

(Continued from page 39)

as his replacement and has remained there since.

3. Tell us a little about the most dramatic changes you have seen in your 25 years as a WGCSA member.

Harrison was the quickest to answer this question, and he did so without the slightest bit of hesitation. "Television has greatly affected golf and led most golfers to want and demand what they see on the screen, too often without regard to inquiry about the cost." Tom has something there, I think.

Bottensek gave some thought to the question and then offered his opinion that the greatest changes have come in the equipment available to us. He added, in roundabout agreement with Harrison, that the demands have become greater and have resulted in the job being less fun than it used to be.

Karel echoed Bottensek's observations about equipment, adding that sophistication in irrigation technology was close behind. He added that he cannot these days believe the amount of disease pressure, especially when he thinks back 25 years and realizes there was very little then. He also noted that changes have included a return to basics and some time proven procedures.

Otto quickly answered that the biggest change has come in fairway management, adding that immediately after the introduction of the triplex greensmower in the late sixties and early seventies, Bob Brue (golf pro at Ozaukee at that time) commented that "someday you'll be using those machines to cut your fairways." Otto added that he told Brue "you're crazy." Otto also felt that green speed demands have nearly gotten out of hand over the years, pointing out that much of the other work on a golf course has become more and more detailed over the years.

4. Now that you have this significant accomplishment in hand, do you ever think of retirement?

"Never!" came the immediate reply from Wayne Otto. "I'll slow down to a lesser job on a course somewhere, but I likely won't ever leave golf."

"I still like to work," said Larry Karel. "I may slowly give up my responsibilities and go back to mowing fairways or setting cups for someone else."

"I'll probably die on a golf course," said Jeff Bottensek. "I may not be a golf course superintendent, but I will

be working on a golf course at least until I am 65. I have a thought in the back of my mind that I would sometime in my life like to work on a golf course out west. It would be a nice complement to my interest in hunting."

"Years like this year has been make me think a lot about my retirement," said Tom Harrison. "The pressure is too great when you have to deal with seasons like this one—winter injury, too much rain and too few nice days to keep golf members happy. But I will probably never fully retire. I want to work to keep active."

5. How have WGCSA members changed in 25 years?

There was a consensus among the four men that our members have become better educated. One veteran observed that he really feels they, as a group, are less dedicated and have taken the view that this is work and not a labor of love. It was noted that more of them now enter as a result of interest in golf in contrast to more historical paths they have followed. There also was near consensus that the WGCSA meetings are now too geared to golf. Years ago, the Wisconsin golf course superintendents held a meeting a NO golf was played. There might be a course tour, a meeting in the clubhouse or even in the shop, a lunch and then an easy trip home. Nowadays, if

there was no golf, no one would be in attendance, they predicted. One, who agreed that they are better educated, also pointed out that WGCSA members today are no more professional than they were years ago.

And, of course, Wayne noted that "they have all gotten younger!"

6. What changes have you seen in our relationship with the University of Wisconsin in Madison?

Near unanimity with this question—"better." All were thrilled with the Noer Research Facility and the prospect of lots of grass research coming from there. Bottensek even said he'd "recommend the place to my son!"

7. Would you do it all over again?

"YES!" was the enthusiastic reply from Jeff Bottensek.

"Yes, probably," came the answer from Larry Karel.

"Yes," was the more thoughtful response from Wayne Otto.

"Yes," was Tom Harrison's rather curt reply.

8. Would you recommend this career to someone else?

"YES!" was the enthusiastic answer from Jeff. Larry Karel said "yes, if there is an interest in agriculture." Tom Harrison responded that he would not recommend it as a career choice and stumbled a little before he responded

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in the affirmative. Wayne offered a "yes" response.

9. *Would you recommend it as a career choice for your son?*

"YES!" as the enthusiastic answer from Jeff Bottensek.

"Yes, but with words of caution," said Wayne Otto.

"No," said Tom Harrison.

"Yes," said Larry Karel.

10. *What has been your greatest satisfaction and your greatest frustration?*

Harrison: "I get a thrill from completing a success amateur tournament and I get frustrated by club politics."

