

NBA, and Major League Baseball expanded to 112 cities. Palmer was past his prime and Nicklaus, Irwin, Watson, and Johnny Miller were in theirs. The top tennis players were Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg, Chris Everett, and Martina Navratilova. Cassette tapes had replaced eight-tracks and the vinyl LPs were about to be replaced by CD's.

There are a lot of other things I could mention, but I think you get the point, which is: I'm growing older, but not growing up. David Swift has a brilliant career ahead of him. In closing I would like to pro-

vide some hints on how you can tell you are getting longer in the tooth as well. You know you're getting older when:

- You walk into a room and upon arrival can't remember why you went there.
- You meet and introduce yourself to someone on the first tee and when you get to the green you have forgotten their name.
- In the middle of a very intellectual conversation, you completely lose your train of thought.
- You know all the answers to the Jeopardy questions, but you can't think of them at the moment.

- When you turn your arms or legs into certain positions, your skin gets all wrinkled.
- You discover there is only one stronger magnification in reading glasses.
- One of your favorite channels is TV Land where you watch Gunsmoke, Leave it to Beaver, and I Love Lucy among others.
- Lovemaking used to take a minute to get ready and would last an hour, now it takes an hour to get ready and lasts a minute.
- You hate rap, heavy metal, electronica, dance and new wave music, and love the Beatles, Beach Boys and

James Taylor.

- You want a Porsche, Corvette, Viper, or Mustang Cobra.
- You would love to have a cherry 1969 G.T.O "Judge" with a really big block engine.

These are just a few clues to the wonder of the aging process. There are many others everyone discovers in their own sweet way and the own sweet time. At least I still have a full head of hair, most of my teeth and impeccable hearing.

Good luck to David Swift and all the other youngsters in the business. I hope your next 33 years will be as good as mine.

By the time this issue hits the street, only the people who lived and sweated through Hurricane Charley and its aftermath will still remember that Friday the 13th in August that changed some lives forever. After the initial relief of actually surviving the storm and after the shock and awe of surveying and cleaning up the debris is over — the ripple effects will take over.

In some cases it will be post-traumatic stress for those who lost homes or had family members lose homes, or the financial burden of costly repairs, rebuilding or relocating. These folks will not necessarily be the same focused employees they may have been before the

storm. They can definitely be on edge until their lives return to normal.

Golf courses will be shelling out lots of bucks to repair structures and remove debris, and there may be significant lost revenue going on at the same time. I know courses will be racing to reopen as soon as possible to minimize those losses so they can pay the bills and salaries and serve the customers. But it may be months for some courses to reopen.

Massive clean-up efforts will divert staff from normal turf programs designed keep the turf in tip-top shape. Mowing schedules likely got behind and lack of power kept shops in the dark and equipment technicians from servicing equipment as thoroughly as before or lapping and grinding reels on schedule. There may be some ugly mow patterns for a few weeks and scalping the tall turf as crews struggle to catch up and afternoon rains complicate the process keeping the ground too soft to mow.

The look of many courses has been altered dramatically as reports of thousands of downed trees are coming in. Some of the older, stately courses have been torn asunder by the eye wall of the storm as it crossed the state. Hundred-year-old oak trees will not be replaced in some members' lifetimes.

If large specimen trees are affordable by some clubs, the heavy equipment needed to bring them may also cause collateral damage. Meanwhile the replanting and replacing of trees takes time and money away from routine course grooming and the new trees need staking-up and extra watering until they get established.

There may also be a large investment in time and effort to replant key mature trees that fell over. A noble sentiment but one fraught with its own set of pros and cons since the weight of the big tree will be a liability to the damaged root system, and unless the big tree is securely anchored with guy wires and cables, it can fall again in a severe thunderstorm.

And remember hurricane season isn't over yet.

But there are also good ripples from the crisis. Golf course superintendent have been swapping and borrowing chain saws and blowers and helping each other to clean up, and vendors are hauling these loaners to clients with their trucks and trailers. Of course they have made some sales too; as folks have added a blower to the inventory or replaced an old one.

Another positive ripple comes from the folks at Grandezza and Old Cypress golf clubs in the stricken southwest Florida area. They have been cooking and serving more than 6,000 meals for survivors and volunteers in the hardest-hit areas. Reports are also filtering in about members pitching in with the course clean-up and some are grilling burgers and hot dogs in their backyards for crew members working so hard cleaning up the mess on the courses.

A more subtle ripple effect will be that on the local ecosystems. Perhaps no damage was as severe as on the islands of Sanibel, Captiva, North Captiva, Cayo Costa, Boca Grande and Pine Island. The foliage on many — if not most — of the trees was stripped off by the strong winds. Once-shady cool areas will now be exposed to the grueling sun. Temperatures will be hotter and force critters to seek shelter elsewhere. To some extent the same is true for those courses inland losing hundreds of — if not close to a thousand — trees. Lots of creatures will now be fighting for new territories or moving out of the area with the loss of food, cover and habitat. Some courses also will be battling back from salt and sediment contamination of the turfgrass and water sources.

A hurricane makes a big splash when it hits, but the ripple effects linger on long after the storm is gone. These ripples now have turned into shock waves thanks to hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

## Ripple Effects

### GREEN SIDE UP



Joel Jackson, CGCS

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