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# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the MGCSA

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance*

*By Robert Panuska*



**Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.** The 6 Ps to success as I was taught in my 6th grade social studies class. I don't remember many specifics from my grade school days, but this one really stuck. It's very simple and very practical for everyone, especially those of us in the golf course maintenance profession. Now, if we could get our turf to adhere to this simple practice, wouldn't life be grand? I would anticipate the fact that we are going to cut it down to near nothing, verticut it, topdress it, aerify it, drag it, roll it, fertilize it, spray it, over-water it, under-water it, hit it, compact it with equipment and golfers and expect it to stay alive and thrive! In reality, I think plants do live by the 6 Ps, the problem is that we push our turf well beyond what it was designed to deal with. So we take over and *Properly* put our own *Plan* into place *Prior* to the anticipated *Performance* in the hopes to *Prevent* any problems that could cause *Poor* conditions. Every course is different and we all have expectations to meet, be they our own or our patrons, usually both. While we cannot possibly know all things that may challenge us, this profession forces us to be "on top of the ball" so to say. As you all know, multiple factors come into play every day and even the best plans are sometimes reduced to ashes. The good news is that "next time" we will be better equipped to respond, be that a turf health issue, an employee situation or a Board member concern.

\* \* \* \*

**Thanks to everyone who attended our first three meetings of the year.** Don't forget to mark off Thursday, July 29th to attend the U of M Field Day. We purposely do not schedule a regular meeting in July so that we can take advantage of this opportunity. This is a great event to bring your assistant(s), staff and interns to help them "see the future" of our profession. Brian and Eric and the entire U of M staff put in HUGE time to pull this off and they deserve our support by attending.

\* \* \* \*

**I would encourage you to submit an article to Jack for publication in *Hole Notes*.** He has "opened the door" to many possibilities for your contributions, from pictures and captions to full manuscripts. As I have said before, this publication can sit right alongside any national publication that I receive. Thank you to those who have submitted material and again to Jack for the outstanding job you are doing!

*Until next month,  
Rob*

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# Is Minnesota Going California?

By BRIAN C. NETTZ, CGCS

*The Presidio Golf Course, San Francisco, California*

One of the great things about the GCSAA Conference and Show is the opportunity to discuss common issues with people across the world and to learn of the interesting differences among industry regulations in other locales. Personally, I get a kick from hearing my friends at Minnesota courses talk about all the new chemistries that they have applied to their turf, since here in California we can apply probably one eighth of the various chemistries that one can apply to turf in Minnesota.

By way of introduction, I am a 1994 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in turf management. I worked for roughly five years at various clubs in the Minneapolis area as an assistant before I decided to head West to the San Francisco Bay Area. After a brief stint as an assistant at an Oakland area club, I became superintendent at a golf facility in the Monterey Bay area for nearly five years. After five years in Monterey County, a county with a rather "permissive" policy on pesticide use due to the huge Ag industry, I moved into what could be called the most restrictive place on the planet - the Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco. Not only inside of San Francisco, but also inside a National Park in San Francisco.

Now I suppose many of you are thinking that was probably a poor choice on my part. However, it seems that Minnesota is on the fast track to becoming more and more like California in its regulation of pesticides and their use. I have read with trepidation of the fertilizer restrictions now in place, although I don't exactly understand the logic behind it. A guy can still go to Home Depot and dump a half a bag of fertilizer on the lawn and the other half on the sidewalk before a 1-inch rain. Now am I to believe that the golf courses are polluting the ground water? There may have been a time when chemicals and fertilizers were applied with impunity, but it wasn't within my nearly 17 years in the industry. Who can afford to make unnecessary applications?

I believe that what happens in California is 10 years away from what will hit the Midwest but many industry peri-

odicals believe that tougher legislation is headed your way sooner, and California may be the model upon which your new regulations will be based. The fertilizer license and phosphorous concerns are the harbinger of greater things to come. I will explain the processes involved at my facility in the hopes that it will spark concern and proaction on the part of superintendents to educate the lawmakers in your state about our dedication to responsible



use, our challenges, our fiscal responsibility governing pesticide use and our dedication to the environment and its inhabitants.

First thing you need to understand is that once the EPA registers a pesticide for use on turf, it has to be registered for use by Cal EPA. The safety and environmental concerns of Cal EPA are stricter than that of the Federal Government, which is why you I hear you guys talk about chemical applications that you have made, and I haven't even heard of the product. Then you have to be able to apply it in your county as determined by the county Ag Commissioner.

