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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
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Richard Traver Jr., CGCS.....Monticello CC  
763/295-3323 Fax: 763/271-0124  
supytrav@soncom.com

### Editor

Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS  
supytrav@soncom.com



### Editorial and Business Office:

Scott Turtinen, Executive Director  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association  
240 Minnetonka Avenue South, P.O. Box 617  
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-1617  
Tel: 952/473-0557 Fax: 952/473-0576  
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227  
E-mail: scott@mgcsa.org

## From Your President's Desk



E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS

## Take A Moment to Step Back To Take Stock of Your Life

In the wake of the WTC tragedy we must all be watchful of things out of the ordinary. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has asked all those with supplies of chemicals and fertilizers to keep them locked and inventories managed to prevent unauthorized use of these products. It is also prudent to take a moment and step back to take stock of your life. Think about the things that really matter... family, friends and loved ones. Take stock of your finances and be sure that you will be providing for those left behind if, God forbid, something bad were to happen to you. Last of all, take care of yourself.

\* \* \* \*

**On September 25th the Research Scramble was played at Edina Country Club.** The field was full and the day was as nice as it could get. Our thanks go out to Mike Kelly and his staff for having the golf course in excellent condition. My team was able to one-putt 14 out of 18 holes, none of the putts were mine. Congratulations to the team from Hillcrest Golf Club of St. Paul, the winners at 13 under.

\* \* \* \*

**In the "what's going on" department,** the Board is busy preparing for the annual meeting in December. Tom Fischer has put together a great slate of candidates. James Bade and the education committee have made the seminar portion of the conference as strong as it has ever been. Plan to attend the conference; it is going to be one of the best ever.

\* \* \* \*

**On that same line, the MTGF is considering running the annual conference in conjunction with the MNLA conference.** This would offer all of us a greater educational experience as well as an expanded trade show. The plus side of this plan far outweighs the down side. Stay tuned for more information in the future. If you have strong feelings on this matter, I would suggest that you call Larry Vetter and let him know how you feel.

\* \* \* \*

**Fall is upon us and all of us are looking forward** to the slower part of our seasons. Take time to recharge and experience the season for right around the corner is the white stuff.

Respectfully,  
Paul Eckholm, CGCS  
epeckholm@msn.com

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## MGCSA CALENDAR

**Tues.-Thurs., December 4, 5, 6**  
**MGCSA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**AND**  
**MTGF CONFERENCE AND SHOW**  
 Minneapolis Convention Center



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# New Yorkers Appreciate Support of GCSAA Chapters

*(Editor's Note: This message is sent on behalf of John Carlone, CGCS, president of the Metropolitan GCSA.)*

Dear GCSAA Affiliated Chapter Representatives:

On behalf of all the members of the Metropolitan GCSA, I would like to thank you for the outpouring of prayers, words of sympathy and acts of kindness directed to our members following the tragic events in our great city. We sincerely appreciate your support during this time of sorrow.

Many golf course superintendents in New York City and the surrounding area had family members, members of their golf facilities, friends and relatives that were directly impacted by the terrorists attacks. We are a strong chapter and one that will persevere through this unthinkable act.

Several of you contacted me recently to ask what your chapter could do to help with the relief efforts. I have asked The GCSAA Foundation, which is a charitable organization that can receive tax deductible contributions, to assist the Metropolitan chapter with accepting and administering donations. If your chapter would like to make a donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund or the FDNY and NYPD Relief Fund (this fund provides relief to the children of the firemen and policemen who died in the act of duty during the attacks on the World Trade Center) through The GCSAA Foundation, please make your check payable to The GCSAA Foundation - Relief, and mail it to:

The GCSAA Foundation  
P.O. Box 419004  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6004

Your chapter will receive credit for your donation within The GCSAA Foundation's Cumulative Giving program. All donations received by November 1, 2001 will be forwarded to the American Red Cross and the FDNY and NYPD Relief Fund to assist with the national relief efforts. Once donations are received, I will coordinate with GCSAA and The Foundation to present the contribution on behalf of GCSAA affiliated chapters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (516) 935-6505 or Teri Harris, director of development of The GCSAA Foundation, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 465.

Again, thank you for your emotional and financial support. It makes me proud to be associated with a profession that is always willing to help in times of need.

*Sincerely,  
John Carlone, CGCS  
The Meadow Brook Club  
Metropolitan GCSA President*

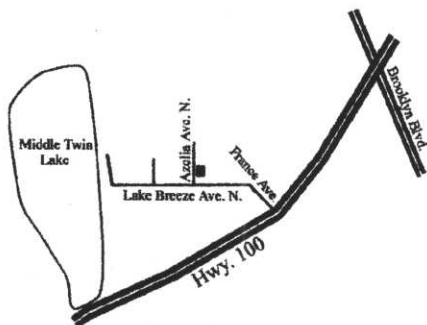
## Additional Relief Efforts

On behalf of all members, GCSAA has contributed \$50,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Additionally, the proceeds from the annual Robert Trent Jones Invitational Tournament, hosted by the Metedeconk National Golf Club, which normally benefit scholarships, research and education, will be donated to the relief efforts.



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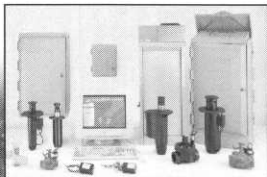
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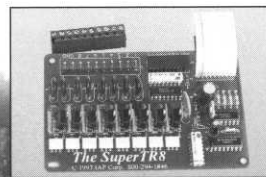
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# Slit Seeding vs. Core Cultivation/Overseeding

By BOB VAVREK  
USGA

Many courses across the Region experienced significant turf loss during the hot, droughty stretch of stressful weather this summer. Now that cooler temperatures and rainfall have returned questions are raised regarding the most effective techniques for returning a severely damaged site to a playable condition.

