

*** * This Year Only * ***
NEW FEBRUARY DATES

15th Annual

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

February 6 - 9, 2012

R.I. Convention Center, Providence

Show & Conference Pass Includes

- Opening Reception • Admission to Trade Show
- Keynote Speaker • Educational Sessions
- Show Reception • Luncheon Voucher

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Informative Presentations

- Golf Course Management • Turf & Ornamentals
- Lawn Care & Landscape Management
- Sports Turf & Grounds Mgt. • Equipment Technicians

Certification Credits

Pesticide Applicators Recertification Credits offered.

Pre Conference Seminars

Monday, February 6 • 8am-5pm Call (401) 841-5490

8am-12pm *Advanced Nitrogen Fertilization*

8am-12pm *Successful Project Management*

8am-12pm *Managing Shrubs and Ornamentals on the Golf Course*

8am-12pm *MS Excel 2007 w/Windows 7*

1pm-5pm *Keeping Your Insect Management on Course*

1pm-5pm *Negotiating for Success*

1pm-5pm *Surface Sealing of Our Greens*

1pm-5pm *MS Excel 2007 w/Windows 7*

Sports Turf Seminar

Tuesday, February 7 • 1pm-3:30pm

Case Study: *Sand Capping as an Effective Remedy for*

Failure of the Washington Redskins Field

Trade Show Hours

Tuesday, February 7 • 4:30pm-7:30pm with reception

Wednesday, February 8 • 10am-5pm Live Auction 4pm

Thursday, February 9 • 9am-1pm

Educational Session Hours

Tuesday, February 7 • 9am-11:30am *"New" Sports Turf Session*

• 9am-4:30pm *USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Ray Bourque*

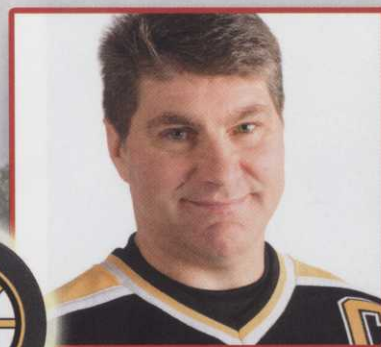
Wednesday, February 8 • 9am-11am & 2pm-4pm

Golf / Sports Turf / Turf & Ornamental / Lawn Care & Landscape / Equipment Technicians