Otto: "I am most frustrated by club politics and I am most satisfied by the fact that I still like to go to work."

Karel: "I am frustrated by changes in green committee personnel and resultant havoc, and I am most satisfied by the fact that this profession allows me to follow the seasons out of doors."

Bottensek: "I derive enormous satisfaction seeing people on my golf course enjoying themselves. I am frustrated by things out of my control—weather, budgets and sometimes employees."

I greatly enjoyed talking to these four perceptive, experienced and dedicated men and thank them for their openness. I hope that someday I will be able to wear that same pin on my lapel that they can now wear on theirs.

In the case of all four, it was a recognition well deserved. 🏆

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A Superintendent's Rules Test

By James E. Sweeney, Regional Affairs Manager
North Central Region - United States Golf Association

Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz are on page 50.

Editor's Note: Those of you who attended this year's USGA Green Section Seminar at Westmoor Country Club had a chance to meet Jim Sweeney. Jim has held his current position with the USGA for nearly three years. Previous to that, he was the Executive Director of the Sun Country Golf Association, a job he had for three and a half years.

Jim is a 1984 graduate of the University of New Mexico where he earned a BA degree in Economics. He was a member of the UNM golf team for the years 1980-1983. He has played competitive golf at all levels, including the US Amateur and the US Mid-Amateur.

The subject of the rules of golf is one Jim understands very well; his experience runs to five USGA/PGA rules schools along with officiating at numerous local, state and national championships.

Jim and his wife Mary have two daughters—Kathleen (8) and Caroline (3). They reside in Crescent Springs, Kentucky which is actually a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Many thanks to Jim for the time he has taken to compose this rules quiz. Hopefully, it is the first of several in the coming issues of THE GRASS ROOTS.

1. A legal hole location
 - a) is at least 4 paces from any fringe area
 - b) must not have more than a three-to-one slope
 - ☒ c) is not defined in the rules of golf

2. A player's ball lies in a lateral hazard. How many options does the player have?
 - a) three
 - ☒ b) five
 - c) one - stroke and distance

3. A player's ball rolls into a hole made by a greenkeeper. It is not marked "ground under repair." What should the player do?
 - a) declare the ball unplayable and drop within two club lengths of

the spot where the ball lay, not nearer the hole, and add one penalty shot to his score

- ☒ b) play it as "ground under repair"
- c) put another ball into play under stroke and distance

4. During a stroke play competition, the green crew wants to get a head start on preparing the course for the next round. They may:
 - a) mow fairways or roughs but not greens between groups
 - ☒ b) mow anywhere on any hole behind the final group, keeping distance between themselves and the players
 - c) do any necessary maintenance without regard to the players

5. During play of a hole, the cup is damaged so as to make it unplayable. Who may fix the hole?
 - a) any player
 - b) a member of the green crew
 - ☒ c) a tournament official

6. The right side of a hole is densely wooded with thick underbrush. Lost balls in this area slow down play. The green committee can:
 - a) declare that any ball hit into that area is automatically lost
 - ☒ b) encourage use of the provisional ball rule
 - ☒ c) mark the area a lateral hazard

7. The teeing ground is defined as:
 - a) the area between two tee markers
 - ☒ b) an area measured from the outside edge of two tee markers which is two club lengths in depth
 - c) a closely mown area specially prepared for teeing the ball

8. Under the rules, the major areas of the golf course are:
 - ☒ a) the teeing ground of the hole being played; the putting green of the hole being played; any hazard on the course; all other areas in play which are termed "through the green"

- ☒ b) tees, greens, hazards, and grassed areas

- c) tees, greens, water hazards, bunkers, fringes, aprons, rough, fairway, waste areas, woods, and obstructions

9. Out of bounds is an area from which play is not permitted. In order to protect oncoming golfers on an adjacent hole, the committee erects in course out of bounds on a hole. The O.B. applies only to the hole being played. The committee:

