



Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

August is what I like to call “Hump Month”. The way I look at it is if you can get through the season to August 15 without any major hiccups, chances are the course will make through the rest of the season in good shape as well. The days get shorter, the sun angle becomes less intense and the temperatures become even more comfortable with each passing day. I have been hearing the following phrase quite a bit this year: “It has been a very good year from a weather perspective and if you can’t grow grass in a year like this, you shouldn’t be in this business.” While I’m sure that may ring true for some, others were hit with devastating flooding in June they still haven’t fully recovered from. I can remember dealing with devastating winter kill on greens in 2011 and trying to recover in time for a Champions tour event at the end of July. The spring was cool, damp and perfect for the growth of *Poa annua*. Those who had it recovered well, those with bentgrass had a much

longer road. We need to keep these things in mind and remember Mother Nature does not play favorites.

Speaking of August, the UM Field Day had a large attendance of over 175 people who turned out to see what is going on at what is quickly becoming recognized as a leading turf research facility in the country. If you missed it, you missed a lot. Dr. Brian Horgan and his staff are in the middle of some really interesting research that is on the cutting edge of what golf course management will look like in the future. Research on fine fescues for low input turf used for fairways is on-going at the U of M and while they are not there yet, it seems destined to be the up and coming cool season turf that will require much fewer inputs. Actually, the trials they have there now look pretty good to me, but will require some improvements along with a shift in expectations. Sam Bauer gave a great presentation on the MGCSA Member Driven Research projects, showing us some results from the wetting agent trial and the Primo GGD trials as well. Matt Cavanaugh

talked about his demonstration of common mistakes we make, or we deal with as superintendents and from the banter I heard around me, it might have been the most popular stop on the tour. Look for more of that from Matt in the future. Mark your calendars as soon as the next Field Day is scheduled and make sure you attend this must see event.

This issue of Hole Notes has a couple articles related to bees and the role we can play in improving their habitat and survivability. At the Field Day there was a demonstration project on what composes a good bee lawn and while I don't see this type of turf in playing areas any time soon, we all have plenty of areas that are out of play that could be maintained in this fashion to provide habitat for bees. Several MGCSA members in the metro area have provided room for some hives and worked to set aside some out of play areas for better bee habitat. It was great to see the interest in this initiative by several MGCSA members at the Field Day. There are many resources available for you to learn how you can participate in building bee habitat and you can get it through

the U of M or by contacting Jack MacKenzie, who can point you in the right direction.

In closing, I want to remind all of our MGCSA members of a very important and worthwhile event coming up in October at Brackett's Crossing. The annual Wee One Foundation golf event and fund raiser is coming up and I hope you will have the opportunity to participate in this truly remarkable event. Wee One raises money to assist golf course management professionals and their families who have been or are currently facing life threatening illnesses by providing financial assistance to help with what can be devastating financial burdens.

Our own MGCSA members have been the recipients of assistance from Wee One and I hope you will all consider playing in the event so that others may be helped as well. I guarantee a feel good day for those who can make it to the Wee One!

Thanks for your support and I'll see you on the other side of the hump!