

*Greg Thalmann, CGCS
Fox Run Golf Links*

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article, the ground will be covered with snow, a scene that I have been praying for since the beginning of August. This is the second year in a row that the mild fall temperatures have extended


into December. While this is great for increasing the number of rounds, which will boost revenues, negative effects are many, like greens not recovering as fast from traffic and ball marks and superintendents being under prolonged stress from the extended playing season. Add to this the lack of rainfall this year, and I imagine there is a group of burned-out and tired greenkeepers out there, just like me.

This is the time of year I start working around the house, finishing inside projects that are not completed yet. It's difficult for me to get motivated on weekends during the winter months—I would rather just sit around watching football or take a nap.

My wife Trudi and I visit friends and entertain more during the off-season, too. Compared to

the rest of the year, it's a lot easier for me to stay awake past 10:00 p.m. I can't tell you the number of times I have fallen asleep at a friend's house or a family get-together. Our friends and family are used to me nodding off after dinner, but I'm still embarrassed by it.

I also try to get caught up on my reading, leafing through all the trade magazines and articles that have piled up in my office. This stack seems to multiply each year. This year, as one of my New Year's resolutions, I plan to read everything immediately. That will free up more time to watch football.

Of course, the most important thing to do at this time of year is to relax and recharge ourselves for the upcoming season. In fact, that sounds like such a good idea right now, I think I'll go take a nap. See you later. 

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