

*Mother nature
throws many
curve balls*

As we start a new year and some of us look forward to going out to San Francisco for the GCSAA Conference and Show to attend classes and to see the trade show, I look back at 1994 and one word comes to mind: perseverance.

Statewide the rains fell all summer and fall. Some folks got more than their share and most of us had well above normal amounts. Of course the timing of Tropical Storm

Gordon was perfect, arriving right in time for the start of the Florida golf season. Many of us on the East Coast had rainfall amounts that exceeded one foot from the storm. The bad news is that my golf course had areas, that I had never seen hold water before, flood and then take days to drain or evaporate. Of course the turf in these areas thinned out and as Murphy's Law would have it, the winter growth slowdown was rapidly approaching. The good news is not real good but it is that we are all experiencing the same problems that have resulted from the rains.

The golf course superintendents that I know will PERSEVERE through these tough times and help out fellow superintendents who are also battling these problems. I think that we all need to reflect and remind ourselves of the great industry that we are all fortunate to be involved with. In spite

of the weather that makes all of our jobs interesting, managing such a large tract of land, to such a high degree that we do, is truly an awesome task and one that is very gratifying. Helping to improve wildlife habitat and doing an environmentally responsible job while offering great golf conditions is something that we should all be very proud of. Mother nature throws many curve balls during a year, from tropical storms and hurricanes to unusual cold to wind, lightning and heavy rain. After she is done, we clean up the mess and continue on.

Everyone has their own reason or reasons for playing golf. As a matter of fact, I think that some people play golf, while others actually live golf. Some play golf solely for the competitive or athletic aspect. Others play as a form of relaxation and a way to commune with nature. Still others enjoy the social aspect of the game and their club. Those that I feel who live golf may actually live on a course, play many times per week and enjoy the social aspect of the game and their club. We are the main link who tie golf together. Without a properly managed golf course, the game and all the different facets of it would not be the same.

The next time that the weather treats you bad or when things are stressful and you are ready to give up, think of your job and the industry and your fellow golf course managers. Look at the big picture and appreciate your profession and all that it has given to you. 🏌️

**President's
Message**



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