



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don't Believe Everything You Read, Research It!

By Richard B. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

Recently, my wife Barb, was reading an article in the *Star Tribune* that commented on atrazine and its potential to leak into the groundwater. She then proceeded to ask me what golf courses use atrazine for. I politely told her I thought farmers used it at one time for weeds. Then she showed me an article reprinted from the *New York Times* that in its first paragraph stated "... relied on the popular weed killer atrazine to protect their crops, golf courses and manicured lawns." I myself was a little amazed at the use of atrazine, popular *and* golf courses in the same sentence since I have been spraying weeds for a few decades on golf courses and never used atrazine. I let it go until I had several members ask me the same question my wife asked and decided to do some research. The article mentioned Aatrex and Syngenta so I looked up the label, and after reading the label, golf courses aren't even directly mentioned; however, fairways are and at that only for warm season grasses. My point to this whole experience is that I don't believe that investigative reporters can be found in the daily media anymore. I did about 15 minutes of research and found out that this product isn't used on golf courses in the northern half of the U. S. I do not know how it is used on crops, but why were golf courses included in the article. I talk with many people who bring up items stated on the news or written in the paper and they believe the media to be totally truthful. I am probably preaching to the choir, but please do not believe anything you read in the paper or hear on the news; research it. Many writers and news people apparently believe they are the intellectual elite, and that facts aren't important, they editorialize and tell us what they think we need to know.

Congratulations to Jim Nicol and his crew for the great job they did presenting Hazeltine National Golf Club during the 2009 PGA Championship. I had the opportunity to see the course twice during the event, the first being the Governmental Relations Breakfast. The PGA did a great job during the breakfast presentation of promoting golf and emphasizing the economic impact golf plays in the state and throughout the country. Many legislators and representatives were in attendance including Gov. Pawlenty. The second time was Sunday of the event, with my wife and daughter, and man were there a lot of people there. It always amazes me how the turf can rebound from so much punishment by the spectators. Anyway we were able to watch the last eight or so groups on #3 and then again on #12. But the "Tiger Watchers" basically caused us to give it up at that point, after that it was impossible to find a spot where the three of us could see anything. My wife and daughter astonish me whenever we attend a golf event; the same happened last year at Interlachen for the Women's Open. We got in the car and "had" to listen to the final holes on the radio (it surprised me WCCO had play-by-play coverage). Then when we got home my wife turned on the golf channel to watch the interviews and commentary (I didn't even know she knew what channel that was). All my experiences aside, it was a great championship with all the drama and excitement expected in a major. Great job Jim and company!!!

The U of M Field Day was held on September 10. Brian Horgan, Eric Watkins and their assistants put on a great demonstration, and the research they have going on will benefit our industry in many ways. I hope you worked it into your schedule, I'm sure it was well worth your time.

The MGCSA Championship is being held at Northland Country Club this year. I have heard great things about the course and how you need to play all putts to break toward Lake Superior. We have been trying to have an event at a northern course for some time. Thanks to Host Superintendent Chris Tritabaugh for arranging to have our event at Northland.

Just as an FYI, last issue I commented or vented on the whole Brett Farve affair. Believe it or not, a couple of days after I submitted that column, Brett stated to the media and anyone who was listening that he was staying retired. Guess what, the day I got my *Hole Notes*, he came out of retirement and we had the whole media circus surrounding his installation of Viking Horns. - *Respectfully, Rick Traver*

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