- ☒ a) acted in accordance with the rules

- b) acted outside the rules; in course O.B. is illegal

- c) acted outside the rules; the O.B. must apply to both holes

10. A mysterious disease has attacked the fringes around all the greens on the course. The city championship begins play tomorrow. The committee should:

- a) mark all the affected areas "ground under repair"

- ☒ b) do nothing; the areas of concern are so widespread that they have become part of the course condition

- c) adopt a local rule prohibiting play from the fringes

11. A water hazard is so situated that a player's options under the water hazard rule are limited. The committee elects to install a ball drop behind the hazard. The player:

- a) must use the ball drop if his ball goes in the water

- b) must use the ball drop only if he elects to drop behind the hazard

- ☒ c) may consider the ball drop as an option in addition to those provided in the rule

12. A pile of grass clippings has been accumulating in a disposal area adjacent to a hole. A player's ball
- (Continued on page 45)



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(Continued from page 43)

- comes to rest next to the pile. The player may:
- a) take relief under the "ground under repair" rule
 - ☒ b) play his ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - c) take relief under the immovable obstruction rule
13. When both stakes and lines are used to mark a water hazard:
- ☒ a) the stakes identify the hazard, and the line defines its margin
 - b) the lines identify the hazard and the stakes define its margin
 - c) the lines and stakes are there only as a courtesy to the player; the water hazard margin begins at the water's edge
14. A player's ball comes to rest in a divot hole. The divot is lying, roots up, adjacent to the hole, but still partially attached to the ground. The player may:
- a) remove his ball from the divot hole, repair the divot and then replace his ball on top of the repaired divot
 - ☒ b) play the ball as it lies or declare the ball unplayable
 - c) detach the divot, cast it aside, and then play the ball
15. A violent though brief afternoon storm has left the golf course wet but playable. Some areas have standing water, other are soft but a

player cannot see water around his feet when at address. Players:

- a) will get relief from casual water in both situations
 - ☒ b) will get relief from the standing water but not from the soft areas
 - c) will get casual water relief from standing water and relief from "ground under repair" in soft areas
16. A pile of brush in the left rough of a hole will be removed later in the day. A player's ball comes to rest near the pile. The pile interferes with the player's follow through. The player:
- a) may take relief from the pile, which is deemed "ground under repair"
 - ☒ b) must play the ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - c) may move his ball only enough to allow himself a free swing
17. Player A's ball comes to rest in a water hazard. The player can play the ball, but an immovable obstruction in the hazard interferes with his swing. Player B's ball comes to rest outside the hazard, and his swing is restricted by the same obstruction.
- a) both player A and player B get relief from the obstruction
 - b) neither player gets relief from the obstruction
 - ☒ c) player B gets relief; player A does not

18. A player's ball comes to rest on a putting green other than the one of the hole he is playing. The player must:

- a) play the ball as it lies
 - ☒ b) drop the ball at the closest point which is off the putting surface and not closer to the hole
 - c) proceed under stroke and distance
19. A player's ball is embedded in rough. The local rule allowing relief in this situation is in effect. The player lifts his ball, drops it in accordance with the rules, and the ball rolls almost two club lengths, coming to rest in the fairway. The ball:
- ☒ a) is in play
 - b) must be re-dropped, and must remain in the rough
 - c) such a local rule is not allowed; the player must replace his ball in its original pitch mark and add one penalty stroke.

20. Player A's ball lands short of the green and spins backward, making a pitch mark in the fringe between the ball and the hole. Player B's ball subsequently lands on A's line, also making a pitch mark in the fringe. Player A is entitled to:

- ☒ a) fix both pitch marks
- b) fix neither pitch mark
- ☒ c) fix B's pitch mark, but not his own

ANSWERS can be found on page 50.

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Poetry For Golf Course Superintendents

Selected by Monroe S. Miller

Editor's Note: Although my personal taste for poetry runs toward Robert Frost and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the following verses have golf courses as their focus.

The first offering, entitled *The Proof of a Golfer*, was written by a well known popular poet, Edgar A. Guest. For many years, his poetry appeared daily in *The Detroit Free Press*. It was topical material, featuring the holidays, the weather, people and professions. In our library at home, we have a small volume of his poetry about Easter. He was an all-American writer and chose topics familiar to all.