This particular location is extreme. We do not make preventative applications. We stick to a comprehensive 130-page Integrated Pest Management Plan that covers the typical diseases of this climate and the products we can use to treat them, the circumstances that constitute an application window, and define the threshold requirement for chemical application. Basically we stick to Agronomy 101 here-mowing height, fertility levels and water management.

Basically if I see snow mold on the greens, I have to call the woman at the National Park Service who has the PCA. A PCA is a person who has a Pest Control Advisor's License. You cannot, even as a pesticide applicator license holder, apply a pesticide without a pest control recommendation from a PCA holder. All the turf suppliers retain a PCA because you cannot sell pesticides without a PCA license. The requirements for a PCA license are a four-year degree in a horticultural science and passing a tough exam.

In this scenario, the PCA will come out and inspect the greens, determine if there are any alternative measures we can take to mitigate damage and determine if a chemical application is necessary and prudent. In our case, we are socked in by fog for the majority of the summer, and the PCA is very reasonable about giving us the OK as long as she feels comfortable that we are using proper IPM procedures. So you see that there is a requisite level of integrity needed on the part of all parties

involved at a professional level. I could go out and take matters into my own hands, but why? I represent, to the National Park Service and the city residents looking for something to protest, superintendents and the golf industry. I don't want to be on tomorrow's front page news unless I win the lottery.

If a chemical application to the greens is warranted and prudent, then she will write me a pest control recommendation as shown. It is always weather dependent. The pest control recommendation will also contain various other actions necessary pursuant to this particular case. It also has an expiration date.

Now I can begin monitoring weather, checking the tee sheet to figure out how I will spray with the first tee time at five minutes before sunrise everyday. I have to maintain the proper re-entry interval as prescribed by the label, which is until spray has dried. Often the pest control recommendation will state not to apply with rainfall with rainfall forecast within 24 hours to ensure there is no off-site runoff.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

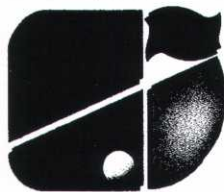




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**CORRECTION:** On page 15 of the June 2004 issue of Hole Notes, Superior Tech Products was incorrectly identified in the list of affiliate members who sponsored this year's events. The MGCSA thanks Superior Tech Products and all other affiliate members who help support the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 29

**U OF M FIELD DAY**

U OF M St. Paul Campus

Hosts: Dr. Brian Horgan and Larry Vetter

Monday, August 16

**STODOLA SCRAMBLE**

Somerset Country Club

Mendota Heights, Minn.

Host Superintendent: James Bade

Monday, September 13

**MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP**

Edina Country Club

Edina, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Mike Kelly

Monday, October 11

**FALL MIXER**

The Crossings at Montevideo

Montevideo, Minn.

Host Superintendent: Terry Negen

January 5, 6, 7, 2005

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Minneapolis Convention Center

Minneapolis, Minn.



## Going California—

(Continued from Page 5)

I will monitor this on three different websites and if things look good I will have to post a Notice of Intent to Apply a Pesticide in the pro shop, the clubhouse entrance and the upper and lower gates that create a public walk path. This must be done 24 hours in advance of application.

All this being done, we spray just as everyone has done since spraying began—our fingers crossed that the sprayer doesn't break halfway through. We do everything by the book and rinse the machine at our wash rack and spray rinse in the rough same as you guys.

The real challenge at this facility is scheduling tee times and spraying to maintain proper re-entry interval enforcement. Regular foliar fertilizer applications are not a problem for us. Although play will begin teeing off 5 minutes before sunrise, we can manage to stay ahead of play. If we have to make a fungicide application to the greens, or spray an herbicide (Turflon ester is our only option aside

from Roundup) we will plan it ahead of time as well as possible and block off tee times in the Super Twilight Rate hours. Therefore we will usually begin spraying at five-ish. This is usually when the winds pick up. We are on a peninsula and the ocean is very close by so the afternoon winds here can be brisk. We use covered booms and can make our applications as long as the wind speed is below 15 mph. The pro shop will maintain extra help on spray days to ensure that no one enters the treated area before the re-entry interval expires.

So, as you can see, there are definitely more hoops to jump through. Is it impossible? No. Is it unreasonable? No. The required work of the superintendent is not much more than the current industry standard of dedication to responsible pesticide use by the average superintendent. The difference is merely that the policies are mandated. The difference could be described merely as one of perception. Superintendents on the whole are an independent bunch. We have to be to survive. What impresses me is that we are, as a profession, people of integrity, commitment and lovers of the outdoors. After all,

if the course down the street called to borrow an aerifier you would eagerly loan it and an operator. Would a restaurant or hotel do the same? I don't think so. Perhaps we are not letting the people who make the laws know how committed we are to our courses, our profession, our players and our course's wildlife.

