

# FarmLinks Maintenance Facility Destroyed

**T**he maintenance facility at FarmLinks Golf Club in Sylacauga, Ala., was a total loss after a fire devastated the building in the early morning hours of Wednesday, March 9th.

“Everyone is OK – no one was injured,” Erle Fairly, president of FarmLinks, told *Golfdom*. “It’s an unfortunate situation, but we’ll rally the troops.”

The Experience at FarmLinks hosts 1,200 superintendents every year. FarmLinks is well known in the

industry as a one-of-a-kind research and demonstration facility as well as a championship caliber golf course.

A fire inspector was investigating the damage as *Golfdom* went to press, but Fairly believed the fire was caused by a lightning strike.

Once again, the turf industry showed its class, Fairly said, as word was spreading about the fire.

“This industry is close-knit, there’s been no shortage of support,” he said. “Our partners, suppliers and superin-



tendents have all offered help. Courses are already lending us equipment.” ■

## Two *Golfdom* Winners

**A**s the dust settled from the 2011 Golf Industry Show, *Golfdom* was able to make two more attendees quite happy with their trips to Orlando.

*Golfdom* notified Tim Kennelly, superintendent at Baltimore CC, and Sean Tully, superintendent at the Meadow Club in Fairfax, Calif., that they both won prizes for stopping by the *Golfdom* booth at the GIS. Kennelly won an expenses-paid trip to Pinehurst Resort for the first ever *Golfdom* Summit in November. Kennelly won a copy of the July, 1962 issue of *Golfdom* magazine, signed by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

“Any time you get an opportunity to learn and improve yourself, you have to take it,” Kennelly said of the *Golfdom* Summit ([www.golfdomsummit.com](http://www.golfdomsummit.com)), an invitation-only three-day event which will include presentations, case studies and meetings as well as a round of golf on Pinehurst No. 2. “I’ve heard a lot about the work (Bill) Coore and (Ben) Crenshaw have done on No. 2... I’m excited to see it!”

Tully, meanwhile, plans to display the autographed copy of *Golfdom* in his office. Coincidentally, Tully has a collection of old issues of *Golfdom*, with his oldest issue previously a copy from 1965 featuring the construction of Spyglass Hill.

“I’m glad you guys do things like (the giveaway), it’s pretty exciting,” Tully said. ■



## BASF, *Golfdom* Play Trivia for Charity

At the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals hosted a game show called “Superintendent Thousandaire.” Superintendents competed for cash prizes, while BASF (represented by Tom Hill, communications manager, left) asked the turf media to participate for charity. *Golfdom*’s Seth Jones (right) missed his final question but still walked away with a donation to the Wee One Foundation ([www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org)) for \$1,900. ■



## The Andersons Adds Distributors



The Andersons has added distributors for its professional turf products in an effort to expand reach and support growth. Relationships with Chicagoland Turf (Addison, Ill.), Keystone Turf (Export, Penn.) and The Hodges Rash Company (Coraopolis, Penn.), all full line golf and landscape distributors, along with Simplot Partners (Palm Desert, Calif.), who will distribute a limited offering of premium products, including Contec DG, in selected markets in the Western states, comprise this expansion of The Andersons distribution network. ■

**T**echnically We Are Golf is a grand conglomeration of the leading golf associations embarking on a national golf awareness program. They annually visit Washington, D.C. to showcase the golf industry's economic, environmental and social impact on the U.S.A.

In reality, who is golf? You are. You and every Tom, Dick or Harry, Mary, Sally or Sue who ever mowed a green, raked a bunker or set a cup. Everyone from the Scottish sheep herders of yesterday to the Chinese greenskeepers of tomorrow are part of golf.

There may be tarnished silver cups and faded photographs in trophy cases in clubhouses and museums that denote historic milestones in this grand old game, but there are also flashing electronic scoreboards and dazzling new high-tech balls and clubs that keep pushing the record books to new levels and that includes our maintenance equipment too.