Mr. Guest was also an avid golfer. He was a longtime member of the Detroit Golf Club and a regular on the golf course and in the upstairs Men's Grill. He also, as this poem makes clear, had an abiding love of the golf course.

The first time I read this poem was some twenty years

ago when it was offered in a matted, ready-to-frame print from the O.M. Scott & Sons company. More recently it appeared in an issue of *A Patch of Green*, official publication of the Michigan & Borders Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association. That issue was September/October 1986 and the then president Kevin Dushane granted his permission to reprint.

The second offering for your reading enjoyment comes by way of Jim Latham, like so much material he is kind enough to pass my way. It is a poem that appeared in the December 1992 issue of *Greenkeeper International*. It was written by C. D. R. Snave and is entitled *The Way It Used To Be*. The lines are fun to read because you can almost hear the accent and see the old Brit speaking the lines.

Enjoy.

THE PROOF OF A GOLFER

By Edgar A. Guest

The proof of the pudding is the eating they say,
But the proof of a golfer is not
The number of strokes he takes in a day
Or the skill he puts into a shot.
There is more to the game than the score which you make
Here's a truth which all golfers endorse:
You don't improve your worth by the shots which you make,
But the care which you take of the course.

A golfer is more than a ball-driving brute
He is more than a mug-hunting czar.
To be known as a golfer, you don't have to shoot,
The course of your home club in par.
But you do have to love every blade of the grass,
Every inch of the fairway and greens.
If you don't take care of the course as you pass,
You're not what "A good golfer" means.

Just watch a good golfer some day when you're out,
And note what he does as he plays,
He never goes on leaving divots about
'Till the grass is put back, there he stays.
Observe him in traps as he stands for his shot,
Then note when the ball has been played,
He never unthinkingly turns from the spot,
'Till he's covered the footprints he made.

You may brag of your scores and may boast of your skill,
You may think as a golfer you're good;
But if footprints you make, in traps you don't fill,
You don't love the game as you should.
For your attitude unto the sport you enjoy,
Isn't proven by brilliance of force;
The proof of a golfer—now get this my boy,
Is the care that you take of the course.

THE WAY IT USED TO BE

By C. D. R. Snave

I were her afore seven this mornin'
Cuttin' the greens at first light
An' somewhere a sky lark were singin'
An' nary a member in sight!

In a lifetime of shovin' this mower
I must 'ave walked ten thousand mile
But I backlapped the bitch Monday evenin'
An' this mornin' she's cuttin' in style.

You can't beat a pram-handled Certes
On dry turf rollin' along
With the bent flyin' clean to the grass-box
An' her cylinder hummin' its song.

There's our Dick down there on the fairway
I dunno what goes on in 'is mind
Up an' down up an' down on the Ransomes
Starin' down at 'is 'oss's behind.

An' ol' Joe's changin' 'oles on the seventh
Then 'e'll be cuttin' the tees
Ten hours with a Lloyds Pennsylvania
By dusk 'e'll be down on 'is knees!

Thirty year it bin sin' I started
'Ol' 'Arry were greenkeeper then
An' 'e were a right 'oly terror
Though always right fair with 'is men.

'E started me rakin' the bunkers
When I were a lad twelve year old
An' grubbin' up weeds in all weather
Come December by God it were cold!

(Continued)

Still the Club's paid me regular wages
An' I'd die in the mine or the mill
There must be summat about it
For me to be slavin' 'ere still.

For it's grand in the sun in the summer
Satisfyin', if you know what I mean
If you don't mind that toffee nosed tyrant
As calls hisself chairman o'green.

'E can't tell 'is grass from 'is elbow
'E can't tell a green from a tee
But 'e thinks 'e's God of this golf course
When the only God round 'ere is me.

