



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's Play Jeopardy!

By James Bade

Here is the answer: commanding attention, an effect produced upon the mind, stirring deep feeling of awe and admiration. In Jeopardy, like fashion you need to put the answer in the form of a question, "What is impressive?" Impressive was the word that came to my mind after leaving the Field Day at the U of M.

It is amazing what Dr. Brian Horgan and Dr. Eric Watkins are accomplishing with their staff and students. If you have never been there, you need to go. And if you have been there before, you need to go again because things are always changing.

Besides the ongoing studies at the TROE Center there are an incredible amount of new turf plots right on the inner campus. If data and graphs bore you, this was a chance to see research with your very own eyes. It is a neat thing to see the new tall fescue trials. With the drought we had, it was incredible to see which grasses performed the best. Have you ever seen sheep and chewings fescues before? And if bentgrass is your thing, I am always amazed what the colonial and velvets look like from year to year. Seeing the bentgrass varieties right next to each other is invaluable. Have you ever seen the Alpha or T-1?

One of the ongoing studies at the TROE Center is the nutrient and pesticide runoff study. The findings there are vitally important when it comes to working with our legislature. This year the U proposed the question, what effect does aerification and vertical mowing have on run-off? Other studies included dollar spot trials with Dr. Rob Golembiewski, PGR's and weed control, water sensors and ET rates, and more!

All this research and education bodes well for us, to show that our industry is one that is professional and trained. A big thanks goes out to those who have sponsored the TROE Center and Field Day. It was great having familiar and new exhibitors sponsoring the day. The work going on at the U of M commands your attention and engages your mind. I admire all that has been accomplished there over the past eight years. The turf train is at the station; it is one you don't want to miss.

We had a good day at the MGCSA Championship held at Hillcrest. Tom Schmidt and staff did a great job of preparing the course. In spite of the soggy conditions the greens were quite fast and fun. But what I will remember the most was the outpouring of support for Mark Kruse (a Hartman Company employee) who lost his wife, Shannon, in a tragic car accident. The players made a spontaneous memorial donation to the family. I didn't hear how much money was collected and it doesn't really matter, because it is the compassionate caring givers that made an impression on me. Thanks MGCSA members.

Bridges and Frogs: On PBS the other day they were talking about frogs existing for more than 280 million years. My mind can't even imagine such a number especially when, Lord willing, I hope to be around for maybe 80 years or so. Then it wasn't but a day or two later that the 35-W bridge collapsed. Whatever your philosophy is in life, life can be short, unpredictable and at times tragic. But life is good and amazing so we need to make the most of it with a passion.

I believe that is the hum of aerifiers I hear; don't forget to take in the amazing colors this fall and eat a Minnesota grown apple because life is good and amazing.

Build bridges that last, James

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