



ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

*By Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club*

Can anyone believe how fast this summer has gone? It seemed like only yesterday we were planning all the projects for the summer and here we are prepping the course for the club championship, and saying good-bye to all the seasonal help. It's all down hill from here. I really love the fall too, always have. The cooler temps, the great fall colors, football, and more recently, fantasy football.

On to the business at hand, the following paragraphs chronicle the latest meeting of your Board of Directors. We met on Tuesday August 12, at Woodhill Country Club in the barn.

In Communications we received many a thank you, including some from scholarship recipients, the U of M, the family of Dick Wise, and from William Bengefield.

There was some discussion during the Treasurers' Report about the confusion that has occurred with our change of fiscal year. First there were so many people that paid their dues late that our six-month budget for dues revenue is way off. There was also some concern expressed to the Board that the dues will not follow the fiscal year now. However this doesn't affect dues at all. The dues paid are for the calendar year in which they are paid. It was felt that since the seven-month budget would be so far off we should have an 18-month statement at the annual meeting to give a more accurate representation of what occurred the previous fiscal period.

Rick Fredricksen thanked Mike Nelson for the being such a gracious host at the Presidents' Board of Directors golf event at Dacotah Ridge.

Thank you also to Craguns and Matt McKinnons' staff for hosting the MGCSA Championship - As hot as it was when the beverage gal came around with the frozen towels; those towels were a big hit. The course was in great shape, and the staff was very friendly and helpful as always.

The Business Office reported that 74, A, B & C members and 19 affiliates stand to be deleted on the September 1st deadline. The Membership Roster has been mailed out, and with so many people paying late updates could be expensive. It was decided that since 70% of membership gets e-mail, the updated pages would be emailed, generating substantial savings in postage, with the balance of updates coming in the mail later in the year.

The Industrial Relations Committee was looking at a harbor cruise in San Diego, but it would not be within their budget. Currently they are waiting for menus and prices from several restaurants in the area.

Brian Horgan reported on the Field Days and was very appreciative of the people that showed up and all went well. He mentioned that there is a need for an even stronger showing considering the amount of work that goes into preparing for such an event. Therefore he is looking at other options for this day. One would be to have an open house with staff available to discuss the different studies. He will open a discussion

on Turf Talk to in an effort to solicit opinions.

Staying with the U of M, things are really moving there. Tom Micheals the new Agronomy department head is starting September 1st. The posting for the position to replace Dr. Don White closes September 15th.

Greg Hubbard, and John Hopko representing the MTGF met with Dean Muscoplat and other staff to discuss the future of the Turf program at the University of Minnesota. Dean Muscoplat voiced his strong support of the program and with the support he has seen from our associations wants to keep the momentum moving forward.

Public Relations Committee reported there was an article in the Minnesota Golfer on pin locations and that the MGA would be willing to include other like articles in future editions.

James Bade reporting on Conference and Education stated that the two seminars from the GCSAA next winter are set. He also mentioned that the March mini will have Dr. Roach from the University of Nebraska as well as a speaker to be named later on human resources or a like topic.

Finally in new business the Board discussed the honorary member list. We went through the roster and picked out many names as well as adding some. However we would like some help with a few names so if any seasoned supt's have time to look through the list, please call a Director and help us update this list.

I hope you all have a good month and if you need it as we do, rain falls your way. - RT

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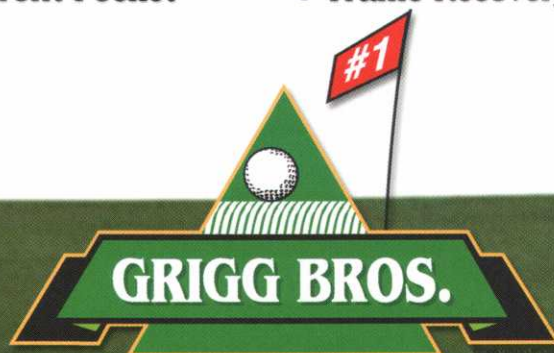
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8:15AM – Presentation
10:45AM – Questions
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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

Inexpensive, used walk-behind greens mower for a small, residential putting green.
Contact: RUSS MELTON
612-349-9842 or 651-407-9283

FOR SALE

1974 Toro Parkmaster 7-gang/9-gang rough mower w/ spartan reels. Needs power steering unit, and some work on the reels.
Many extra parts. Very repairable or excellent for parts.
Will consider any and all offers.
Contact: Jim Barnett, superintendent, Babbitt Golf Course, Babbitt, Minn. at home after 3 PM at 218-365-6946.

