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Mike Bavier — President

The President's Message

After looking over my golf course the early part of August, I was quite depressed with the condition of some of the grass. We had experienced a difficult six weeks of hot, humid, moist and wet weather. Our normal programs of watering, spraying and mowing fairways in the cooler late afternoons had not produced the course that one would be proud to show off. An early season disaster of pesticide spraying on fairways had made me gun-shy—the disease program was never up to par as far as I was concerned after that. As you well know, anytime the grass is weakened by one condition like disease, then another problem (such as sprinkler inefficiencies) starts to show up even more. I have always been a firm believer in having a well balanced turf program—just one segment cannot be a cure-all for any problem. True, we had failed in one program on my course, but like any other business or game, the total concept of putting everything together is what eventually produces results. In other words, sure a spray program that is adequate is important, but then so is your watering, fertilizing, and mowing programs, and on down the line.

While trying to explain the course condition during a committee meeting, one of the committee members mentioned the grounds around the clubhouse sure was in excellent condition. The statement meant a lot to me in that such positive comments are not heard or mentioned many times. This statement started to work on my mind, and I began to wonder—in this so called disaster year, was there still positive points that could be stressed? Yes, the long heard saying of "Why not stop and smell the flowers" comes to my mind. My fairways were not in any condition to brag about, but what about the job the crew had done around the clubhouse area where mother nature had not taken her toll and where we had controlled disease and fertilized properly. And what about the beautiful trees on the course that had been sprayed, pruned, fertilized, and cared for over the years—don't they count a little in the course upkeep, too?

Yes, just as quickly as many of our members, we forget that never had there been a perfect tree, perfect grass, or (let's face it) even a perfect golf course superintendent. We must work with our short comings along with mother nature and occasionally stop to "smell the flowers," too.

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