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Bayer Environmental Science

## BUNKER SHOTS *by Ken Williams, CGCS*

Greetings from Palo Alto, probably the only place in the country where even the homeless have laptops! Technology is amazing these days, but it is making the superintendent's life even crazier. It is nearly impossible to check out from work anymore, even when on vacation. Long gone are the days when mail only came once a day and our pockets weren't buzzing every couple seconds. Now I see why the older generation always claims, "Those were the days!"

Social networks are now everywhere and part of everyday life. Facebook is great and all, but it is total pseudo reality. People now hire consultants to shape their online identity. But yet people tend to do strange stuff online. For example, who friends Red Velvet Cake? Wow, those status updates must be really exciting! Or I like the people on Facebook who have signed up but don't put their photo in their profile. It is FACEbook for crying out loud! Most adults on Facebook are so nice and overly sweet, and yet the teens can be intensely cruel. Unfortunately there is no middle ground like there is in real life. It is sort of like the reality shows, where reality just happens to be staged.

Have you heard the advertisements for an outfit called Sprinkler-Times.com? They are supposed to have a Smartphone app. to help people set their sprinkler run times by geographical location. I can't believe how lame somebody would have to be to spend money on that. But then again, I'm pretty peeved that I didn't think of it first!

I couldn't write an article without giving my friends at the USGA some grief. My gripe again is Rule 16-1c that doesn't allow the repair of spike or scuff marks on the green.

Now I do know, courtesy of Gale Love, if I was a better superintendent I wouldn't have greens that scuff up. But I don't think Gale has seen how many inconsiderate foot-draggers I have that trounce these grounds everyday. Anyway, those blatant scuffs of bent around the hole are no fun to putt over and around. The USGA claims repairing the marks would slow play. - What? - I don't think they realize how incredibly lazy golfers are! Golfers will just repair what effects them - the bare minimum; it is pretty much human nature 101. Just look at how many ball marks go unrepaired! Come on USGA, this is one rule to revisit. For big tournaments, a local rule could always be implemented so meticulous Pros wouldn't fix spike marks forty feet from the hole.

And finally, the GCSAA Conference is finally going back to Vegas! Wow, that should be exciting! But things must really be tough there for them to want us golf course superintendents. Not to say we are a cheap, thrifty group or anything, but somebody better put up some long mazes for the lines for the couple \$5 tables they have in the back corner! I'm sure the city of excitement and bright lights can't wait to see the hoards of pickup truck driving, khaki wearing, logo shirt sporting, grass-stained supers invading the Strip searching for the best buffet deals and happy hours. It'll be a great week, and hopefully be a lot more fun than just talking turf! I just hope in today's world they are still rolling dice and dealing actual cards!