

# Local Recertification Workshops This Spring

*(Categories A and E – General Ground, Turf & Ornamental)*

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Local Recertification Workshops are shorter, concentrated half-day sessions, using videos, slides and workbook exercises rather than the oral presentations at traditional workshops. **Pre-registration is required.** Recertification correspondence study for Category E is no longer offered.

## Dates and Locations:

April 6	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Anoka County Extension Office, Anoka
April 7	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Ramsey County Extension Office, St. Paul
April 14	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Stearns County Extension Office, St. Cloud
April 15	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Lyon County Extension Office, Marshall
April 21	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen
April 27	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Dakota County Extension Office, Farmington
April 28	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, West Ottertail County Extension Office, Fergus Falls
April 29	AE	Local Pest Applicator Recertification, Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet

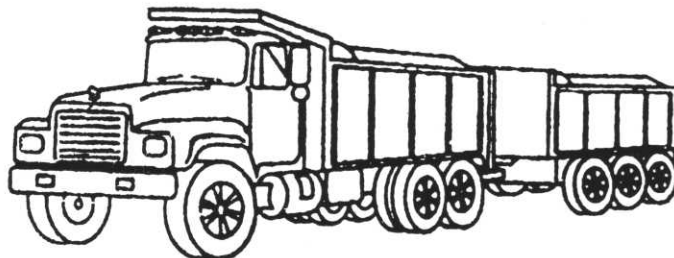
**Registration Limit:** 7 minimum, 20 maximum (*confirmations will be sent*)

**Registration Fee:** \$60 (pre-registration only)

**Schedule:** Registration begins at 8 a.m. Program begins at 8:30 a.m. **sharp.** Program adjourns at 12:30 p.m.

**Program Topics:** Pesticide Laws & Regulations, Pesticide Drift Management, Turf integrated Pest Management.

**For registration information, contact: Mary Kay Ferguson** at (612) 625-8215 or 1-800-367-5363; Fax (612) 625-2207; Turf & Ornamental Registrar, University of Minnesota, P.O. Box 64780, St. Paul, MN 55164-0780.



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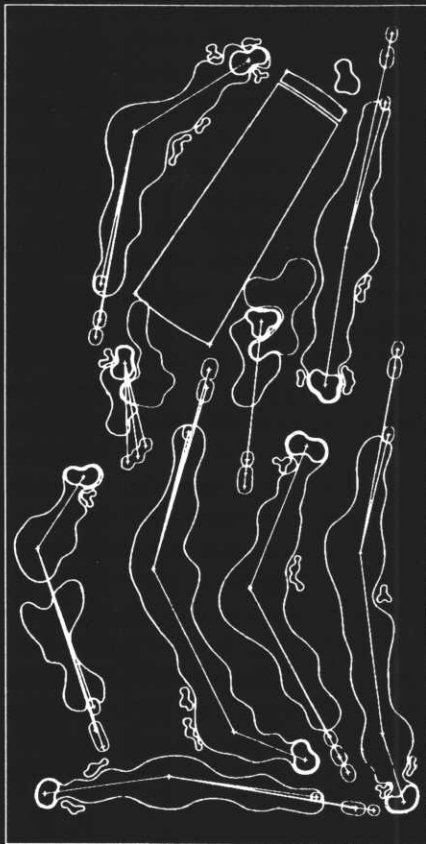
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# Why Aerify?

It's a perfect, sunny morning and you've just reached the first green in regulation. You feel great and you know you're within birdie range. Then, you see them, those little holes in the green. Arrrgh! They've just aerified the course, and it's going to ruin your round, right?

Well, maybe not. Consider the fact that PGA Tour legend Tom Watson shot a sizzling record 58 at his then and now again home course, Kansas City Country Club, just days after the greens had been aerified.

Consider also that aerification is merely a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for the course. When you see them, remember that without those little holes, the greens would eventually die.

Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than skin deep. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order to keep grass growing at 3/16-inch you have to have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen. In good soil they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles.

Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as heavy mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green — particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants will wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing 1/2-inch cores (those plugs you sometimes see near a green or in fairways). The spaces are then filled with sand "top-dressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.

Other aerification techniques use machines with "tines" or knives that simply poke holes through the soil profile. A new technique even uses ultra high-pressure water that's injected through the soil profile to create small holes that relieve some compaction but heal quickly.

The bottom line is that aerification is a necessary practice. But before you curse the superintendent for ruining your day, just think of Tom Watson.