Repairs using sod or plugs of turf yield almost immediate improvement. A properly sodded site can accommodate play after approximately three weeks, under ideal growing conditions. Motorized carts, however, should still be diverted from sites repaired with sod for a considerably longer period of time using ropes and stakes if necessary.

Not all courses have the money and labor available to undertake an extensive renovation project that requires sod. A less expensive and labor intensive option is to overseed thin or bare areas after hollow tine core cultivation or overseed using a slit seeder. Which operation produces the fastest results or should a combination of both techniques be employed?

In general, slit seeders produce the best results in the most severely damaged sites - areas that are bare or areas with very little turf cover. The unit must be adjusted properly to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. It is easier to cut a clean channel and drop seed into bare turf than a site with clumpy or partial turf cover. Furthermore, when the seed germinates in a slit cut into bare areas, it will have little competition from mature plants. Cut seed into an area having a fair amount of healthy turf cover and many of the seedlings will not be able to compete with the nearby mature plants. Turf species that have a slow rate of estab-

lishment, like Kentucky bluegrass, can be especially sensitive to competition from existing plants. Incidentally, always overseed in two directions (diamond pattern) to accelerate the rate of recovery, and inspect the slits frequently to determine whether or not seed is being dropped directly into the grooves.

Core cultivation followed by overseeding is the better option for improving turf cover in weak areas where a significant amount of turf cover still exists. Use large 5/8" diameter hollow tines and cut the tines or adjust the unit to produce shallow holes. Process the cores with vertical mowers and overseed just before the soil is matted or brushed back into the holes. Seedlings in the large holes have more time to mature before they have to compete with the nearby turf compared to seedlings growing in a narrow slit. In addition, the aeration operation relieves compaction and improves the exchange of air and moisture into the root zone of existing turf and the new seedlings.

Regardless of the renovation method, be sure to apply an appropriate amount of starter fertilizer to the site and keep the seedbed moist using automatic irrigation or hand watering if necessary. A clean straw mulch can be helpful during establishment and its' presence will keep golfers, well, some golfers, off the damaged sites during the recovery process.

Hard to believe it's nearly time to initiate early fall snow mold treatments

\* \* \* \*

*(Editor's Note: Bob Vavrek may be reached at [rvavrek@usga.org](mailto:rvavrek@usga.org) or 262-797-8743.)*

**The Minnesota Pest Control Law was revised and requires (effective January 1, 2002) that "Application of pesticide to the property of a golf course must be performed by a commercial or non-commercial pesticide applicator with appropriate use certifications."**



# Approaching Fall Maintenance/Renovation

By BOB BRAME  
USGA Director

The nights are getting longer and this means soil temperatures are dropping. Cooler soil temperatures point to some needed recovery for those who have experienced turf loss this summer. There has been a wide continuum with regards to the occurrence of hot and wet. Most areas of the region experienced their share of hot, but some stayed much drier than others. As you would expect, the courses that experienced heavier and more frequent rain-fall have suffered the most. This is particularly true when heavy soils and heavy play were added into the mix.

During the last few weeks of travel I've been plagued by the dreaded question, "why are we in such poor condition when the course down the road looks great?" Often the individual asking the question doesn't want to hear that weather, soil type and play volume are the difference, even though it may be the correct answer. The message is simple; learn from the summer's problems, correct the limitations before next season, and don't try to compare your golf course to another course.

The intensity of summer diseases like Pythium and brown patch have softened recently. However, there has been somewhat of a resurgence of dollar spot. Active gray leaf spot disease has been confirmed on a few courses, and those with perennial ryegrass should take protective measures. The surge of fairy ring activity, observed earlier in the season, has completely faded away at most courses.

While the cooler nighttime temperatures will aid in stimulating recovery, closely monitor irrigation needs over the next few weeks. Most courses have shallow roots and generally vulnerable turf, which translates to less tolerance to wilt conditions brought on by higher evapotranspiration rates.

Scout carefully for grub activity. Grub damage was spotted during the third week of August. Feeding grubs, weakened roots, and elevated evapotranspiration rates don't yield a very positive combination. Mole activity continues to be a concern and some would tie this activity to grub populations. The spring-loaded harpoon traps available at lawn and garden supply outlets are being used by courses throughout the region to address the mole population.

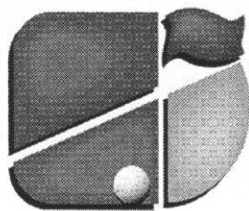
Hopefully, aeration was on the calendar at your course for completion last month. Early September aeration in concert with more aggressive feeding sets the stage for recovery and initiate the establishment of a solid foundation for next summer. While aeration has value even in the late fall, timing is important to achieve the best possible combination of benefits. The later aeration is moved into the fall the less opportunity the turf has to recover from this important management process. It seems that pressures increase with each passing year to push aeration work later in the fall, especially on the putting surfaces. Unduly accommodating play can set the stage for problems down the road.

Should specific concerns/questions exist about how to approach fall maintenance/renovation at your course, give us a call (859/356-3272). As previously stated, courses cannot be accurately compared and this means the specifics of a maintenance program need to be custom fitted.

\*\*\*

(Editor's Note: Bob Brame may also be reached at [bobbbrame@usga.org](mailto:bobbbrame@usga.org).)

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