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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
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From Your President's Desk



E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

Spring Has Sprung!

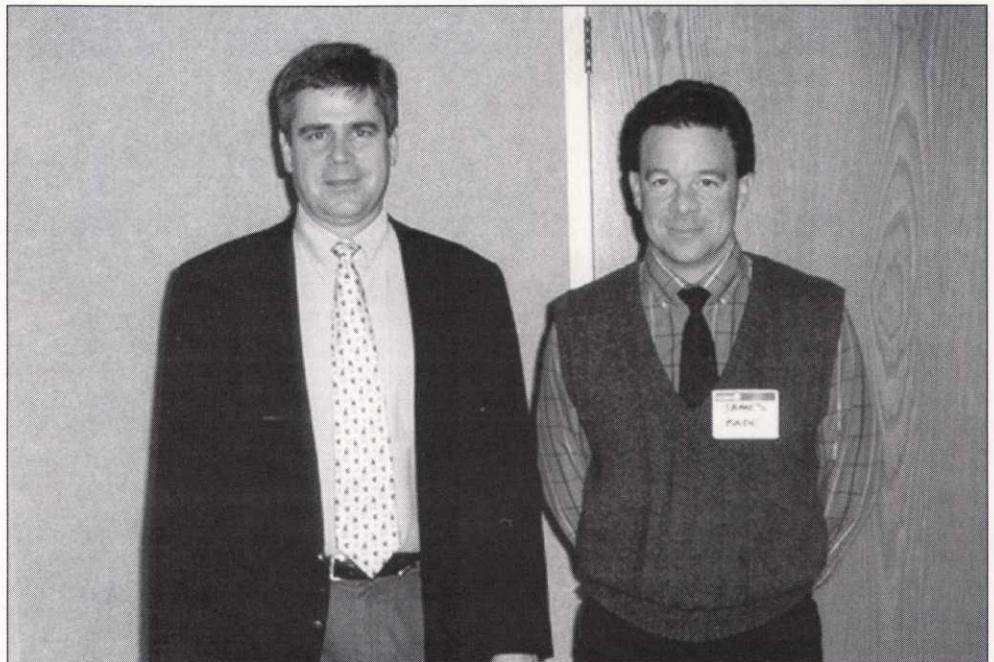
Spring is once again upon us and with it comes the usual flurry of activity. Finishing up on all of the winter projects as well as getting all of our priorities set for the coming year. I hope that you all have your ducks in a row better than I do.

With the spring comes another round of legislation at the Capitol. I will be heading there again this year to combat not only the resurrection of last years bill but a new one as well. We were able to get in some language which I think you will be able to live with, if we can get the right piece passed.

The monthly meetings are pretty well set for the year and will be published here as well as on the web site. And speaking of the web site we have added all of the classified listings that we receive to the web page so if you are looking to sell something send it in. The web has received many more hits in the past few months so you can rest assured that people will see it.

Remember those monthly meetings and plan to attend.

Paul Eckholm, CGCS
epeckholm@msn.com



AT THE GCSAA SEMINAR IN MARCH are James Bade, MGCSA Arrangements Chairman, and GCSAA speaker Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University. James organized a very successful three days of seminars at the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington.

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Inside This Issue of Hole Notes

- 5** MGCSA Turf Student and Legacy Scholarships - Jeff Johnson
- 9** The Calcium Kick - Rick Gabler
- 10** North Central Regional Update - Bob Vavrek
- 14** GCSAA Special Membership
- 16** Dealing With Labor Shortages - Norma O'Leary
- 21** The Media and You - Sue Stephenson
- 27** Irrigation Consumer Bill of Rights
- 29** Industry News
- 31** Six Things to Avoid When Talking To Reports

Departments

- 3** From Your President's Desk
E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
- 4** 2001 Calendar
- 34** Editor's Report
By Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS

