

President's Message—

(Continued from Page 4)

I'm curious about how many of you watched that Masters? What did you think? Wasn't the last day fun to watch. Now pretend you are a legislative environmentalist, now what do you think? Unfortunately, many people think golf courses are places where we pour on the pesticides and fertilizers, instead of green space where abundant wild life can flourish. Somerset Country Club also has 2,174 trees taking CO2 out of the air.

The Masters shows what unlimited resources can do. However that is not the real world for most of us. It doesn't help when greens are stimping off the meter. Resources go up considerably to get conditions like that. The argument for these conditions is that it is only for a one week tournament. But the problem is, that is what people are seeing on TV. We need to be educating our clients that a little bit of brown on the golf course is okay, especially if resources are limited and regulations and restrictions are on the way.

Another challenge for us (and the CMAA) is how you manage your leadership with your membership. They hire us for our expertise, yet it is their golf course

and their money. I have a healthy respect for that, yet I try to do the job they hired me for. I have been blessed by members who don't micro manage and respect what I learn at on-going education conferences.

When it comes to communicating I think e-mail has helped tremendously. Whenever I email the green committee the general manager and golf pro get the same e-mail. That way we are all on the same page as to what is going on. There is an old saying a "cord of three strands is not easily broken". If we see the pro as one strand, the club manager as one and the golf course superintendent as the third what does this say? If we are talking amongst ourselves, have the same goal for our customer and working together, the atmosphere with which we work in will be a much better place.

A member at Somerset Country Club gave me a book to read called "The Experience of Place." And isn't that what we are doing? Providing a memorable experience for our clientele. From the moment they walk in the door to when they leave the 18th green hopefully they are having a pleasant experience.

To conclude, since we have the same customer, whatever affects us on the golf course when it comes to course conditions

and the environment it affects you as well. All of us are environmental stewards. A golf course has the capability of being a sanctuary for wildlife.

Life is good, isn't it! I hope you enjoy what you do even though it can be laden with challenges. Having strength for today and hope for tomorrow will give you the passion for your job and to do

U of M Turf Club Update

The U of M Turf Club participated in the Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition at the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, Calif. and placed 23rd and 29th. Representing Team 1 was Joel Hanson, Anders Lindberg, Ryan Browning and Jacob Ryan. Team 2 consisted of Charles Fischer, Mark Lambert, Justin Logeais and Christian Dunn.

New officers were elected for the Turf Club in March. Elected were: Christian Dunn, President; Charles Fischer, Vice-President; Joel Hanson, Secretary; Anders Lindberg, Treasurer, and Mark Lambert, Liaison.

We thank Aaron Johnson, Jason Lamers and William Haselbauer for their past work and efforts. - *Christian Dunn*



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