

**M**ore superintendents are posting golf course maintenance information on club Web sites these days. This growing trend allows superintendents an opportunity to keep members posted on progress of projects, announce maintenance schedules and give general news about the course. Taking it a step further, Duffy McDuffy, superintendent at Lake Omigosh Country Club here in central Florida, hosts an "Ask the Superintendent" information link on his club's Web site. Let's hack into the site and take a lighter look at what's going on.

**Dear Superintendent:** *Why was the water running on Thursday morning after the Wednesday rain?* — Abigail Anderson

**Dear Abby:** A better question is why were your sprinklers running "during" the rain on Wednesday? We were applying an insecticide for grubs because the Wednesday rain brought them closer to the surface, and by law that chemical is supposed to be watered in after application. But good question. Keeps us on our toes to make sure we aren't just ignoring our irrigation system, like some people do.

**From Fred Farkle:** *Purple grackles and squirrels are eating my snacks in the golf car and a crow stole my gold watch. Can't you control the wildlife?*

**Hi Fred:** I'm going to ask you to log your wildlife sightings in the pro shop so we can get certified in the Audubon International (AI) Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Then AI will ask you to quit feeding junk food to the animals. P.S. We found your watch in the woods. You might call Paul Harvey and tell him that wildlife is alive and well on golf courses. Put that gold watch in your golf bag while on the course. And, by the way, Rolex is spelled with one "L."

**Ollie Huffnagle:** *I'm from Ohio and our golf course equipment lasted twice as long up there as the equipment does down here. Don't you guys know anything about mechanics?*

**Dear Ollie:** The equipment lasted twice as long up there because they used it half as much as we do down here. Perhaps you failed to no-

## Just Ask the Superintendent

BY JOEL JACKSON



THAT GRAY, FURRY  
THING IS JUST A  
MICROPHONE  
WITH A FAKE FUR  
COVER TO MUFFLE  
THE WIND

tice we are open all year in Florida.

**Hey McDuffy:** *The bunkers on our course are terrible. They are so inconsistent (soft, wet, hard, etc.) I can't get up and down out of them.*

— Charles "Sandy" Sanderson.

**Dear Sandy:** While I am sympathetic to your poor bunker play, I am reluctant to spend too much time and money on grooming a hazard. The operative word is hazard. You might not want to play Pine Valley in New Jersey.

**Mr. McDuffy:** *I saw a dead muskrat on one of the par-3 tees while watching golf on TV. What's going on?* — Mrs. Beasley

**Dear Mrs. Beasley:** You're not with PETA are you? Actually that gray, furry thing is just a microphone with a fake fur cover to muffle the wind. Originally they were green to blend in with the turf but golfers called in to complain that the superintendent was an idiot for allowing a clump of weeds like that on the course during a tournament.

**Dear Super:** *I don't think you're doing such a good job on keeping the green speed consistent on our greens. I have noticed that the uphill putts are always slower than the downhill putts. What's the problem?* — I. Newton

**Dear Mr. Newton:** Gravity!

**Concerned:** *I hear a lot on TV about grain on the greens. Do we have any grain on our course?*

**Dear Concerned:** Not to worry. All the grain on our course is in bottles in the 19th Hole Grille. Our greens are so short the only possible leaf blade orientation left is the slope of the ground.

Well, that's all folks. So long from Lake Omigosh where the superintendent is dedicated, the crew is hard working and the members are about par for the course.

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