

My recent attendance at GCSAA conference sessions and state regulatory meetings left me with an unspecified irritation with the general state of the industry. Therefore, I want to share this laundry list of things that are bothering me, more out of frustration than anything else.

Water

- Just how far are we going to let a golf ball go? Maybe Titleist and Nike should be spending more to find out how far a drop of water will go to nourish turf.
- Why place tighter restrictions on golf course irrigation? Golf courses only use 1.5 percent of the water.
- Sign seen in Georgia — “Wanted: Golf Courses. Bring your own water.”
- Sign seen in New Jersey — “I reclaim this water in the name of irrigation.”
- Florida water management district official to superintendent, “Have you assessed your members for your reverse osmosis plant yet?”

The game

- Some people say technology is making golf courses obsolete. *Au contraire*. In reality, the EPA, activists and local politicians are making courses obsolete.
- Let's see: high-end public courses with high maintenance features continue to be built while low numbers of people are taking up and staying in the game. Can you say (or, more appropriately, shout), “Duh?”
- Fast greens prove speed kills. Besides, they also slow play.
- To achieve TV tournament conditions on a golf course, David Copperfield must be the greenkeeper because it's only an illusion.
- On the 2002 Honda Classic: If golf professionals can't finish a round of golf in four hours, how are amateurs supposed to?

Perspectives

- In a battle between the Nature Conservancy with Meryl Streep and East Podunk GCSA with John Doe, it's a no-brainer which side the media will choose to cover positively.

So Many Issues, So Many Gripes

BY JOEL JACKSON



I WANT TO SHARE

THIS LAUNDRY LIST

OF THINGS THAT

ARE BOTHERING

ME, MORE OUT OF

FRUSTRATION THAN

ANYTHING ELSE

- What golfers don't see when they watch The Masters on TV is that Augusta employs a cast of thousands and has six months to prepare.
- If God had intended for trees to be planted on golf courses, He wouldn't have made Scotland the birthplace of golf.

Golf and the environment

- Is anyone else troubled by the fact that there are billions of dollars in foundation grants to support environmental activists in their complaints, but there are only thousands of dollars for turf research grants to explain to the activists why our practices are safe?
- Sign seen in Minnesota: “Be prosperous without phosphorous —we dare you.”
- If California wants to get rid of pesticides, they should just deregulate them like they did the power companies.
- The EPA doesn't ban pesticides. It badgers chemical companies with impossible demands until they surrender. Then the EPA announces a voluntary cancellation by the registrant.

Club politics

- Remain as neutral during club disputes as the water in your spray tank. If you get too basic, the members won't understand your point. If you get too acidic, the disgruntled members won't forget you.
- The common refrain of “what have you done for us lately” comes only a couple of weeks after the best conditions ever for the member-guest.
- The pro shop is the communications center where rumors are born or die. It's all up to you as to which fate they suffer.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, retired from Disney's golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.