Advertisers

Century Rain Aid.....	30
Classified Ads.....	6
Country Club Turf.....	26
Cushman Motor Co., Inc.....	14
Double Eagle Golf Construction.....	16
DBI.....	BC
E.H. Renner.....	22
Eureka Sands.....	17
Hassan Sand & Gravel.....	27
Howrey Construction.....	32
Gill Miller, Inc.....	10
Glenn Rehbein.....	31
GreenImage.....	25
Hartman.....	4
Hydrologic.....	7
Leitner Company.....	13
Minnesota Golf Cars.....	29
MTI Distributing Co., Inc.....	18
MTI Distributing Co., Inc.....	19
North Star Turf.....	12
North Star Turf.....	28
Par Aide Products Co.....	24
Plaisted Companies Inc.....	11
Precision Turf.....	6
Prinsco.....	23
Superior Tech Products.....	20
Simplot Partners.....	IFC
Superior Turf Services.....	15
Sustane.....	IBC
Turf Supply Company.....	30
The Andersons.....	8
Twin City Seed.....	33

2001 CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 8

Brackett's Crossing Country Club
Host Superintendent: Tom Proshok

Monday, June 18
Scholarship Scramble

Dacotah Ridge
Host Superintendent: Mike Nelson

Monday, August 20
MGCSA Championship

Wayzata Country Club
Host Superintendent: Bob Distel

Tuesday, September 25
Stodola Scramble

Edina Country Club
Host Superintendent: Mike Kelly

December 5, 6 & 7
MGCSA Annual Business Meeting
MTGF Conference and Show
Minneapolis Convention Center



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MGCSA Turf Student and Legacy Scholarships 2001-2002

By **JEFFREY JOHNSON**
MGCSA Scholarship Chairman

The MGCSA Scholarship Fund, originating in 1987, is now taking applications for the 2001-2002 scholarship year.

The MGCSA scholarship is an annual grant awarded to candidates interested in pursuing a career in golf course management. Students that possess high scholastic capabilities and have superior performance as an employee on the golf course are encouraged to apply.

Turf Student Scholarships will be available to students completing the first year of a two-year turfgrass technical program or students completing the second year of a four-year or baccalaureate program with a major emphasis in turf management. Candidates must be a resident of Minnesota or be employed by a MGCSA member. The MGCSA Scholarship Committee processes and determines recipients for the scholarships. Applicants for these scholarships have until July 1 to return completed applications to the MGCSA business office. The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association will also have monies available for turf scholarships.

Two \$1,000 Legacy Scholarships will be awarded for the 2001-02 school year. One Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarship of \$1,250 is renewable for a second year in the recipient completes an application and meets the minimum standards set by the Citizens Scholarship Foundation. Also available is one \$1,250 Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarship to a new recipient.

Legacy Scholarships are processed and determined by the Citizens Scholarship Foundation (CSF) of America. In no instance will any member of the MGCSA play a part in the confidential selection process of Legacy awards. These scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors or graduates who study at an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational-technical school. Recipients of the Joseph S. Garske award and at least one of the MGCSA awards must be children or grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, or C members (for at least three years) of the MGCSA. A child or grandchild who qualifies of Class D, Associate, or Affiliate members (for at least three years) of the MGCSA would also be eligible for the second MGCSA Legacy Scholarship. MGCSA Legacy awards are for one year only. However, students may re-apply to the program each year that they meet the requirements. The Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarship is renewable for a second year if the recipient completes an application and meets the requirements set by CSF. Applications must be in by June 1, 2001.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership, and partici-

pation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. Students are eligible to apply for both a Turf Student Scholarship and a Legacy Scholarship, but are only allowed to receive one.

Applications for each of the scholarships are available on request by contacting the MGCSA business office. A personal photograph will be requested of successful applicants to accompany articles published in *Hole Notes*.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2001-2002 MGCSA SCHOLARSHIPS AND LEGACY AWARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

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.

The MGCSA Legacy Awards offer educational aid to the children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, B, C, D and Affiliate members who have been active members.

