

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



Almost Done

As we put our courses to bed for the year, I can't help but wonder if I remembered to do everything. Kind of feeling like Santa Claus checking my list twice. Greens, tees and fairway chemical applications all taken care of. Irrigation system's blown out, snow fence put up where needed, etc. etc. One thing does come to mind that I don't know if everybody knows about it. To help keep mice out of your irrigation controllers, throw a few moth balls inside the base. I used to have mice chew up wires on a couple of controllers every winter. But since I started using moth balls, no more mice.

As we finish up the last of our fall projects, driving around hearing blowers in the distance and looking at all the trees. The colors the leaves have changed to and how beautiful it is. I take a deep breath, and as I let it out, I think to myself, what a nice profession we're in. There aren't too many offices that are 100-plus acres or that have

the beauty ours do. The stressful times are behind us for another season. Frosty mornings are here and the pace has slowed. Soon there will be a blanket of snow covering our courses. Enjoy it while you can.

Golfer Relations

Some are good, some are bad and some are just there. Nonetheless we always remember the ones that are back year after year. The relationships we build can be nice.

For instance, I had a member, an older retired gentleman, stop by my shop the other day with a clipping on greens aerification. He said, "Here, give this to all the ones who complain if they don't understand or believe you, why you punch the greens." I thought that was a nice gesture. So, I put it up on the bulletin board. In talking with this member I find out he had recently had a slight stroke, so I made sure to let my staff know to keep an eye on him in the event he had another one while playing. I look at it as a part of a good communication practice, but more like people helping each other. This gentleman helps myself and my staff out once in a while. Like another set of eyes. He has never been critical, it always starts as, I just wanted to let you know. "Oh, there's water bubbling up on 14 fairway, or the scorecard box is out of pencils." You get my drift. I appreciate people like that and have respect for them. The ones that jump all over you because you weren't on hole 2 and 17 at the same time because they missed that putt. Or you were and you're following me with that machine just to irritate me.

Yes, the complainers, they wouldn't be happy if you hung them with a new rope!! But, we have to deal with them all in one fashion or another. I for one am glad the season is coming to a close. Some I'll miss over the winter months, and others I wonder which course in the south they go to and want to phone the superintendent to warn them, that they're on their way. With that I'll close. I hope you enjoy one of the prettiest times of the year. See ya next month.

— Steve Shumansky
Editor

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Continuing a decade of strong growth, membership in GCSAA has climbed past the 20,000 mark.

Since January 1994, GCSAA membership has grown 48 percent (up from 13,300). Membership totals are computed on the last day of each month and include all membership classifications. The GCSAA membership reflects a broad spectrum of professionals, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, golf course management executives, educators, students, corporations, industry representatives and others with a vested interest in golf course management. Members enjoy the numerous services and benefits provided through GCSAA membership. A professional staff of 115 serves the membership from association headquarters in Lawrence, Kans.