



# Love/Hate

By **Jake Schneider**, Assistant Superintendent Blackhawk Country Club

Like any self-respecting man, give me a list and you give me happiness. I hope that you enjoy the following Uncomprehensive list about the love/hate relationships that are commonly found in this profession. 🌿

## Love

- Mother Nature: She's a beautiful young lady who provides us with ample rainfall, abundant sunshine, and makes this job sooo much easier.
- Chainsaws: It's a real shame that chainsaws got such a bad rap from countless horror films. Rather than fearing for my life, I think of increased sunlight and airflow, decreased disease and competition from tree roots, and no more mountains of leaves in the fall.
- Golfers: I don't know about you, but without them, I wouldn't be getting paid. If Blackhawk had a packed tee sheet everyday, there would be one less thing to worry about. And, is there anything better than a golfer telling you how nice the course is looking; they're always so complimentary.
- October-March: Oh, the offseason. Sweet, sweet offseason— a time to kick back and decompress from the grind of the season.
- April-September: After a long winter of shop work and preparation, I'm ready to get back outside and see some green for the first time in months.
- Summer Help: What a welcome relief it is when school is out for the year and the kids start showing up. Finally, I have some bodies to do all of the work that I haven't had the labor for in spring.
- Golf Pros: Always working hard to make our jobs easier.\*

## Hate

- Mother Nature: She's a cruel old woman who thinks that weeks without rain, straight-line winds, and endless freeze/thaw cycles are downright hilarious. She makes my job a whole lot more difficult than it needs to be.
- Trees: If I wanted to be shaded in the summer, I would be holed up in some little cubicle in an office building. And, when I play Blackhawk, I hit more punch shots than I do regular ones, and I don't like to blame my mediocre game for this sad, sad fact.
- Golfers: Not replacing their divots, hitting more than one ball when you're obviously waiting to get some work done, driving their carts in every place that they shouldn't be, and constantly coming up with GREAT ideas to improve the course.
- October-March: First, I have to deal with working outside in the subarctic temperatures, and then, when I'm inside, I'm worrying about how the turf is holding up under the ice skating rinks that are now my greens.
- April-September: Early mornings. Late nights. Stressed. Ugh..is it fall yet?
- Summer Help: Is it really that difficult to follow directions? I'd be better off doing just doing this myself. Boy, am I glad that I was never like that (that may be stretching the truth).
- Golf Pros: Nothing bad to say about them.\*\*

\*kidding

\*\*a blatant lie