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

MGCSA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
240 Minnetonka Ave S., Suite 212
P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, MN 55391

Phone: (952) 473-0557 Fax (952) 473-0576
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227
E-mail: scott@mgcsa.org
Website: www.mgcsa.org

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 \$5,990
 1988 Jac 720 Sweeper ~ \$1,995
 1998 Grass Craft Hover Mowers
 (2) ~ \$400 ea.
 (never used) red & blue ~ \$45 ea.
 14 used (decent condition) white ~
 free with red & blue markers
 Other metal markers available
 Contact: ERIC PETERSON
 Dellwood Hills Golf Club
 (651) 426-3218

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Contact: BOB DISTEL
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Contact: CHAD BRAUN
 Prestwick Golf Club
 (651) 459-0288

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Contact: STEVE SCHUMACHER
 Izaty's Golf & Yacht Club
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 (763) 644-2560

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Toro VT4 Controllers with pedestals
 Quantity of 10 @ \$250.00 ea.

Contact: BROOKS or LEROY
 (320) 963-3533

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Contact: KEVIN
 Crow River Country Club
 (320) 587-2785

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Used Foley Bedknife Grinder #384
 \$1,500
 Used Foley Reel Grinder Model #388
 \$1,500

Contact: ROGER or JOHN
 Southview Country Club
 (651) 451-1666

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 ment. Will sell Spiker attachment &
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 Marshall Golf Club
 (507) 532-5164

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7-gang
 Spartan Rough Mowers + frame,
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Contact: MARK BOONSTRA

Hollydale Golf
 (763) 559-4458

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 Contact: DAVE SIME
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Two solid rollers to fit a Toro 300
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 (715) 834-3931

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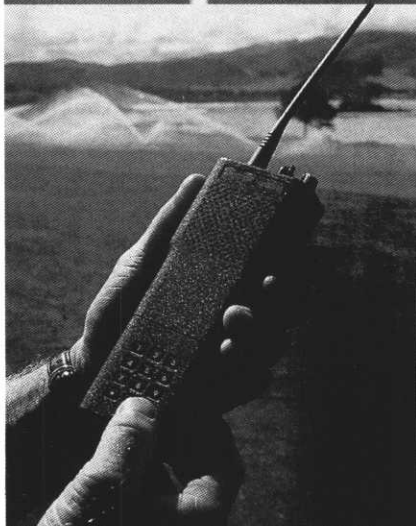
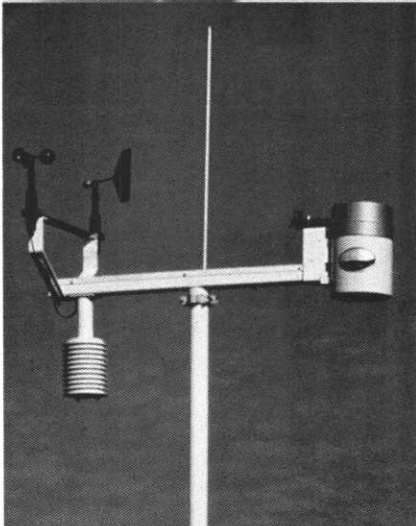
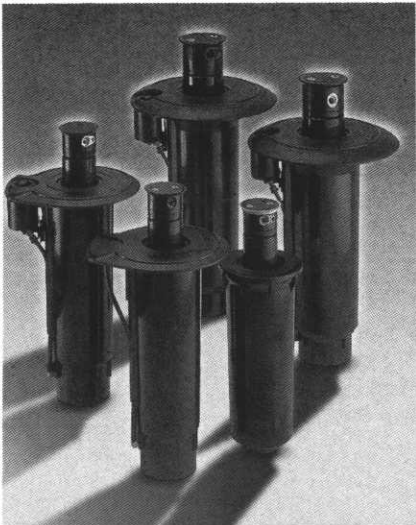
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 Cast iron Flange Tee, 6 x 8 x 6, used.....make offer
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 (3) Parkmaster/Spartan Reel Assemblies, 5-blade, complete, good cond.....\$250
 (5) Blade reels for RM216, used/like new.....\$150/set
 GM72 Deck Wheels, brand new, 12-1509.....\$25/pair
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 Tire/Rim for Toro GM52, 20x8:00-10, good cond.....\$25
 Husqvarna 36R Weed Whip, parts only.....free
 QHA assemblies for Toro GM300/3000 reels, used, good cond.....make offer
 Scraper Brush Assemblies (33-1000) for Toro GM300/3000, new/used...make offer
 Scraper Comb Assemblies (11-0070-01) for Toro GM300/3000, new/used.....m.o.

