



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While Greenkeepers Think of Grass Quality; Others Have Emotional Attachments to Trees

By James Bade

'Tis the season for Green Committee meetings, aerification, spraying dandelions and for some filling pools. So for those of you who were able to make it to the Spring Mixer at Deer Run, thank you very much. I had a conflict with aerification, but I heard from quite a few people that the golf course was in great shape and that guest speaker Gail Franc was very good. Thank you Barry Provo and staff for hosting the event. And I would like to thank Tom Proshek for filling in for me. The turn-out was great and that is what we always hope for as a board of directors.



Gary Klingelhoets with his portable sawmill.

The generation before me had to memorize a poem at school that went like this:

I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree. A tree whose hungry mouth is prest, against the earth's sweet flowing breast; a tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arm to pray; a tree that may in summer wear, a nest of robins in her hair; upon whose bosom snow has lain; who intimately lives with rain. Poems are made by fools like me but only God can make a tree. By Joyce Kilmer

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree," unless it is a silver maple shading your green and sucking up the water and nutrients. Did you know that a silver maple can transpire 58 gallons of water per hour on a hot summer day!

In other words, a tree can be a weed, a plant out of place, particularly on a golf course. The MGA Turfgrass Forum held at Midland Hills this spring dealt with the issue of trees and turfgrass quality. The Forum is a great opportunity to educate those you work with and for, like green committee members and general managers. Dr. Horgan and Bob Vavrek usually co-host this event on very pertinent topics of the day.

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President's Message—

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I have been very fortunate at Somerset Country Club, where the members have been very understanding when a tree gives us agronomic problems. We had the most beautiful Linden tree 20 feet away from the east side of the 16th green so there was morning shade until 11:00 a.m. Plus, the tree helped create a lot of localized dry spot. Since the tree has come down, the green's health has improved considerably and we have given the edge back to the bentgrass over the annual bluegrass.

However, one has to be careful. When I took my wife, Stephanie, out to Hole 16 one day a tear came to her eye. The tree I had proposed to marry her under was gone! So there can be a strong emotional attachment to trees on a golf course. For the greenkeeper we have grass quality on our minds, where others may be thinking of certain people or events when it comes to a tree.

Now Somerset is in the process of removing overcrowded, unhealthy green ash trees in preparation for the Emerald Ash Borer. Many of the trees have nice trunks so we have been logging them out and making lumber. Fellow greenkeeper Gary Klingelhoets, pictured on Page 4, has a portable sawmill and has done some of the work for us. He does a great job with the mill; it is quite an interesting process. So we are stocking up some lumber for a future project some day.

Another opportunity? The City of Mendota Heights kept its Par 30 from becoming a housing development by purchasing the land. This may be another opportunity for our association to lend some expertise in managing a golf course in exchange for a place to do research. It is an opportunity that we will explore if it is in



Somerset Country Club's finished product.

the best interest of the MGCSA and all the parties involved. As a Board we are always looking for your input, so if you ever have any ideas or thoughts about a Research Center Golf Course please let us know.

The weather has been a roller coaster ride so far so hang onto your hats. I wish you the best of summers.

Cheers. - James Bade



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