Bald Eagle Battles Great Horned Owl

It was a battle for the ages.
In the left corner with the white head, the one-and-only... Bald Eagle. In the right corner with the big old eyes... the Great Horned Owl.

On Jan. 6, two very aggressive birds of prey were found locked together in battle just off the tenth fairway. The two had death grips on each other's legs as they flailed away on the turf. A crowd gathered in astonishment and concern for the two great birds.

The Eagle appeared to have the upper hand as he (or she) went for the owl's eyes with its sharp beak. Someone in the audience suggested we break up the fight. We told him to go ahead. He then moved behind the cart. We did not know what to do to prevent a fight to the finish. We decided to let Mother Nature take its course. The crowd went silent when a curious and perhaps prophetic Buzzard circled over head.

The battle lasted over an hour and both predators were exhausted. It had looked like the Owl was close to death when he (or she) raised up its head looked at the Eagle, looked at the audience, released its grip on the Eagle and flew away. The Eagle staggered a bit and flew in the opposite direction.

Judge John Hoey had it 10-9 Eagle, Judge Mike Koether had it 10-9 Eagle, and I had it 10-9 Eagle. Mother Nature however called it a draw and let them both live to fight another day.

It was an ending that we should all appreciate.

Wayne Kappauf, CGCS
when a member approached me at the driving range tee and asked me, “How do you cut the grass and maintain the grass on those floating greens?” He was referring to the target greens on our aqua range with artificial turf on them. I kept a straight face and said mowing them is difficult but fertilizing and watering them is even harder.

Hurricane Prep Follow-Up

In moving our files to a new computer we missed this answer from Steve Huffstetler of the Glen Eagles GC-CC in Naples. Steve shares his hurricane-prep answer to last issue’s question: “Given the very active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, with numerous Florida landfalls, what if anything are you planning or doing differently to prepare for the next hurricane season?” Here’s Steve’s new checklist of what he would do differently now:

• Arrange for a big generator to power the pumphouse before the storm hits.
• Have a signed contract in hand with a competent tree service for its clean-up services after a hurricane.
• Buy and stock chain saws, gas cans and extra chain blades prior to the storm.
• Buy a manual pump for the fuel tanks.
• Buy extra leaf rakes, pitchforks and shovels ready to use the day after.
• Stockpile bottled water for the crew and volunteers.

Frost delay. This is a lot different from a condo courtyard. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Dear Chris Cartin and CFGCSA members,

I wanted to thank you all for creating the Superintendent/Vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out.” It means a lot to me, Derek and Jen. It was comforting to see that someone we loved so much had an impact on others as well and will be remembered for years to come.

Derek knows most of you, but for me it was great meeting all the faces that went with the names I had heard over the years.

That you chose the vendor event was very appropriate.

Duane was all about his customers. He made sure his customers got what they wanted or needed, if it was at all within his ability. He loved his job and enjoyed those golf days and the company of his friends.

Once again, thank you for honoring Duane in this way.

Sharon, Derek and Jen Camps