For every top touring pro and golfing celebrity there is a high school kid slinging a string trimmer, an inner-city kid taking a first whack at a golf ball while participating in a First Tee venue or a retiree either playing in his regular group at the Muni-course or hawking golf balls while making his rounds as a part time ranger.

Who is golf? All the folks who get up at o'dark thirty to drive to work on a golf course. All the people who manufacture, distribute and sell golf equipment and merchandise in golf shops. All those who sell and service golf maintenance equipment and turf care products around the world.

And don't forget the land owners, the golf course architects, the bulldozer operators and construction crews who haul the dirt, dig the ditches and plant the grass.

From the classroom professor to the Green Section Agronomist there is a stream of people who teach, research and otherwise guide the rest of us through the science of managing golf courses.

From Scotland, England and Ireland to America and then back to Europe, golf circles

## We're Making Golf History Right Now

BY JOEL JACKSON



**GOLF IS AN  
INTERESTING WAY  
TO RIDE THE ROAD  
OF LIFE. TAKE THE  
TIME TO SAVOR IT  
BEYOND YOUR  
100 ACRES.**

the globe. Just look in Australia, Asia, Africa and the Middle East and the islands in the Pacific Ocean and you will find golf.

We are all part of something big and historic. I dare say you seldom ever stop to think about golf beyond your daily responsibilities and immediate goals and needs. I guess that is the necessity of addressing Mother Nature's changeability and your daily tee sheets.

But if you never savor the connection you have with all of these people and places dedicated to maintaining golf courses or simply playing the game, then you are missing out on a chance to be part of something bigger than all of us. You are also missing out on the chance to meet and learn from these people whoever and wherever they are and whatever they do.

Golf is an interesting way to ride the road of life. People great and small play the game or take care of golf courses, and if you take the time and make the effort to travel that road beyond your 100 acres, you might meet someone or learn something that will enrich your life from this day forward.

The seeds of camaraderie may be sown in agronomic classrooms, but friendships are nurtured and blossom when you take the initiative to become more of a part of your segment of the worldwide golf community. That world may be as small as your local association no matter what part of golf you work in.

We will always have challenges to face, but our fellowships and friendships earned and grown from our participation in our profession will give us the knowledge, experience, and humor to help us carry the day.

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

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**SPECT*(i)*CLE™**

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**T**he last day of the GIS conference will always be a day to remember — February 11, 2011 or 2/11. It was in the afternoon when I read a posting on my cell phone that the Egyptian “President,” Mubarak, had stepped down.

As you can already tell, this is neither my typical technical column nor the typical GIS conference in review article. I hope you’ll bear with me.

For many, including myself, the days of protest leading up to that Friday in Egypt did not really resonate, and even after the resignation we moved on with our daily lives. However, from traveling the world the last 20 years (including the Middle East) I know what a huge day 2/11 was for much of the world.

One of the great impressions of people that I have come in contact with, especially those associated with golf and teaching around the world and especially in developing countries, is how little we differ in our day-to-day lives. At universities we talk about the same things and joke about the same things (even governments) whether a language barrier exists or not. International students aren’t much different than our own; they are enthusiastic, curious, have a degree of naivety and want a meaningful career and a good job.

I know I’m generalizing, but as a group, golf course superintendents around the world tend to dress alike, talk alike, similarly find their career rewarding, and they even enjoy similar things. On golf courses you find similar equipment and supplies, as we would find here, along with similar golfer expectations. Many of you have experienced that whether talking turf on the GIS trade show or at receptions with international colleagues.

They also have similar worries. I remember being at lunch in China with a golf course developer and an owner of a turf supply company and the conversation centered on something called “Black Tuesday,” a day in July when the kids learn what college they qualify for... not much different than our college admissions here in the States.

