

President's Comments

By Keith Redmond

Greetings to all MWOA Members & Associated Partners!

Another year has passed and time seems to keep moving forward at an ever quickening pace. Fall is just around the corner and the hunting seasons will soon be in full swing. The golf courses will close soon and the “white stuff” will be upon us before you know it.

I know how busy we all are, especially this time of year, but I hope we all can take a little time to pause and reflect on what has been accomplished over the past year and look forward to where we want to go in the upcoming year.

For me, it is a privilege and pleasure to serve as the 52nd MWOA President. I will do my best to uphold the standards of this organization. I was elected as Vice-President in Marshall, MN at the 2005 annual conference, and I am grateful to all those who saw fit to support me for this position. I am learning “things” daily about this organization, and the membership that makes it work. It is my hope that we grow as an association through continued active support of the organization’s members, new and old.

The Central Section in Willmar, Minnesota hosted the 31st Annual Conference on July 24 – 27, 2007. I was fortunate enough to work with some very talented and dedicated individuals when putting the program together, and I again would like to thank all who participated for their efforts. I would urge all of you to participate in putting the annual conference together when the opportunity arises. The amount of time and effort a person puts in is directly proportional to the success of the conference. I find it very rewarding to work with the members of the MWOA, to get to know them more personally and to discover the talent base we have within our organization. When we all participate the time commitment is minimized and the return for your efforts become greater. We will then become better stewards of our industry because of our efforts. I encourage you to find a way to become active within the MWOA to help us grow and become stronger as an organization. The City of Willmar was a gracious host for our conference. The numbers are not yet in at the time I wrote this, but I think we had good attendance. I am looking to see even greater attendee participation in 2008 in Mankato hosted by the Southeast section. Please consider taking the time to make the annual conference a success by participating in the training opportunities provided.

Over the course of the next year I will do my best to represent the membership of the MWOA and to grow the MWOA in a positive manner. I will try to attend at least one section meeting in each section of Minnesota, and to meet as many of you as possible. I will continue to encourage each member to find a new member to join the MWOA, for the real power of an organization is based on the strength of its’ members. Participating in activities is vital to any organization, and I once again encourage you to become more active within our organization. If any of you need help in finding a way to better participate within the organization, feel free to contact any officer (section or state) or myself and we can point you in the right direction.

The MWOA library is an ongoing task that I feel we need to address. To date, a budget for the TIC is the biggest issue, and it is my goal to establish a budget to better support the library, which is a benefit for ALL MWOA members. We are looking for new materials for the library all the time, so if you have worthy items not in use or that you would like to share with other operators, please forward them to JIM MILLER, his address can be found in the inside front cover of every issue of the WASTEWATCHER.

Speaking of the Wastewatcher, Jerry Balbach has done a fantastic job with this duty and I am hopeful he will continue to make positive improvements with the magazine. Jerry can rest assured he has my full support with the direction he

has and is taking this publication; please consider contributing an article to the magazine and sharing with the rest of the MWOA your stories about your communities and other adventures.

The MWOA web page is another area of concern, that is, continued improvements are needed for this medium. I know there must be some very talented MWOA members out there that would be willing to assist our webmaster and to make improvements. Please make an offer to help if you have the skills in web page management. You can contact the webmaster at www.mwoa.net.

Finally....I would like to request from all MWOA members, any suggestions, concerns and comments that may improve this organization. I feel we need to open and expand the lines of communication within our organization. One of the ways in which this can be accomplished is by the members stepping forward and sharing their thoughts and ideas. The MWOA has several venues in which each of us can do this, The Web site, the Wastewatcher, Section meetings, Executive Board meetings, Conferences and Seminars to name a few.

I for one will have an open door to anyone wanting to discuss ideas or concerns relating to the MWOA; all I ask is that you are honest, constructive and willing to be an active participant.

Until next issue, be kind and stay healthy.

Keith Redmond – President MWOA