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The Calcium Kick

A Major Player with Returns Above and Below

By RICK GABLER
Superior Tech Products

The majority of this article was written in the spring of 1998. Since everything from cereal and bread to new and old turfgrass products are adding Calcium to their ingredients, I thought it would be a good time to review the basic benefits that Calcium has on both the soil and turfgrass plant.

In review:

We all know how critical the correct nutrients within the soil and turfgrass are for turf survival during the more stressful periods of time. Calcium is one of the nutrients to help with this task. Its nutrient carrying capabilities within the turfgrass are critical. Its responsibility within the soil is major. Then why do we not see it added to fertility programs more? Let's go over some of the major proven facts of Calcium, before we try to answer this.

A) **Calcium improves soil structure in heavy clay soils.** Calcium is used to flocculate the clays in the soil. Flocculation is the process where smaller clay particles are broken up and then held together in fewer but larger particles. These particles allow more air space between them, which means more air and water movement down through the root system. Better infiltration and conductivity results in less water on the surface that may help minimize algae problems.

B) **Calcium helps plants absorb nutrients better.** In a simplified manner, Calcium is a nutrient carrier in both the soil and turfgrass tissue. In the soil it helps control the water movement and conductivity which means it can deliver more nutrients from the soil solution. In the turfgrass, Calcium helps regulate water and nutrient uptake by the roots and the movement throughout the plant. Calcium aids cell division and cell wall formation and is critical for respiration during high heat and humidity periods. A large Calcium deficiency within the turfgrass could result in poor root development and little response to nitrogen or iron applications. Also, high nitrogen applications in the spring or fall can lead to wilt if the calcium within the turfgrass is below its target range.

C) **Calcium helps bind organic matter to clay.** The value of organics is increased when Calcium levels in the soil are correct. Microbial populations favor a correct Ca: Mg ratio (1). Imbalances of Calcium and Magnesium can permit organic residues to decay into alcohol, a sterilant to bacteria, and also into formaldehyde, a preservative of cell tissue. In soil tests, this is exactly what is happening when we see high levels of organics and low levels of available Calcium. A minimal response to organic fertilizer inputs can be seen

in these situations.

D) **Calcium can decrease the Sodium content in the soil.** Because Calcium is divalent (double positive charge), and atomic weight of the Calcium molecule being 40 and sodium being 23 with a single charge, sodium can be replaced on the soil colloid by Calcium. The sodium is then ionized in the soil solution, which then can be flushed.

Here are some of the findings we have seen after completing many soil reports in the upper Midwest:

+ Calcium levels in the sand-based greens are usually 75-90% base saturation. This usually means calcareous sand was used in the construction.

+ Old push-up greens usually show a 55-75% base saturation of Calcium.

Which one of these is better for Calcium availability? It may be difficult to say until you do a soil test called "Water Soluble Past Extraction." This test takes a sample of your soil, and adds either distilled water, or even better, your irrigation water. The soil solution is then sucked from it and analyzed for nutrients. The nutrients found in this solution is what is available to your turfgrass roots. This test, when completed with a Turfgrass Tissue Test, will end all arguments to the availability of the nutrients in the soil. Unless Gypsum, Limestone, Dolomite or a liquid Calcium source has been applied, we typically see a low level of available Calcium. When the available Calcium reaches its target range and is in balance with other nutrients, the results on the turfgrass and soil is very significant. Disease, algae, thatch, LDS, watering and color uniformity can be greatly affected.

Here is some of the available bulk Calcium sources:

A) **Gypsum.** Usually around 22% Calcium and 16% Sulfur. Most widely used. Does not significantly effect pH. Check Sulfur levels in the soil before application.