The interesting thing was this conversation

## A Day to Remember

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



SOMETIMES

GOVERNMENT

CRISIS SEEM

SO FAR AWAY

WHETHER YOU ARE

IN HOMETOWN USA

OR THE COUNTRY-

SIDE OF CHINA.

was at the end of March 2001, during the time an American spy plane collided with a Chinese jet fighter that resulted in the Chinese pilot being killed and the American crew of 24 being detained after making an emergency landing on China’s Hainan Island. Sometimes government crisis seem so far away whether you are in hometown USA or the countryside of China.

From my travels I have been known to make off-handed remarks like “the world is all the same from the 20th floor of the Marriott” or “the first tee is the same no matter what country you are in.”

But the truth is, the world is very different from country to country from the 20th floor of the Marriott when it comes to one thing: democracy. You might not be able to spot it from a hotel window, but its presence cannot be understated.

Democracy, especially among the young, is associated with opportunity... a better life for oneself and family... and I am not sure how to word it but it is also associated with human dignity.

Seeing the news that day on my cell phone made me, for a minute, stop and forget all about the GIS. What I was reading on my cell phone right then was important to the world.

What we saw in Egypt, and who knows how it will play out, was the repudiation of ideas and philosophies of the people who instigated and supported 9/11. For me it was a humbling experience to watch the Egyptian people put their lives on the line in a non-violent protest for democracy. How could it not make one feel proud to be an American?

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

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**Count on it.**

# Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

**4**

TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

As the world's most-recognizable developer, Donald J. Trump has always made one thing perfectly clear: when "The Donald" does something, he does it big – and that includes his portfolio of world class golf courses.

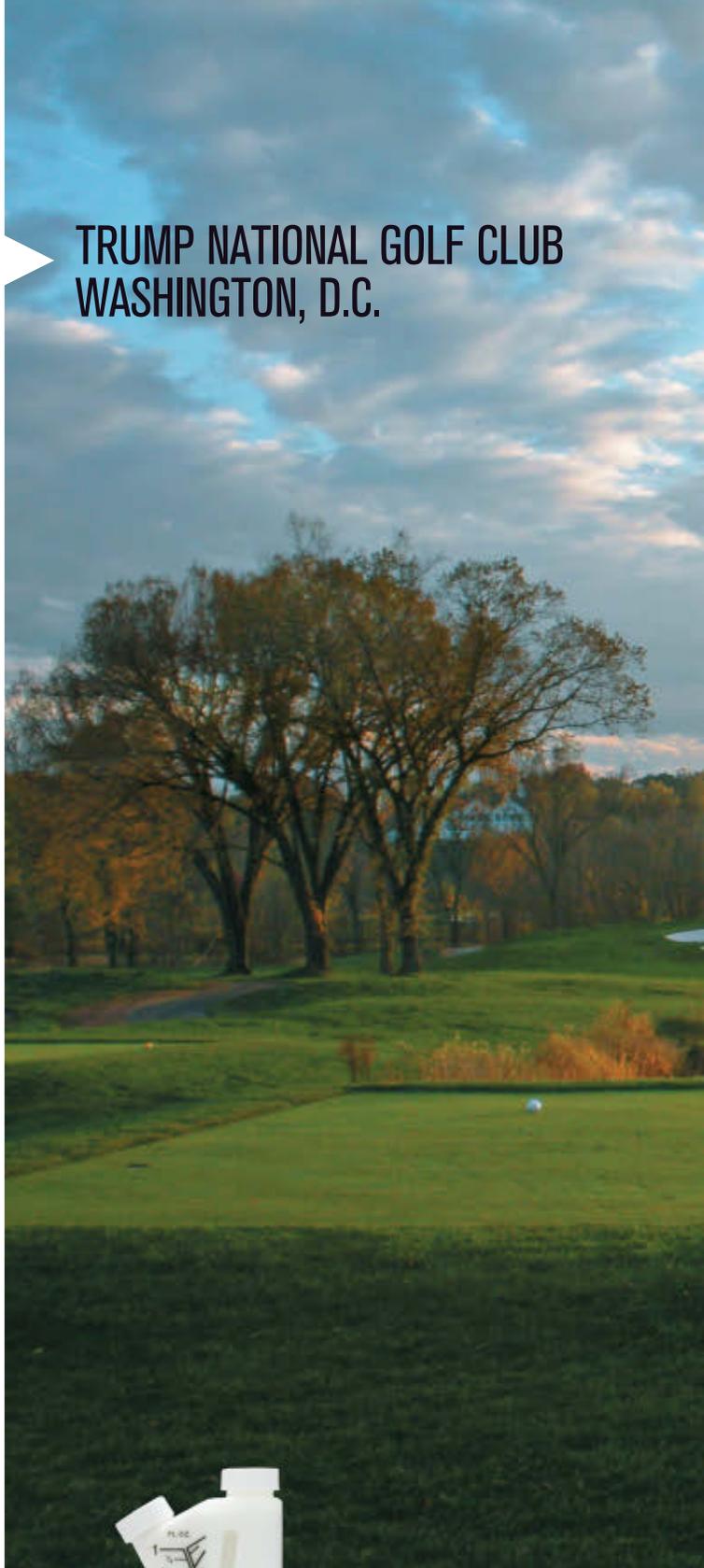
As an "avid golfer", Trump is committed to his 11 courses, found both nationally and internationally. Perhaps nowhere is this more true than at Trump National Golf Club Washington, D.C.

