



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recharging for the Backstretch

By James Bade

A "dog days of summer" greetings to you. This is going to be the quickest article I have written since I am scheduled to get out of town for three days!! I hope you are able to get away from it all to recharge yourself for the backstretch. I hope to catch some fish with my kids and spend some time with Stephanie doing a lot of nothing by a lake up north. To hear a loon in the stillness of the night...priceless.

This is the least amount of disease I have seen in a long time, especially compared to last year. But it is easily the driest year since 1988. Thank goodness for wetting agents. It would be interesting to know how many miles of hose has been moved around the golf course. The old bunkers, tile lines and tree roots sure leave their mark. It is a year where the VFD's come in handy and having two wells brings a peace of mind. It is amazing what a quarter inch of rain can do compared to all the effort of hose dragging. The sound of thunder...priceless.

Vendor Appreciation day was held at Heritage Links last month. Appreciation defined by Webster's dictionary is, "to value highly, to be fully aware of, and to recognize with gratitude." After being on the board of directors one becomes fully aware of the role the vendors play within the association. The relationship between the superintendent and the vendor is a highly valued one. As I sat around the table it was quite easy for me to remember all the vendors who served on the Board of Directors during my tenure: Kerry Glader, Bob Simondet, Ted Schirk, Joe Churchill, Jon Almquist, Dave Oberle, Jeff Hartman and Dan Brown. To think of their names that quickly means they brought a lot of insight to the board meetings. But more importantly new friends were made. Thank you Paul Eckholm and Heritage Links for hosting the event. Strong relationships between members of the MGCSA...priceless.

With guest days, drought and vacation I was unable to attend the BASF Fundraiser Tournament for the first time. What a nice way to raise some extra funds for the greater good of the association. Hats off to David Oberle and the BASF Corporation. To have a chemical representative in our own back yard of an international company is special. But more importantly David Oberle has a strong desire for our association to be a thriving one. My assistant and foreman had a great day at Albion Ridges. Thanks Brooks Ellingson for hosting. I will be waving as I drive by on my way to Park Rapids. The effort put forth by many in this association...priceless.

While I am tired of dragging hoses and sprinklers around, my son Sam is collecting sprinklers at home. He has six different styles in the backyard. At work we put rocks around the sprinklers due to the high pressure. So one night as I went out to pick up the yard, Sam had piled some rocks around his sprinkler heads. That just showed me how much he is watching what I do. The power of example and first impressions is amazing. So whether we are at home or at work, people are watching. Having good examples and mentors in your life...priceless.

Stay cool.

With gratitude
James Bade

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