Can anyone believe how fast this summer has gone? It seemed like only yesterday we were planning all the projects for the summer and here we are prepping the course for the club championship, and saying good-bye to all the seasonal help. It's all down hill from here. I really love the fall too, always have. The cooler temps, the great fall colors, football, and more recently, fantasy football.

**On the business at hand**, the following paragraphs chronicle the latest meeting of your Board of Directors. We met on Tuesday August 12, at Woodhill Country Club in the barn.

In **Communications** we received many a thank you, including some from scholarship recipients, the U of M, the family of Dick Wise, and from William Bengeyfield.

There was some discussion during the Treasurers' Report about the confusion that has occurred with our change of fiscal year. First there were so many people that paid their dues late that our six-month budget for dues revenue is way off. There was also some concern expressed to the Board that the dues will not follow the fiscal year now. However this doesn't affect dues at all. The dues paid are for the calendar year in which they are paid. It was felt that since the seven-month budget would be so far off we should have an 18-month statement at the annual meeting to give a more accurate representation of what occurred the previous fiscal period.

**Rick Fredrickson thanked Mike Nelson** for the being such a gracious host at the Presidents’ Board of Directors golf event at Dacotah Ridge.

**Thank you also to Craguns and Matt McKinns' staff for hosting the MGCSA Championship** - As hot as it was when the beverage gal came around with the frozen towels; those towels were a big hit. The course was in great shape, and the staff was very friendly and helpful as always.

**The Business Office reported** that 74, A, B & C members and 19 affiliates stand to be deleted on the September 1st deadline. The Membership Roster has been mailed out, and with so many names as well as adding some. However we would like to look through the list, please call a Director and help us update this list.

I hope you all have a good month and if you need it as we do, rain falls your way. - RT

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**ON BOARD**

*Musing the Monthly Minutes*

By Rick Traver, CGCS

Monticello Country Club

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SEPTEMBER 2003
For You And Your Turf

Purchase 3 cases (15 Gallons) of Tuff Turf™ and one case of Ultra-Plex™ (5 Gallons) from Precision Turf & Chemical during the months of August, September, or October and receive a complimentary Cinder Creek Shell™ by Columbia Sportswear or a Fleece Liner, a $125 value!¹

Double your order by ordering 6 cases of Tuff Turf™ and 2 cases of Ultra-Plex™ and receive both the Cinder Creek Shell™ and Fleece Liner!¹

Cinder Creek Shell™ and/or Fleece Liner

Omni-Tech Fabric
100% Nylon Storm Dry TN With
- 100% Polyester Tricot Lining
- Waterproof/Breathable
- Fully Seam Sealed
- Adjustable Hood
- Packable Into Left Front Pocket
- Radial Sleeve

Tuff Turf™
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Tuff Turf™ represents the most advanced level of foliar applied technology.
- Increased Green Speed
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- Cold Weather Tolerance
- Turf Blade Hardening & Rigidity
- Traffic Recovery
Subject: Optimum Plant Health
- Working Foliar Feedings Into
  Your Fertilizer Program
- The Use Of Bio-Amendments

Speaker: Gary Grigg V.P. / Agronomist

Where: Bent Creek Golf Club
14490 Valley View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

When: October 21st @ 8:00 AM

Schedule:
8:00AM – Sign In
8:15AM – Presentation
10:45AM – Questions
11:00AM – Lunch
After Lunch – Free Golf *

Contact Precision Turf to R.S.V.P. for attendance and to reserve a spot for free golf.*
Space is limited so reserve early!

*1 free round of golf is available after lunch for those who request it while placing
a reservation. Golf carts are available for a fee of $17 per person.
**FOR SALE**

1974 Toro Parkmaster 7-gang/9-gang rough mower w/3 stage deck. Needs power steering unit, and some work on the reels.

Contact: Jim Barnett, superintendent, Babbitt Golf Course, Babbitt, Minn. at home after 3 PM at 218-365-6946.

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**WANTED**

Inexpensive, used walk-behind greens mower for a small, residential putting green.

Contact: Russ Melton 612-349-9842 or 651-407-9283

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**FOR SALE**

Toro Network LTC Satellites 16 Stations

81 sets - Tee markers have been sanded

Unpainted $500 - Painted to your color

Contact: Mark Plombon

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**FOR SALE**

1991 Cushman Outfront Rotary Kubota Diesel Engine 72" Mulcher Fully Equipped Great Condition 2100 hrs. - $4000

1991 Cushman Core Destroyer Great Condition - $1000

1990 Greenside II Aerator Comes with 1/2 and 5/8 holders push rods and slides, in good shape $100

Contact: Roger or Jim Southview CC 651-451-1666

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**FOR SALE**

Rollers to fit a Greensking IV

Contact: Rick Douner 218-299-5365

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**WANTED**

Greens Rollers -- vibratory or weighted Contact: JOE or MATT Red Wing C.C. 651-388-9524

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**WANTED**

Cushman Frontline Model #898804-8610 3-wheeler. Wanted for parts.