Stretched alongside nearly three miles of the Potomac River, Trump National consists of two 18-hole golf courses, including the Championship Course, designed by esteemed architect Tom Fazio. The club, once ranked among the "Ten Best New Private Courses" by Golf Digest, has undergone an \$18-million dollar renovation, reinventing both its playing surfaces and clubhouse with the goal of one day hosting a major tournament.

Among Trump National's noteworthy improvements is Hole #4, now featuring an additional green-side bunker. Those who fail to plan their approach accordingly can find their shot literally "buried" in the sand. Factor in 25 yards of additional length thanks to a new tee, and you have yourself one challenging Par 3.

As the Director of Grounds for one of Trump Golf's most breathtaking properties, Brad J. Enie knows exactly where to turn for year-round moss control. "During my first walk through the Championship Course, I noticed a large percentage of moss on several greens. We immediately began treating the greens with QuickSilver® herbicide and changed our watering program. Within a couple of months, we were moss free."

And because QuickSilver leaves behind minimal residue, bentgrass can quickly grow-in, breaking the moss opportunity cycle and helping Enie and his team meet the expectations of someone who embodies a larger-than-life celebrity as much as a respected businessman. "With the help of QuickSilver, we have been able to keep our greens free of moss."



To learn more about QuickSilver herbicide, visit [www.fmcprosolutions.com](http://www.fmcprosolutions.com).