Thursday, February 9

• 9am-11am *Golf / Landscape*

• 9am-11am *"New" Professional Development Session*



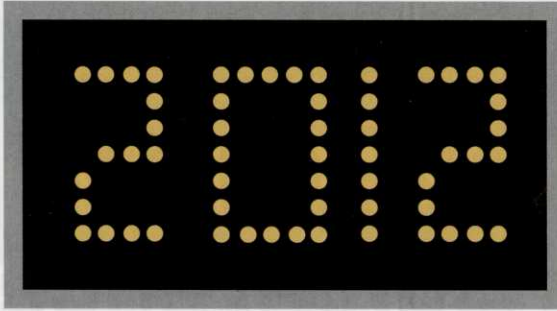
Keynote Speaker

Tues., Feb. 7 • 3:45pm

*Former Boston Bruins
Hockey player*

Ray Bourque

**Watch your mail for your registration form or call
(401)848-0004 or visit us online at www.TurfShow.com**

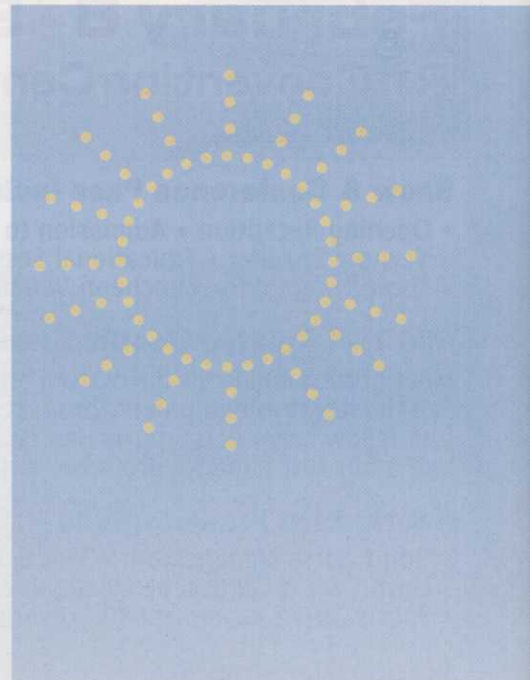
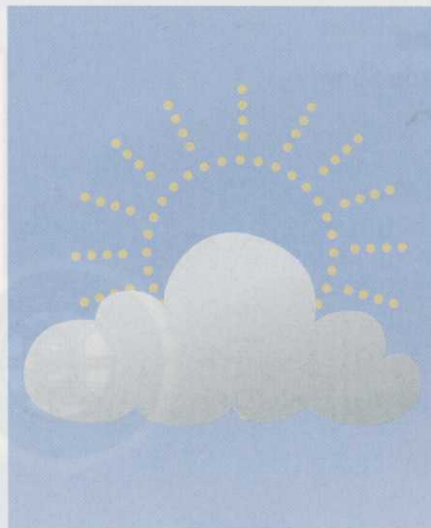


PAST

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Mother Nature's Scorecard

The experts at WeatherBELL provide a sneak peak at 2012 climate trends.

Watch your mail for your registration form or call (401) 848-0004 or visit us online at www.TurShow.com

by Dave Smith

Weather is a major influence on golf course revenue. Advance weather warnings are crucial to prepare for these anomalies as you adjust your weather risk at your facility.

Before compiling a successful forecast, it is important to gain a perspective of the global weather trends that will impact U.S. conditions in the year to come.

We focus on past trends and other weather events to better predict future results. For instance, we are at the end of a two-year La Niña cycle and the U.S. is moving toward an El Niño cycle next winter.

Cold Pacific waters enhance Western U.S. precipitation. We will see a lot more La Niñas for the next decade due to the current cycle we are in, which could include more drought-like conditions in the Texas, Southern Plains and Southeast over the next five to 10 years.

Overall, the weather can be very similar to past years. Our current cycle is similar to what the nation experienced in the 1950s.

CURRENT CONDITIONS. As your operational plans are being made and changes are also implemented on weather and other issues, let's take a look at the current conditions as a starting point. Now we think there is going to be a major cold front that will move from Canada into the Northeast, and a Southeast U.S. ridge pattern of the second year of La Niña's for the rest of the winter. That means more cold and snow for the rest of the winter and, from a national perspective, February appears to get the most snow. But that means the analogs for the spring and summer can be looked at with the idea the La Niña is weakening, though not yet to the El Niño that we feel will show up next winter.

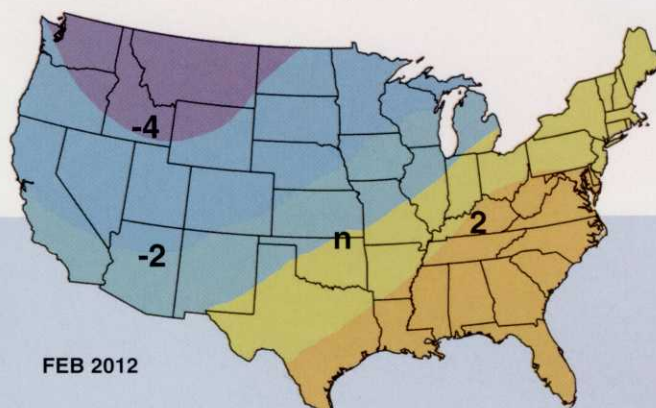
As we head to February and March, we see contradictions abounding. This is because we have a greater than normal num-

ber of influences on the weather. Some of the factors that we have to look at besides the obvious ones are not standard in the longer-term forecasting ideas. This has caused a very challenging period of forecasting due to so many moving parts. Thus, rapid drop offs in the ocean and above average surface temps have to have some kind of reaction that is more than normal. This is also why the temperature can be unseasonably warm, switch to a nasty cold front and warm up again. However, we have finally leveled off in these two areas and will lower the volatility. Our February and March temperature forecasts are still on target to validate and you can see them to the right.

