Last month's wildly successful PGA Championship at Southern Hills taught us that, A) August is not the time to book a Tulsa vacation, B) Tiger Woods is really, really good, and C) Short grass is making a big comeback.

Braving 100-degree plus temperatures each day, Southern Hills superintendent Russ Myers and his army of 50 staff members and many more volunteers not only held the Perry Maxwell course together, but showed us that U3 bermudagrass could produce compelling golf — especially when it was cut nice and tight around the greens.

Southern Hills basked in the glory of a Keith Foster-led architectural fine-tuning and a refreshing setup crafted by Kerry Haigh, the PGA of America's managing director of tournaments.

Even though four days of excessive heat prevented Myers from being able to dry out the course as much as everyone would have liked, Southern Hills was still plenty fast and firm.

Of even greater significance was the club's installation of short grass leading up to its fairway bunkers and around many of its greens. As rough has crept around our golf courses to offset the advances of unregulated technology, even the most casual observer can see that 3 inches to 4 inches of grass only adds time and lost ball searches to a round while failing to make matters more difficult for the world's best.

Now our friends at the United States Golf Association believe rough has become less significant because today's players have armed themselves with perfectly legal, USGA-approved U-grooves. So to protect the integrity of rough, which is nothing more than a cancer on the game spreading to offset rapid and unregulated distance advances, the USGA wants to make every competitive golfer replace his or her U-grooved clubs by the start of 2009.

But as Southern Hills proved, it would be a lot easier to just install more short grass.

Architects and green chairmen across the land have struggled to sell the restoration of short grass as a way to add interest, fun and yes, difficulty to their courses, but Southern Hills exposed just what a difference tightly cut turf can make.