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ISHIHARA SANGYO KAISHA, LTD.

Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

13

MAN O' WAR COURSE, GLEN RIDDLE

Riddle Farm is widely recognized as a birthplace of champions. Famed racehorses Man O' War, War Admiral and Seabiscuit were all bred and raised on this pastoral, sprawling track of land that sits just outside of Ocean City, Md. It's no wonder that, under the direction of acclaimed owner and developer Thomas H. Ruark, Inc., two 18-hole championship courses were born here as well.

At Glen Riddle Golf Club, much of the farm's rich history is still beautifully preserved. The former stable barn has been converted to a magnificent clubhouse outfitted with period décor and even some of the horses' original stall doors. On the Man O' War course, the historical training race track still winds its way through the property as a strategic cross hazard on three holes. Water also presents a challenge throughout the course including Hole No. 13, a difficult par three where a tee shot must be stiff enough to carry over a pond against the incoming sea breezes.

Eric Snelsire serves as Director of the Grounds for both courses. He has the mighty responsibility of keeping the warm-season fairways of the Man O' War course looking and playing its best. As a result of the diversity between the two courses, there is very little cross over in equipment and management programs. The short growing season for bermudagrass in this region creates management dilemmas since the turf often weakens during the winter, making it vulnerable to significant weed pressures.

Eric and his crew selected fast-acting Dismiss® herbicide for postemergence use on both courses. "Its enduring effectiveness on both sedges and kyllingas has been most obvious," reports Snelsire. "As an added bonus, we have found it to control or suppress several other common broadleaf weeds." Given that champion speed is a part of Glen Riddle's legacy, Dismiss is a winning choice.

PHOTO BY: CHRIS JOHN



To learn more about Dismiss® herbicides visit www.fmcprosolutions.com.



GOLF CLUB ► OCEAN CITY, MD

HOLE STATS

Distance: 195 yards, Par 3

THE TURF

Green: L-93 Bentgrass

Fairway:
Patriot Hybrid Bermudagrass



Eric Snelsire, Director of the Grounds

GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



Let's give "environmental sustainability" a rest and talk about "superintendent sustainability." If I learned one thing from Walt Disney in my years at the Magic Kingdom as a golf course superintendent, it's that "you can build the greatest theme park (golf course in our case) in the world, but it takes people to make it successful."

As superintendents, you're those key people.

I've known superintendents who retired after decades of service to clubs and others who seemed to have solid programs only to be suddenly dumped by their employers. Not all people are the same and not all superintendents are perfect, but too often I think clubs think "the next guy or gal" has a magic wand they can wave to solve whatever imagined problem exists. The old "we want to take it to the next level" reason or "we want to change direction" excuses are so lame they need a new crutch.

If 90 percent of those clubs gave the current superintendent the resources to take it to the next level or change the direction, they probably could. Alas, I fear most of those mysterious terminations come from personality clashes by members who felt slighted or wronged and finally became ax-wielding club presidents. And there are stories of the certain general manager who didn't like being the "new guy" on staff and the old superintendent is reported to be "seeking new opportunities" soon after the new GM's arrival.

Club officials and members need to understand the value of the knowledge a current superintendent possesses about the property when thinking about making a change. Instinctively, we know that learning how to manage turf in a given location, with its micro-climate, the grass types and dealing with club politics and budget resources are key factors in meeting expectations.

Internal politics can be a real bummer in the private club sector and there aren't too many remedies for folks who act like jerks, except a strong board with good leadership. Regulatory politics like water, fertilizer and pesticide regulations, however, are a real concern that a superintendent must address. I often wonder if their effects on turf management programs are

Superintendent Sustainability

BY JOEL JACKSON



TIMING, LUCK AND SKILL ALL PLAY A PART IN BEING SUCCESSFUL. KNOWING WHEN TO PUT UP, STEP UP AND SHUT UP IS SELDOM TAUGHT IN TURF SCHOOL

adequately passed up the chain of command. Getting golfers engaged on these issues could really help sway politicians.

Location! Location! Location! I doubt the members are aware of the ramifications of the learning curve that a new superintendent will face. Important local knowledge includes learning to deal with the soil types on the course, sun and shade patterns and seasonal weather stresses. For some it may mean learning how to manage a totally different strain of grass, say from bent to bermuda or paspalum.

The final reality check for meeting expectations is the budget. A good superintendent can manage the budget. However, a club's expectations must match the resources provided — if not, the club will be looking for another superintendent to "change direction and take us to the next level." During his presentation on "Leadership in Today's Club World" at the Everglades GCSA Spring Symposium in early April, Certified Club Manager Kurt Kuebler said it best, "No club ever cut its way to prosperity!"

If you're new to the profession and think you have the answers for surviving in the superintendent world, let me humbly suggest you join your local chapter, seek out the tenured veterans in your region, buy them a beer sometime and ask them their secrets to success. Timing, luck and skill all play a part in being successful. Knowing when to put up, step up and shut up is seldom taught in turf school.

