

MONTHLY TEMPERATURES: 2005 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal
Degrees Fahrenheit												
NW	45.9	41.7	50.7	54.4	66.2	63.1	69.3	68.1	67.2	65.9	62.0	56.6
NC	45.4	40.4	50.2	53.2	67.2	61.8	68.7	66.4	65.8	64.2	61.0	55.3
NE	45.2	41.3	50.8	53.6	67.6	62.5	68.6	67.0	67.6	64.8	62.4	56.0
WC	49.5	45.2	53.7	57.4	70.9	66.4	72.5	70.8	69.6	68.3	64.6	59.3
C	48.8	44.5	53.3	56.7	70.6	65.8	71.5	70.2	69.5	67.7	64.8	59.0
EC	46.4	42.8	52.2	54.6	69.1	64.1	71.2	69.5	70.1	67.9	65.5	59.8
SW	50.6	46.1	54.6	57.9	71.5	67.2	72.4	71.4	70.8	69.0	66.4	60.5
SC	50.2	45.8	54.7	57.8	71.9	67.2	72.3	71.3	71.2	68.9	67.6	60.6
SE	48.3	45.0	53.1	56.3	70.7	66.0	71.5	71.2	72.6	69.4	68.4	61.4
STATE	47.5	43.2	52.2	55.5	69.0	64.5	70.6	69.1	68.7	66.9	64.0	58.1

1/Preliminary estimates, 2005. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist.

MONTHLY RAINFALL: 2005 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal	2005	Normal
Inches												
NW	1.54	2.39	2.52	3.29	5.37	4.19	1.89	4.29	2.49	4.44	4.33	3.89
NC	1.65	2.40	2.33	3.31	4.53	4.01	2.86	4.06	2.35	4.36	3.78	4.03
NE	1.68	2.65	2.52	3.29	3.38	3.69	2.09	3.70	3.27	3.81	3.39	3.74
WC	2.15	3.05	2.73	3.69	3.79	4.24	4.08	4.45	3.88	4.54	5.53	3.82
C	1.47	3.02	2.47	3.52	2.94	3.88	4.63	4.13	3.06	4.22	4.10	3.72
EC	1.28	2.81	2.25	2.95	2.13	3.51	2.76	3.38	3.46	3.86	3.61	3.42
SW	1.50	3.55	2.94	3.60	4.57	4.35	4.70	4.33	3.59	4.46	2.96	3.42
SC	1.45	3.47	3.18	3.40	2.55	4.19	4.16	4.07	2.54	4.24	3.22	3.51
SE	1.61	3.48	2.74	3.13	1.94	3.76	2.92	3.82	2.67	4.22	3.96	3.48
STATE	1.62	2.86	2.59	3.37	3.81	4.02	3.22	4.07	2.98	4.27	3.95	3.74

1/Preliminary estimates, 2005. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist.

COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

District	Average Temperature						Total Precipitation					
	June - September						April - September					
	Normal*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 1/	Normal*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 1/
Degrees Fahrenheit												
NW	63.4	64.3	65.4	64.1	61.7	66.2	22.5	26.1	28.1	20.2	22.0	18.1
NC	61.9	63.0	64.5	62.9	61.2	65.7	22.2	24.1	28.3	19.6	20.0	17.5
NE	62.6	63.5	65.0	63.2	61.7	66.6	20.9	22.1	25.4	21.3	18.1	16.3
WC	66.2	66.9	68.7	67.1	65.0	69.4	23.8	27.6	27.4	18.4	27.9	22.2
C	65.7	66.3	68.0	66.1	64.4	69.1	22.5	27.0	25.2	19.7	24.6	18.7
EC	65.3	66.1	67.9	65.1	64.0	69.0	19.9	22.7	19.9	19.7	21.9	15.5
SW	67.0	66.7	69.0	67.3	65.5	70.3	23.7	30.4	24.5	19.1	27.7	20.3
SC	67.0	67.5	69.5	67.6	66.0	70.8	22.9	29.0	20.6	19.0	25.2	17.1
SE	67.0	67.4	69.5	66.7	65.5	70.8	21.9	25.8	22.3	16.3	24.0	15.8
STATE	64.7	65.3	67.0	65.2	63.4	68.1	22.3	26.0	25.5	19.5	23.1	18.2

1/Preliminary estimates, 2005. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist.