FOR SALE

Irrigation System
Woodhill Country Club will be replacing their present irrigation system. We have a Normally Open Hydraulic system which is fully functional. There are 38 Vari-Time Controllers, approximately 350 - 696 two speed sprinklers, approximately 400 - 630, 640, and 670 sprinkler heads. Also included are numerous parts.
Contact: Rick Fredericksen
952-473-5811 or 612-290-5810
r_fredericksen@msn.com

FOR SALE

12 Toro LTC Satellites
All in working condition.
2 extra boards that go with them.
Contact: Terry Negen
The Crossings GC, Montevideo
320-269-6828
crossings@montegolf.com

FOR SALE

2000 Gandy Sweepmaster Greens Brush with electric lift - like new.
\$500 or best offer.
Contact: TOM or MICK
Albany Golf Club
320-845-4306 or 320-293-1698

Wanted

Toro VT-4 Irrigation Clocks
Contact: Bob McKinney
Mendakota Country Club
651-454-1441

For Sale

Toro VT-II Central controller \$500
Toro Network LTC Satellites 16 Stations 7-(\$600 each)
75 HP centrifugal pump with VFD (480 volt 3-phase) \$6,500
10 HP centrifugal pump (480 volt 3-phase) \$500
7.5 HP floating river pump (480 volt 3-phase) \$500
Misc. cast iron pipe fittings for old pumphouse and pumps (free)
Contact: John Granholt
Eau Claire Country Club
1-715-836-8422

For Sale

Par Aide Satellite tee markers
81 sets - Tee markers have been sanded and are ready for paint.
Unpainted \$500 - Painted to your color \$725, plus the cost of paint.
Storage stands included.
Accuform Bunker Rakes, 275 rakes @ \$8 ea or \$2,000 for all.
Contact: JEFF JOHNSON
The Minikahda Club
612-926-4167

WANTED

Rollers to fit a Greensking IV
Contact: RICK DOUNER
218-299-5365

FOR SALE

Toro Spray Hawk,
45 regulation size plastic putting cups (some new, some slightly used),
21 flagsticks that were only used for a year and are all in excellent condition.
Contact: Jason Stofferahn
The Legends Club
952-226-1148
jstofferahn@legendsgc.com

FOR SALE

Coremaster 6 greens and tee aerator
Like new. \$3,000 or best offer
Contact: GARY or AL
Viking Meadows Golf Club
763-434-5501

WANTED

Greens Rollers -- vibratory or weighted
Contact: JOE or MATT
Red Wing C.C.
651-388-9524

WANTED

Cushman Frontline
Model #898804-8610
3-wheeler. Wanted for parts.
Contact: Pete Grover or Tom Lundgren
Katehaven GC
763-786-2945

WANTED

14 hp Kohler engine to fit old GM 3-300 Toro.
Hopefully in running order.
Don't want to spend much as it's just a back-up tee mower.
Contact: JOHN BETCHWARS
Creeksend Golf Club
952-758-7202

WANTED

Super Court Master compact automatic grading system by Laser Leveling.
Want to rent for the summer.
Contact: MARK PLOMBON
Sawmill Golf Club
651-439-7819

FOR SALE

Foley Accu-Spin Reel Grinder
Model 3096
\$3,500.
Contact: KEITH or DAN
Oak Ridge Country Club
952-938-6900

FOR SALE

B&B Technologies
Turf Tech 300 Sprayer
300 Gal., pull behind sprayer
5.5 hp Honda Engine
with centrifugal pump
Hose reel, electric boom,
foam marker, flotation tires
1 year old, used ten times to
spray fairways
Price: \$6,500.00 or best offer
Contact: Joe or Matt
Red Wing Country Club
651-388-9524

FOR SALE

2000 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900 D
3wd, diesel, 683 hrs, 10 blade reel
In Great Shape
Price: \$11,500.00 or best offer
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Red Wing Country Club
651-388-9524

