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Coping with 'Canes

You can’t stop a hurricane’s wrath, but you can contain it — with good planning.

By Larry Aylward

High and Dry?

You can learn from those who endured the dreadful drought of 1999.

By Bruce Allar

Know Which Way the Wind Blows

Experts offer advice on how to choose a fee-based weather service.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

Clear the Air

Users will benefit from two-cycle engine equipment with reduced emissions — but at what cost?

By Larry Aylward

Picture This

Historic photographs are an excellent source for proper golf course restoration — if you can find them.

By Geoff Shackelford
cover story

You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows, but you do need information on how to deal with droughts, hurricanes and other weather-related matters. Check out our report.

51 Hanging in There
Today's hovering mowers are lighter, tougher and more popular than ever.
By Jim Guyette

About the cover
Ron Lee Brown of Stone Images helped create our cool – we mean hot – cover concept. Golfdom art director Lisa Lehman expanded the concept with her Photoshop finesse.

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Is PDI necessary?
I don’t think PDI should stand for “Pretty Dumb Idea,” but is it necessary? There are some good points, some that are arguable and some that are just plain bad. While I don’t think everyone should drop their opinions about PDI and adopt mine, I would like to raise some issues on it.

No other professional association that I’m aware of tells its members they must complete a self-assessment. While self-assessment is a good idea — it might be the best thing one could do to be a better superintendent and a better person — a professional group should never require such a subjective test.

Testing members to assure competent knowledge is a great idea. Other professional groups, such as lawyers and electricians, have ways of certifying their membership. A class that teaches us how to do that or improve how we evaluate our own weaknesses is a great idea. But a professional association, which is what the GCSAA is, should not assume that responsibility. A superintendent’s evaluation should be between himself or herself and that person’s supervisor.

Another argument for PDI is that our association needs to raise our average salary. That was a good argument 20 years ago. We should be thankful to the senior members of our association that did all the work to raise our association’s professionalism. But these days it’s not uncommon for the value of a superintendent’s total compensation package to be almost 20 percent of the operating budget and 40 percent of the payroll budget. In the past several years, I’ve known more superintendents let go for budget-cutting purposes that any other reason. Do we really want to end up in a situation like the PGA where assistants make under $20,000 while their bosses sometimes make five times that or more?

One last point: Almost all superintendents are judged on job performance. Similar to professional coaches, lawyers and salespeople, the opinion of our competency is based solely on the product we provide. If a lawyer loses too many cases, he or she won’t have any clients. If a salesperson doesn’t sell, he or she is going to be terminated. How many times does a coach get let go despite having many successful seasons because he or she has a few bad years?

No collection of letters behind one’s name or college degrees are going to protect a superintendent’s job when that superintendent fails to meet an employer’s expectations. We need to continue to improve the skills that make us successful, but that should be a personal choice depending on what each person wants.

While some members dream of being at a top club and being elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors, others want no more than to earn a good wage, keep their courses in better shape than the ones next door and to coach their kids’ little league teams. Our association needs both types.

Steve Rebhan, CGCS
Battle Creek CC
Battle Creek, Mich.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at patrick.jones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2875 or send them via snail mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.
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25 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day
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Contact 765-494-8039
25 Washington State University/Oregon State University Turfgrass Field Day
Pullman, Wash.
Contact 509-335-4604
30-Aug. 3 Plant Growth Regulation Society
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
Contact 808-961-4130

AUGUST
3 New Jersey Turfgrass Association/Rutgers Golf & Fine Turf Field Day
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5-8 Georgia GCSA Summer Conference
Lake Lanier Island, Ga.
Contact 706-724-2651
9 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation/Ohio State University Research Field Day
Columbus, Ohio
Contact 888-683-3445
14 Utah State University Field Days
Logan, Utah
Contact 801-826-7251
14-17 Turfgrass 2000
Gainesville, Fla.
Contact 800-882-6721
15 Cornell Field Day
Ithaca, N.Y.
Contact 607-255-1792
16-19 Golf Course Builders Association of America Summer Meeting
Louisville, Ky.
Contact 919-942-8922
SEPTMBER
16-19 Club Managers Association of America Annual Leadership/Legislative Conference
Alexandria, Va.
Contact 703-739-9500
18 Canadian Golf Superintendents Association’s Annual Fall Field Day
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Contact 905-602-8873
25-28 Computer Irrigation Installation with HOPE Piping
Ames, Iowa
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OCTOBER
3 Iowa Golf Course Superintendents State Meeting
Lake Mills, Iowa
Contact 515-232-8222
4-5 Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo
Costa Mesa, Calif.
Contact 800-500-7282
10 Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association’s Assistant GCS Seminar and Tournament
Woodstock, Ga.
Contact 706-742-2651

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2765 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

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Thank God for All of the Oscars

BY PAT JONES

Their Nobility

Attracts Bright
Young People
To the Business
Like Faith
Attracts Priests
To the Altar

Their nobility attracts bright young people to the business like faith attracts priests to the altar. They have a nobility about them that attracts bright young people to the business like faith attracts priests to the altar. They have that special ability to not only create great golf conditions, but to create greatness in others.

Oscar isn't concerned about how the Merit Club will hold up to the scrutiny of network television and the critical examination of the players. Instead, his goal is to ensure that the event is a major showcase for women's golf. He also isn't interested in being in the limelight. Instead, he insists I talk with and photograph his assistants and club president Ed Oldfield.

What's the point of this tribute to a man who wants no tributes? Oscar Miles and the hundreds more like him around the country are what make this profession great. They are mentors and innovators. They share ideas and help their colleagues with no strings attached.

Thanks Oscar (and all the other Oscars). This column's for you.

Pat Jones is the editor/publisher of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or patrick.jones@advanstar.com
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