

Thank goodness spring has sprung. It was a goofy winter here at Lake Omigosh Country Club. After an early October cool snap, our superintendent Duffy Mc-

Duffy rushed to get the overseeding done before it got too cold to germinate properly and pro Harvey Doyle reported at the weekly staff meeting that sweater sales had jumped in the pro shop.

Then Mother Nature cranked up the thermostat in November, and Duffy's crew was running sprinklers and hoses all day long to keep the new seedlings cool and damp. The golfers hated the maintenance department during that grow-in period, and some of them even returned their new sweaters.

Harvey was going nuts with all the complaints about slow, wet greens and having to refund cash for the sweaters. Duffy told me he couldn't recall ever seeing the pro at the maintenance shop so often in the past. Maybe it had more to do with Duffy not stopping in the clubhouse for his usual second cup of coffee to avoid getting an earful of the same old complaints.

Duffy lamented the many times he has had to explain that new seedlings need to be coddled in the heat until they start tillering. He sighed heavily when he explained to the hundredth golfer that the process will take at least several weeks.

He added in an aside to me that if Harvey wanted good greens after the holidays when the snowbirds come down, he needed to calm down the moaners and groaners and not just nag Duffy.

To the surprise of many members, it *did* cool off again, just like it does every year. Around mid-December, we had our first heavy frost of the year. The course looked just like one of those Currier & Ives Christmas card scenes. But wouldn't you know it, the same grumps who were grouching about the daytime watering to keep the seedlings alive were all up in arms because Duffy had to impose a one-hour frost delay until it melted.

All this seemed to be getting to be too much for our one of our more outspoken members, Gordon Goodnight, a lawyer who

The Latest News From Lake Omigosh

BY JOEL JACKSON



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specializes in workman's comp and malpractice cases. He told club president Colonel Artemus Blodgett that he was starting a *FireMcDuffy.com* Web site to call for the ouster of a superintendent who couldn't manage to have the course ready for play each day. The Colonel told him to back off. Goodnight had been responsible for firing Duffy's predecessor, Kyle Murphy, for keeping the course too wet. The fact that the recorded rainfall that year was 50 inches above normal, the push-up greens had no drainage and the sun never shone for 37 days straight during transition somehow escaped Gordon.

Kyle is now a sales rep for Mowers and Goers Inc. and has rediscovered weekends with his family, and he can even help coach his son's little-league team. He actually sent Gordon a thank-you card once he began to sleep nights and his blood pressure dropped 25 points. The card mystified Gordon, who still doesn't get it that jumping through his impossible hoops took its toll on old Murphy.

Now that the mature overseeding is stripping nicely and looks like a TV golf tournament course, Duffy has asked the Green Chairman Duncan Morrison to help him lobby for a budget increase in labor. Duffy wants to hire an extra part-time person to help repair a rash of ball marks on the greens. It seems a little odd that the members demand perfection and when old Duffy gets close to giving it to them, they sabotage the effort with their inattention to such details.

That's all the news I have from Lake Omigosh, where the superintendent is dedicated, the crew is hard-working and the members are all about par for the course.

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