Nightmare on Halloween

Snow, Ice, Sleet, Rain . . . Whew!

By DALE WYSOCKI, EDITOR
Head Superintendent, Fairbault Golf & Country Club

On October 31 a freak storm hit Minnesota and Wisconsin. It even made the old timers say, "I've never seen it so bad." Superintendents were caught between a big chunk of granite and a piece of 10" thick reinforced concrete.

The background: On October 28 a long-range forecast mentioned a storm system would hit sometime Thursday. On Tuesday, it was business as usual. Again the weather people were forecasting a storm on Thursday. On Wednesday we finished picking up bunker rakes, tee plaques, tee markers and ball washers. However, this was normal standard operating procedure.

On Thursday, the forecast called for 2-6" of slow release water (snow). I wasn't too concerned. I had my PCNB down October 17, and we blew out the irrigation system on October 23. So I felt comfortable.

About 11:15 a.m. the white stuff started coming down. At 1:30 p.m. the State Patrol closed down I-35 from Faribault to the Dundas exit. However, the forecast only called for 2-6".

At 6:15 p.m. I heard those first words: "Winter storm warning" possibly exists" for 6-12" of the white stuff. On Friday morning the writing was on the wall—28.4" of snow, and no mercuric chloride down or mats or anti-desiccant. At least I had the weekend to think about what to do.

On November 4 there was a meeting at Rochester Country Club. The way to Rochester is easy, I-35 to 14 and 14 east to Rochester. The ice storm started right on the south side of Owatonna Country Club. Was it pretty! But heading east to Dodge Center, it turned ugly...power lines down, oak trees shattered, apple orchards broken. The strangest sight was cement trucks supporting power poles with large straps.

Getting to Rochester C.C., you could see little snow but a great deal of rain. The greens had 1½" of solid ice on them. Jim

(Continued on Page 25)
Halloween Nightmare—
(Continued from Page 13)

Gardner had sent his crew out and started removing snow cover from the greens with a tractor and a blade.

A superintendent's greatest tool is his/her being able to call on our creative skills when under duress, or we can call our brothers in the business. How do I get rid of 17 inches of slow release water and apply my mercuric chloride? Patience. Yes, that works well, and, forever being the optimist, I'll play the waiting game and see. Besides, the soil wasn't frozen either.

On November 14 the weather started to break, and I consulted with John Wiley of Turf Supply about ordering some Calo-Gran. However, the snow had not yet left. He asked if I had any Blazon left. If I did, why don't I try applying it to the snow at around 4 oz. per gallon of water.

Well, I did all greens with a back pack sprayer, putting in 32 oz. of Blazon with 4 gallons of water and by Monday the snow was gone... not a trace where the colorant was used. It felt good to be able to apply the fungicides.

From what I understand, there was a lot of snow blowing going on and hand shoveling. The megastorm brought out the best in everybody. Rick Fredericksen of Woodhill qualified for his 49er card on a D-3 Cat. Sure makes it easy to move lots of snow when you have the right equipment.

Further, to the southwest where the ice storm really hit hard and power wasn't restored for a couple of weeks, superintendents were using kerosene heaters and renting large generators that operated off of PTO's of tractors to keep clubhouses and maintenance shops heated.

If anyone missed "Nightmare on Halloween," I'm sure they caught Halloween II. It struck on Thanksgiving. Let's see now, what holiday is next?

---

**EQUIPMENT FOR SALE**

- Terra 320 Aerator
- Ransomes 350-D Fairway Unit (1984)
- Ransomes 213-D (1987)
- Ransomes 180
- Ford 7' Sickle Mower (Model 515)
- Mars Sweeper
- Set Toro Triplex Spiking Reels
- Tennant Indoor Sweeper (Model 42E-HD) Attachments: One (1) Yanmar Front End Loader and Backhoe
- Henderson Fertilizer Blender (Complete w/Conveyors)

Make Inquiries To: Wedgewood Valley Golf Club 459-0288 ask for Don

---

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**NEW MEMBERS—NOVEMBER 20, 1991**

- Leroy Benson, Fergus Falls Park & Rec. Class E
- Thomas Hougton, Braemar Golf Course Class D
- Mark Plombon, White Bear Yacht Club Class C
- Rick Lucken, Pomme de Terre Golf Club Class A
- Mike McDowell, Headwaters Country Club Class BII
- Pat Morstad, Mounders On Gull Class BII
- John Hammerschmidt, Manitou Ridge Golf Course Class C
- Kevan Tus, Anoka Technical College Class D
- William Voigt, Hazeltine National G.C. Class BII
- Tim Mihalko, Lafayette Club Class F
- Jim Schilller, Monumental Sales Inc. Class F
- Jeff Klein, Fertimix Inc. Class F
- Gerald Hartman, Hartman Tree Farm Class F
- Tom Holser, Rainbow Tree Care Class F
- Rick Keller
- Harold Engels

**RECLASSIFICATION—NOVEMBER 20, 1991**

- Patrick Walton, Rolling Green C.C. BII to B
- Robert Panuska, Waseca Lakeside Club BII to B
- Bradley Harme, Bracketts Crossing Class D
- E. Paul Eckholm, Grand Forks C.C. Class BII
- James Sinkel, Rum River Golf Club Class B
- Russell Adams, U of M Golf Club Class A

**REINSTATEMENT—NOVEMBER 20, 1991**

- Rich Andersen, North Oaks C.C. Class BII

---

**MGCSA Committee Assignments**

**ARRANGEMENTS**

- Chairman: Bill Whitworth
- Co-Chairman: Dale Wysocki

**RESEARCH**

- Chairman: Greg Hubbard
- Co-Chairmen: Doug Mahai, Jim Nicoli

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Chairman: Mike Olson
- Co-Chairmen: John Granhoit, Andy Lindquist, Jim Gardner, Joe Moris, Steve Ganske

**SCHOLARSHIP**

- Chairman: Mike Olson
- Co-Chairmen: Bill Whitworth, Jack MacKenzie, Robert Distel, Larry Vetter

**EDITORIAL**

- Chairman: Dale Wysocki
- Co-Chairmen: Tom Fischer, Dale Wysocki

**BYLAWS**

- Chairman: John Granhoit
- Co-Chairmen: Tom Fischer, Greg Hubbard, Doug Mahai, Kevin Clunis

**ETHICS**

- Chairman: Rick Fredericksen
- Co-Chairmen: Greg Hubbard, Doug Mahai, Kevin Clunis, Dan Miller, Keith Scott, Ron Steffenhagen

**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

- Chairman: Rick Fredericksen

**NOMINATIONS**

- Chairman: Tom Fischer

**CONFERANCE & EDUCATION**

- Chairman: Shane Andrews
- Co-Chairmen: Greg Hubbard, Mike Olson, Kevin Clunis, Andy Lindquist, Steve Ganske, Dan Miller, Keith Scott, Ron Steffenhagen

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Chairman: Scott Austin
- Co-Chairmen: Jim Gardner, Jerry Murphy

Water Resource will be a subcommittee of Environmental.