

tion of plants and disrupt the relationship between some species of plants and animals. Bird migrations would be affected and plant pathogens could increase.

And, despite the earlier blooming and potentially longer seasons, it is doubtful our budgets will increase to cover the cost.

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The state Department of Tourism commissioned a study to determine the impact of the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits on our state's economy. The numbers are in and show the golf event pumped \$76.4 million into Wisconsin's economy. Shattering the previous record for a PGA Championship of \$50.4 million, set in 2001 at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Even more impressive is the fact that the golf event is likely the largest influx of money ever for a sporting event in Wisconsin. By comparison, the 2002 major league baseball All-Star Game at Miller Park in Milwaukee generated between \$50 million and \$60 million.

The Department of Tourism had expected a \$70 million impact, so the tournament exceeded their expectations.

In fact, golf fans of Wisconsin embraced the PGA unlike any PGA Championship before it. In addition to the

record spending, this year's tournament also established event records for tickets sold (94,000) and total spectators (321,000). The effect of all of this is the likelihood we will see a return visit of the PGA in the future. It is also no secret that Whistling Straits owner Herbert Kohler would like to host the US Open and is discussing that with the USGA. The year 2012 comes up as a possible year.

The PGA Championship also brought 20 - plus hours of tournament broadcast time, giving the outside world some beautiful views of our beautiful state. For all of these things, those of us who live and make a living in golf are grateful.

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The city of Madison and Dane county bans on the use of turf fertilizers containing phosphorus that went into effect on January 1st are being challenged in federal court. The lawsuit was filed by a group of fertilizer retailers, lawn care businesses and trade groups. They allege in the lawsuit that the ordinances are pre-empted by federal and state laws and violate the equal protection and free speech clauses of the United States and Wisconsin constitutions. The group wants a federal judge to declare the ordinances null and void and stop the city and county from implementing and enforcing them. It claims the ordinances aren't support by law or science.



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City and county officials are going to fight the lawsuit, despite research from the Noer Turfgrass Research Facility that shows poorly maintained, unfertilized lawns contribute 40% more phosphorus than well maintained, fertilized lawns. Also, the suit notes that dog manure contributes 91 times more phosphorus to runoff than a fertilized lawn and that manure from a single goose contributes 68 times more.

The suit also claims Dane County exacerbates its problem with Eurasian milfoil by using mechanical harvesters. The harvesting creates thousands of milfoil strands, a method which increases milfoil reproduction. Stay tuned.

The wet weather we experienced in the spring and early summer not only influenced golf in Wisconsin, it inspired the winner of the Burlington Liars Club's annual contest.

Mardy Nersesian of Racine spends much of his summer at his cabin on Long Lake in Phillips. He is a 68-year-old retired high school art teacher who spent that wet period watching rainstorm after rainstorm come through. The weather inspired this fib that won him title of world champion liar.

"We had so much rain during the spring and summer seasons, there were puddles on our lakes."

There are a few golf course superintendents in Wisconsin who might argue that Mardy's claim is closer to the truth than a fib!

For the second consecutive year, a golf course dog from Wisconsin has been selected to grace the "Superintendent's Best Friend" calendar. If you haven't noticed, Mark Kienert's eight-year old terrier mix — Sadie — is front and center for September 2005.

Congratulations to Mark and Sadie!



Well, the old earth is starting another orbit around the sun. What kind of year will it be? Will it be better than 2004? We will at least have a chance to do better this year than last and if we are smart we will make the most of that chance.

Some good advice from the late UW-Madison CALS professor Chappie Chapman, a former neighbor of mine, could help us all be better each and every year: "These three principles are worthy of devoting your life to — do unto others as you would have them do unto you, honesty and fairness is the only policy, and pull your weight in every aspect of your life." Dr. Chapman's principles are worthy of reaffirmation or acceptance by all of us. ♻️



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