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No Rhyme Nor Reason
BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS
Last winter when I wrote the free verse editorial titled, The Superintendent, it generated more calls and comments than any other editorial I had ever written. One fellow superintendent even sent me a framed copy of it.

So this year, I thought I’d share some other verses I wrote about golf courses. Don’t panic. This isn’t a trend. Consider it a belated Christmas/New Year’s gift from an editor who thanks you for the opportunity to write about what we do. I hope the following lines conjure a memory or two or give you pause for thought about this great profession.

Fairways
Broad shouldered and muscular
Like pack animals
The rolling fairways carry the burden of play
Without protest
Seldom pampered and often taken for granted
Serving their masters in silence
While the greens, like spoiled children
Clamor for attention
The fairways become like the eldest sibling
Having to rapidly mature beyond actual years
To help the golf course family
Withstand the daily assault on its character
Sometimes they receive honorable mention
For their yeoman service
But mostly, they leave the spotlight and adulation
To their little brothers, the greens
Take a moment and praise the fairways
They carry us from tee to green in such grand fashion
Never asking much in return
Just a little respect and dignity
**Winter Season**

While friends and neighbors up north
Sit hunkered down in their snowdrifted homes
Watching instructional videos and tournaments on TV
Our snowbird golfers arrive in migrating flocks
Every eight minutes from New Year's Day to Easter
From sunrise to sunset
To tee it up and play golf
We can't keep enough carts charged to meet the demand
We can hardly get the turf mowed and get out of the way
Rainy days and frost delays cause nothing but chaos
As precious tee times are ignored by fickle Mother Nature

The Finance and Accounting Department smiles at the bottom line
As revenues skyrocket off the chart
While we watch the turf on the course disappear
Under the endless grinding parade of cleated feet
Days of cloudy cold fronts rob the turf
Of its vigor and nutrient reserves
And agronomic explanations of conditions
Are met with indifference by those seeking perfection
Overseeding decisions made in the fall
Are either praised or cursed as the winter unfolds
And the well made plans of management
Become a roll of the dice at the mercy of the elements

Somehow the course will survive
Battered and bruised, but alive
Eagerly awaiting
The renewal that always comes with spring

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STUART COHEN
EAST FLA.

RUSS VARNEY
WEST FLA.
Thunderstorm
First I heard it,
Rumbling off in the distance.
Then I saw it,
Purple, black and grey.
Rushing in from the west,
Devouring the horizon.
Blotting out the sun,
It turned day into night.
Illuminated only by
Blue-white lightning flashes.
Crack! Pow! Boom!
Cannon shots. Tympani drums.
The thunder claps shattered the clouds
And rolled across the heavens.

Then the rain began.
Big fat splattering drops at first.
Then like a solid grey wall,
Shutting out the world.
Puddles turned into lakes and rivers,
And then into tumbling waterfalls.
Carving deep canyons
In the faces of the sand bunkers.

In twenty minutes it was over.
The golfers and the crew
Emerged from their hiding places
To resume the serious business of golf.
The Logo Man

I'll tell you true,
I don't feel dressed.
If I don't have a logo,
On my sleeve or my chest.
Got my Jacobsen hat,
And my Toro jacket.
My Rain Bird shirt,
With the three button placket.
Got a Swinging Mickey shirt,
and white Goofy shorts.
I even have three hats,
From NBC Sports.
Got shirts like Ashworths, Antiguas,
Polos and Gants.
Also have green, brown, and blue pairs,
Of new Docker pants.
Burlington Gold Toe,
Is the brand of my socks.
And I jog around town,
In pumped up Reeboks.

Shark on my sleeve,
Bear on my chest.
Umbrella on my collar,
I'm really well dressed.
Sartorial splendor,
Was never my plan.
Fate had me picked
as the new Logo Man.

Sundown

Was there ever a better time
to see a golf course
than at sundown?
All the cares and worries
and harsh realities of the day
are softened.
And in the twilight,
the turf turns from tweed
into velvet.

Your Sand Man

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