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Contact: Mark Lindberg  
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edgewood@misc.fargoparks.com

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(9) "Standard" Kooler-Aid Water Stations,  
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Contact: Marlow Hansen  
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*It's in  
the Hole...*



**James Gardner, CGCS**, recently passed the International Society of Arboriculture's Certified Arborist exam and is now officially a certified arborist in the Western Region of the United States...

**Craig Vigen, CGCS**, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with GCSAA...

**MTI and The Andersons** recently reached an agreement for exclusive distribution of the Anderson Golf Products in Minnesota and North Dakota...

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# The Next Season "Frozen Lake Mille Lacs"

By **BARRY HINES**  
*Izaty's Resort*

The question was looming, who was going to take over the ice work at Izaty's Resort? With many factors determining, of course, i.e. painting tee blocks, benches, grinding reels, washing equipment, budgeting, some much needed downtime for vacations, PTO and 9:00 start times after a long golf season! I explained to my staff that is what November and March are for, to get ready for the golf season. It was an easy decision for my #1 staff and myself to experience something new while still enjoying a job that is seven days per week and allows us to deal directly with customers. How many golf courses can employ 2 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Foreman, 2 Mechanics and 3 Amigos year around. Maybe only here at Izaty's Resort in the beautiful state of Minnesota.

**Here is the Ice line-up:** Barry Hines (Rookie), Adam Murphy



(Rookie), Jorge Xuchil (Rookie), Martin Alvarado (Rookie), Hugo Mendez (Rookie), Demetrio Garcia (Rookie), Mike Edin (3 Years), Brian Rancour (10 Years), Jerry Olson (17 Years). Ready, set, go... let's get to the ice.

14 Fish Houses: 5 - 4 Bunk Houses  
4 - 6 Bunk Houses  
4 - 9 Bunk Houses  
1- Igloo

Customers rent our ice houses from four hours to the longest I have experienced five days. You really get to know who you are fishing with after a couple of days. Showers are available at the resort for those who want them. I thought I had seen it all working on a golf course until one day I saw customers trading perch for more bait.

Our houses range from eight to 12 fishing holes per house, TV's, with DVD players, radios, rattle reels, gas grills and your own personal restrooms. Where can you go and fish but still feel like you're at home?

**Ice fishing in Minnesota is a very short season** starting with first ice sometime around the middle of December and ending February 28th when houses have to be off the ice. This is a huge business in such a short time frame. We are a small business compared to other businesses that make their year's wages in two months.

Having everything else set aside, the ice is a minor detail compared to all the other work involved in this business. We deal with Mother Nature much like the other nine months on the golf course. Snow, wind and this year's huge temperature changes can cause long stressful days on the lake.

On December 21 we ventured out on Lake Mille Lacs with 12 inches of Good Ice. Our first fish house on the ice was 4 bunk #41. Barry pulled the first houses out with a J.D. 5200 with Mike and Adam at his side with a 4 wheeler and snowmobile. Life on the edge is our motto. No problems after the first one was out, only 13 more to go. My staff proceeded to get all four bunk and

(Continued on Page 23)

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## Ice Fishing—

(Continued from Page 22)

six bunk houses out before the New Year. By the second week of January we had the Igloo and the giant nine bunks out. This is the easiest part. Now with the houses out the real work begins: plowing of roads, marking of roads, blocking, banking of houses, filling 100-pound L.P. tanks, drilling 132 fishing holes and setting depths for each line going into the water. Compare this to changing 132 cups in one day on the golf course.

**Explaining working on the ice to the Amigos** was quite interesting and still brings a huge smile to my face. 'Yes! I told them I have work for you this winter and it is going to be on the Lago congelado (Frozen Lake). Believe me, many of them said Barry es Loco (Barry is Crazy). I explained to them drilling fish holes is like changing cups. Taking the slush out of the holes is like cleaning around the cups. Straight holes in the ice is what I wanted and they came through. Plowing is like mowing rough, that's how I explained this to them. Cleaning the houses after every

customer leaves and picking up garbage is no different than what we do during the summer. I explained to them this is compared to our tee service program we do daily during the summer months. One thing I found out: ice fishing is that men/women are really no different than golfers during the summer months. They go sometimes where you do not want

*"Explaining working on the ice to the Amigos was quite interesting and still brings a huge smile to my face."*

them to go. We roped off areas such as pressure ridges, heaves and cracks, yet people still cannot grasp the concept that those areas are roped off or flagged off because we want them to stay out of for safety purposes...but, oh no, they are adventurous and have to see for themselves.

Tools we used this year on the ice: J.D. Tractor, Kubota Tractor with Blower, Toro Workman, Ford Backhoe, 3 Chevy Trucks, 1 V-plow truck, Bridges, Shovels, 3-ton Jacks, Augers, Chisels, Aqua Vu, GPS,

Vacuum Cleaners, globes, mantles and generators.

