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Upcoming Events

June 3rd

The Scramble

Medina Golf and Country Club

Host Erin McManus

August 13

The Championship

Prestwick Golf Club

Host Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS



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CONTENTS

Vol. 46, No. 4 May 2013

Feature Articles:

- Medina Match Up** pages 12-15
Contributed by Erin McManus , Superintendent at Medina G&CC
- Minimizing Tree Risks In Public Spaces** pages 20-28
Contributed by Gary Johnson, University of Minnesota Extension
- Evaluation of Core Cultivation Practices To Reduce Ecological Risk of Pesticides in Runoff From Turf** pages 34-36
Contributed by Dr. B.P. Horgan Turf Extension, UofM, Dr. P. Rice, USDA, Uof M and J. Rittenhouse, USDA, UofM

Monthly Columns:

- Presidential Perspective** page 6-7
Scottie Hines, CGCS
- In Bounds** pages 10-11
Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
- Within the Leather** pages 48-49
Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS

June 1st Scholarship Deadline



Cutural Practices to Limit Pesticide Runoff
Research you can use by Dr. Brian Horgan on
pages

*On the cover:
A moment of calm before the
MGCSA troops take on
Medina Golf and Country Club
on June 3rd at:
The Scramble*

...Even More Content...

- Got Green?** pages 30-34
Mark Koepsell, Healthy Ponds from Bioverse



**Hen House Habitat
at
Brackett's Crossing**

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bimonthly in November/December and January/February by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 10050 204th Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Jack MacKenzie CGCS publisher. Please send any address changes, articles for publication, advertising and concerns to jack@mgcsa.org.



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS

Here we are at the end of May. I feel like the season has just started and I cannot believe how far behind I seem to be. How does this happen so fast? We just can't seem to catch a break with the weather. If it isn't raining sideways, it's 90 and blowing. If it isn't 90 and blowing, it's 63 and ugly out. It really seems we are trending to have a year of extremes. Not exactly what we need as many of us are trying to get some recovery of fine turf and just get caught up. I am anxious to see what all this does to the drought monitor.

It is times like this it is easy to forget about the important things in life. I do not know who wrote the following or if it really happened. I have it printed and look at it from time to time to remind myself of the important stuff. Enjoy:

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles, poured them into the jar and shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two bottles of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.'

The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions - and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else - the small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.'

The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Spend time with your children.

Spend time with your parents.

Take your partner out to dinner.

Play another 18 holes of golf.

There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter.

Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beers represented.

The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'

The beers just show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.

I think that about sums it up. In fact, I think I will put a mayonnaise jar filled with golf balls on my desk, maybe on the book shelf at home to keep me a bit more grounded when I feel like I do right now.

Best of luck in 2013



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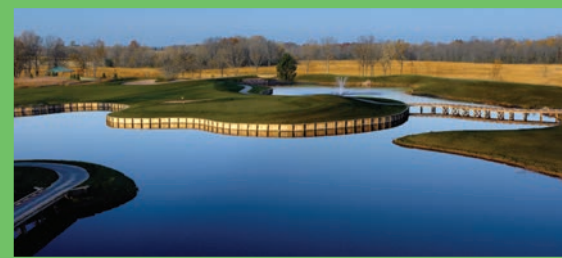
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In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Water fees dropped from environment budget bill

Posted at 1:26 PM on May 18, 2013 by Tom Scheck, Minnesota.publicradio.org

A plan that would have increased water fees to pay for increased monitoring of the state's groundwater is off the table. The conference committee on the environment and ag budget bill scrapped the water fees, but the monitoring will be done with money from the state's general fund.

Fine turf managers, environmentalists to their core, across our region have been expecting an increase in pressure to conserve water for quite some time as the awareness and appreciation for the quality and quantity of this finite resource grows among state agencies and in the legislature. The economist within feels spared. However the greater problem still remains. *How does the golf industry respond to long term water management challenges?*

In general our state, "land of 10,000 lakes", currently has issues with the quantity of water available at any given time. Surface water, which is visible and measurable and can be recycled within the surface system, provides the majority of water to users in the state, the greatest of which is power generation that utilizes 65 % of both surface and aquifer sources. The bulk of water consumed for municipal use, agriculture, mining and yes, golf course irrigation, is from aquifers deep in the ground.

These storage systems are a mystery as they are only *estimated* in size and perhaps more importantly it isn't completely known as to *how they* are recharged.

Simply put, surface water seeps into the aquifers over time. As the population in our state grows, more impermeable surfaces are created, agricultural properties expanded with increased drainage and wetlands are filled in to accommodate the growth. Rather than 'seeping' into below ground aquifers, the surface water is redirected...eventually out of our state and either north to Hudson Bay, east to the