

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



Stormy July

Like usual, I spoke too soon last month. (At least I had not had to write about any nasty storms.) Well, after our monthly Board Meeting on July 15th, I was driving home and with about 40 miles to go, I turned on the local radio station and heard of this nasty storm that had just passed over my course. I'm driving and thinking to myself, should I just go home and bypass the course? Should I ruin a perfectly good day off? Nope, I don't have enough brains to do something like treat what we do as just a normal job. I went straight to the course and saw what went through.

OUCH! A bunch of trees down, trash cans in places that no one would ever think of putting them. The greens looked like someone tried to aerify them without actually punching holes from all the quarter-sized hail. It was certain I was gonna go home and plan for operation cleanup for Friday. (It never happens on a Monday or Tuesday, it always seems to hit on a Thursday or Friday). But this is when

my staff kicks butt!! Buzz, buzz went the chainsaws. Debris was cleaned up. Bunkers were shoveled back to their normal look, and by noon, it looked like it did before the storm went through except for a few leaves here and there.

The worst of what hit was electrical. Yes, my irrigation system was down, as minor as a couple of blown fuses but not so simple. The fuses in my VFD, I have just learned, are not something you can just pick up at your local electrical contractor. So, just a word of advice, have a spare three on hand and put them in a safe place so when this hits you, you're prepared. (It's a cheap insurance policy.)

Kind of makes me happy I wasn't on sit when it hit. But, I was happy to see how my staff took the pride they did in cleaning it all up. I'm sure all of you can relate to that at one time or another. Hopefully the pizza lunch I bought them for their hard work showed some appreciation. I hope you all do little things like that to show your employees how you feel about their hard work. It really goes a long way!

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Our condolences go out to Secretary Mike Brower for the loss of his father. Our prayers are with you and your family. We are sorry for your loss.

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Over The Hump

Or maybe the dog days of summer....however you want to look at it, the first frost is just around the corner. Not to sound too burned out, but I can hardly wait! Cooler temperatures, shorter days and the feeling of another so far so good year. It has seemed in a strange way, and not only here, that for as early of a start as we had this season, play didn't get cracking until a little later than usual or expected. In my normal phone conversations with other superintendents in the area, their play seemed down until just before late June or thereabouts as did mine. But bottom line, the play is still there. Golfers expectations are still there and the quality we expect of our employees is also still there. Hence, we're over the hump, and before too long I'll be talking about how much snow we got. So enjoy some fresh sweet corn smothered in butter and salt. It won't last too long. With that, I'll close. See ya next month.

— Steve Shumansky
Editor

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Two MGCSA Superintendents Participate In '99 State Amateur

Two MGCSA members participated in this year's Minnesota State Amateur Golf Tournament at North Oaks Country Club in St. Paul on July 19-21.

Jeff Pint, New Prague Golf Club, qualified for all three days with scores of 76-72-74 and tied for 48th.

Tom Notch, Bent Creek Golf Club, shot 78-77 but missed the final day cut by a few strokes.

Nice going, gentlemen!