## GCSAA's Certification Program

Continuing your professional development is the single most important action you can take to improve your career. Joining the hundreds of GCSAA members who have become "certified golf course superintendents (CGCSs)" over the past 25 years is one step that shows your commitment to golf course management as a career and your dedication to lifelong learning.

### What Does It Mean To Be A Certified Superintendent?

Certification puts you at the top of your profession. It shows that you have met GCSAA's standards for turfgrass management experience and education. It demonstrates that you are dedicated to the profession and are continuing to expand your horizons by pursuing new educational opportunities. It also means that your golf course operation is run with an eye toward the turfgrass management techniques and organizational and financial principles influencing today's golf course industry.

### What Does It Take To Become Certified?

In a nutshell, it involves experience, education, passing the six-hour written exam and having your golf course attested by fellow superintendents.

Becoming certified certainly isn't easy — it takes drive, ability and dedication — but it's worth the effort.

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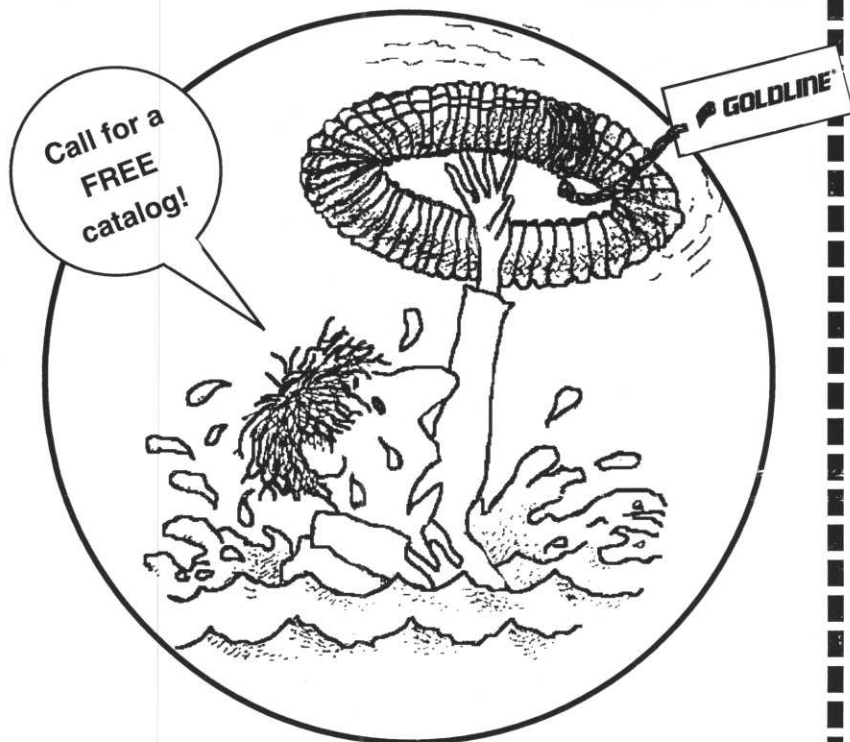
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The MGCSA Legacy Awards offer educational aid to the children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, D and Affiliate MGCSA members who have been an active members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post secondary institution.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal.

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

**MGCSA Scholarship Committee**  
240 Minnetonka Ave. So.  
P.O. Box 617  
Wayzata, MN 55391

\* \* \*

Phone: (612) 473-0557  
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Applications must be postmarked  
by June 1, 1999.

