



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Value of Water

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

I was recently directed toward an article about water use and golf courses. The article talked about the value of water and the importance of using it judiciously. Both are concepts I truly believe in. This particular writer also goes on to tout the many things that we as an industry are doing to manage our resources more wisely. He also goes on to say that we are water guzzlers and, finally, that for us to be green and fit in, we need to go brown. He does have a point in that irrigation water isn't used very prudently in this country (not just golf courses, but others as well, for instance the home lawn irrigation systems, but don't get me started) and there are areas of our golf courses that we can leave a little less pristine. The undertone of the article, while positive in many aspects, still shows that the golf community will be one of the first places people look to save water.



While we were the targets for the phosphorus issue, we ultimately will be the targets for water use as well.

This is one of the many reasons the board is in the process of putting together a committee to develop a Best Management Practices program for Superintendents, which will ultimately help us if

negotiations are needed in the future with legislators over water use and improve our image with the public.

I hope you all had the opportunity to complete the survey that Mike Knodel put together for us. He has been working pretty hard at putting the questions together in an effort to get useful responses and not have you get burdened down with a long survey. The deadline was June 30 and the data received will be discussed at length at our next board meeting.

Thank you to Coffee Mill Golf Club's General Manager Robert Sill and Superintendent Jeff Nelson for hosting the MGCSA Spring Mixer. While I was unable to attend, I understand it was a great day.

We had a great time at Somerset Country Club for the MGCSA Scholarship Scramble. I want to thank James Bade and the Somerset crew for hosting the event and for the wonderful course conditions. The sunshine was just an added bonus. Thank you, James for a job well done.

Interlachen's Matt Rostal also deserves some kudos. Matt was interviewed in the *Star Tribune* during tournament week for the United States Women's Open at Interlachen Country Club, and provided a very positive image for Superintendents. Thank you, Matt. You, your crew, along with many MGCSA volunteers, presented the historic Interlachen Country Club beautifully for those on the grounds and also the ones watching on TV.

Here's hoping everyone has been having a great start to the summer and I will see you next month.

Respectfully,
Rick Traver

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