**HOLE STATS**

Distance: 253 yards, Par 3



**THE TURF**

Greens/Fairways/Tees:  
Bentgrass

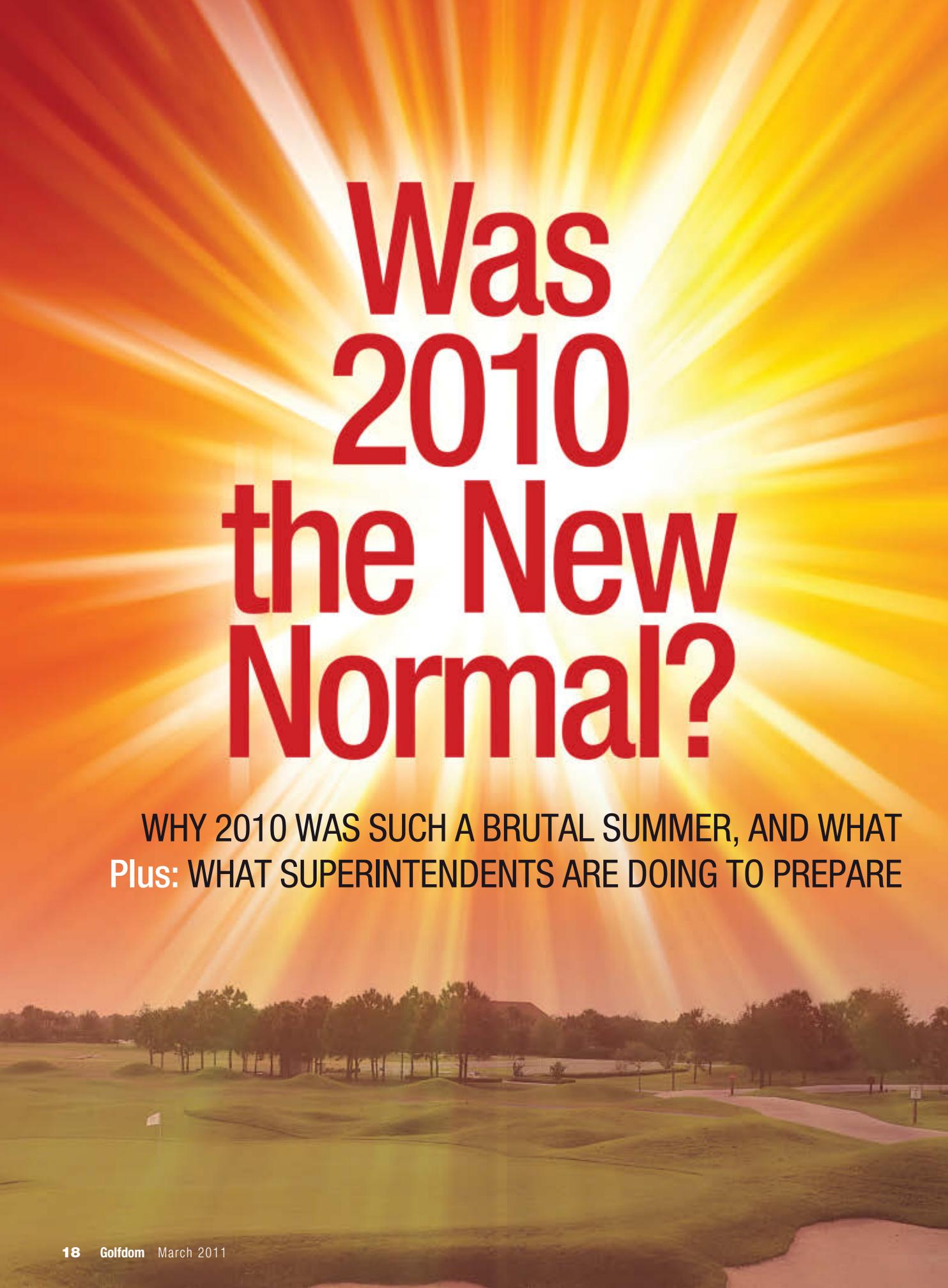


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# Was 2010 the New Normal?

WHY 2010 WAS SUCH A BRUTAL SUMMER, AND WHAT  
**Plus:** WHAT SUPERINTENDENTS ARE DOING TO PREPARE

**Y**ou've probably heard the old joke that you know you're going to have a bad day when a "60 Minutes" camera crew is waiting for you when you get to work. Well, for superintendents the same thing could be said about the *Wall Street Journal* headlining a golf story with "The Ugly Summer of 2010."

From the Atlantic Coast all the way to parts of the Great Plains, superintendents battled extreme weather, and their courses suffered turf stress and turf losses unlike anything seen in recent years.

For Scott Anderson, superintendent at Huntingdon Valley Country Club near Philadelphia, last summer was difficult, but he says he's not looking back as much as he is looking forward.

The course got national notice last summer when it closed two of its three nines in mid-July in response to extreme conditions that had put the greens on his A and B nines at risk. Anderson said the C nine, which is newer, did much better in the heat. The A and B nines were

closed for about six weeks.