B) **Limestone.** Usually around 36% Calcium. Can raise pH.

C) **Dolomite.** Usually around 21% Calcium and 10% Magnesium. Can raise pH. Check Magnesium levels in the soil before application. *(The above three products are usually in granular form but liquids are available.)*

D) **Liquid Calcium.** Usually around 8% Calcium. Immediately available to the turfgrass. Be careful with the products that are utilizing Calcium Nitrate as the Calcium source. A good source, but a potential for burn when used at high rates.

E) **New Calcium with Potassium or other nutrients.**

(Continued on Page 13)

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL UPDATE

By BOB VAVREK

USGA Agonomist, North Central Region

I was asked to look into my crystal ball and discuss potential problems that superintendents in the North Central Region might encounter during the upcoming season. At first, issues such as cholorthalonil use restrictions came to mind or the steady westward march of gypsy moths and Japanese beetles across Wisconsin into Minnesota. However, I decided to discuss a more general concern, one that most of us in the upper Midwest tend to take for granted -- water.

The abundance of fresh water lakes/rivers, readily available groundwater, and over 30 inches of precipitation each year across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are the reasons why we rarely consider water to be an issue on the golf course as long as a relatively dependable irrigation system exists. Too little water or too much water (mostly too much), however, can have a considerable impact on the health of the turf and the quality of the playing surfaces.

Water impacts the golf course even before it is born. The presence of wetland habitat can limit the amount of land available for development at a particular site.

Protecting wetlands and wetland mitigation can significantly increase the cost of building a course. Only time will tell what impact, if any, the new Bush administration will have on wetland development and other environmental issues.

Once construction begins, the washouts and erosion associated with heavy rainfall events can throw a monkey wrench into the timetable for opening a course. One the other hand, a lack of consistent rainfall during grow in will hinder the germination and development of turf across slopes, mounds, in roughs and other areas that lack supplemental irrigation. Rough turf quality can be set back a year or more during a droughty grow in.

Water continues to be an issue after turf establishment. An increasing number of courses are experiencing the problem of moss encroachment on greens. The ability of moss to compete in turf is enhanced by excessively close mowing

heights, low fertility, and overwatered playing surfaces. Sometimes an extended period of wet weather causes a surge of moss growth, but most often it was related to too much irrigation and/or poor surface/subsurface drainage through or across the green. I see a few more home remedies in my crystal ball, but don't expect any long-term success regarding moss control until the grass is a little higher and the greens are drier.

Heavy rainfall events during the 2000 season caused some of the most severe bunker washouts I have ever encountered. I see more superintendents experimenting with new erosion control materials, such as Bunker Woll, in severely sloped cavities.

Experience will dictate how and where to employ these materials to minimize bunker erosion, but I doubt any material will be a panacea for erosion problems in all architectural styles of bunkers.

On a final note, I encourage everyone to have their irrigation water tested at least once this year. A number of reputable independent labs are available to determine pH, soluble sales, bicarbonates, and other characteristics of water that can, under some circumstances, have a significant effect on turf quality, especially during extended periods of drought.

Superintendents in the more arid regions of the country and those at courses where effluent water is used for irrigation will never take water quality for granted. The water is tested frequently and the steady buildup of salts near the surface greens during dry weather is constantly monitored. Sand based greens are subjected to long irrigation cycles at appropriate intervals to flush the accumulation of salts from the upper soil profile -- a stress that can cause injury to *Poa annua* playing surfaces.

Salt accumulation is not a common problem at courses in the upper Midwest because the frequent thundershowers that occur throughout the summer provide a natural flushing action through a green. On the other hand, the unusual weather patterns over the past several years have provided the type of conditions where damage to greens from excessive salts did occur at several courses. Damage that could have been prevented by simply testing the irrigation water and monitoring the soil profile with an inexpensive conductivity meter during periods of hot dry weather. Feel free to call the North Central Regional office in Wisconsin (262/797-8743) for information anything you may encounter during the season.



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