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above average, seven were near average and none were cooler than the long term mean. Hawaii and Alaska aren't included in these numbers,

It isn't difficult to see a trend here.

Among the veteran superintendents my age are few who could forget March 4, 1976 - the bicentennial year. The worst ice storm ever hit Wisconsin 30 years ago. Heavy rain followed by very cold temperatures followed by strong and wild winds devastated the state. Hundreds of thousands went days and weeks without power, phone service and water.

Trees were down everywhere, and golf courses experienced particular damage. I remember cleaning up wood for a month. Nearly every square foot had to be raked by hand. Apparently there was a bad ice storm in 1936, but the old timers said it was not as devastating as the ice storm of 1976.

Whatever happens now will have only a short-term effect on when we open for the 2006 golf season. The winter educational season was really good, I thought. The GCSAA conference and the WTA EXPO lived up to expectations, and the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference was top notch. So we should be ready in that regard. We have had enough time, generally speaking, to get equipment ready for another year.

Can't you feel the enthusiasm and excitement building? I sure can, despite having experienced golf course springs 37 times. I always say it because I mean it: "I expect this year to be our best year ever." We will know if it turns out that way by October, a short six months away.

Good Luck! ♣

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006

April 24	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Geneva National, Lake Geneva
May 31	WGCSA Monthly Meeting – Super/Pro	Hawks View GC, Lake Geneva
June 19	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Mee-Kwon Park GC, Mequon
July 18	WGCSA Monthly Meeting People vs. Pro	Lake Arrowhead GC, Nekoosa
Aug 1	WTA Summer Field Day	O.J. Noer Facility, Verona
Aug 15	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Royal St. Patrick GL, Wrightstown
Sept 11	WGCSA Monthly Meeting Supt/Guest	Ozaukee CC, Mequon
Sept 25	Wee One Foundation Fundraiser	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Oct 6,7	WGCSA Dinner Dance	TBA
Oct TBA	WTA Golf Fundraiser	TBA
Nov 28, 29	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler

2007

Jan 9,10	WTA Turfgrass/Greenspace EXPO	Marriott Madison West
Feb 19-24	GCSAA Conference and Show	Anaheim, CA

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A Surprise!

2006 GCSAA Conference Was Surprisingly Good



By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

How can it be that after 33 consecutive GCSAA conferences a person could be so excited to attend yet another one? After all, it was flooded out of New Orleans, NBA'd out of Houston and forced to settle in Atlanta; if there was a reason for at least muted excitement, this would be that year.

And maybe I was a little subdued, if for no other reason than I don't particularly care for Atlanta. The weather's not that great, and there have been plenty of incidents of thuggery in previous years there.

But those concerns were overcome as departure neared.

The three of us who travel to conference together - Grim, Goninen and myself - get along surprisingly well, and we reach common ground on routes and stops on the way to conference each year. The downside is that we give up two weekends of the year to make it happen, and weekends at home are important to most of us who are golf course superintendents.

We left early with good weather and drove south to Bloomington and east to Indianapolis where we stopped, at James Whitcomb Riley's home and the NCAA museum. Riley produced 1,144 works that are read still today, despite being written during the late 1800s to early 1900s period. He's best known for Little Orphan Annie, The Raggedy Man, and When the Frost is on the Punkin.

