

I Quit Wearing My Boots Today

by Tony Rzadzki

There is something about all of us. There is, whether you choose to believe it or not, a spiritual aura that surrounds each of us. I truly believe this and can honestly state as fact that things have happened to me this year that will justify my statements. And today something that had been reoccurring for the last month happened again! IT RAINED!! I don't want you to get the impression that I am some kind of spiritualist, but an innate feeling toward nature has overcome me this year. I have been humbled once again.

I left Illinois to come to 'God's Country'. I came to build and maintain a top notch golf course in 'Lake Country', a beautiful part of Wisconsin that I and my family truly enjoy. I really looked forward to my new position, and I was anxious to see new land forms unfold. To my dismay, Mother Nature has thwarted my every effort. I think I spent the whole month of May slogging around in mud and drafting ideas for my maintenance facility about a hundred times.

June and July. How can you beat weather like this for growing in a golf course. What a gravy train couple of

To my dismay, Mother Nature has thwarted my every effort.

months for golf course construction. I never saw so much dust in my life. A tank truck loaded with water soaked down the haul roads 12 hours a day. Within minutes of his passing the dust was flying again.

Some time in that two month span our architect, Scott Miller, paid us his bimonthly visit. He usually spends two and a half days, making changes, staking trees, and flagging grass lines for seeding. Scott Miller is from Arizona. But when 106 degree temperature hits and the THI is 120, Mother Nature can bring the heartiest soul to his knees. I was crawling.

I was rolling right along and had four holes seeded and under my care by August 5th. Though I started getting edgy that week and a sneaky suspicion began to grow about me and inside my stomach. I remember talking to a couple of the construction workers about this date eight years ago when I was growing in Cantigny Golf back in Illinois. I should have kept my mouth shut. On August 9th, four and a half inches of rain devastated our golf course. Almost to the date, eight years ago Cantigny was deluged with fourteen inches of rain in one day! Call it a coincidence, call it dejavue. That native spirit was howling around that day, just as she was eight years ago.

One of the owners, the project manager, and I spent the afternoon dodging lightning bolts, flash floods, and assessing the damage as it ran out under our feet. But something else happened that day that has been happening less than weekly ever since. I started to take notice of this and thought that maybe I could try to fight this nemesis on her terms. HmMMMM.



360 Schaumburg Rd.
Streamwood, IL 60107

(708) 830-7405
FAX (708) 830-9652

**CLAUSS
BROTHERS, Inc.**
GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION
LARGE TREE MOVING



PERFECT PARTNERS



&

par ex

Celebrating over 26 years
of excellent service together!

Call Turf Products for more information on
all Par ex® fine products:

708-668-5537