PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING MGCSA SUPERINTENDENTS WERE ASKED:

In the winter, when not maintaining turf, what keeps your staff busy?

We disassemble and repair/repaint all on course accessories from ballwashers to signage stakes, etc. Power wash down all equipment, pounding out dents on utility vehicle boxes, repainting and logo-ing them and other equipment in need. We maintain a cross country ski trail if and when it ever snows. When weather permits, we're outside cleaning up deadfall in the native, prepping for spring burns by mowing down some fire breaks, brushing out trees and saplings along the creeks. Also do a lot of updating to our irrigations maps and programming, as well as some equipment fabrications and improvements. Generalized cleaning from another year of chaos that is seasonal employees. Washing and painting all walls and floors in Maintenance facility. The goal is to make the shop sparkle when the first hourly walks in next spring, if they see the clean shop and equipment, maybe they'll help take care of it a little bit more. Same goes for the golfer, if our stuff looks nice, maybe they will fix that ballmark or rake that trap. I almost forgot the most important aspect: a weekend off every now and then and being able to use all that accumulated vacation time!

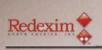
> Kyle Fick GCS, Bully Pulpit GC Medora, ND

We like to do tree work if the snow isn't too deep. Of course, all the equipment gets a good going over so we assist the mechanic with this. The golf course accessories get a cleaning or paint job. Snow removal isn't as immediate for us since the club house is closed. This year the maintenance building will get some fresh paint to brighten things up a bit. And we will probably do some cleaning and recycling if things haven't been used for quite some time. Budgets will be refined and we will have meetings to talk about what worked and what can we do better. There are other administrative things like the Audubon to complete, meetings to attend like the open forums, Northern Green Expo and certification. Lots of coffee and donuts will be the order of the day too and having a veteran crew means lots of vacation! Have a good winter everyone.

James Bade Somerset Country Club

The winter months are our heavy golf season months – we handle 9,000 to 10,000 rounds of golf per month over the three golf courses from October 1 through June 1.

Randy Witt, CGCS Hong Kong Golf Club



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