Icehouse locations are changed bi-weekly. Depending on ice conditions and rental usage they are sometimes moved more frequently. Our busiest times are Thursday thru Sunday with our rentals. Sunday afternoon and Monday is clean up day and house-moving day. Tuesday and Wednesday is 100 lb. LP tank day....28 of them. This is great training for World's Strongest Man Competition.

One of the luxuries that we most enjoy working the ice is meeting a variety of people from so many parts of the world. Some of which include a group of 24 guys from Atlanta, Georgia who have never been on ice, to a lady that works for 3M from the country of Malaysia. It's extremely comforting seeing the pleasure on some of the faces when customers see our houses, especially the igloo.

Yes, we were very successful putting people on walleye. The largest was 30 fi" and pushing 12 pounds, and plus we can't forget about all the perch that were landed, (Eel pout are a whole different story)! It all makes for a successful season.



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# Platform Tennis is a Popular Winter Game at Wayzata CC

By ROBERT DISTEL

Superintendent, Wayzata Country Club

Platform tennis/Paddleball was developed in the eastern United States in the 1920s as an outdoor sport intended to be played in the winter months. Paddleball is played on a lighted, 60' x 30' raised aluminum platform with a wire mesh enclosure 12 feet high. A 44' x 20' area (1/4 the size of a tennis court) makes up the in-bounds portion of the court. The game is scored and played like tennis with a couple exceptions. Balls can be played off the enclosure, similar to racquetball, and serves that touch the net are played. The equipment used also varies slightly from traditional tennis. A paddle made from wood or composite materials is used instead of a string racket, and a solid, spongy, foam ball replaces a tennis ball. Local platform expert Scott Turtinen claims "the ball bounces best when the temp is between 5-10 degrees above." It is necessary to play the game on a raised platform because the playing surface is heated from below and for snow removal.

**Heaters are used to melt small amounts of snow (<2")** and ice off the platform providing a safe and dry surface. Each court is equipped with three gas-fired furnaces capable of producing a million BTUs of heat! The heat is trapped and forced straight up by a skirting/enclosure that surrounds the base of the platform. The resulting water can then drain through the slatted aluminum planks that make up the platform.

The other reason for raised courts is



snow removal. Snowfalls greater than two inches need to be shoveled and pushed off the deck, allowing snow to pile up around the skirting. At the base of the enclosure there are doors that swing open to allow for easier snow removal, yet will keep balls on the playing surface.

**On the downside, platform tennis can require a fair amount of maintenance** not to mention a substantial up front cost for the construction of the courts. The removal of snow is probably the most tedious of any maintenance. A 6-8" snowfall can take an hour and a half to two

hours for three people to clear from two paddleball courts. Now there is also the cost to heat the courts. The million BTUs of heat being cranked out for each court is not without significant expense. It cost \$1,300 dollars to heat the two courts at Wayzata Country Club during the month of December.

**The costs to keep the courts is worth it to the members of WCC** seeing that it is in use nearly every night of the week. Paddle ball provides a healthy, outdoor, recreational activity in the winter months, anytime day or night.





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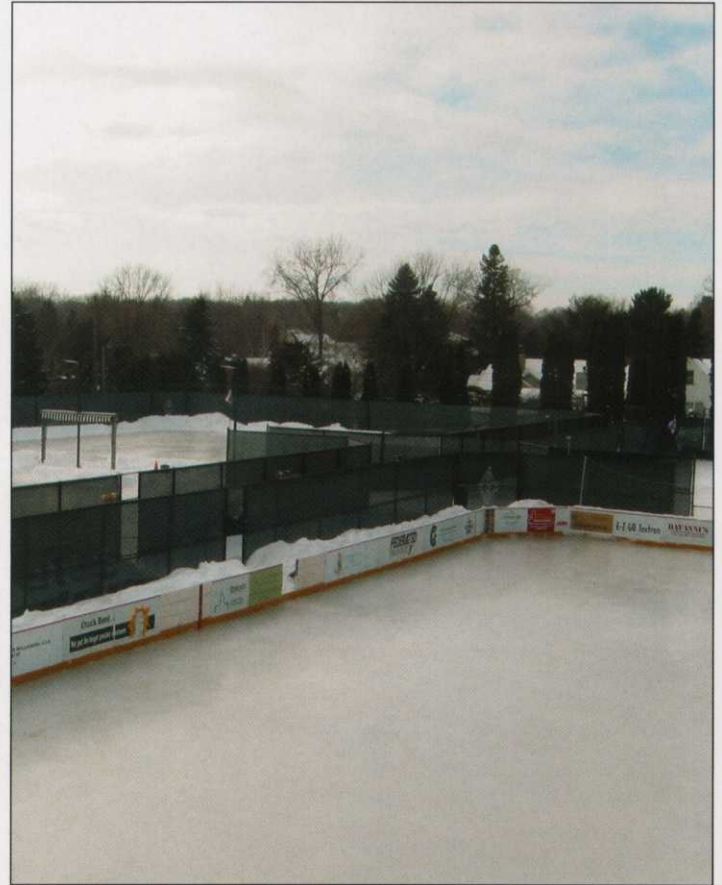
# Interlachen: The Club of Hockey

