

Never too cold

Temperatures this winter may have hit unprecedented lows throughout the country, but that doesn't mean the work flow needed to freeze up.

Jason Adams, superintendent at Blue Hill Country Club in Canton, Mass., reports that during a typical winter his staff is hard at work removing trees and underbrush throughout the course. Even though they accomplished a tremendous amount, this year's snowfall amounts and extreme cold weather forced them inside at times.

Adams and his crew took advantage of those times by helping the mechanic in his preventative maintenance for the upcoming season, organizing the shop areas to be even more efficient in our daily operations, create pesticide and fertilizer programs, attend agronomic training seminars, refurbish golf course accessories and build budgets just to name a few.

One thing they had been doing is rebuilding old sprinkler parts and testing them.

"You might ask how we can test them without water or water pressure, right?" says Adams, "Assistant superintendent Alex Martin created a sprinkler tester from a prototype idea I had created many years ago as an assistant superintendent. By using some PVC parts, the shop com



Check out Jason Adam's turf maintenance blog by entering bit.ly/MLnSEK into your browser.



It's never too cold to test old sprinkler parts. Here's the testing device assistant superintendent Alex Martin developed.

pressor and a 24-volt transformer we are able to simulate water pressure and electrical signals just like in the field. [Martin] is able to rebuild and test bottom valves, pilot valves and even electric solenoids in the shop. This helps us prepare for the irrigation start-up in the spring and allows us to save money on irrigation inventory."

Say CHEESE!

GCI hit the ground running at the 2014 Golf Industry Show and we took a lot of pictures documenting the entire show. We've posted a few images here on Whiteboard, but you really need to check out the app for an exclusive digital slide show.



View tons of images via our issue app. You just might catch a glimpse of yourself.

From THE FEED



Augusta National's famous Eisenhower Tree, a 100 year old loblolly pine standing at about 65 feet, was cut down in February after suffering severe damage from the ice storms that plagued the southern United States. The course landmark towered over the fairway on the 17th hole and its removal will definitely change the view at this year's Masters Tournament. Check out what industry professionals had to say about the loss of the iconic pine.



Ron Whitten @RonWhittenGD

If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound? It does if the tree is the Eisenhower Pine and the forest is Augusta National GC



Luke Elvy @elvisgolf

Ironic that Bubba Watson's win at Riviera is being overshadowed by a tree on the last course he won at. #EisenhowerTree



Augusta.com @AUG_Masters

People are asking me if pieces of Ike's Tree will be sold to the public. I am pretty confident the answer is no. #Masters



Jason Sobel @JasonSobelGC

Adam Scott on the **Eisenhower Tree**: "Anything that lives will eventually die, I guess." Rory Mclroy: "It's a tree." Such sentimentalists.



Rick Reilly @ReillyRick

Will #Augusta replace the **Eisenhower tree**? R you nuts? In 2012, they replaced an entire 1000-sq-ft bathroom in 1 day.



Ted Bishop @tedbishop38pga

@TigerWoods says Honda is the start of new season. Says he won't miss **Eisenhower tree**! #PGATOUR @thepgaofAmerica @PGA_com @MattAdamsFoL



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Check out the app version of this story for an interactive slide show.

2014 Tweet Up & Social Media Awards

Social media brought golf superintendents together offline for the third year running at the Aquatrols booth for this year's Tweetup. Turf pros crowded to talk about their work online as well as enjoy a few cold drinks and music.

We also named this year's winners of our Super Savvy Social Media Awards, a group of superintendents and academics who use social media to improve the game and each other's lives. Here are our favorites for this year. Be sure to check out the app version of this issue to watch videos from some of our winners who couldn't make it to the show.



Pat with "Best Use of Twitter" recipient Justin VanLanduit.

John Kaminski Award for Leadership

Micah Woods
Asian Turfgrass Center
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Overall Social Media Program

Nick Christians
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

Adam Ikamas
MIGCSA
Benzonia, Michigan

Best Use of Facebook

Gary Grigg, CGCS MG
Idaho/Florida

Jason Chennault
Turfgrass World
Moscow, Russia

Best Blog

Jason Haines
Pender Harbour Golf Club
Madeira Park, British Columbia

Jason VanBuskirk
Stow Acres Country Club
Stow, Massachusetts

Tom Vlach
TPC Sawgrass
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Best Use of Twitter

Randy Samoff
Champions Golf Club
Houston, Texas

Ellie Parry
TurfJobs
Loughborough, United Kingdom

Justin VanLanduit
Briarwood Country Club
Deerfield, Illinois

Cale Bigelow
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Best Multimedia

Adam Garr
Plum Hollow Country Club
Southfield, Michigan

Rick Brandenburg
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina