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Each lightning rod in a tree provides a "cone of protection" around it, an area extended from the base a distance about equal to the height of the lightning rod itself. Within this cone, lightning bolts will be drawn to the rod and won't damage other trees.

And yet, while lightning has scorched trees and damaged golf courses and occasionally taken life, we have to realize that it also has an important role to play.

Nitrogen makes up about 80% of our atmosphere and yet only a few plants can use this most important plant nutrient. To be useful, nitrogen has to combine with or be "fixed" with another element.

Lightning is a benefactor in this process. Each time lightning flashes an electrical charge, it combines nitrogen and oxygen. Rain carries the fixed nitrogen to the ground where it can be used by plants.

In Wisconsin, we can be thankful that lightning doesn't start the forest fires it does out west. Here, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also most often accompanied by rain, rain which quenches fires that might break out.

Lightning deserves a lot of fear and a lot of respect. Although it is dangerous in a lot of ways to golfers, golf courses and golf course superintendents, it is also important to the plant life on our golf courses.

Lightning may be the ultimate fear of Mother Nature we have to deal with; it might also be one of nature's finest acts. There is no arguing it is one of the most spectacular.

HELP WANTED

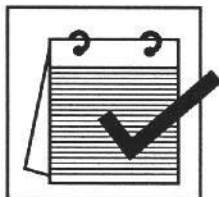
The Geneva National Golf Club is looking for a full-time, permanent *Irrigation Technician* to work in the Golf Course Maintenance Department.

Requirements include, but are not limited to, experience with Toro Network 8000 System.

If interested, please send resume to:

Geneva National Golf Club
Golf Course Maintenance
2200 Petrie Road
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

The Wisconsin Golf Course Survey



Clothing The Crew, Looking The Part

By Monroe S. Miller

One summer, after I was out of Uncle Sam's Army and not taking any summer school classes at the UW, I worked at one of the state's finest golf courses. The assistant there went on to become one of the best golf course superintendents around. It was a good experience, full of both fun and valuable lessons.

Only one lesson was a negative. The crew was required to wear a uniform. It was an olive drab slacks, a matching olive drab shirt and a complementary green t-shirt. I thought I was back in the Army again.

I vowed, as a result of that experience over twenty years ago, that I would never do that to my crew. And I haven't.

I do believe that the staff working on a golf course needs to look clean and neat and tidy. But they don't have to all look alike. Frankly, I like the variety and individuality of each employee's wardrobe.

When a new person is hired, I spell out the limits of what I'll tolerate, explain what will happen if one comes to work in a "party 'til you puke" t-shirt that is popular on the college campus in this town, and detail the prohibitions. The prohibitions include tennis shoes and shorts.

My own work wardrobe is designed for comfort and common sense. I like to participate in everything that goes on around the course; wearing \$70 slacks and a \$40 Cross Creek golf shirt would surely inhibit that. So, as you might guess, I pretty much dress like the guys I work with.

In fact, a few years ago a person stopped by who was selling some mor-

phidite product for an unheard of company. He asked me if the boss was around. I quickly replied with a "he's never here and I have no idea where he goes", making sure I'd never be bothered again.

The point is that I didn't "look" like the boss should have, in his mind, and he went away.

With that lengthy preface, you can almost guess this issue's SURVEY questions. Here they are, along with the results.

1. Do you provide your golf course staff with uniforms?

YES: 6 NO: 15 Shirts only: 5

2. Do you have a dress code?

YES: 19 NO: 7

3. What do you wear to work?

Jeans, "work" clothes: 24 Golf attire: 2

4. Do you allow your employees to wear shorts? YES: 20 NO: 6

Tennis shoes? YES: 18 NO: 8

I was a little surprised, to be honest, with some of the answers. I was pretty much right on with guessing how many provided uniforms and how many didn't, and with the dress code questions and with what we wear to work ourselves.

But I was a mile wide of the mark with shorts and tennis shoes. I prohibit both and will probably have to hide this issue from my own guys: they may not want to hear "it's for your own good" anymore!

When it comes to work attire, it appears most of us prefer employees "clothed with integrity" rather than Polo slacks and Hogan golf shirts.

That is how it ought to be.

Let the 1992 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
WINTER CONFERENCE

January 7th and 8th

at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc
Be your *FIRST* educational meeting
of the new year!