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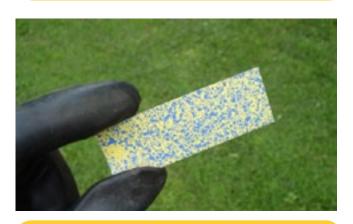
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Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published monthly except bimonthly in November/December and January/February by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 10050 204th Street North, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Jack MacKenzie CGCS publisher.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



Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

I finally got around to reading a back log of trade

magazines this morning and while there were the usual compliment of technical articles and advertisements. there was also the section in GCM that lists all the member job changes that have come in since the last issue. I always seem to peruse these to see if there is anyone I know or if there has been a change at a course I may be familiar with. I have worked in four different states and have around 20 or so former assistants who are scattered around the country and I like to follow their careers, so this is a great way to do it. This exercise reminded me how quickly things can change and you need to keep up.

It is really a demonstration of the importance of staying connected. Everyone now relies on social media to stay connected and I guess if you are on Facebook or Twitter, you can pretty much accomplish that most of the time. I noticed a friend of mine from the east coast who lost his job a couple years ago and has been looking ever since finally landed a superintendent position all the way across the country. I noticed that a superintendent (who I don't know) who was at a former TPC facility landed the job at Davenport C.C. and realized that a few other people from TPC facilities didn't get that same job. I doubt I would have known those things even if I was on Facebook, and nothing like this usually shows up on Twitter.

What does that mean? Well for me, it means that there is still more to networking than social media. Staying connected in this profession yields so many opportunities in addition to job opportunities. Then I realized why the BOD of MGCSA is so adamant about providing those opportunities for face to face networking for our members. When the economic downturn started in 2008, everyone hunkered down,

didn't leave their course for anything, lost funding for education and thus networking, and just plain did everything to keep their job. We, as a profession, and MGCSA as a professional organization, lost something when that happened. We have been able to resurrect the networking, camaraderie and personal exchange of information. But like the golf business itself, we never got it all back. Take some time this fall, now that the hustle and bustle of the season is behind us and get together with other members at the Wee One event or the Fall Shoot and reconnect, recharge and participate in something we are all proud to be a member of, MGCSA.

Here's a topic that face to face networking could yield some really valuable information about, the Minimum Wage increases. Next year, in August, the minimum wage goes to \$9.00/hour. I recently surveyed a number of clubs in the metro area about their current situation and what their plans were for the impending minimum wage. Most responded that they would

be raising their entry level pay to meet the minimum wage and most likely be raising the wages of at least their laborer staff a commensurate amount. Most of the respondents indicated a .50 raise would be what they anticipated.

Good information. But if I would have been able to speak to them face to face or in a discussion with several of them at the same time, I might also have learned what the estimated impact to their budget would be, whether they thought they might not be able to have the same number on their staff next year, or whether they thought that the increased wage would provide better, more stable seasonal workers, or how they felt about now being a minimum wage employer. Instead, I got raw data which was very helpful and in some cases revealing, but didn't provide some of the details I could have gotten out of a conversation at a MGCSA event. For me, there is still great value in the MGCSA "get togethers".

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FUNGICIDE CHEMISTRIES AND MODES OF ACTION This seminar will provide a review of the major classes of fungicides used for disease control on golf courses. Mode of action, systemicity and resistance development will be a focus for the talk. The best uses for the control of key diseases will also be covered. This seminar will also highlight new fungicide products and how they can be best used.

POA ANNUAL DISEASES
– BROWN RING PATCH,
ANTHRACNOSE, &
SUMMER PATCH
This seminar will highlight
information on three key
diseases of annual bluegrass
used as golf course turf:
brown ring (Waitea) patch,

anthracnose, and summer patch. Identification, timing and key cultural and chemical controls will be discussed. Integrated management of these diseases in seasonal programs will be featured.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR HARD TO **CONTROL DISEASES** This seminar will highlight information on "hard to control" and emerging diseases of golf course turf. Tips and tricks for the control of fairy ring, fungicideresistant dollar spot, and bacterial diseases will be highlighted. Cultural and chemical controls will be discussed, including the development of seasonal control programs.

BIOGRAPHY

Frank Wong, Ph.D., is a technical specialist and part of the Green Solutions Team at Bayer Environmental Science. He is based in the Washington, D.C. area and focuses on the Mid Atlantic and Northeastern U.S. Prior to joining Bayer, Dr. Wong was an associate professor and turf disease specialist at the University of California, *Riverside, from 2001-2011,* where he had statewide research and extension responsibilities. He earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Davis and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Cornell *University. Dr. Wong currently* has national responsibilities for technical service for Bayer's fungicide portfolio for turf grass use. He has been an



associate editor for Plant Disease and editor in chief of Plant Disease Management Reports. In addition to participation in many state and regional turfgrass conferences around the United States, he has also lectured internationally on turfgrass disease identification and management. He has been a GCSAA faculty member since 2003 and is an instructor for the warm season turf disease course.

USGA RULES OF GOLF AND HOW THEY AFFECT COURSE MAINTENANCE Golf course maintenance and the Rules of Golf should work hand-in-hand with each other. However, they can be at odds with each other if not handled properly. This session will offer superintendents and administrators a look at

how to improve day-to-day maintenance procedures (e.g. course signage, hazard marking, etc.) while also affording the golfer a proper field to play on.

BIOGRAPHY Tyler Riggin is a graduate of The University of Tennessee and has 11 years of experience in golf administration with The Golf Association of Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Golf Association, and United States Golf Association. Riggin is currently Director, Regional Affairs - Great Lakes Region (representing 7 states).



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Kevin Ross



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In Boundsby Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

On your behalf, over the last two and one half years I have

had the opportunity to pursue and develop positive relationships with influential individuals who work at our state agencies in the Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Pollution Control and the Bureau of Water and Soil Resources. Prior to these partnerships our industry was synonymous with mineral mining in northern Minnesota and viewed as a spoiler of finite natural resources, simply for a recreational pastime.

Heads lifted when told the "good economic story of golf"; the 2.4 billion dollars of economic impact and the 35,000 jobs maintained annually by our industry, the 75,000 acres of green space, wildlife and pollinator habitat, the responsible attitude adopted when utilizing water, applying nutrients and plant protectants and the willingness to partner with public entities for the betterment of our community at large. Not only do heads lift, but also they

spin real quickly once the positives of golf are touted.

It has been hard work, but the Environmental Stewardship Committee, led under the direction of Scottie Hines CGCS and Superintendent at Windsong Farm, has continued to creep forward with baby steps as they have learned that nothing moves fast when working with state agencies. It has been an education, with each department having their own special requests for consideration.

The catalyst of everyone's concern is water; its distribution, allocation and availability. It has been said often that the land of 10,000 lakes couldn't possibly have issues with water, yet we do, because much of the water that drops from the sky eventually runs off our state to the Hudson Bay in the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east or the Golf of Mexico via the Mississippi River. We have clean water, the best in the country. Yet without the ability to create a reservoir system, the state agencies have taken the attitude that everyone must take care of and not