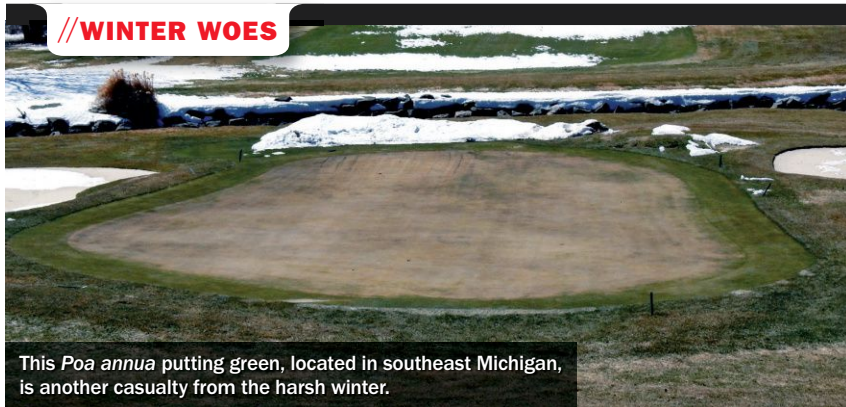


Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// WINTER WOES



This *Poa annua* putting green, located in southeast Michigan, is another casualty from the harsh winter.

DAMAGE CONTROL



It's been one heck of a winter. Record cold, the polar vortex and large amounts of ice

have created a challenge for superintendents as they prepare for course openings. But what is waiting under the ice?

A recent USGA webinar on winter injury brought together a panel of experts, including Bob Vavrek (senior agronomist, North-Central Region), Bud White (director, Mid-Continent Region), Jim Skorulski (senior agronomist, Northeast Region), Patrick O'Brien (director, Southeast Region) and Darin Bevard (director, Mid-Atlantic Region).

Each of the experts chimed in about the main concerns superintendents will face as winter finally ends.

"It's probably been the most difficult winter in perhaps 20 to 30 years. We still don't know... how much damage we are going to get. There is some confirmed injury to greens in the Detroit area. I've sampled and seen some damage to *Poa annua* in the Chicago area and other reports are coming in about damage," says Vavrek.

The bizarre winter weather not only

hit those in the north, but also in Texas where White saw an extreme flux in temperature day to day.

"We've had such extreme swings. We have had five different times where the temperature has dropped 40 degrees or more from one afternoon to the (next) morning. Almost all of those times the bermudagrass was starting to green up some," says White.

To say that this winter has been unusual seems to be an understatement. "I think for the U.S. as a whole they say this is the coldest six-month period since 1912," says Bevard.

The question now is, what will superintendents face this spring? The panel discussed practices such as the use of blankets on greens that could reduce winter injury. However, now it seems that turf managers will have to wait to see what the damage is. "The combination of the cold temperatures and the ice coverage, I think it's going to be a one-two punch for many golf courses," says Vavrek.

The webinar is still available online. To view it, visit <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/589258767>.

// HONORABLE MENTION

FMC'S WENDELL CODNER HONORED BY RISE

Wendell Codner of FMC Corp. was recently honored with the "Committee Chairman's Service Award" by Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE). During his eight-year tenure as a member of the programs and membership committee, Codner has helped recruit new members, plan the RISE annual meeting and

communicate the organization's message to policy makers, businesses and consumers.

"Volunteering is vital to our association and Wendell has been a great leader to the committee," says Aaron Hobbs,



Wendell Codner

president of RISE. "This award is to show him how grateful we are for his time and enthusiasm."

Codner has been with FMC for nearly 30 years. He has held numerous positions, including national sales manager for the Professional Solutions and Agricultural divisions and marketing manager for Professional Solutions. Currently, he is the business manager of Consumer Solutions for FMC Professional Solutions.

// JURY'S IN

LEGAL VICTORY

After a long legal battle, it was announced that LidoChem has won their lawsuit against Stoller Enterprises. Stoller Enterprises Inc., Jerry Stoller and David Alexander were found guilty of violating the Lanham Act by intentionally spreading falsehoods about LidoChem Inc. and its Performance Nutrition products and tortuously interfering with business relationships by a jury trial in the Michigan.

The jury awarded LidoChem \$12 million in damages. LidoChem Inc., through its Performance Nutrition division, supplies patented fertilizers, chelated micronutrients, soil amendments and related products nationwide.

"We are pleased that our good name and reputation have been cleared with the ruling in this case that goes back several years," says Don J. Pucillo, president of LidoChem. "We are eager to serve our valued agricultural customers throughout the region."

Penn Staters talk winter injury on Golfdom TV



Golfdom TV recently caught up with two Penn State turf experts on the golf course, Dr. Mike Fidanza and Dr. John Kaminski. Though it was warm on the course in Florida, the conversation turned to winter injury concerns. "I think this is the toughest winter I've seen ever," says Kaminski.

With such a harsh winter, the two Ph.D.s each discussed what superintendents may face as the ice clears. "Everyone's pretty scared about it right now. I think anybody with *Poa* is probably going to have some issues...I think it's going to be okay, but there's going to be a few people that are going to be hit pretty hard," says Kaminski.

Fidanza says it will be interesting to see how this winter will impact the



cold tolerant bermudagrasses that are beginning to be seen in the Mid-Atlantic region and the transition zone. "Coming through the winter, areas that are covered in snow and potentially ice, we'll keep an eye on these. See how cold tolerant they really are," says Fidanza.

To view the two short videos and hear what these experts have to say on winter injury, visit golfdom.com/video.

THEY SAID IT

SEAN HOOLEHAN, CGCS

SUPERINTENDENT, WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO, PENDLETON, ORE.

On one of the challenges the GCSAA field staff must overcome:

"The program has done well, but they have to find a new name. Are they regional managers? Regional association specialists? Introducing them just doesn't sound right."



EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

In response to a blog post on the Golfdom Daily (www.golfdom.com/blog) dated March 10th, 2014, announcing the sad news that former GCSAA student services recruiter Lanie Griffin passed away at the age of 60...

Seth, thank you for letting us know this sad news. Lanie was always so gracious. I had the pleasure of working with her on the GCSAA Diversity Committee for several years. She led by example. Lanie was truly one of the quiet, unsung leaders in the golf industry. My prayers for her family.

P.S. I could visualize her as I read your lovely remembrance of Lanie....

Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA
Jan Bel Jan Golf Course Design, Inc.
Jupiter, Fla.

Seth, I just wanted to write and say great choice on the Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year award winner ("Jimmy the Kid," February 2014) this year. I can only hope to one day leave the kind of legacy Jim (Rattigan) has to a club where I work.

Tyler Otero, superintendent
North Jersey Country Club
Wayne, N.J.

Seth, these last few weeks have been pretty special. I think every person I've ever met in this business has reached out to congratulate me on winning the Graffis Award. Thank you again for this honor.

Jim Rattigan, general manager/superintendent
Schuylkill CC, Orwigsburg, Pa.

// GOLFDOM WISDOM

On the day you cancel a \$10,000 golf tournament, it's best to eat lunch somewhere besides the clubhouse.
#golfdomwisdom