

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



Summertime Blues...

And I'm not talking about a song either!! Have we moved to the tropical rain forest?? I sure could go for more than a few days without rain, couldn't you? Maybe by now it's slowed down, or possibly we're looking for a rain storm. It sure has been hard to plan schedules for projects, spraying or just getting things done. At least I haven't had to write about any nasty storms this year, so keep your fingers crossed. But, on the lighter side, our summer staff has been trained and doing a wonderful job for us. For me that takes some of the blues away and brings a ray of sunshine. Take the time to show them how much you appreciate what they are doing for you and your club.

Contractor Relations

Sure, we have all dealt with contractors at one time or another. Some we get along with, some we don't. That's part of life. But when contractors move in and do work for you, you expect them to know what they're doing. And it's

even nicer when they can teach you things you thought you already knew. Yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks!! For instance, my 9-hole addition's irrigation project, I've always felt proud of my knowledge of irrigation and pump stations. Well, when I learned about a few different ways of doing things, i.e. toe nipples on gate valves instead of male adapters, push on valves, and the correct way to install a thrust block, I was impressed. Sure, we are paying these people for a service. But, when they teach us something that we can use down the road, it can be as important as the service they are providing. Maybe the more closely you can work with your contractor, the better off you and your course will be. And the start of a new friendship is always a nice thing, too!

Distributors

We all deal with them...I want to take this time to thank them and maybe you should, too. You all know who you are! As with contractors, we can't do it alone. Communication is the key. (I'm not here to preach either.) But, when I've needed things this year, had questions about whatever, or had a problem, they've been there for me and gone the extra distance to help. I hope all of you appreciate these special people for what they do for us. I sure do! So, thanks for your help. With that I'll close. I hope you are all in good health and high spirits and your courses look great!!

—Steve Shumansky
Editor

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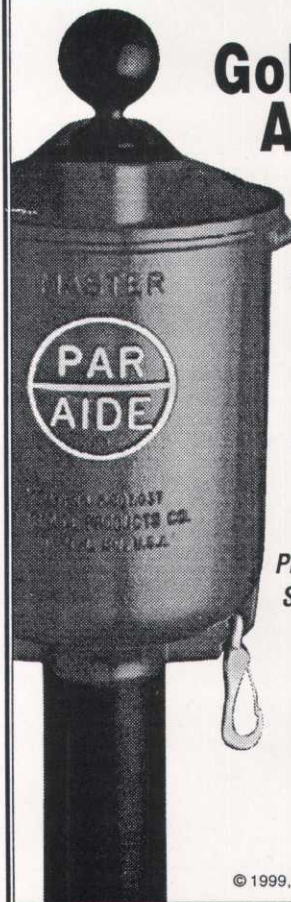
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