



On the bright side, Allen observes, the Indiana summer has been less humid than others, causing less disease pressure. “We’ve had one of the driest summers ever — ever, humidity wise,” he says. “So it feels cooler. The lack of humidity causes the grass to dry out faster and get hot, so you have to water more. But it also prevents disease.”

Over in Georgia, courses finally are getting some much-needed rain. “Things really changed dramatically a couple weeks ago,” says Mark Abrams, superintendent at Wolf Creek Golf Club in Senoia,

***“It’s pretty dry. I’ve had about six-tenths of an inch of rain in the last two-and-half months.”***

— **DAVE BEFUS**, SUPERINTENDENT AT  
ROCHELLE RANCH GOLF COURSE

Ga. “We couldn’t get any rain. The bermudagrass on our fairways, we couldn’t put enough water out. And keeping the rough going...now we’re catching afternoon thunderstorms pretty much every day.”

In Georgia, it was dry from mid-June to mid-July — “really dry,” Abrams says. “Normally it’s a little more humid in mid-June, but this year it was low humidity through June and no rain. It was just, appearance wise, the bermudagrass looked really dry — like we weren’t watering it. You just couldn’t keep up.”

In Senoia, it got up to 107 degrees one day. Several other days were in the hundreds as well. “The parched areas, we have a few on the fairways and roughs. But those’ll green up soon,” Abrams says.

As hot and dry as the summer’s been, sometimes you just have to call it a day. Because when it comes down to it, “there’s not much I can do,” Befus says. “I’m hoping for August and September to cool down and get some rain.”

## Fire Destroys Maintenance Building, Kills Two Dogs

Sad news from my friend Chris Sorrell, who recently took the superintendent job at Boiling Springs Golf Course in Woodward, Okla.

A fire destroyed his maintenance facility, and most important to him, killed his two dogs, “Shooter,” a 12-year-old schnauzer, and “Boswell,” a 2-year-old border collie.

“It’s totally awful. I couldn’t get anywhere near the door... there was black smoke everywhere. (The dogs) were maybe eight or 10 feet away from me,” Sorrell told me, sadness in his voice. “You know, the whole bloody thing could have burned down if my dogs were just out on the course with me, instead of being trapped inside the shop.”

Nearby courses and the local John Deere distributor, PK Equipment, have already lent a hand, donating mowers and a cup cutter.

If Sorrell’s name looks familiar, it’s because he wrote the June 2011 *Golfdom* cover story, “Don’t Be a Target,” and he’s written for the blog.

Sorrell was waiting for the insurance adjuster to arrive as I was talking to him. The fire department has told him the cause of the fire is unknown, calling it an accidental fire with an indeterminate origin. Among other difficulties, his irrigation system is down since his central computer was located inside the maintenance shop.

Regardless of all the bad news, Chris seemed like he understood that this was something he could overcome.

“Nobody was hurt, no one was in the building. The members are all being very supportive,” Sorrell told me. “We’ll make it through one way or another.”



**A fire cost Boiling Springs GC all its equipment, records, irrigation controls and the lives of two beloved course dogs.**