Contact: Pete Gruner or Tom Lundgren Katehavcn GC 763-786-2945

---

**WANTED**

14 hp Kohler engine to fit old GM 3-300 Toro. Hopefully in running order. Don't want to spend much as it's just a back-up tee mower.

Contact: John Betchwars Crosswind Golf Club 757-758-7202

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**WANTED**

Super Court Master compact automatic grading system by Laser Leveling. Want to rent for the summer.

Contact: Mark Ploombon Soundwell Golf Club 612-439-7819

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**FOR SALE**

Toro VT-4 Irrigation Clocks

Contact: Bob McKinney Mendota Country Club 651-454-1441

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**FOR SALE**

Toro VT-II Central controller $500

Toro Network LTC Satellite 16 Stations 7-8600 each

75 HP centrifugal pump with VFD (480 volt 3-phase) $6,500

10 HP centrifugal pump (480 volt 3-phase) $500

7.5 HP floating river pump (480 volt 3-phase) $500

Misc. cast iron pipe fittings for old pump house and pumps (free)

Contact: John Granholt Eau Claire Country Club 715-836-8422

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**FOR SALE**

Toro Spray Hawk, 45 regulation size plastic putting cups some new, some slightly used. 21 flagsticks that were only used for a year and are all in excellent condition.

Contact: Jason Steffen

The Legends Club 952-226-1148 jstoferahn@legendsdcg.com

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**FOR SALE**

Coremator 6 greens and tee aerator Like new. $3,000 or best offer

Contact: GARY or AL Viking Meadows Golf Club 763-434-5501

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**WANTED**

Greens Rollers -- vibratory or weighted Contact: JOE or MATT Red Wing C.C. 651-388-9524

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**WANTED**

Cushman Frontline Model #898804-8610 3-wheeler. Wanted for parts.

Contact: Pete Gruner or Tom Lundgren Katehavcn GC 763-786-2945

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Contact: John Betchwars Crosswind Golf Club 757-758-7202

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**WANTED**

Super Court Master compact automatic grading system by Laser Leveling. Want to rent for the summer.

Contact: Mark Ploombon Soundwell Golf Club 612-439-7819

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**FOR SALE**

Foley Accu-Spin Reel Grinder Model 3096 $3,500

Contact: KEITH or DAN Oak Ridge Country Club 952-938-6910

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**FOR SALE**

B&B Technologies Turf Tech 300 Sprayer 300 Gal. pull behind sprayer 5.5 hp Honda Engine with centrifugal pump Hose reel, electric boom, foam marker, rotation timer 1 year old, used ten times to spray fairways Price: $6,500 or best offer Contact: Joe or Matt Red Wing Country Club 612-388-9524

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**FOR SALE**

Red Wing Country Club 612-388-9524

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**FOR SALE**

2000 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900 D 3wd, diesel, 683 hrs, 10 blade reel In Great Shape Price: $13,500 or best offer Contact: Matt or Joe Red Wing Country Club 612-388-9524

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**FOR SALE**

1998 Jacobsen 1900G Tri King 1870 hrs. 72" Cut with 11 blade reels $4,000 or best offer Contact: Steve Benson Grand National Golf Club 320/384-7984

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**FOR SALE**

2001 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900D diesel, 292 hours, 3wd excellent condition $14,500 Contact: Dan Swenson The Refuge Golf Club 763-783-8520

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**FOR SALE**

Olahe Model 150 Snowblower, 52" width, designed to be mounted to Toro’s 300 and 220-D Series tractors. Heavy duty 2-stage blower with electric operated directional chute rotates 180 degrees, this unit was mounted on a 345 Toro Groundsmaster and is in good shape. $1,200 or best offer.

Contact: Chip Lothman Voyager Village Country Club 715-259-3926

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**FOR SALE**


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**FOR SALE**


$1,000 - 1988 Toro RM216 Trim Mower, 3,200 hrs.