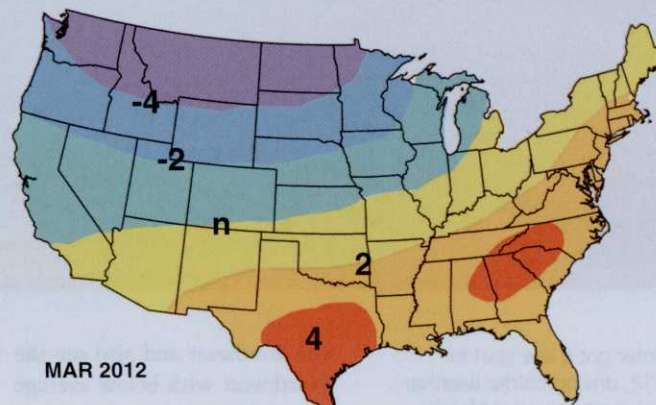
2012 FORECAST – AN EARLY LOOK. We need to look at the coming season by seeing the overall pattern and other influences to show you a complete view. First, how does the overall seasonal outlook appear from April through June? Temperatures overall for the three-month period will be at or below normal for about 70

WHAT'S ON THE WAY

The current La Niña cycle may be weakening, but weather will still be volatile across the country through the winter.



FEB 2012



MAR 2012

percent of the U.S. average. Some of the drying in the Southern Plains has gotten some needed rain since August but we have predicted that Texas should be dry for the next few months once again. Keep in mind we did mention in September that we see a trend of dryness in the South over the next few summers

so irrigation will be vital and the dry courses will not end this year. Precipitation compares to normal for the April to June time period. Current analysis shows the current weather trends are similar to the 1950s and the Northeast, Middle Plains and other pockets will see above normal rain but the dryness issue will extend to

“We will see a lot more La Niñas for the next decade due to the current cycle we are in, which could include more drought-like conditions in the Texas, Southern Plains and Southeast over the next five to 10 years.”



Winter got a late start for 2012, driving colder weather back probably until March or April. The shift in weather seems similar to the weather cycle recorded in the 1950s.

the Southeast and also see the Northwest with below average rain in 2012.

Overall, prepare for a cool spring. This year will see above normal rain, but less than last year and a cold April with winter trying to hang on late in the Great Lakes and Northern Plains especially. The precipitation analogs are starting another southern drought. This carries into the summer (June-August); and summer will be hot across the South. But this time, with the fade on the way and this being a second year Niña fade, the closest summer to this one for much of the nation's midsection is 2009. We will not have the heat as strong or as long as last summer, which by the way, did fade rapidly in August over the Midwest. Texas into the Carolinas are liable to be hot again.

You may wonder how the hurricane season may impact your courses. From a general overview we can point out some highlights. Storms and strong wind conditions have the greatest threat is near the East Coast for above normal impact. Note that when the Niña is weakening, the East Coast is a region to keep an eye on.

GOLF IMPACT. With Winter 2011-12 starting late and going from now and into March or April, we can look for the soil to be soggy and wet into April for some areas and then below-normal temperature can create the precipitation to stay on the ground later and may limit the early golf for some areas to get an early start.

But, we will be following these conditions over the next few months as it may impact the

ground conditions. And any drought will not see the same level as last year, but the Southeast and Carolinas should be closely followed and extreme weather will not be at the same levels as 2011. As mentioned above, each course reacts differently to weather. Our forecasts show below average rain should be better than 2011 and preparing now for these conditions will keep golf rounds going through June and late summer is when the drought conditions would really appear the most impactful but it is a little early to accurately forecast the late snow now. **GCI**

Dave Smith is an account executive with WeatherBELL Analytics and a frequent contributor to GCI.

