

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the omens of Spring is the appearance of "Punxsutawney Phil", the Pennsylvania groundhog, who on the second day of February emerges from a burrow, sees his shadow and we have six more weeks of shoveling, slipping and sliding! Such are the joys of winter!

In Illinois it's altered only slightly, a certain usually humble, shy, modest golf course Superintendent comes out of his shell, makes a prediction of a "glorious Spring", and then there are six weeks of controversy and chaos!

I, for one, have an admiration for that shy, quiet, humble, modest individual, as I am convinced that he does more to get the plight of the golf course Superintendent in print than anyone else I know of, and as it is said that "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery", I shall stick my neck out and make a few predictions.

I ask first, that you appreciate that these were written in the middle of February and many conditions will no doubt change by the time you read this. Today I took a shovel, scooped three feet of snow off a green and removed a couple of plugs and brought them inside to look at. The first impression was that it looked as if it had been removed in late April as it had a good color, green seed heads of Poa had formed, and it was very much in need of a mowing. There were several lesions of leaf spots and typhula or Gray snow mold was evident in both plugs. It would seem to indicate rather severe snow mold problems.

The lack of frost may indicate an **early** appearance of the *Ataenius Spretulus* who over winters as an adult. This might be a good question to ask Dr.'s Niemczyk and Randell at the C.D.G.A. session at the Butterfield Country Club.

I also believe there will be a great deal of damage to small trees and shrubs from rodents girdling the trunks under the snow. I expect the demise of tons of fish in the ponds and lakes on the golf courses.

I realize that any prediction is as good as the research behind it, and a couple of 4" plugs from an area of a couple thousand square miles is not, I'm sure, extensive research.

The final prediction is that somehow you will get it all back together and offer to the Chicago area golfer the finest conditioned golf courses in the world, as usual!

Robert Breen

The use of coffee extenders is nothing new. The Irish have been stretching theirs with whiskey for years with never a complaint.