Contact: Guy Leach Spring Valley Golf Course 715-779-5513

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**FOR SALE**

1998 Rambacus, AR-250 4WD Rotary 2,100 hrs. $9,500 or best offer

Contact: Geno or Hartley Dayton Country Club 612-251-7918

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**FOR SALE**

9-Hole Golf Course Northern Minnesota Par 31, 2000 yards Contact: Chris Klaatte 218-590-1454

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**FOR SALE**

1-Toro VT4000 Central Irrigation Controller $2000

14-Toro VT12 Electro-Mechanical Irr. Satellites $100/ea. 40 hp Jacuzzi Centrifugal Pump (230 v) w/Starer

20 hp Berkeley Centrifugal Pump (230 v) w/Starer

Pump Control Panel w/ Pressure Switches

4" Cla-Valve, Y-Strainer, Check Valves, Fittings, Pipe, Etc. Buy Everything for $4500

Pump station and control system was installed in 1990 and fully operational until it was removed in 2001.

Contact: Jeff Backstrom Cannon Golf Club 507-263-0831

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**FOR SALE**

1999 85DL National Deluxe Mower with 50 hours on it $5,500 or b/o.

Contact: Richard Geike Fritz's Resort 218-568-6988

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SEPTEMBER 2003

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34 HOLE NOTES
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- Chipco® FireStar™
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- Sevin®
- Merit®
- Dylox®
- Tempo®
- Nemacur®*

Fungicides
- 26GT®
- ProStar®
- Banol®
- Chipco® Signature™
- Compass®
- Bayleton®

Herbicides
- Ronstar®
- Prograss®
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- Illoxan®
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Although it only opened for play in July, the new Black Bear Golf Course at Cloquet, Minn., could already be among the finest golf courses in Minnesota.

Owned by the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as a part of its Black Bear Casino complex, the 18-hole championship course was built on what was once 160 acres of swampland. It features 11 lakes on the course, a spring-fed irrigation pond, 95 acres of lush turf and what course superintendent Bill Lewis says are "from what I've heard, probably the finest bent grass greens in the state."

A 27-year veteran in the golf industry, Lewis notes, "No corners whatsoever were cut in the construction of the course. It's absolutely beautiful. It's a tight course. There are hazards on every hole."

Designed by golf course architects Jack Gilmore and Robert Graves of Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc., which has offices in Spring Green, Wis., and Phoenix, AZ, the course is largely built on top of some 1.5 million cubic yards of material that was hauled to elevate the course above the high water table. In the process of establishing a stable, sub-layer for some of the golf holes, several large peat bogs had to be removed.

The association between Gilmore-Graves Golf and the Fond Du Lac Band originated when one of the council members "came by and suggested that I come up and see them. That's how it started. That was in the fall of 1998," Graves relates.

The decision not to cut corners in construction was reached early on in the discussions that followed. Lewis, who was brought into the project to supervise construction of the course - as he regularly is on Gilmore-Graves projects - was a part of the planning. "When we explained to the tribal leaders what could happen in a few years by going with less than the best materials and construction practices, they agreed with us to go with quality," Lewis says. "No corners were cut. They wanted an elite course and they took the extra steps to get one."

Before its construction, much of the 160 acres had water on it. The permitting process with the Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency took two years as provisions were made to replace each acre of wetland that was impacted or disturbed with 1.5 acres of new wetlands. Approval of the final plan required that 60 acres of new wetlands would have to be created but that expense didn't faze tribal leaders. "They are highly protective of the environment and they happily complied," Lewis says.

Originally, some 40 acres were to have been impacted in the plans, but that amount was reduced to only about 25 acres by making adjustments to the design during the rough-in work. Still, the construction required the biggest fill of any wetland that the Corps of Engineers has ever approved, Lewis notes. "We've kept a lot of wetlands on the course," Graves relates. "We really had to stay on our toes relative to following the whole permitting process. It is a beautiful area."

"We always try to be good stewards of the land," Dennis Olson, a tribal member and project manager for the Fond Du Lac Band, says of meeting all the environmental concerns during construction. "These guys really did a great job of building it. It has become a great course. It is going to be one of the top-end courses in the state."

A native of Warroad, Minn., Lewis started his career in the golf course industry in 1976 during construction of the Warroad Estates Golf Course in his hometown. He became superintendent of the Apache Wells Country Club at Mesa, Ariz., in 1983 and then returned to golf course construction in 1992 to do a Lee Trevino course at Green Valley, Ariz. He later rebuilt the Links Golf Course at Queen Creek, Ariz., and then constructed the River Run Golf Course at Eagar, Ariz.

