Camp.



TAKE TIME TO SEE

*It seems so hard to understand
As I look out across the land
That all I view belongs to me
I ought to take more time to see!*

*The distant hills and mountains high,
The rolling clouds and bright blue sky,
No one can take these views from me
As long as I have eyes to see.*

*A timid deer with haunting look
Who stands refreshed by yonder brook
Knows not that he belongs to me,
Oh, what a thrilling sight to see!*

*The song of birds so gay and clear
That fill the morning air with cheer,
And fragrant flowers of every hue,
That stand erect bedecked with dew,
All these and more belong to me,
If I but use my eyes to see.*

*The Leitner Company wishes you a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

Where Are They Today?

CLEM McCANN

By Jack Kolb

This is not so much a story about an individual's impact on the golf industry as it is a story about three generations of Golf Course Managers. Our focus on Clement McCann would not be complete without bringing in the two generations who have followed him as "Groomers" of Golf Courses.

As a young man Clem McCann had aspirations of being a 9:00 to 5:00 worker in an office setting. Thus he attended and graduated from a business college and prepared to face the world. It did not take long to decide that paper shuffling and being bound to a desk was not going to satisfy his ambitions. A ready occupation for a young man with "work ethic" during the 1930's Depression was farming, so Clem turned to that. As he explains, the knowledge of business is never lost and indeed he did benefit from it in the everyday sales of dairy products and crops.

During the "Post War" years industry offered high hourly wages with weekends and holidays off. This was a luxury that farmers did not have. So the decision was made to leave farming to the enthusiasm of his young sons and Clem went to work for Northern Pump which was doing ordinance work for the military. In the 1960s with the Vietnam War becoming unpopular and activists lobbying against anyone who even worked for the war effort, Clem began to look for employment that was less irritating to the "Hippie" establishment.

In subsequent counseling with son Jerry McCann, who was now the primary stockholder of the farm, it was agreed that 75 acres of land would be removed from cultivation and turned into one of those "sophisticated pastures" called a golf course. Thus the first nine holes of what is now Daytona Golf Course opened in 1962. By 1964 a total of 150 acres and another nine holes were added for a total of 18 holes. As Jerry explains, "I was so poor after and during construction that I could not afford cash to pay my own father for his labor and help." Clem, like all dads, explains "that is what fathers are for!"

In the meantime, Clem McCann need "cash-flow." There was talk of a new golf course being developed in the Coon Rapids area. Ray Hall was working for the Coon Rapids Park Department and was in charge of construction. Ray introduced Clem to the construction contractor and because of Clem's previous construction experience he was made construction foreman. Before the Coon Rapids Golf Course (Bunker Hills) came into play, Ray Hall had moved on to a new job in Owatonna.

The man who best knew the irrigation system and every quirk of the new golf course was asked to stay on as the new Golf Course Superintendent of Bunker Hills. That



FIVE McCANNs AND A HASBROUCK — From left to right are Chris Hasbrouck, Bruce McCann, David McCann, Tom McCann, Clem McCann and Jerry McCann.

man was Clem McCann. Clem remained from 1966 until his retirement in 1978. Although retirement sounds like an inactive sedentary time in one's life, Clem could be seen for several years thereafter mowing fairways at Greenhaven Golf Course in Anoka.

Second generation McCanns in the Golf Industry include Jerry at Daytona Golf; Vince McCann, a one-time superintendent at Purple Hawk Country Club and presently superintendent at The Country Club in Bella Vista, Ark., and Bill McCann, a one-time golf course superintendent at Chominix Country Club and presently the Parks Coordinator for Anoka County Parks. Third generation superintendents include grandsons Tom McCann, who managed Daytona for a brief time and now is with Turf Supply Company; Bruce McCann, is general manager at Daytona and granddaughter Meg's husband, Chris Hasbrouck, course superintendent of Daytona.

Upon entering Clem McCann's office while at Bunker Hills Golf Course, one was aware of a collage of pictures and mementos that adorned his office wall. Clem, it seems, was a close personal friend of Lawrence Welk. Somehow they had struck up a friendship through golf. Clem and wife Margaret were guests of Welk's at Lawrence's Golf Resort in Escondido, Calif.

At the young age of 83 Clem is still very active and in good health; wife Margaret however does not share the good fortune of inherited "healthy genes" and is confined to a health care facility.



Happy Holidays

To our good friends...

We want to thank all of you for helping us grow and prosper for 25 years in this exciting industry. It is largely because of your continued confidence and loyalty to us and to our products that we have been able to serve you for a quarter century.

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Winter Social at Welch Village Has Variety of Activities to Choose From

Plan for an entire day of winter fun on the slopes downhill skiing, cross-country skiing or snowmobiling on January 20 at Welch Village Ski Area. Lunch will be served at noon in the main chalet and an area will be reserved to gather and socialize.

For those of you not thrilled about the outdoor weather, a bowling event is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. at the Buccaneer Bowling Center in Hastings, which is about 20 minutes from Welch Village.



Treasure Island Casino & Hotel is nearby if you are interested. The entire family is welcome for this event as most schools are closed for Martin Luther King's Birthday. So wax up your skis, load up your snowmobiles, or polish your bowling ball and hope to see you in January.

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and prosperous New Year!*



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