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Water hazards can add to the challenge of a course – but usually not in the middle of a green.

“We knew the greens were going so we decided to have some fun.”

— Paul Kaplan,
Vesper Country Club

Surely it's a rare thing in golfing history that a club president vandalizes the course and is celebrated for doing so.

Under cover of darkness, this president, with the help of the golf course superintendent, Chris Morris, and his assistant, set about digging holes in green after green. Some were several feet deep, some were many feet wide. Even in the smaller ones they shoved stands of native grasses several feet high.

With a tournament due late morning you might have expected a riot. And they got one, just not the kind with lots of yelling and screaming. Instead, golfers were soon in stitches laughing. Vesper Country Club's last day before a major renovation will be

The cooler lid gave the ball plenty of hops, but at least players didn't have to wait for the cart.



talked about for years and might just provide inspiration for similar “wakes” at other clubs engaging in heavy plastic surgery.

“We knew the greens were going so we decided to have some fun,” says Paul Kaplan, the president and mastermind in question. “Those of us who knew what was going on were sworn to secrecy.”

On some holes, Kaplan and his cohorts buried beer-filled coolers lid-deep near the flag. On others they built bunkers in the middle of the green. On one they created a water hazard. At the Tyngsboro, Mass., club with roots dating to 1875 and a Donald Ross pedigree to boot, the “attack” pushed mischief to the point of sacrilege.

“It was crazy,” Kaplan admits. “Some approach shots are to slightly elevated greens so golfers couldn't see the coolers but they knew something was up when they'd hit a good shot expecting it to sit near the pin only to hear a loud bang then see their ball bouncing 20 feet in the air!”

In the end, the tournament was hailed as a great success, serving more as a wake where members toasted the dying day of their much-beloved but sorely ageing greens. For more than 50 years the greens had been covered in Vesper Velvet bentgrass, developed right on-site by long-time former superintendent Manny Francis. There was a time when the Vesper Velvet was a point of pride but it had lost ground to newer bentgrass varieties laid on modern foundations with less compaction and better drainage.

Kaplan was acutely mindful of the sentimental attachment to the Vesper Velvet and so each golfer in the tournament was presented with a small ribbon-tied sod from the greens at the end of play. Today though, the Vesper Velvet is a distant memory thanks to the success of the \$1.4-million renovation, which made MacCurrach Golf Construction a winner in the legacy category of this year's Builder Excellence Awards. Members are reveling with their new A1/A4 putting surfaces but some are still trading stories about their approach shots that found the water – or the beer – three feet from the flag. **GCI**

Trent Bouts is a Greer, S.C.-based writer and a frequent contributor to GCI.

(OUTSIDE THE ROPES continued from page 54)

tionally well-prepared playing surfaces.

- **Mowing.** The equipment we use and what we know about mowing (when, how, how often) has changed tremendously. We have multi-bladed, multi-head machines that cost more than \$50,000 rolling down our fairways every week. Even the USGA Green Section promotes light-weight mowing as a way to enhance quality.

- **Irrigation.** We can add water where and when we want almost at will. And with modern drainage techniques and water-removal equipment, we can remove water and dry fairways faster.

- **Chemistry.** Plant-growth regulators and other advances in turf science mean grass can be

cut shorter and maintained in better conditions longer.

- **Sand-top dressing.** It's easy to get firm, fast playing surfaces thanks to sand. Think how dry, sandy soil does at the Open Championship each year, or look at the recent Presidents Cup Matches held in the Australian sand belt.

A SHORTER BALL IS NECESSARY TO GROW THE GAME. Blaming the ball for golf's inability to grow is like blaming the iceberg for sinking the Titanic.