"It was while I was finishing River Run that a tribal member from Fond Du Lac came down to Arizona to visit me and see if I would be interested in doing a course for them," Lewis says.
Black Bear Golf Course—
(Continued from Page 36)

Construction of the driving range at Black Bear began in April 2001 with work on the golf course started two months later. The fairways, which were hydro-seeded with Dakota Peat and the seed in the hydro mulch, are 70 percent bluegrass and 30 percent rye. The course has nine different varieties of grasses. The Dakota-certified greens are L-93 creeping bent grass. The top six inches of the tee boxes were built with a 90-10 mix of sand and Dakota Peat.

"The fill that we hauled in for construction of the course was pure sand," Lewis says. "Its silt-clay content was only 1.3 percent. That's great for turf grass. We got 10 inches of root growth on the bluegrass from the time we seeded it last July until fall. Having clean sand with no clay allows the roots to really go down and the Dakota Peat holds the moisture in place. We could have opened nine holes last fall. It was just like a carpet out there." Top-dressing of the fairways with an 85-15 sand and Dakota Peat mix was done this spring to get more organics into the root zone.

Lewis is a strong advocate of the highly decomposed Dakota Peat and of the agronomic support, lab testing, blending and quality control measures that go into the construction of Dakota-certified greens and tees. "We use the best of the USGA specifications, which when coupled the even more stringent specifications and controls developed by Dakota provides the ultimate in results," Lewis says. "Dakota-certified greens are constructed for each location's different terrain, humidity and all the other factors to be considered. The program starts with testing the sand and determining the sand to peat mix that is needed. Everything is tested and monitored throughout the blending process by Dakota or a Dakota-approved agronomist. There is never a question about the quality of the materials that are being used."

"This is a course to really be proud of. It was built by tribal enrollees. The whole project was done in-house by their construction company. I trained their operators and the whole construction crew and am in the process of training the maintenance crew," Lewis says. "Bob Oelke, Dakota's agronomist, is assisting us. The course will have 14 employees plus the superintendent and his assistant and a mechanic."

Besides the golf course, which is its own separate entity, and the casino, the Black Bear complex could soon also include a convention center and hotel. Those additions are in the early planning stages. Black Bear has a two-year golf course management contract with Gilmore-Graves. The arrangement calls for Lewis to serve as a consultant and work with fertilizer programs, supervise the superintendent, assist in training the staff, and to be involved with other issues having to do with the golf course.

When opened, Black Bear will be set to host major tournaments. like LPGA and pro-am events, Lewis says. "They've already pretty much got this year all booked up as far as leagues and tournaments. Green fees this year will be in the $40 range including a cart, which is really competitive."

Next for Gilmore Graves and Lewis, a team that has been working together on a regular basis for the past four years, are golf course projects currently in planning in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and possibly in Nevada. "The architect puts the course on paper and they hire me as an independent contractor to put it into the dirt. to make field changes, train the crews and things like that," Lewis says of the arrangement.

"I've been in the golf business since 1976 and Dakota is the only peat program I will use on a green. If the owners don't want to use Dakota, I won't do the job. For me, a Dakota green has never failed. Every green I've ever built with Dakota, whether it was 15 years ago, 20 years ago or more, they're still great greens. That's the same when I work with Gilmore-Graves. We don't bid projects. When the bidding war starts, the first thing that goes is the quality of the peat and when an inferior product is substituted, it shows up in three to five years when the greens have to be redone. For that reason, we won't bid a project. We believe that building Dakota-certified greens is the only insurance that we as the architect and the contractor have. Dakota backs their product. They do all the sand testing, monitor the blending and provide all the technical control. everything is there and in place from day one. There is no chance of an inferior material being substituted."

Using inferior organics or mixes has been the biggest problem in golf course construction, Lewis says. "I've seen it all over the Southwest. The architect specifies Dakota Peat but later it gets cut out for cheaper stuff to stay within the construction budget. Then when the greens fail three years later everybody involved starts pointing fingers and the lawsuits begin. Dakota-certified greens and tees are a little more expensive initially, but in three to five years they've more than paid for themselves. With others, you could end up paying for them three-fold down the road. It will all show up in the quality of the turf. The turf never lies."
Sorry I blew up! I get a charge out of players approaching me and confiding that I have had a very easy season to manage my turf. Of course I smile and give the usual responses about having a great crew, a wonderful architectural design to work with and reasonable temperatures in the months of June and July. But inside my anger boils, for these golfers have such very short memories.