In the Philadelphia area, the conditions for a tough year were set up by the cooler, wetter years in 2008 and 2009. According to Anderson, he got 73 inches of snow during the winter of 2009-2010, which was followed by a wetter than normal spring.

"We had springs coming out of places we'd never seen before, it was incredible," he said, adding that his staff added drainage pits and pumps in an attempt to dry things out.

But the weather didn't cooperate. In early July the area was hit with 100-degree daytime temperatures, lows in the mid-70s, and occasional thunderstorms. The combination was lethal to turfgrasses.

In Leawood, Kan., Eric Bickel, superintendent at Hallbrook Country Club, witnessed it all firsthand. "We always have the heat here, what made last year so much worse was the humidity," he said. "The cool season grasses survived for eight weeks off reserves in the root systems. Those reserves and the root systems all but ran out. In addition, high humidity created con-

*Continued on page 20*

## WEATHER EXPERTS **PREDICT FOR THIS SEASON.** FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER ROUGH SUMMER.

BY KEN MOUM, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



## How's the Weather?

*Continued from page 19*  
stant high fungal disease pressure.”

In South Carolina, Max Morgan, Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations at Myrtle Beach National oversees 14 courses — ten of which are owned by the resort. Four of the 14 courses have bentgrass greens.

Morgan said the problem in 2010 was that it got hot early, and started raining early for the area.

“We had temperatures in the 90s for 21 of 30 days in June, compared to only about six or seven in a typical year. Worse than that were the high nighttime temps we had. We only had about four nights in the 60s all summer.”

### Record minimums

Deke Arndt, Chief of Climate Monitoring, National Climatic Data Center, said that for much of the Midwest and Atlantic regions the hot, humid summer of 2010 was preceded by a “not hot” summer in 2008 and that 2009 was “quite cool,” especially compared to the last 10 to 15 years.

Then, the winter of 2009-2010 was marked by colder than usual temperatures and snow. Or, as Arndt put it, “The winter was marked by more big snow events, especially in the mid-Atlantic. We haven’t seen that in 10 to 15 years, either. There were huge, repeated events, more like what we saw in the mid-1970s,” he said.

The culprit, according to Arndt, is Arctic Oscillation, a pattern of winds circulating counterclockwise around the North Pole. In its positive phase it confines colder air across Polar regions.

In its negative phase, the band of wind becomes weaker and more distorted, allowing southward penetration of colder, arctic air masses and increased storminess into the mid-latitudes. According to Arndt, the AO value was so far into the negative that it went off the chart, even forcing a change in the design of the graph.

What followed, however, bludgeoned golf courses with cool season grasses across a significant part of the country.

Scott Anderson (with his dog Fergie) says the summer of 2010 created positive changes for the future.



Spring was marked by record retreat of drought, Arndt said. Much of the country entered summer with saturated soil, another slam for turf.

Then, according to Arndt, 2010 was the warmest summer on record for about 20 states, mostly along the Atlantic coast.

As if that wasn’t bad enough, the real driver of the heat wave was not daytime highs; it was the prevalence of hot nights. “There were overnight lows in the 70s and 80s in areas that just don’t see that,” Arndt said. Up to 60 percent of the country experienced above-normal minimum temperatures in 2010 — something that hasn’t happened in the past century.

“It was relentless. There were plenty of record highs, but it was the generally high daytime temperatures combined with record minimums that were unusual,” according to Arndt.

In Kansas, Bickel said the generally cool weather in 2009 was definitely a factor.

“Both 2008 and 2009 were cool. *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* proliferated in our rough. The conditions were perfect, and we might have had triple our normal density. Then, when it got so hot and humid in 2010 we had about 90 percent mortality of those grasses.”

“We had springs coming out of places we’d never seen before, it was incredible.”

— SCOTT ANDERSON,  
SUPERINTENDENT,  
HUNTINGDON VALLEY (PA.)  
COUNTRY CLUB, ON THE 73  
INCHES OF SNOW THEY  
RECEIVED IN THE WINTER  
OF 2009-2010.