



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do We Take Ourselves Too Seriously?

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

The Chairman of my Green Committee walked into my office last week with an article from *Golf* magazine showing six gentlemen from a maintenance crew in England. They were on their hands and knees looking for "any renegade strains of poa annua that might cause a bloke to three-putt." As I began to fathom the insurmountable task of trying to pluck single strands of poa out of what looked to be a fairly large green, and then to multiply that by 18 greens, I started to wonder, do we take ourselves too seriously? Golf is just a game right? God bless those gentlemen for their dedication to the job, but if asked to do that I don't know if I would start laughing or crying. I have heard many stories like this over the years, and while it has long been known that for the most part superintendents are perfectionists, we do need to step back and wonder if that bloke is going to three-putt, does it really have anything to do with the poa?

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Thank you to Jeff Johnson, his GM Jim Jennings, his members and the Minikahda Club staff for allowing our association to hold our MGCSA Championship at their facility. It was a gorgeous day and the course matched the weather. I know some of the guys gave Jeff a nudge about the pin placements, but the green speed is what got me, that and my short game. Anyway thanks again, and hopefully we can visit your course again in the near future.

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Thanks also to Brian Horgan, Eric Watkins and their staffs for hosting Field Days at the U of M. That wasn't quite as nice a day, but it was well-attended despite the rain. If you didn't attend, picture this, Brian Horgan standing in the pouring rain – no umbrella, shorts and sandals surrounded by a bunch of us under umbrellas as he talks about one of the greens at the TROE Center. No wonder why he is so successful, nothing takes him off task. It was great to see all the work those guys are doing and the great results they are achieving.

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I have had a few questions about the Mendota Heights Par 3 and whether or not we are going to manage that facility. At current the City of Mendota Heights or its city council is comfortable with their current management arrangement, so everything is on hold. Should that status change, we will let everyone know.

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Thanks for all the support and have a great month.

*Respectfully,
Rick Traver*

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