

Nightmare on Halloween

Snow, Ice, Sleet, Rain . . . Whew!

By DALE WYSOCKI, EDITOR
Head Superintendent, Fairbault Golf & Country Club

On October 31 a freak storm hit Minnesota and Wisconsin. It even made the old timers say, "I've never seen it so bad."

Superintendents were caught between a big chunk of granite and a piece of 10" thick reinforced concrete.

The background: On October 28 a long-range forecast mentioned a storm system would hit sometime Thursday. On Tuesday, it was business as usual. Again the weather people were forecasting a storm on Thursday. On Wednesday we finished picking up bunker rakes, tee plaques, tee markers and ball washers. However, this was normal standard operating procedure.

On Thursday, the forecast called for 2-6" of slow release water (snow). I wasn't too concerned. I had my PCNB down October 17, and we blew out the irrigation system on October 23. So I felt comfortable.

About 11:15 a.m. the white stuff started coming down. At 1:30 p.m. the State Patrol closed down I-35 from Faribault to the Dundas exit. However, the forecast only called for 2-6".

At 6:15 p.m. I heard those first words: "Winter storm-warning possibly exists" for 6-12" of the white stuff. On Friday morning the writing was on the wall—28.4" of snow, and no mercuric chloride down or mats or anti-desiccant. At least I had the weekend to think about what to do.

On November 4 there was a meeting at Rochester Country Club. The way to Rochester is easy, I-35 to 14 and 14 east to Rochester. The ice storm started right on the south side of Owatonna Country Club. Was it pretty! But heading east to Dodge Center, it turned ugly. . . power lines down, oak trees shattered, apple orchards broken. The strangest sight was cement trucks supporting power poles with large straps.

Getting to Rochester C.C. you could see little snow but a great deal of rain. The greens had 1½" of solid ice on them. Jim

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GROUND'S CREW at Rochester Country Club had plenty of clean-up work to do.



ABOARD A CAT D-3 is Rick Fredericksen, superintendent at Woodhill Country Club.

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Halloween Nightmare—

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Gardner had sent his crew out and started removing snow cover from the greens with a tractor and a blade.

A superintendent's greatest tool is his/her being able to call on our creative skills when under duress, or we can call our brothers in the business. How do I get rid of 17 inches of slow release water and apply my mercuric chloride? Patience. Yes, that works well, and, forever being the optimist, I'll play the waiting game and see. Besides, the soil wasn't frozen either.

On November 14 the weather started to break, and I consulted with John Wiley of Turf Supply about ordering some Calo-Gran. However, the snow had not yet left. He asked if I had any Blazon left. If I did, why don't I try applying it to the snow at around 4 oz. per gallon of water.

Well, I did all greens with a back pack sprayer, putting in 32 oz. of Blazon with 4 gallons of water and by Monday the snow was gone. . . not a trace where the colorant was used. It felt good to be able to apply the fungicides.

From what I understand, there was a lot of snow blowing going on and hand shoveling. The megastorm brought out the best in everybody. Rick Fredericksen of Woodhill qualified for his 49er card on a D-3 Cat. Sure makes it easy to move lots of snow when you have the right equipment.

Further, to the southwest where the ice storm really hit hard and power wasn't restored for a couple of weeks, superintendents were using kerosene heaters and renting large generators that operated off of PTO's of tractors to keep clubhouses and maintenance shops heated.

If anyone missed "Nightmare on Halloween," I'm sure they caught Halloween II. It struck on Thanksgiving. Let's see now, what holiday is next?

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Water Resource will be a subcommittee of Environmental.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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Thomas Hougnon	Braemar Golf Course		D
Mark Plombon	White Bear Yacht Club		C
Rick Lucken	Pomme de Terre Golf Club		A
Mike McDowell	Headwaters Country Club		BII
Pat Morstad	Maddens On Gull		BII
John Hammerschmidt	Manitou Ridge Golf Course		D
Kevan Tusa	Anoka Technical College		C
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Tim Mihalko	Lafayette Club		BII
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Jeff Klein	Fertimix Inc.		F
Gerald Hartman	Hartman Tree Farm		F
Tom Prosser	Rainbow Treecare		F
Rick Keller	Site Design & Assoc. Inc.		F
Harold Ingalls	Great Green Inc.		F

RECLASSIFICATION—NOVEMBER 20, 1991

Patrick Walton	Rolling Green C.C.	BII to B
Robert Panuska	Waseca Lakeside Club	BII to B
Bradley Harne	Brackets Crossing	D to BII
E. Paul Eckholm	Grand Forks C.C.	BII to B
James Sinkel	Rum River Golf Club	B to A
Russell Adams	U of M Golf Club	A to AA

REINSTATEMENT—NOVEMBER 20, 1991

Rich Andersen	North Oaks C.C.	BII
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Mike Olson, Membership Chairman