



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evaluating the Critical Areas Of Drainage and Irrigation

By Robert Panuska

Just stick around awhile if you don't like the weather and it will change. This is not some old saying that grandpa just came up with, it is fact! In May and June we were sloping in mud and muck and as I write this column we have just had the longest string of 90 degree days in a row since 1988. We have now adequately tested our drainage systems and our irrigation systems and know the areas of weakness and needed improvements. It should be no problem to come up with projects for course improvements, just the dollars to fund them, right? I cannot think of two more critical areas on the golf course that can make or break a maintenance program, drainage and irrigation.

Of course, these are only a couple of the issues we deal with during the season but many other challenges we face are affected by our lack of either drainage or irrigation. Who better to evaluate these situations and make recommendations for improvements than the superintendent? Certainly the golfer recognizes the problems that are created by deficiencies, but the superintendent has the course knowledge and experience to evaluate the problem from all angles and recommend solutions. I encourage you to enlist the help of other superintendents and/or affiliate members with expertise in these areas to assist you in "selling" solutions to your owners and boards. Be sure to stress the long term benefits of the solutions from the "golfers" perspective.



Dr. Brian Horgan, left, accepted the fourth installment to the University of Minnesota Foundation from MGCSA President Robert Panuska at the University of Minnesota Turf & Grounds Field Day on July 28 at the U of M St. Paul campus.

I want to thank David Oberle and Jeff Hartman, our affiliate representatives on the MGCSA Board, for organizing a vendor-only summer meeting and golf outing July 18 at Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. We had the opportunity to visit about some issues and concerns they have as well as enjoy a great golf course. Thanks to all who attended and to host Superintendent Barry Provo.

Believe it or not we only have two more events scheduled for this season, the MGCSA championship at Midland Hills Country Club on September 26 and the "Bunker Boot Camp" at Monticello Country Club on October 10. Watch your mail/e-mail for registration information.

Until next month,
Rob

HOLE NOTES

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