We continued east to Columbus, Ohio, arriving at 4:45 pm, not the best time to look for a specific desti-

nation. We searched for Scioto Country Club, the course where Jack Nicklaus played as a youth. Good directions from Dr. Chris Williamson got us to the course in good order. We were impressed by the course and interested in the bunker restoration project in progress. The shop was closed, but the daylight and a drive around the perimeter of the golf course gave us a good idea of its quality. The grass was green



Few know that the NCAA museum is in Indy.



James Whitcomb Riley's home in Indianapolis is a wonderfully preserved piece of history.



The clock near the Scioto clubhouse tells you the time and your location.

and players were on the range, a place where Jack surely spent lots of hours. Williamson wanted us to go to see the "shoe" at OSU, but of course we didn't. Who cares?

We ran out of time before we could drive the few miles to Dr. Mike Hurdzan's office. I did see him in Atlanta and learned he is the architect of the Scioto CC bunker project.

We spent the night near Pittsburgh and left early enough the next morning to arrive in Morgantown, WV by 8:00 am. We stopped to see one of our former employees and co-worker Mike Bogroff. Mike was our first (and so far, only) MSU student. Mike moved from Traverse City MI (with 30 consecutive days of snow) to Morgantown (he cut greens and fairways on February 4th, right before we got to town). He's well aware of the work and conditions



We stopped to see Mike Bogroff, his new golf course and his new crew member!



The Greenbriar Hotel is an imposing and inviting building; many famous people have stayed there.

he faces! That has to be the hilliest town I have ever visited.

We bid farewell and hustled south, trying to beat the foot of snow predicted for Mike and his freshly cut fairways and greens. Our destination was the Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, WV. I have read about it

for years — Sam Snead was associated with the Greenbriar for most of his career, from 1935 until his death in 2002. Over my career I got to know Bob Mitchell fairly well, and Bob was the superintendent at the Greenbriar for many years. He's also a past president of the GCSAA. It was a great stop,

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Sam Snead played out of this shop for decades.



Chad and Aaron were on historic ground when they walked the Oakhurst Golf Club, America's first golf course.



Davy Crockett's Tennessee home.



The Lost Sea Caverns were a worthwhile stop on our way south to Atlanta.

exceeding our expectations. There was no golf, however; the rain was arriving and threatened to turn to snow in the higher elevations.

Our next stop was maybe the best in quite a while - we visited Oakhurst Links, the first formal golf course in America. It was a pilgrimage of sorts. Located in the rural countryside a little north and east of White Sulphur Springs, it was "rediscovered" by golf course architect Bob Culp and Lewis Keller and brought back to playable condition. It had been abandoned and pastured for years, but the features were mostly undisturbed. It was quite a rush for a golf course history buff, not unlike that experienced by my visits to the Foxburg Country Club, the Dorset Field Club and the Country Club at Brookline.

We beat feet out of White Sulphur Springs and drove hard toward Atlanta. The heavy rainfall we were experiencing was forecast to turn to

snow in the higher elevations, and given the minimal equipment and commitment to snow removal in the South, we didn't want to get stuck. We landed in Tennessee, just over the Virginia border.

The next morning, with very little snow to deal with, we headed toward Atlanta, only 300 miles away. We stopped briefly in Morristown, Tennessee to visit the Davy Crockett tavern. It is an amazingly well preserved building, constructed of hand-hewn logs and neat dovetailed joints. It was his boyhood home, humble beginnings for a man who was a pioneer, political leader of his time, and a victim of the Alamo massacre in San Antonio, Texas.

By lunch we were at the famous Lost Sea Caverns and could not resist seeing the country's largest underground lake. We made it from there to Kennesaw, GA and stopped for the day. We were close



Bobby Jones' grave in Oakland Cemetery; we weren't the only visitors.

to Atlanta but still able to get affordable lodging.

It was cold and pouring rain again on Monday morning when we arrived in Atlanta. We went through town on our pilgrimage to Robert 'Trye Jones' grave in Oakland Cemetery on the edge of downtown. It is a huge old cemetery and the weather wouldn't

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