

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



Are We Done Yet?

As the season winds down . . . I've talked to a few friends and they're burned out from the year and I also agree . . . it's been a long season. Are we done yet? If we all think about what we do, I mean really think, I don't know of a job that deals with as much as we do in as short a period of time as our profession in our area. Not that we're above anyone else's job. But dealing with Mother Nature, playing politics, being scrutinized on a day to day basis by golfers and members. I think to myself, and maybe some of you do, too... Why didn't I become a weatherman? You can be wrong just about every day and still keep your job. Soon a beautiful blanket of white snow will cover our courses and we can relax a little, plan for the upcoming year and recharge our batteries. For me, that will be planning for an expansion of another nine holes. I look forward to another challenge.

Time to Put Our Courses to Bed

By now, most everyone has either completed their aerification of greens, tees and fairways or soon will. Some of us by now have applied our fall chemical applications. Our irrigation systems have been blown out. The greens covers are being prepared to be put down, or we're thinking of topdressing. And somewhere in our heads is the thought, did I miss anything? Did the sprayer work properly and everything will come out in the spring and look like it did in the fall? Did I remember that one quick coupler that needs to be blown out. And yes . . . we'll think somewhere in our heads all winter . . . Did I? And come spring we'll find out if we did what we intended to do. Will Mother Nature be good to us this winter? I for one sure hope so! But for now, I'll enjoy the beauty of fall and the colors in the trees and the ducks and geese flying overhead. The cool and fresh mornings this time of year that say, it's almost over.

Summertime Get Togethers

I hope all of you take the time to talk to your local superintendents. I can't stress this enough!!! I'm going to tell you a little story and maybe you can relate.

Yes . . . it's been a long summer, I talk to some close friends on a weekly basis. We always talk about getting together for lunch, maybe even a day of golf. But finally in late August we all got together in person. We met in Walker, just to shoot the bull and see each other. I for one was very stressed out — your basic political problems, (and I'm not much for politics). Anyway, I sat and listened for

the longest time, didn't have much to say. Finally someone asked me what was wrong. I said, I've about had it! (I'm sure you've all said that before some time or another). But after listening to the rest of the boys talking about their courses, and the stuff they have gone through this season, it made me feel better. I felt as if I wasn't alone with my problems and that helped me a lot! This is why I can't stress enough . . . you need friends that can relate and spill your guts to sometimes. Is it the greens chairperson? Board president? Or just the average member that's getting to ya.

For me, some pizza and some good conversation, helped me a lot. I hope all you do the same wherever you are.

For that, I thank Bill Cox, Mark Fossum, Tom Johanns and Dave Krupp for a great afternoon. The time we spent together was better than any phone conversation could ever do! You are truly professionals and good friends, thanks for hearing me out and making me think! To all of you, have an enjoyable fall.

See you next month.

— Steve Shumansky
Editor

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