

Starter

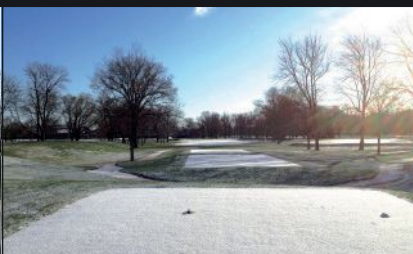
NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//WEATHER



Standing water one day at Evanston GC, following 5.6 inches of rain in 24 hours...



And then a nice little April snow storm a few days later.

THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS

THIS SPRING'S CRAZY WEATHER PATTERNS HAVE MADE GREENKEEPING A CHALLENGE.

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor



Snowstorms in the Southwest. Flooding in the Midwest. A deep freeze down South. Absolutely no one has been exempt from Mother Nature's firestorm this season, least of all golf courses.

"The high yesterday was 47 with a wind chill of about 28 or 29, and I'm in central Texas," marveled Van Berry, CGCS at Hancock Park Golf Course in the city of Lampasas. "Normally it would be mid-80s during the day. Today it's 55."

On Chicago's North Shore, Evanston Golf Course has been getting hit by Mother Nature's wallop, too. On April 18, the course saw 5.6 inches of rain in about 24 hours, said superintendent Dan Charlton. The course had standing water for a day, causing some retention ponds to overflow.

"Damage-wise it wasn't that significant, but then a couple days later it snowed," Charlton said. "This has been

bizarre. It was 80 two days ago and now it's 41."

The fluctuating temperatures are not so good for grass, as Berry well knows. When temps get to be as high as 80, as they were in Lampasas in February, grass starts growing.

"It would be 80 and then the next morning we'd have frost," Berry said.

Despite what the calendar says about Opening Day, golfers largely have stayed away this spring. In the last three weeks, Hancock has seen six days with no golfers whatsoever, and it's worse in Evanston. "Play's been atrocious compared to last year. We didn't open the course until the first week of April and we've had very little play," Charlton said. "Last year in March we had 700 rounds, and this year we had zero."

Superintendents may as well laugh it off, Charlton said. "After a while you just roll with the punches."

//EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

BAYER PLANT HEALTH ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Environmental Science, a division of Bayer CropScience LP, is accepting applications from GCSAA Class A and superintendent members through June 5th for its inaugural Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow plant health academy. Candidates can apply by visiting the Plant Health Academy web page at backedbybayer.com/plant-health-academy. Prospective attendees must answer two short essay questions to be considered.

The academy's curriculum will involve in-the-field training at the Bayer Training and Development Center in Clayton, N.C., and classroom training at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

"Bayer designed the Plant Health Academy to allow GCSAA members to study plant health and then see it put into practice, learning valuable strategies that they can use on their own courses," said Jose Milan, head of Bayer's Turf and Ornamental business. "We are committed to providing superintendents with the knowledge and tools to integrate and promote plant health."

//IN MEMORIAM

P. STAN GEORGE, CGCS AT PRAIRIE DUNES, PASSES AT AGE 57

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Philip S. "Stan" George, CGCS at Prairie Dunes CC in Hutchinson, Kan.

George is survived by his wife, two sons and six siblings, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

George was a friend and mentor to many in the industry over his thirty-plus year career. A native Kansan, he was proud to host the U.S. Women's Open in 2002 and the U.S. Senior Open in 2006. George was a champion of preserving wildlife and the prairie grasses that surround Prairie Dunes, considered by many as one of the nation's top courses.