



## A Superintendent's Dream (Cont'd)

scene in Caddyshack" and ask him to clean it up himself.

3:00 — Receive notice in today's mail that seven of my favorite pesticides have been banned for all future use on golf courses in our state.

Homeowners will still be able to purchase them at their favorite lawn and garden store, though. Hmmm, I wonder whether I can recruit lot owners with lawns fronting the golf course . . . nah, never mind.

3:33 — Longtime ladies day golfer asks why all of the maintenance is always performed on ladies day — for the 122nd Tuesday in a row. She wonders why we can't work at night to stay out of the way of golfers. I tell her I'll consider it.

3:49 — Equipment mechanic tells me that 15 vendor salespeople stopped by the course today, each without an appointment.

3:53 — New greens committee chairman calls again and tells me my \$150,000 capital equipment replacement and additional new equipment budget was not approved. It was tabled indefinitely, largely because of a planned \$500,000 expansion to the tennis facility. Reminds me, too, that I'll be responsible for grooming the new courts.

4:01 — Spouse calls. Mother-in-law will be coming for a three-month stay.

4:15 — Equipment mechanic turns in two-week notice because he has found a better paying job with better benefits at a neighboring course.

4:25 — State agency calls and says irrigation water usage must be cut 33.3 percent daily for the foreseeable future until the drought ends. He will follow up

our conversation in writing.

6:05 — Learn of pythium outbreak on all of the greens. The crew has gone home and I can't get in touch with anyone. I jump on the sprayer and spray all the greens myself.

11:11 — I wake up from an evening nap and realize all this has been a terrible dream.

**But . . . if I could plan a perfect day, it would go something like this . . .**

5:15 a.m. — Border collie faithfully wakes me up with a lick on my face.

5:22 — Check progress of my golf stocks. All have split 2 for 1, with dividend increases.

4:45 — Arrive at office. Strap on combination cell phone/two-way radio unit and pager. No messages.

5:46 — Check answering machine and voice mail. No Messages.

5:47 — Check e-mail. Three good golf jokes.

5:48 — Check DTN weather computer. Today's high will be 72 degrees with 15 percent humidity; 100 percent chance of rain later in the afternoon.

5:49 — Check irrigation computer and pump monitor. Everything watered as programmed.

5:50 — Staff arrives early and everyone shows up.

5:55 — Go over crew assignments with assistants. They already have anticipated what I wanted to do today.

6:00 — Staff leaves with smiles on their faces, raring to get on the course. They check oil in equipment.

6:05 — I tour entire course. It looks great and is playing great, too. Greens rolling 10 feet, smooth as silk, firm as a table top. Rest of course is firm and fast.

7:30 — Have joint employee annual reviews for entire maintenance staff. They take my constructive criticism, praise and recommendations seriously and ask if there are any other ways they can improve their job performance and attitude. Way to go.

8:42 — Club president calls and states new course policy that all department do not have to do business with members, or their friends, anymore.

9:55 — Green chairman calls and asks me to prepare the agenda, as usual, for tonight's

green committee meeting. Also asks if I will play golf with a different foursome each week to get golfer feedback. Why, of course!

10:04 — Mother-in-law calls and delays month-long visit. Indefinitely.

10:10 — Review employee applications on waiting list of those who want to work for me.

10:15 — Go back out on course and run into a member known as "Mr. Grumpy," my No. 1 nemesis. He says that he is playing much better now and that the course really has improved and is in the best shape ever (even though it is in the same shape as always). I finally tell him that his perception of course conditioning is always in direct relation to how

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## GCSANC Quick Profile

Name: Andy Slack

Employer: Spot Water Management

Position: Owner/Peon

Years in the Golf Business: 13

- ◆ Previous Employment: Sierra Pacific, West Star, Golf Enterprises, Kerrey Machinery in Indiana
- ◆ Education: BS in Turf Science - '91 Purdue University
- ◆ GCSANC Work or Interests: Scholarships, Scholarship Tournament, Web Stuff, or wherever I can help.
- ◆ Other Organizations: SNGCSA, Cactus & Pine GCSA, Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, GCSAA, Furry Friends, Purdue Alumni Assn.
- ◆ Family: Dog - Zoysia, Wife - Bish (Elizabeth).....in that order!
- ◆ Interests Outside of Golf: Friends, traveling, spending time with Zoysia, basketball
- ◆ Favorite Vacation: Honeymoon in New Zealand
- ◆ Favorite Course to Play: San Francisco Golf Club
- ◆ Course You'd Like to Visit: Pine Valley
- ◆ Strangest Thing You've Witnessed On The Golf Course: 10th Wonder of the World - the water bubble under sod, or 110v felt through wet grass when there was a nick in the wire!
- ◆ What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf: High tech sales/service of some kind, or I'd love to own/operate a bar/restaurant.