



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a Nice April - Then Came May

By James Bade

What a nice April! Six to seven degrees above average with some timely rain showers. Then came May. Cool and wet almost a repeat of last year, which created a nice environment for Take-all-patch, something I don't care to have again. I will always remember a conversation I had with my green committee chair. He told me not to worry about what I can't control (like the weather) and he quoted some familiar words. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." What a fortunate person I am to have had a green chairman with that philosophy. The weather sure can make us look good and then it can give us a lot of challenges, but we can't change it. So we may have to make courageous decisions when adversity comes with the weather.

The MGA/MGCSA forum held in the spring is one way for us to meet the challenges of Mother Nature and things we can't change. We are lucky to have some leaders at the MGA, like Tom Ryan and his staff, who are willing to put this program together. What is special about the forum is seeing general managers, presidents and green committee chairs from various clubs there. For them to hear people like Dr. Horgan and Bob Vavrek is invaluable. Educating our clientele on why we do what we do is priceless.

This year's topic dealt with aerification. It is one of the hardest jobs we do and the least appreciated since it makes the greens rough for a few weeks. That is a tough combination, working very hard and yet making your members unhappy. After working hard for 12 hours, I feel like disappearing for a few days until the greens start to heal over. The quote of the day came from Bob Vavrek, when it comes to aerifying "the more it pisses you off the better it is." For example, if you can aerify with 5/8-inch tines remove cores and fill with sand, some members are going to be unhappy but you will have healthier greens. Forums like this make all of us a little wiser.

"Road Trip" What a nice day it was at the Spring Mixer in Nisswa. After a rainy few days, it was nice to see the sun. For me it was a chance to get the golf clubs out of the closet. Plus, I brought my second assistant along, my wife Stephanie. She did the town and had some peace and quiet for 24 hours while I took in a seminar and did the links. There is something about being "up north" that helps you slow down and be still for a day. It was the first time I had played the Pines. Mike Bohnenstingl and his staff had the place in great shape and I sure enjoyed my foursome. It is always a good day to see the folks you work with.

SuperNews put on a nice workshop regarding water. Craig Paskvan talked about how water affects our agronomic issues and Bob Mugaas spoke about water quality and availability. Before many of us retire water allocation could be an issue. So I would like to see the MGCSA be proactive in showing that we are educated when it comes to our irrigation practices. "Plants do not conserve water, people do" is what struck a cord in me.

As I have said before, being on the board makes you realize how important the vendors are. So while I played golf I took the time to see who the Tee Sponsors were. There were a lot of familiar faithful names and a few new ones like JRK Seed and Shemin Nurseries. Like the Twins ad used to say, "get to know these guys" who sponsor our events and thank them.

- Let's be courageous and wise,
James

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