event in La Costa. They showed pictures of the flood which inundated the holes on the course, but the only mention I heard of the crew’s efforts was the typical “the superintendent and his staff did a nice job this week” uttered by Tim Finchem. Meanwhile, one doofus was praising the PGA Tour officials acting as referees for the matches as the nuts and bolts that make this thing happen. Say what?

Birdies to the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Cactus and Pines GCSCA awhile, but they got $650,000 budgeted to go to the turfgrass center at North Carolina State University annually. If they can respond to a $2.5 billion dollar turf industry like that, just think what Florida should get at $4.4 billion.

Triple bogeys to the governor of South Carolina. Word is that his state budget proposal cuts out all funding to Clemson University's turf and ornamental programs including extension. Has this guy ever heard of Myrtle Beach? Got to give a bogey to our Florida legislature with their annual budget cuts to IFAS. Agriculture has helped pull Florida through the slow economy, and for that they get sucker punched.

Birdies to all certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary courses. Thanks for being proactive and a good example of golf’s environmental stewardship, and an eagle to the superintendents paying the ACSP dues out of their own pocket.

Bogeys to the club that won’t cough up the $150 annual dues. I’m embarrassed for you. What is it, one buck per golfer? And bogeys to the rest of the clubs that just don’t get it. We’re in tough environmental times and this program can help you and the whole industry. Get on board.

Birdies to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). They get it. They know agriculture is the state’s most reliable economic performer during good and bad times. They seek scientific answers to issues and don’t let rhetoric muddy the picture. Plus they work with all stakeholders on the issues.

Bogey to the county health official spreading the story of a baby’s death in New England from trace amounts of arsenic in the tap water. Turns out it was homicide and intentional poisoning. Arsenic is a serious issue, but let’s deal with facts and not misinformation.

Birdies to all of you dedicated guys and gals out there in golf maintenance. Nobody really knows how much you care or how hard you try to give the people what they want.

But I have to throw a bogey on your score card if you aren’t also making the case for your value to the club. If you aren’t following a business plan or communicating frequently with the movers and shakers then you are risking disqualification.

In the real game of golf there are no mulligans.

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5 Skills of Leaders

Communicating
Great leaders communicate their position well. All those around them know where you are coming from. You cannot over-

understand how to communicate. Keep all those around you informed.

Interviewing
Great leaders surround themselves with great people. They know how to ask the right questions and do the right background work to assemble a successful team.

Observing
This area of leadership skills would include being a superb listener. Listen to what the golfers, staff, and industry, etc. has to say. You must not only observe by listening but also by watching. Be visible on your golf course. Find people doing something right and let them know it.

Negotiating

There was Dr. Ken Payne at Michigan State University, Bob Williams at Bob O’Link Golf Club, and Bruce Sering at Glen View Club. All of these fellows were great leaders and I learned much from their leadership styles. It was evident that they had the skills to steer the ship in the right direction.

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