FOR SALE

1998 Jacobsen 1800G Tri King
1870 hrs.
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Contact: Roger or Jim

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Marshall Golf Club
507-532-5164

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Home: 763-473-7394
Cell: 612-382-9446

FOR SALE

6 Smooth Rollers for Toro 27" reels
(61-0410)
used for 200 hrs. at grow-in - \$60 ea.
5 Smooth Rollers for Toro 1000 used at
grow-in (52-3170) - \$40 ea.
Kushlan Mixer used for coloring
sand - best offer
1 Toro Proline 44" self-propelled
mower \$1,500
1 Nutrient Injection System from
Turf Feeding Systems - \$1,500
2 1,000 gallon fertigation tanks - \$250
Contact: MATT JOHNSON
StoneRidge Golf Club
651-998-0698
stoneridgemaint@aol.com

FOR SALE

2001 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900D
diesel, 292 hours, 3wd
excellent condition \$14,500
Contact: DAN SWENSON
The Refuge Golf Club
763-753-8320

FOR SALE

Olathe Model 150 Snowblower,
52" width, designed to be mounted
to Toro's 300 and 220-D Series tractors.
Heavy duty 2-stage blower with electric
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180 degrees, this unit was mounted on
a 345 Toro Groundsmaster and is in
good shape.

\$1,200 or best offer.
Contact: CHIP LOHMAN
Voyager Village Country Club
715-259-3926

FOR SALE

96 Jacobsen LF-123
Excellent condition w/ROPS & Cage.
2000 hrs. Maintenance records
available.
Mowing now and ready for more. \$5500
New set bedknives included.
Contact: DEL TAFT
Pine City Country Club
320-224-2550 or 320-629-3848

FOR SALE

\$8,900 - 1995 Toro 5300D 4wd,
2,590 hrs.
\$1,500 - 1998 Toro Greensmaster 3000,
2,631 hrs.
\$1,000 - 1988 Toro RM216 Trim Mower,
3,200 hrs.
\$4,995 - 1994 John Deere 3215, 2wd,
1900 hrs.
\$1,000 - 1978 Toro Parkmaster
\$900 - Bolt-on forklift attachments
for loader bucket
Contact: GUY LEACH
Spring Valley Golf Course
715-778-5513

FOR SALE

1998 Ransomes AR-250
4WD Rotary
2,100 hrs.
\$9,500 or best offer.
Contact: GENO or HARTLEY
Daytona Country Club
612-251-7938

FOR SALE

9-Hole Golf Course
Northern Minnesota
Par 31, 2000 yards
Contact: CHRIS KLATTE
218-590-1454

FOR SALE

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14-Toro VT12 Electro-Mechanical Irr.
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w/Starter
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Fittings, Pipe, Etc. Buy Everything
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Cannon Golf Club
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Fritz's Resort
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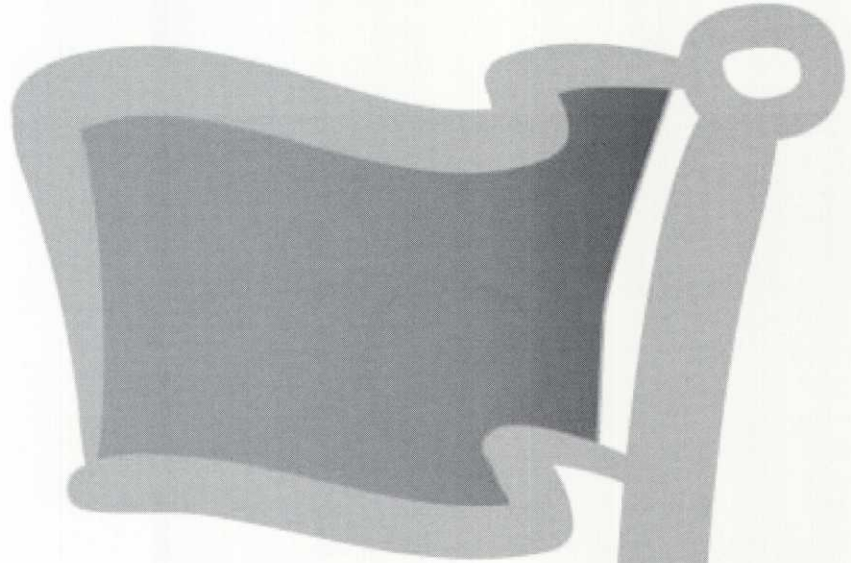
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Black Bear Opens in Cloquet

Choice of Organics Are Important in Construction

By Warren Strandell

Although it only opened for play in July, the new Black Bear Golf Course at Cloquet, Minn., could already be among the finest golf courses in Minnesota.