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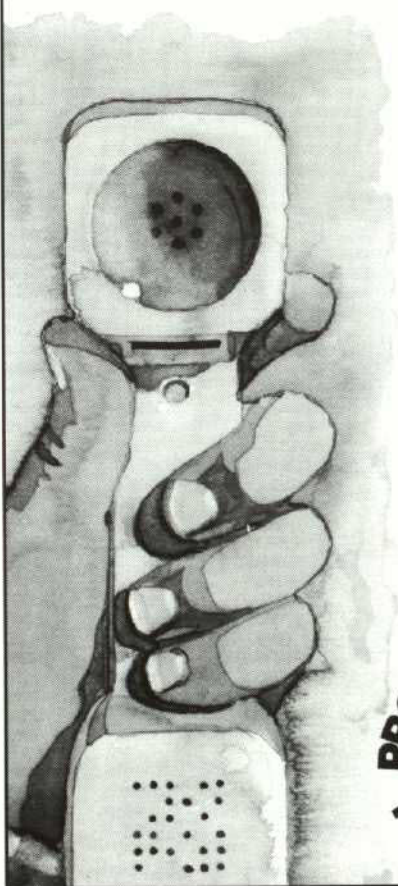
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What Is Causing Our Weird Weather?

By Monroe S. Miller

It is human nature, I'd guess. Whenever confronted with something new, unusual or out of the ordinary, we always want to know...WHY?

So it is with the weather of late. Remarks like "what's going on with the weather?" and "when will we have normal, predictable weather again?" or "we'll never see this kind of weather in our lifetime again" are heard all the time.

The most common and frequent explanation I have heard from meteorologists is (of course) *El Nino*.

El Nino is the phenomenon that brings warm water from the Philippines to the equatorial eastern area of the Pacific Ocean. It has encouraged a moisture-laden high-level tropical jet stream from Baja California to invade the Midwest, giving us the unusual, intense and more frequent thunderstorms we experienced this summer.

Those storms were exacerbated by a Bermuda High, a mass of air under unusually high pressure that migrated west from Bermuda and got stuck over the continental U.S. Clockwise-spinning winds off this high pressure swept additional moisture from the gulf of Mexico into the central and upper United States.

Added to this was another flow of moisture up from Mexico itself. Although it was weaker in force, it nevertheless added moisture we surely didn't need.

The *El Nino* effect started, as we well know, last year. It seems incredible that so much more atmospheric moisture can result and jet streams redirected by the mere 2°F. increase *El Nino* brings to ocean water temperatures. Scientists are not sure why this effect happens or how long each will last. Previous recent ones were in 1982-1983 and 1986-1987. More rain for us resulted those times, too.

In between the *El Nino* are phenomenon that have come to be called *La Ninas* (real creative!). These are colder-than-average sea-surface temperatures off the west coast of South America. They usually bring drier, colder weather in North America.

That is the meteorology theory of it all.

Robert W. Reuschlein, a Madison author and researcher, is writing a book called "Weather, Wealth and War". In it he promotes a different theory that explains a lot of the weather, especially the flooding, we are now experiencing.

He believes that many weather, economic and political events repeat themselves every 54 years, more or less. British wheat prices have confirmed this pattern for over 700 years.

Usually, U.S. rainfall averages out every nine years, except for the drought and drench 20-year period that occurs every 54 years. Fifty-five years ago, like now, we were bouncing back from the heavy drought of the 1930s that was worldwide, and beginning to experience the floods that followed.

In 1938 (55 years ago), Wisconsin had the wettest year in modern history. Iowa and Minnesota each had their wettest year of the 30s. Illinois, Nebraska and Missouri each had

their second wettest year of the 30s, second only to 1935. Then, as now, the heaviest rains were in late spring, especially May.

So, another great flood has occurred in the same area, only one year off a perfect 54-year cycle.

Nationally, he predicts the rains will peak around 1998, 54 years after the 1944 peak of last time. The many severe coastal and other droughts of recent years will be replaced by floods for the next few years.

Reuschlein believes the pattern is natural and unavoidable. I am in no position to argue about it, one way or the other. But it is interesting to notice the human need to explain everything!

It is also a universal trait among golf course superintendents to hope for "normal" weather.

That day may never come. 🙏

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ANSWERS to the Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz on page 43.

