

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Luke Cella, *Publisher*



Never Easy

Talk among superintendents this summer about turf and growing conditions has been somewhat hushed, on the "down low" and in conversations on the side. No one wanted to jinx the few days of summer that we actually had by talking too much about the more than adequate rainfall and more than welcome cool temperatures. Everyone that I have talked to, and I've talked to some of our elder gentlemen in our Association, cannot recall a summer more conducive to growing turf. However, as I've discussed the year's conditions, the term easy has only been applied to the actually growing of the turf. Being a golf course superintendent is not easy, especially this year.

It is still August (September as you read this) and I'm sure you are tired. Tired of the long days, dealing with staff or lack thereof, with golfers and members, with the talk of budgets and revenue, the economy, equipment, products, dollar spot, irrigation systems, geese, computers and cell phones. Fill in the blanks: _____, _____, _____, this list could go on for a while. Many superintendents have picked up the slack this year by filling in for shortfalls in labor budgets by helping out with the course spraying, course set up and other tasks. Several superintendents have helped out with the management of club and course operations. Most all have gone above and beyond the normal scope and workload in a year in 2009. It is fitting and fair that the worries with turf have been a little less this summer because there has been no break from the business of golf.

The reports that I have heard is that play has not been too bad. The numbers of golfers (especially on the public side) is still more weather driven than anything. If the weather and/or forecast is good, tee sheets fill up. There have been slow times depending on the day of the week, but people have come out to play and enjoy the fruits of your labor. The private side is and has been a member's game. While most memberships are down, clubs are surviving and discovering ways to pull through.

Superintendents have led the way this past year and should be thanked, not only by members and golfers but by all the others this wonderful game supports. September is upon us. I hope that you are able to recuperate before aerification and project season starts to roll. Perhaps I will see you at one of the many events coming up in the next several weeks. If not, my hat is off to you, especially this year, no matter how easy your turf had it. **-OC**

SOIL and WATER

SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

V. J. ZOLMAN & SON

Turfgrass Soil and Irrigation Water Specialists Since 1964

**Locally based services include Physical Soil Testing,
Tissue, Lime and Audubon/Environmental Analysis**

Fax (630) 964-9769 Tel (630) 964-9702

**7100 Blackburn Ave. * Downers Grove, IL 60516
Lab Services by Brookside Laboratories Inc.**



Brian S. Winkel
Territory Manager
Professional Products

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
835 Myers Road
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
Mobile 630-391-2170
Fax 630-466-3784
Toll Free 800-334-9481
www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com
brian.winkel@syngenta.com