

*Warm...  
and  
Warmer*

**Breaking news: Groundhog Fired.**  
Punxsutawney Phil found guilty of taking illegal contributions to alter winter weather!

The famous furry weather prognosticator was accused of accepting illegal contributions to his retirement fund from Florida weather forecasters in return for spending a night in the Spring is Sprung bedroom of his burrow. In consideration for the illegal donations, the groundhog agreed to say that he saw his shadow in December which completely eliminated winter in Florida this year.

After only one or two piddly frosts and one day in January when it did get legitimately cold, this has been the warmest winter I can remember in my 54 years in Florida.

So what am I complaining about? Well, it's pretty darn hard to grow a good stand of winter grass when you're not having winter.

After years of learning that we'd better overseed to stay green and playable during the heavy winter golf traffic, we have a year when we could have saved all that time and money. Maybe some folks will decide to not overseed as much next year. It's always a gamble isn't it? Maybe that's why we were in Las Vegas this year – to remember what it's like to win some and to lose some.

It was so warm this past fall that the bermudagrass never slowed down so we could get the ryegrass established. We found out how puny the ryegrass was when it did get cold and the bermuda turned purple and tan. Then it warmed back up and got dry and breezy. Now we sit and watch the ryegrass say bye-bye a little more each day.

Not a bad thing for transition in general – it's just a little earlier than usual.

I have enough pessimist in me that I am worrying that a late season cold snap might zap us around the March full moon. Then we will take a lot of flack from the same people who have been playing golf all winter in shorts instead of sweaters .

I don't mean to be grinding too big an ax over this pleasant weather. I'm just bummed out because I bought some neat long-sleeved polo shirts and sweaters to wear this year and it hasn't been cold enough to get my money's worth. I also bought tens of thousands of dollars worth of seed this year. I didn't get my money's worth out of that either. There are lot more people bummed out about that.

For Pete's sake, whatever you've got out there – rye or bermuda, keep the Green Side Up!

More late breaking news: It was only a matter of time before the artistry of Daniel Zelazek reached beyond the pages of the *Florida Green*. Zelazek, *Florida Green* cover photographer since 1981, has teamed up with businessman and scratch golfer, Lawrence Mueller, to launch a new venture called Signature Golf Images by Z.

The PGA Tour has agreed to display and sell Daniel's large format lithographs of TPC golf holes at their TPC tournament locations. Currently available are 36 x 28 inch lithographic prints of the famous 17th island hole and the picturesque 11th hole at the TPC Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra. The prints are also available directly from the PGA Tour. For more information contact TPC Headquarters at (904) 273-3235. Good luck, Z!

**Green Side Up**



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