Never get complacent. Learn when to be visible and also invisible. Be friendly with members, but not buddy-buddy. Stay on the leading edge of the profession. By striving to be indispensable, you'll improve your chances of sustainability.

Certified Superintendent Joel Jackson is executive director of the Florida GCSA.

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I was caught in Europe during the Iceland volcano eruption that brought European air transportation to a halt. I don't expect much sympathy, but I ended up being stranded in Munich, Germany, for a few extra days.

When I returned to Ohio, people asked me what the volcanic ash was like. The ash wasn't visible in Germany. The skies were clear and blue, and the stars shined brightly at night. But the impact the volcanic ash had on the region was socially and economically devastating. People were stranded in foreign countries either on vacation or business and couldn't get home. Airlines were forced to take hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each day. And then there was the ripple effect on other industries.

My experience reminded me of the power of nature. As many golf course superintendents know — on a much smaller scale — there's not much you can do when Mother Nature turns the tables. However, throwing your hands up and saying, "I can't do anything about it," is unacceptable.

How to manage the situation in Europe had a lot to do with gathering data and then communicating the problem and solution to those who were affected. Watching this unfold in Europe, it wasn't hard to see similarities with having to close a golf course because of weather conditions.

During the airspace shutdown, people found most information about the airline cancellations electronically. I was impressed by how many people were checking Web sites, such as the BBC's site, using their smart phones. I was checking every 30 minutes.

There were two episodes that struck me as insightful when it comes to communication. The first was the continual messages from news organization telling viewers/listeners not to go to the airports because of flight cancellations, and then looking on in amazement when people kept showing up at the airports (albeit at a much slower rate).

The second episode occurred in Germany the day prior to most of the German airspace opening. The vice president of Lufthansa

Volcanic Ash & Golf Maintenance

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



THE TWO SUBJECTS

DON'T HAVE MUCH

IN COMMON ... OR

DO THEY?

Airlines was visibly angry at German government officials who were keeping the air space closed or restricted. He basically said the officials were ignoring the data and that flying was safe.

This interview was followed by an interview with a government official who said it was a matter of caution. When asked about the test flights on the previous day, the official said he hadn't had a chance to analyze the data.

As previously mentioned, closing a golf course or restricting golf car usage because of weather conditions is one of the most difficult decisions a golf course superintendent has to make. From the volcano experience, my suggestions would be:

- If the course must be closed, communicate that message as soon as possible and your best guess for how long it will be closed. The communication can be through e-mails, Twitter and Web-site postings along with a written notice at the club. You can also provide electronic updates through the day. For example, "The course is closed but the greens are drying and we'll be open tomorrow if the weather doesn't change. Most likely we will lift and place, but check with the pro shop."

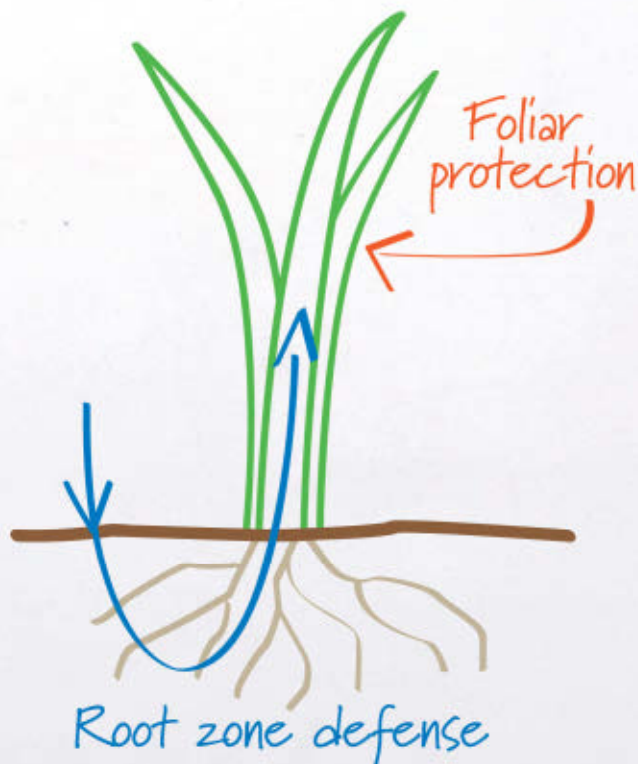
- If possible communicate the criteria used to close the course.

- If golfers show up, it may be because their whole day evolved around the expected golfing round. Find something that may ease their pain — free coffee, breakfast or maybe a putting lesson on the pro shop floor. It might be that they have no place else to go.

I know that feeling all too well.

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Golfdom's science editor and a turfgrass professor from The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.

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A man wearing a black jacket and a dark cap with a logo is sitting on a log by a stream. The background shows a lush green landscape with a stream flowing through it. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

Sittin' PRETTY

/ BY LARRY AYLWARD,
EDITOR IN CHIEF /