

There's been plenty of crazy weather at the Lake Omigosh Country Club in Central Florida and across the country. As we enter the second quarter, early dry heat down South and late-spring snows up North and out West have disrupted maintenance schedules across the country.

I ran into our superintendent, Duffy McDuffy, down at the 19th Hole & Whine Bar grumbling in his hops and barley about politics, EPA regulations and local ordinances as I pulled up a stool next to him at the bar. "Duff," I said, "I haven't seen you smile in a long time. You need to stop and smell the roses, my friend. You're going to get an ulcer if you don't lighten up!"

"Yeah, I know," he said. "So, tell me some good news or something funny to make me smile."

I'll admit that with this wild weather and soaring gas prices, I didn't have a whole lot of good news... but I had a few unusual but true anecdotes I could share with Duffy, and I'll share them with you. I hope they make you smile as well.

Lobster balls – Some enterprising folks are manufacturing biodegradable golf balls with a large percentage of lobster shells in the composition. They say lobster balls degrade faster than other eco-friendly balls. But while lobster balls supposedly fly straight when hit, they don't go as far as regular golf balls. So how should they be used? Perhaps vacationers on cruise ships could blast shots into the ocean from the fantail. Residents who hit golf balls from their lakefront homes could send them sailing into the water, too.

I can't imagine there's a huge demand for golf balls among cruise passengers and eccentric golfers. I, for one, hit enough water hazards accidentally without pumping golf balls into the ocean. I want to break the habit—not perfect it.

Superintendents who are serious golfers need to keep an eye on lobster balls. If anyone ever solves the distance limitations and lobster balls move into the mainstream, EPA might make their use mandatory. If there's ever a shortage

On Strange Terms

BY JOEL JACKSON



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of lobster shell ingredients and people must use crab shell substitutes, your game could be in real trouble. Why? The answer lies in the lyrics of an old Smothers Brothers song: "Crabs walk sideways and lobsters walk straight!" Rapidly disintegrating golf balls would also make rangers and used-ball divers extinct.

Grass stations – This little ditty came to me via the 2011 Word Origin Calendar my daughter gave me for Christmas. Yesterday's word or phrase was "Grass Station." It was a phrase coined in 2006 that originated not so unexpectedly in California. While I know you think you are way ahead of me on this one, you might be wrong.

Grass station refers to a place where you can procure biofuels that can burn in a modified automobile engine. It is obviously a play on "gas station," but given the hoopla over the recent explosion of medicinal marijuana shops in California, it was easy to misjudge that one.

Spray-on mud – This one is a couple of years old, and comes from an inventor in England. City dwellers who want to look like they really need those 4-wheel drive SUVs can buy a can of spray-on mud to make it look like they are rugged outdoorsy folks as they tool around the suburbs.

Too bad we can't reverse the science on this one. Much more useful to my pal Duff would be "spray-off mud," for those boardroom meetings that always take place right after an irrigation leak.

So long from Lake Omigosh, where the superintendent is now smiling, the crew only mows "the grass" and the food and beverage manager is stockpiling lobster shells.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is Executive Director of the Florida GCSA.