Prepare for more documentation, more regulation and smaller chemical arsenals. Do not, however, sit back and wait for it become law. Go out and tell the people who believe we are a detriment to the environment what we are about. Be active in the process, but respectful of other parties' views. The new mandates in your state seem familiar to me. The Emergency Response Plan that you are all working on is nearly identical to the ones we have to have here for our hazardous waste generator permits (used oil recycling).

Prepare yourselves to become even more of an administrator and communicator. After all, you are fortunate to have a beautiful environment around you. Become a voice in favor of its protection, not the opponent.



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# Weltzin, Traver, Salwei and Perreault Win Scholarship Scramble at WBYC

Considering the rather wet weather we've encountered in late May, Mother Nature cooperated very nicely on Monday, June 7th for the MGCSA Scholarship Scramble at White Bear Yacht Club. The temp was warm but a steady breeze helped make it a very enjoyable day to play.

The group of Scott Weltzin, CGCS, Pheasant Run Golf Course; Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello Country Club; Dennis Salwei, United Horticulture Supply, and Dennis Perreault, Pheasant Run Golf Course, captured the title by scrambling their way to 12-under-par 60 and winning a scorecard playoff over a group from the Links at Northfork. The Northfork team consisted of Jay Yonak, Brian McDonald, Mike Persons and Matt Persons.

Third place honors went to the home team of John Steiner, CGCS, Mike Murray, Andrew Layton and Brad Marty. The White Bear Yacht Club group fired a 61.

Special thanks to Linda Carroll, general manager of White Bear Yacht Club, and her staff for providing MGCSA members with excellent food and accommodations for the fund raiser.

Golf professional Tom Skoglund and his staff scored the event and figured out skins and tie-breakers which was no easy task as six teams tied for third at 61.

Three long drive competitions were won by Ted Schirck, Hydrologic; Jeff Meyer, Koronis Hills Golf Club, and Mitch Hanson, Rochester Golf and Country Club. Mitch drove the 357-yard, 12th hole.

Four closest-to-the-pin competitions were won by Mark Boonstra, Hollydale; Brad Deyak, Wapicada Golf Club; Joe Churchill, Simplot Partners, and Rob Adams, The Ponds at Battle Creek.

Thanks to a nice shot and contribution by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club, the TROE Center will utilize a turf vehicle for one year. Tiziani Golf Cars donated the vehicle for the closest-to-the-pin shot on No. 6. Dr. Brian Horgan accepted the generous gift on behalf of the TROE Center from Andrew Hochmuth, Tiziani Golf Cars. (See photo at right.)

MGCSA Board member Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, emceed the banquet and awards presentation where University of Minnesota student Samuel J. Bauer was presented the 2004 MGCSA Turf Scholarship Award. (See story on Page 15.)



**THE GROUNDS STAFF AT WHITE BEAR YACHT CLUB**

John Steiner, CGCS, far right, and his grounds staff had White Bear Yacht Club in great shape for the MGCSA Scholarship Scramble. Pictured from left to right are Andrew Layton, Dan Pakko, Jeff Merideth, Kevin Anderson, Mike Murray, Jason Andert and John Steiner, CGCS. Not pictured: Brad Marty.



**TROE CENTER WINS TURF VEHICLE AT SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE**

Andrew Hochmuth, Tiziani Golf Cars, left, was happy to see the TROE Center win the use of a turf vehicle for the rest of the year. Accepting the offer on behalf of the TROE Center is Dr. Brian Horgan. Tiziani Golf Cars offered the use of a turf vehicle for one year to the player who was closest-to-the pin on No. 6. JackMacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club, hit the shot for the TROE Center.



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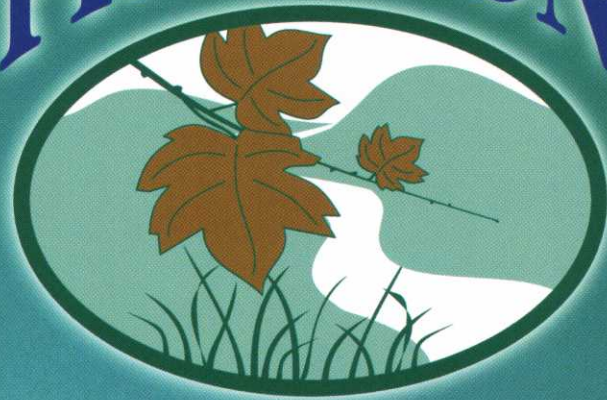


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