



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Superintendents are the Best
People To Respond to Problems
That Arise On Golf Courses*

By Robert Panuska

Alright already, enough is enough of this heat and humidity. I certainly hope that by the time you read this we are well into some "normal" cool September weather. The disease pressure this summer and the resulting turf damage many have experienced is nothing short of the winter kill many had this spring. It seems that the general feeling I am hearing is that someone is to blame for this turf loss.

Well, how 'bout this, the ever increasing demands to "push" the course way beyond what the initial design intended? As an example, if your soil profile and drainage are not able to handle the amount of water you received this spring, then you were already behind the eight-ball when the really hot weather hit. Now couple that with an irrigation system that is 20-plus years old with single row coverage and lacking pump capacity so you have to water 11 hours to get even close to the amount of water you need. You have a formula for declining condition of the turf. The expectation of our customers for "perfect" condition regardless of these factors has driven many superintendents to total frustration.

I wish I had the answers but I do know this for fact, the superintendent is the BEST person qualified to respond to the problems that arise on a course. Will we do everything right all the time? No, but we have the experience and local knowledge to evaluate all the options and move forward with a plan. If you are facing a tough situation at your course, please do not hesitate to call upon a fellow MGCSA member for advice and help. It may be a simple phone call or visit over lunch for moral support or a more extensive visit to the course, but please reach out and use the vast experience this membership has to offer. It doesn't hurt to remind yourself about the good things about our work too.

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Thank you to Dr. Brian Horgan and Dr. Eric Watkins and all the folks at the University of Minnesota horticulture department for making the 2005 Field Day on July 28 a huge success. I continue to be amazed by the vast number of projects at the TROE Center from plant breeding and NTEP trials to nutrient and pesticide fate studies to alternative grasses. There are a multitude of research projects underway.

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A very big THANK YOU to Tom Proshok and the entire staff at Brackett's Crossing Country Club for hosting our annual MGCSA Harold Stodola Research Scramble on August 1. The weather was great and the course was in top condition. Don't forget about the Bunker Boot Camp at Monticello Country Club on October 10.

Until next month,
Rob

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