Owned by the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa as a part of its Black Bear Casino complex, the 18-hole championship course was built on what was once 160 acres of swampland. It features 11 lakes on the course, a spring-fed irrigation pond, 95 acres of lush turf and what course superintendent Bill Lewis says are "from what I've heard, probably the finest bent grass greens in the state."

A 27-year veteran in the golf industry, Lewis notes, "No corners whatsoever were cut in the construction of the course. It's absolutely beautiful. It's a tight course. There are hazards on every hole."

Designed by golf course architects Jack Gilmore and Robert Graves of Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc., which has offices in Spring Green, Wis., and Phoenix, AZ, the course is largely built on top of some 1.5 million cubic yards of material that was hauled to elevate the course above the high water table. In the process of establishing a stable, sub-layer for some of the golf holes, several large peat bogs had to be removed.

The association between Gilmore-Graves Golf and the Fond Du Lac Band originated when one of the council members "came by and suggested that I come up and see them. That's how it started. That was in the fall of 1998," Graves relates.

The decision not to cut corners in construction was reached early on in the discussions that followed. Lewis, who was brought into the project to supervise construction of the course - as he regularly is on Gilmore-Graves projects - was a part of the planning. "When we explained to the tribal leaders what could happen in a few years by going with less than the best materials and construction practices, they agreed with us to go with quality," Lewis says. "No corners were cut. They wanted an elite course and they took the extra steps to get one."

Before its construction, much of the 160 acres had water on it. The permitting process with the Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency took two years as provisions were made to replace each acre of wetland that was impacted or disturbed with 1.5 acres of new wetlands. Approval of the final plan required that 60 acres of new wetlands would have to be created but that expense didn't faze tribal leaders. "They are highly protective of the environment and they happily complied," Lewis says.

Originally, some 40 acres were to have been impacted in the plans, but that amount was reduced to only about 25



acres by making adjustments to the design during the rough-in work. Still, the construction required the biggest fill of any wetland that the Corps of Engineers has ever approved, Lewis notes. "We've kept a lot of wetlands on the course," Graves relates. "We really had to stay on our toes relative to following the whole permitting process. It is a beautiful area."

"We always try to be good stewards of the land," Dennis Olson, a tribal member and project manager for the Fond Du Lac Band, says of meeting all the environmental concerns during construction. "These guys really did a great job of building it. It has become a great course. It is going to be one of the top-end courses in the state."

A native of Warroad, Minn., Lewis started his career in the golf course industry in 1976 during construction of the Warroad Estates Golf Course in his hometown. He became superintendent of the Apache Wells Country Club at Mesa, Ariz., in 1983 and then returned to golf course construction in 1992 to do a Lee Trevino course at Green Valley, Ariz. He later rebuilt the Links Golf Course at Queen Creek, Ariz, and then constructed the River Run Golf Course at Eagar, Ariz.

"It was while I was finishing River Run that a tribal member from Fond Du Lac came down to Arizona to visit me and see if I would be interested in doing a course for them," Lewis says.

Black Bear Golf Course—

(Continued from Page 36)

Construction of the driving range at Black Bear began in April 2001 with work on the golf course started two months later. The fairways, which were hydro-seeded with Dakota Peat and the seed in the hydro mulch, are 70 percent bluegrass and 30 percent rye. The course has nine different varieties of grasses. The Dakota-certified greens are L-93 creeping bent grass. The top six inches of the tee boxes were built with a 90-10 mix of sand and Dakota Peat.