Let's be honest: Golf is hard, takes time to play, takes time to learn and is expensive. I agree with many of the initiatives proposed to save the game, from Play It Forward to The First Tee, Embrace Golf 20 to "brown

It isn't only improvements in golf equipment that are responsible for longer shots. We're partly to blame, as well.

is the new green." But I don't believe rolling back the distance of the golf ball will convince the millions of potential golfers sitting on the sidelines that the game is suddenly right for them.

In fact, if anything, new golfers should be playing the longest ball possible:

- Who doesn't like to watch a well-struck drive (or any other well-struck shot) go a long way?

The thrill of doing it once makes you want to do it again, and that will get people to play more golf and spend more money doing so.

- **Beginners** need to see regular improvement if they're going to stick with the game. Shorten the ball and you might as well give new golfers a tennis racket, instead.

- **As important** as new players are to the game's long-term growth, don't overlook the importance of keeping existing golfers in love with the game. Cut 10 percent off the distance of the ball and you cut more than 10 percent of a person's love for golf.

I know I'd be more than 10 percent ticked off. **GCI**

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Travels With Terry

Globetrotting consulting agronomist Terry Buchen visits many golf courses annually with his digital camera in hand. He shares helpful ideas relating to maintenance equipment from the golf course superintendents he visits – as well as a few ideas of his own – with timely photos and captions that explore the changing world of golf course management.



Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, is president of Golf Agronomy International. He's a 41-year, life member of the GCSAA. He can be reached at 757-561-7777 or terrybuchen@earthlink.net.

TURF ROLLER

The Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn., has been installing an intricate 2 miles of fairway silt drainage and XGD green's drainage system to their push-up greens to assist with a 2009 renovation to their Robert Trent Jones-designed course. Mark Pelkey, superintendent, and Senad Begovic, equipment technician, designed and converted a former propane tank into a state-of-the-art roller to smooth out the fairway drainage trench lines. The 30-inch diameter tank is 90 inches long, holds approximately 250 gallons of water and is filled via a metal "bung" Begovic added. The legs and propane fill pipe were removed and any holes in the old discarded tank were welded shut. The framework consists of 3-inch by 4-inch metal tubing at a dimension of 98 inches by 38 inches. The greaseable bearing and 1.5-inch diameter shaft were bolted and welded to the frame and tank, respectively. The tractor was already mounted with turf flotation tires and wheels with removal front-mounted weights to counteract the roller's rear weight. The roller holds approximately 2,000 pounds of water. This roller is also used on greens and tees after aerification where the roller is one-half filled with water. The cost for materials was about \$350 – the tank was free – and it took two-full days to fabricate, prime and paint. Matthew H. Fauerbach is the director of agronomy, northeast region, for Billy Casper Golf.



TWO BIRDS, ONE STONE

The greens and collars at the Navesink Country Club in Middletown, N.J., are sprayed with a Chem Turf Spray Hawk. The Spray Hawk used to be transported, by the person who drags the hose on the back of a separate turf vehicle. Brett Scales, superintendent, and Jose Rodriguez, equipment technician, conceived and built a bracket to transport the Spray Hawk on the back of the 2010 Chem Turf 200-gallon sprayer which is mounted on a 2010 John Deere Pro Gator 2030. The Raven sprayer control panel was moved toward the driver so the hose dragger could ride "shotgun" on the spray rig, which eliminated the use of the turf vehicle. The steel plate that holds the Raven was cropped to allow more passenger leg room. In addition, a 2-inch by 4 inch by 12-inch rectangular square tubing was welded to the steel plate for the Raven to be moved and mounted to the center of the dashboard. The Raven is in a fixed position, but it can be moved back to its original position. To secure the Spray Hawk to the rear of the sprayer, U-shaped metal brackets were welded on the sprayer frame to support the Spray Hawk axle. A clevis pin was welded to the Spray Hawk and then secured to the sprayer with a 1/4-inch-thick steel bar 24 inches long bolted to the sprayer frame. The rubber tubing was also duct taped to ensure the Spray Hawk fits snugly into the U-shaped brackets. **GCI**

