

## Editor's Corner

By Steve Shumansky  
Perham Lakeside Country Club



### SPRING SPRUNG, THEN FLOPPED

Spring had sprung for many of us very early this year, then it seemed to hide for many weeks. But hence, it has come upon all of us. I for one feel for those who chose to energize their irrigation systems while the temperatures plummet below freezing. I hope you wrapped things that could freeze!! Remember where we are... I also was looking forward to an early spring and opened earlier than I ever had in the nine years I've been here, March 24th, but we didn't mow a thing until April 18th. Call it whatever you want, but the feeling just wasn't there. And if you can't feel when things are right, and it just doesn't seem right, then don't do it. We all anticipated an early spring, the writing was on the wall, but the law of averages was also there!! Sure I caught a little flack about not mowing or letting carts out yet, but everyone was very understandable. It was still early. And now, that was the past and everyone is happy. I

guess what I'm getting at is this. We all opened early, some mowed everything, I usually do before we open, but the feeling of, "is it spring?" just wasn't there. Maybe I got lucky this year, but I hate to take natural cover off of my turf. If I had mowed, maybe I would have lost some, but one never knows..... I'm not a gambling man... Yet everyone is still happy and understood!!

### ENERGIZE IT!!

I am not talking about the energizer bunny either!!! But here we are, Mid May and we have started our irrigation systems. The start of the golf season has been declared. I have always felt, once the irrigation system has been fired up, we are baby-sitting our courses. Yeah, we had a few breaks, or had some pump problems, but now is the time..... That we have to have someone make sure nothing blew up last night. The first couple weeks are crucial, and even a weekend or two that you aren't running full staffed you just shut the pumps down, why worry... But who doesn't think about it? Who doesn't wait for that phone call at 8:30 in the evening that there's water spewing up on the 3rd fairway. Or you go in, in the morning hoping the system hasn't shut down on low pressure. I guess a lot of it has to deal with preventive maintenance, knowing what you're doing, working with professionals, and a little luck. But the strong buck is having someone you can call in case you have a problem and don't know the answer!! Don't be afraid to contact the people who know what's going on if you're not sure. Remember, fools are those who thought they knew something, but really had no clue, but was afraid to ask anybody because they would admit their inferiority. But professionals will always ask if they don't know or are just not sure. Be a professional and just pick the phone and ask!!!

### FISHIN'

What would my articles be without a spif about fishing?? Wintertime is time to fish, and also time to relax; then there is fishing opener. Many of us give up "opener" for work. I for one can't. I have the world's biggest "opener" party. Ha ha. But we have fun and forget about everything. NOT!! I may have the weekend off, but I still think about work, and find a reason to go in and see how things are going anyway. But as I always say, friends keep us in check. We hear their work problems, and for many of us think "that's nothing." "You should spend a day in my shoes." But it does matter to us in the scope of things. We all put things in perspective, and many of us work off of the things people tell us, and in some ways, it helps us understand some of the people we have working with us. I hope that made some sense... Anyway, if you had a chance to sit in a boat, soak up a few rays, and possibly catch a few.....fish I mean, then good for you!!! With that I'll close.... I hope your spirits are up, your turf is healthy and you have a smile on your face!!! See ya next month,

- Steve Shumansky  
Editor

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