



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whatever Your Philosophy in Life Try Not to Take it for Granted

By James Bade

If you are a shopper, I am sure you know about Marshall Fields Day. And if you are a summer goer in St. Paul, I bet you know about Grand Ole Day. But what if you are a turf manager in Minnesota? The U of Minnesota has Turf and Grounds Field Day. This year the date is Thursday, July 27. It is quite remarkable to see what Dr. Horgan, Eric Watkins and others have accomplished in a short amount of time at the TROE Center. When the event first started, I used to tend to the golf course while my assistants and gardener went. After attending the last two years myself it is an event I want to go to every year.

In 2004 I learned how iron might function in the grass plant. I learned which ornamental grasses that I would like to use in our prairie areas. There was a neat study about ET rates and how much you should water. What is really invaluable to have in our own back yard are the NTEP studies. The colonial grasses for fairways looked promising. But what really stuck out was a velvet bentgrass for greens. It looked like the best looking turf I had ever seen.

Last year the data on Phosphorus runoff was becoming quite interesting. Dr. Krischik was there to answer any questions we had about insects. (Plus she had a great book for sale at a great price.) And those velvets and colonials weren't as amazing as the year before. Rather, some other varieties were beginning to look quite promising. What a difference a year had made. It makes me wonder what the varieties are going to look like this year! The other benefit of Field Day is touching bases with fellow superintendents to see how their seasons are going and what is working for them. Come and show your support for Dr. Horgan and Dr. Watkins. I hope to see you there.

The quote of the day at Somerby Golf Club was, "I love to see bentgrass under stress." We had a great day of golf for the Scholarship Scramble. Casey Conlin and staff had the place in immaculate shape. What a tight stand of bentgrass they have. Things were firm and the south wind made for a wonderful test of golf. It was great seeing the golf course Casey talked about at the March mini-seminar. A lot goes into making a day like that special. So I want to thank all those who participated in one way or another from the grounds staff to those who played and the vendors who sponsor our events.

Time of reflection

When I heard the sad news about Katlyn Feriancek, I paused for a moment in heartbreak and sadness. Situations of losing loved ones like that puts everything into a proper perspective.

Whatever your philosophy in life, try not to take it for granted. So I will close with a poem from Charlotte's Web while I hold my family and friends dearly.

How very special are we, for just a moment to be, part of life's eternal rhyme.
How very special are we to have on our family tree mother earth and father time.
He turns the seasons around so she changes her gown but they always look in their prime.
They go on dancing their dance of everlasting romance mother earth and father time.
The summer larks return to sing, oh what a gift they give.
Then autumn days grow short and cold, oh what a joy to live.
How very special are we for just a moment to be part of life's eternal rhyme.
How very special are we to have on our family tree mother earth and father time."

*Living a poem with you,
James*

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly December/January, February/March for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, 700 Twelve Oaks Center Dr., Suite 706, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, P.O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.

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Official Publication
of the MGCSA

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