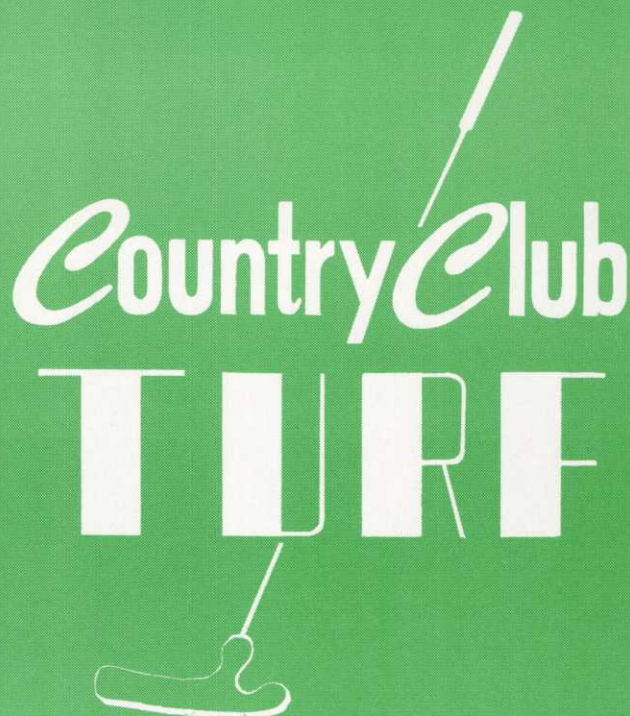


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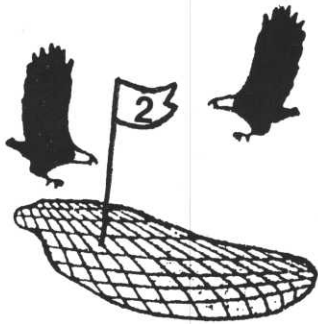
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## Retirement—

*(Continued from Page 26)*

ing longer today than ever before. The inheritance you're counting on may instead go for their expenses, including a stay in a nursing home.

- "I don't make enough to save anything." If a savings program is started early, even modest amounts will add up to sizeable amounts in the long run.

- "I don't know where to put my savings." This is a common barrier for savers. The answer lies in knowing your goals, doing your homework and seeking the knowledge you lack.

- "I'll begin saving as soon as..." Life will never provide the perfect opportunity to begin saving. Good savers make saving a habit, through good times and bad.

- "There's simply no place I can cut back." Evaluate each expense as either a "need" or a "want," and you'll often find budget areas that could be reallocated to savings. If you put away just \$30 each week into a retirement program, you'll have more than \$87,000 saved in 20 years. (Example assumes a 9 percent annual return over 20 years.)

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky  
Perham Lakeside Country Club



## And Away We Go!

Ahhhh Spring.....the season for new life and regeneration. A feeling of freshness. A new beginning to what I believe will be a successful season for all of us. A few pieces of new equipment to help us in our stride for quality and perfection, or maybe just a fresh coat of paint on that older piece to make it look like new. Whichever the case, it's time for another golf season of trying a few new things. Using a fertilizer you haven't tried in the past, and for some strange reason you're willing to give it a try. Fungicide you've heard about and researched a bit and are wondering if it's gonna work for you. A season that we have spent all winter planning for and even waiting for. A few new tees, bunker renovation, greens reconstruction, irrigation expansion, the list is endless!! But we all have a plan and know what we are up against. In short, whatever Mother Nature dishes out for us. By now or in the next week or so we will all have our irrigation systems energized. This truly is the start of the golf season. Sure, we've been open for a little while, but once the lines are pressurized, it's the real thing. All of our project calculations are in place and we're ready to rock and roll! I wish you luck in your endeavors!!

## Changing Your Location?

Here's a thought I've talked to a few people about and want to try. And it's nothing new, they do it in *Golf Course Management Magazine*. If you change jobs, I would like to know about it. Kind of an "on the move" kind of thing. There's nothing worse than calling somebody you haven't talked to in a while and someone answers the phone and they say, "he doesn't work here anymore, he went to work at..." It's kind of embarrassing sometimes. Our membership directory only comes out once a year and it's hard to keep track with all the movement. Besides, hearing it through the grapevine, on why and how come, gets blown out of proportion. I think this would be a great thing for all of us to keep track of who's where. The same goes for all other announcements. Let me know so I can pass them on to others in our association. Here's another one from left field, a "Letter to the Editor" column. I'm open to suggestions, let's give it a try. If you have a comment on something, let's get it straight, as long as it's in good taste and professional.

## Member-Generated Articles

I would like to say, so far so good. Member articles have been higher this year than last. But, and I'm sorry to say

this, I want more!! I have to thank Mike Brower on his continued support and great articles he's shared with all of us in *Hole Notes*. Everybody has the capability of writing at least one good book. I heard that some place a long time ago. Well, when you think of it, an article should be a breeze! Send me articles so we can put them in *Hole Notes*. The experiences you've had can help all of us. Remember, we are an association of professionals; what we can share with each other is the most helpful tool of all!

## Just a Thought

As your tulips and other perennials break ground, please take the time to see and feel how precious life is. Even as simple as it may be, it's the start of a new beginning. The day-to-day grind, and the hustle and bustle sometimes makes the time go by so fast and it's easy to miss it. Just remember why we are doing what we are doing. In short, take the time to smell the roses!!

With sympathy, we extend our condolences to Mike Klatte, CGCS, of Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth whose wife, Gail Marie, died on March 21 after a brave 11-year battle with cancer. A memorial service was held March 25.

\* \* \* \*

Have a great Spring, see ya next month.

—Steve Shumansky  
Editor

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