"The fill that we hauled in for construction of the course was pure sand," Lewis says. "Its silt-clay content was only 1.3 percent. That's great for turf grass. We got 10 inches of root growth on the bluegrass from the time we seeded it last July until fall. Having clean sand with no clay allows the roots to really go down and the Dakota Peat holds the moisture in place. We could have opened nine holes last fall. It was just like a carpet out there." Top-dressing of the fairways with an 85-15 sand and Dakota Peat mix was done this spring to get more organics into the root zone.

Lewis is a strong advocate of the highly decomposed Dakota Peat and of the agronomic support, lab testing, blending and quality control measures that go into the construction of Dakota-certified greens and tees. "We use the best of the USGA specifications, which when coupled the even more stringent specifications and controls developed by Dakota provides the ultimate in results," Lewis says. "Dakota-certified greens are constructed for each location's different terrain, humidity and all the other factors to be considered. The program starts with testing the sand and determining the sand to peat mix that is needed. Everything is tested and monitored throughout the blending process by Dakota or a

Dakota-approved agronomist. There is never a question about the quality of the materials that are being used.

"This is a course to really be proud of. It was built by tribal enrollees. The whole project was done in-house by their construction company. I trained their operators and the whole construction crew and am in the process of training the maintenance crew," Lewis says. "Bob Oelke, Dakota's agronomist, is assisting us. The course will have 14 employees plus the superintendent and his assistant and a mechanic."

Besides the golf course, which is its own separate entity, and the casino, the Black Bear complex could soon also include a convention center and hotel. Those additions are in the early planning stages. Black Bear has a two-year golf course management contract with Gilmore-Graves. The arrangement calls for Lewis to serve as a consultant and work with fertilizer programs, supervise the superintendent, assist in training the staff, and to be involved with other issues having to do with the golf course.

When opened, Black Bear will be set to host major tournaments, like LPGA and pro-am events, Lewis says. "They've already pretty much got this year all booked up as far as leagues and tournaments. Green fees this year will be



in the \$40 range including a cart, which is really competitive."

Next for Gilmore Graves and Lewis, a team that has been working together on a regular basis for the past four years, are golf course projects currently in planning in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and possibly in Nevada. "The architect puts the course on paper and they hire me as an independent contractor to put it into the dirt, to make field changes, train the crews and things like that," Lewis says of the arrangement.

"I've been in the golf business since 1976 and Dakota is the only peat program I will use on a green. If the owners don't want to use Dakota, I won't do the job. For me, a Dakota green has never failed. Every green I've ever built with Dakota, whether it was 15 years ago, 20 years ago or more, they're still great greens. That's the same when I work with Gilmore-Graves. We don't bid projects. When the bidding war starts, the first thing that goes is the quality of the peat and when an inferior product is substituted, it shows up in three to five years when the greens have to be redone. For that reason, we won't bid a project. We believe that building Dakota-certified greens is the only insurance that we as the architect and the contractor have. Dakota backs their product. They do all the sand testing, monitor the blending and provide all the technical control. everything is there and in place from day one. There is no chance of an inferior material being substituted."

Using inferior organics or mixes has been the biggest problem in golf course construction, Lewis says. "I've seen it all over the Southwest. The architect specifies Dakota Peat but later it gets cut out for cheaper stuff to stay within the construction budget. Then when the greens fail three years later everybody involved starts pointing fingers and the lawsuits begin. Dakota-certified greens and tees are a little more expensive initially, but in three to five years they've more than paid for themselves. With others, you could end up paying for them three-fold down the road. It will all show up in the quality of the turf. The turf never lies."



In Bounds

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
North Oaks Golf Club

Sorry I blew up! I get a charge out of players approaching me and confiding that I have had a very easy season to manage my turf. Of course I smile and give the usual responses about having a great crew, a wonderful architectural design to work with and reasonable temperatures in the months of June and July. But inside my anger boils, for these golfers have such very short memories.

They have forgotten the impromptu meeting I was invited to attend with the membership early in May to defend my "limited" agronomic skills and explain why the grass died upon the golf course over the winter. "Nobody else suffered as much as we did!" And, "Our greens are the worst in the state, not to mention the fairways. Do you know what you are doing Jack?" were the typical rumblings last spring. Well, I dodged that bullet by promising that soon the course would be back to normal, as soon as the soil temperatures warmed up that was.

