

helps to make for a pleasant life.

For me, freedom from "the clock" and the ability to do what I want to do when I want to do it, that's RETIREMENT. It's Great.

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WATER! HAVE WE ENOUGH? by Bob Livesey

This past winter was one of the driest in years. Water conservation measures have been taken in many areas. Some of our superintendents can attest to this.

How many recall when the irrigation for greens and tees was a 3/4 inch hose bib set off the area of play? A few lengths of hose and a home fan nozzle was used as the sprinkler system.

Later on the water systems were upgraded with better pumps and a quick coupler replaced the hose bib. They even put them in the fairways. This is when watering of golf courses changed. No longer did the American golfer have to play on dry fairways hoping for the summer rains to keep things green.

After a number of years the so called ultimate in irrigation, the automatic systems were installed. Now we are able to have lush, green turf from tee to green, rough included. In fact we have been able to create casual water all over the course. You would think the summer rains are back.

Some of the superintendents are taking a step back in time. In some areas the water districts won't let the automatic system be used. They are back to the old hose on nozzle on greens and tees. In other areas the sprinklers in the rough are being blocked off. One thing for sure, the casual water has disappeared.

What is going to happen if we have another dry winter? It's possible! Some of the clubs have thought of it. They are trying to come up with plans to cut back and conserve. Now is the time to find out what we can do with the minimum amount of water and still maintain a decent turf.

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WHERE ARE THE RAINS? by Bill Nigh, Pasatiempo Golf Course, Santa Cruz

After hearing various rumors and stories, I really wonder what is happening around Northern California insofar as water rationing. Pasatiempo has had its water problems in the past, but these were minor compared to today's. We have never really worried about our supply as we do not have the problems of lakes, ponds, streams or wells--we take directly from the City water system--just like turning on the faucet at home.