They have forgotten the impromptu meeting I was invited to attend with the membership early in May to defend my "limited" agronomic skills and explain why the grass died upon the golf course over the winter. "Nobody else suffered as much as we did!" And, "Our greens are the worst in the state, not to mention the fairways. Do you know what you are doing Jack?" were the typical rumblings last spring. Well, I dodged that bullet by promising that soon the course would be back to normal, as soon as the soil temperatures warmed up that was.

Low and behold by mid-June my track was looking as great as everyone else's. Soil temperatures had become optimum for seed germination and recovery. I was suddenly regarded by some as a genius for my masterful skills in turf management. But then again, others also told me that the recent warmer weather pattern was THE big factor in the recovery. Of course it had nothing to do with the additional seed, labor and proper water management.

Speaking of water management, I don't recall a year when the chasistements have flown so freely regarding my irrigation practices. Again I am apparently a dunce for irrigating too soon in the evening, sometimes even when it is raining or, heaven forbid, when the weather forecasters are promising precipitation. Upon deaf ears I explain the deficiencies in the irrigation system, the predominant turf species maintained, Poa annua, and the fact that sometimes the weather predictions are wrong.

And what about this weather! Can you say DROUGHT? Seems to me that Mother Nature hasn't been too generous since the middle of August 2002 when it comes to precipitation. Forcing a player to understand the dynamics of meteorology just isn't in my bag of tricks. Of course I am reminded by the very lowest of the handicappers that North Oaks has a state of the art irrigation system installed just 13 years ago and, when it comes to watering, my job is easy. They fail to comprehend that double row, square spaced, block technology, undersized pipe, a 45-year-old pump station and the many corners cut during installation in an effort to "save the budget" (for new wallpaper in the ladies locker room no doubt!) all play into the water management challenges I have to meet.

Alas, in hindsight I suppose my easy job could have been made more difficult through the shattering of many lines when firing up in April, the loss of a foot valve on my 50 horse hard start pump, the contamination and plugging of many heads with rocks when said pump was fired up again and the City of St. Paul's Water Department draw down of my wet well causing one of my pumps to cavitate and malfunction during the warmest and windiest night of the year. Who am I kidding, these events did happen and many more. But how does a superintendent convince a membership of their heartaches and heartbreaks when it has been "such an easy summer"?

And I love the in house architects who contend that I have to do something because the course is too easy. It is as if I am to blame for the removal of hundreds of God-awful pine trees that used to line the fairways and hence the recovery of a classically-designed Stan Thompson golf course. But heaven forbid that I toughen up the course by mowing the rough a bit longer. Perhaps the game has become easier through the improvements in technology.

According to the USGA the average drive has only improved 15 yards in recent years due to the changes in club and ball design. Not much you say? Well combine this with an additional ten yard gain on all iron shots and you can calculate a much, much shorter golf course overall, roughly 400 yards shorter. I think somebody should address this technology issue and level the playing field for those of us who manage classical, and typically shorter, golf courses.

Sorry I am blowing up! Sooner or later my response to the often-made comment that the bunkers at North Oaks suck will be, "No, you just suck at bunker shots!" I tire of the complaining player who decries the sand hazards as too inconsistent, too soft, too firm, too dry and too wet. Yet they only own one sand wedge and never take a lesson from a golf professional or, get this, practice. And perhaps my all time favorite is the comment that having a Hispanic staff has made my job a cakewalk. Don't get me wrong, I love my amigos, but a multicultural staff has its challenges.

Communication can be an issue, particularly if one's crew suddenly can no longer comprehend directions they followed to a "t" the day before. Pay day also possess problems as the lads suddenly can no longer comprehend directions they followed to a "t" the day before. Pay day also possess problems as the lads sometimes tune up that evening. And due to the fact that most travel together, when the one car is down, my staff is gone for the day. Pay day also possess' problems as the lads some-

And perhaps my all time favorite is the comment that having a Hispanic staff has made my job a cakewalk. Don't get me wrong, I love my amigos, but a multicultural staff has its challenges.

As a critic no one is harder on me than me. For I am a typical Golf Course Superintendent, a retentive, professional, perfectionist, micro and macro manager, scientist, politician, accountant and psychologist. I am adept at doing more with less and my hours are as long as it takes. I embrace the challenges each day present, both physical and mental. And I prepare for when the next shoe will fall... the next irrigation crisis, budget cut, weather anomaly, staff challenge or pathogen attack. Every year has it's own set of problems.

In the mean time I'll smile and keep my mouth shut and nod when I am told, "The course looks great Jack, it has been an easy summer for you to grow grass."

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to blow up! I feel oh so much better. - JM
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