Low and behold by mid-June my track was looking as great as everyone else's. Soil temperatures had become optimum for seed germination and recovery. I was suddenly regarded by some as a genius for my masterful skills in turf management. But then again, others also told me that the recent warmer weather pattern was THE big factor in the recovery. Of course it had nothing to do with the additional seed, labor and proper water management.

Speaking of water management, I don't recall a year when the chastisements have flown so freely regarding my irrigation practices. Again I am apparently a dunce for irrigating too soon in the evening, sometimes even when it is raining or, heaven forbid, when the weather forecasters are promising precipitation. Upon deaf ears I explain the deficiencies in the irrigation system, the predominant turf species maintained, *Poa annua*, and the fact that sometimes the weather predictions are wrong.

And what about this weather! Can you say **DROUGHT?** Seems to me that Mother Nature hasn't been too generous since the middle of August 2002 when it comes to precipitation. Forcing a player to understand the dynamics of meteorology just isn't in my bag of tricks. Of course I am reminded by the very lowest of the handicappers that North Oaks has a state of the art irrigation system installed just 13 years ago and, when it comes to watering, my job is easy. They fail to comprehend that double row, square spaced, block technology, undersized pipe, a 45-year-old pump

station and the many corners cut during installation in an effort to "save the budget" (for new wallpaper in the ladies locker room no doubt!) all play into the water management challenges I have to meet.

Alas, in hindsight I suppose my easy job could have been made more difficult through the shattering of many lines when firing up in April, the loss of a foot valve on my 50 horse hard start pump, the contamination and plugging of many heads with rocks when said pump was fired up again and the City of St. Paul's Water Department draw down of my wet well causing one of my pumps to cavitate and malfunction during the warmest and windiest night of the year. Who am I kidding, these events did happen and many more. But how does a superintendent convince a membership of their heartaches and heartbreaks when it has been "such an easy summer"?

And I love the in house architects who contend that I have to do something because the course is too easy. It is as if I am to blame for the removal of hundreds of God-awful pine trees that used to line the fairways and hence the recovery of a classically-designed Stan Thompson golf course. But heaven forbid that I toughen up the course by mowing the rough a bit longer. Perhaps the game has become easier through the improvements in technology.

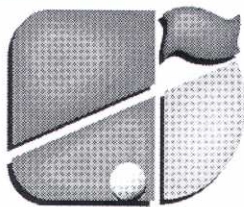
According to the USGA the average drive has only improved 15 yards in recent years due to the changes in club and ball design. Not much you say? Well combine this with an additional ten yard gain on all iron shots and you can calculate a much, much shorter golf course overall, roughly 400 yards shorter. I think somebody should address this technology issue and level the playing field for those of us who manage classical, and typically shorter, golf courses.

Sorry I am blowing up! Sooner or later my response to the often-made comment that the bunkers at North Oaks suck will be, "No, you just suck at bunker shots!" I tire of the complaining player who decries the sand hazards as too inconsistent, too soft, too firm, too dry and too wet. Yet they only own one sand wedge and never take a lesson from a golf professional or, get this, practice. And perhaps my all time favorite is the comment that having a Hispanic staff has made my job a cakewalk. Don't get me wrong, I love my amigos, but a multicultural staff has its challenges. Communication can be an issue, particularly if one's crew suddenly can no longer comprehend directions they followed to a "t" the day before. Pay day also possess' problems as the lads sometimes tune up that evening. And due to the fact that most travel together, when the one car is down, my staff is gone for the day. And guess who picks up the load? But then again I am my own worst enemy.

As a critic no one is harder on me than me. For I am a typical Golf Course Superintendent, a retentive, professional, perfectionist, micro and macro manager, scientist, politician, accountant and psychologist. I am adept at doing more with less and my hours are as long as it takes. I embrace the challenges each day present, both physical and mental. And I prepare for when the next shoe will fall... the next irrigation crisis, budget cut, weather anomaly, staff challenge or pathogen attack. Every year has it's own set of problems.

In the mean time I'll smile and keep my mouth shut and nod when I am told, "The course looks great Jack, it has been an easy summer for you to grow grass."

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to blow up! I feel oh so much better. - JM



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