1. (c) The rules of golf do not define a "legal" hole location. In fact, technically, the hole doesn't have to be on the green! However, a minimum of four paces from any fringe and a reasonably level area of six or more feet in diameter is a well accepted rule of thumb for hole selections.

2. (b) The five lateral hazard options are (1) play it as it lies, (2) stroke and distance, (3) keeping point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between you and the hole, drop behind the hazard in line with the hole, (4) using the point of last entry as reference, drop a ball within two club lengths of that point no closer to the hole, and (5) on the opposite margin of the hazard, find the point equidistant to the hole from the point of last entry and drop within two club lengths of that point, not closer to the hole. (Rule 26)

3. (b) A hole made by a greenkeeper is "ground under repair", whether or not so marked. (Rule 25)

4. (b) This doesn't directly relate to the rules, but in stroke play, mowing between groups changes the playing characteristics of the course, and is inequitable. In match play, there would be no problem because each match is a separate competition.

5. (c) Tournament officials should be called in to assess the damage and make repairs. Often a cup cutter is called in to assist. In the absence of an official, the players may attempt to fix the cup. In an extreme case, the hole may be repositioned in a similar area. (Rule 16; Dec. 16-1a/6)

6. (b) Lateral hazards are water hazards. (Rule 26). Wooded or overgrown areas may not be marked as lateral water hazards unless they carry water. Losing your ball is, unfortunately, sometimes part of the game. The provisional ball rule helps to alleviate the slowdown of play.

7. (b) It is important to note that tee markers of the hole being played are fixed parts of the golf course, just like an O.B. stake. Tee markers on other holes are moveable obstructions. (Rule 11)

8. (b) The rules may apply differently in each of these areas. (Definitions)

9. (a) Other possible in course O.B. situations include the clubhouse area and the driving range. Although discouraged, in course O.B. can protect golfers and force the player to play the hole as it was designed. (Dec. 33 - 2a/12 and 14)

10. (b) "Ground under repair" is an abnormal ground condition. Generally poor conditions, regardless of the cause, are simply that—poor conditions which the golfer must deal with. (Rule 25)

11. (c) The player should always have the option to play the game under the rules. The only exception is for "ground under repair" from which play is not permissible. This may refer to flower beds or newly seeded or sodded areas. (Dec. 33 - 8/34)

12. (b) Grass clippings or other material which is abandoned (i.e., will not be removed) is not "ground under repair"; it is in play. (Rule 25)

13. (a) In USGA championships, we avoid using stakes where possible.

14. (b) Attached divots are deemed to be fixed or growing. Therefore, the ball must be played as it lies, and the divot may not be fixed. The player should repair the damage after making his shot. (Dec. 13 - 2/5)

15. (b) In order to get relief, from casual water, a player must be able to see water around his feet or the ball at

address. Soft or muddy ground without visible water is not casual water. (Definitions)

16. (b) "Ground under repair" extends vertically downward but not upward. Since the piled material interferes only with the players follow through, which is above ground, the player is not entitled to relief. (Definitions)

17. (c) Relief is granted only if the ball lies outside the water hazard. There is no relief from immovable obstructions if the ball lies in a water hazard. (Rule 24)

18. (b) The player must take relief from the wrong putting green. Wrong putting greens include practice greens, but not turf nurseries. The player may stand on a putting green to play a shot from off the green. A local rule requiring dropping away from a fringe area may be adopted. (Rule 25; Dec. 33 - 8/33)

19. (a) Both rough and fairway areas are 'through the green' thus, the ball is in play. The ball must be re-dropped if it rolls more than two club lengths, or comes to rest in a hazard, on a putting green, or out of bounds. (Rule 25 - 2; Appendix 1 "Lifting an Embedded Ball"; Rule 20)

20. (c) A player is entitled to the lie and shot which is the natural consequence of the preceding shot. Since A's ball created a pitch mark off the green, A cannot repair that pitch mark. However, B's ball altered the conditions of A's next shot. Thus, A may repair B's pitch mark. (Dec. 13 - 2/8) 🏌️



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