By **BRIAN BOLL**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Interlachen Country Club

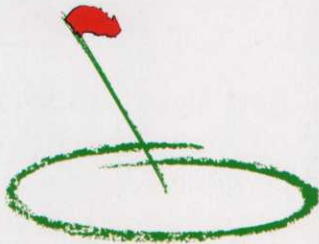
Seven years ago, George Carroll, General Manager of Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minnesota, had a vision to bolster the winter activities at the club. With his passion for the sport of hockey, George set out to make Interlachen Country Club into "The Club of Hockey" during the winter months. Teamwork from the grounds crew, the building maintenance staff, and the Tennis/Hockey Facilities Manager made this vision a reality.

Each November, the Interlachen tennis facility transforms into the Skating Lodge and ice rinks. Seven clay tennis courts are flooded to make ice rinks. Boards installed on three of the courts make the hockey rink, and in addition, there are two recreational skating rinks, each the size of two tennis courts. Included on one of them, is a curling sheet, for those interested in this growing sport.

The tennis building serves as the warming house, providing restrooms, changing rooms and lockers for skaters. Concessions are served including the normal beverages and snacks, chili and pizzas. A side room is available for small parties. For larger



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events, a tent with heaters is placed on the patio. Two employees serve the concessions and maintain order on the rinks each evening. The skating facility is open from noon till 9 p.m every day, weather permitting.

There has been a tremendous response from the membership for the ice facility. There are weekly broomball games, skating lessons, pick-up hockey games, general skating and even a few stones are slid on the curling sheet. An average of three parties a week have been booked at the skating lodge. These range from children's birthday parties to large corporate holiday events that also utilize the clubhouse meeting and dining facilities.

Interlachen also schedules special events to increase attendance at the Skating Lodge. Wednesday evening is "Spaghetti Night" where a buffet meal is served for the skaters. This type of event brings in 30-45 members and guests every week. Other events include the popular "Skating with Frosty the Snowman," Hockey Clinics with notable hockey players and coaches, "Cocktails, Cigars, and Curling Night," and a New Year's Eve Party.

With all of the events scheduled, it is necessary to maintain good ice conditions for the participants. So what does it take to  
*(Continued on Page 27)*

## The Club of Hockey—

(Continued from Page 26)

make and maintain the ice rinks....some good equipment and a lot of time.

After completing research at some of the major Twin Cities' outdoor ice rinks, the Interlachen hockey rink was constructed with side boards made out of 2"x12"s. The boards are stacked four high and sup-



ported by 2x6 braces outside of the rink. They are freestanding and are very solid once they get iced in. Netting is strung above the boards at each end of the rink to catch errant shots. It takes three days for a team of four people to get the rink set up for the season. The boards are maintained each year with a fresh coat of paint, generally done during the late summer.

The majority of skaters use the rinks in the evenings, so lights are necessary for safety. Initially, several 500-watt work lights were placed around the rink. Since then, the club has purchased larger, more permanent lighting. With all of the additional lighting, the electrical service to the Skating Lodge was supplemented with



additional circuits.

The lights and materials for constructing the hockey rink represent the largest cost to build the rinks. To offset these costs, some innovative advertising on the hockey boards has been sold annually to members and to several of the Club's vendors. These signs wrap around the entire rink and give it a professional look. More than 50 companies take advantage of this advertising.

Each day before watering takes place, the ice surface is cleaned of all snow and skate shavings. After a normal night of skating, a Groundmaster with a 4-foot broom is used to sweep the ice. The shavings are then shoveled by hand over the hockey boards. If there is more than a fi inch of snow, a skid loader or a Groundmaster with a snowblower attachment is used to remove the snow. After a snowfall, it can be necessary to have two employees spend an afternoon cleaning the rinks.

The most important and necessary item is a nearby, high-volume water supply. A permit and water meter obtained from the city allows us to tap into a fire hydrant. A hose reel with 300 feet of 1" hose is attached to the fire hydrant. It takes about an hour to flood the rinks with a thin coating of water. Two people are needed, one to spray the water, and another to handle the hose and refill the cups of hot chocolate. The rinks are watered every morning when the temperature is below freezing. When it is cold enough, two or three coats are applied each day to build up the ice surface.

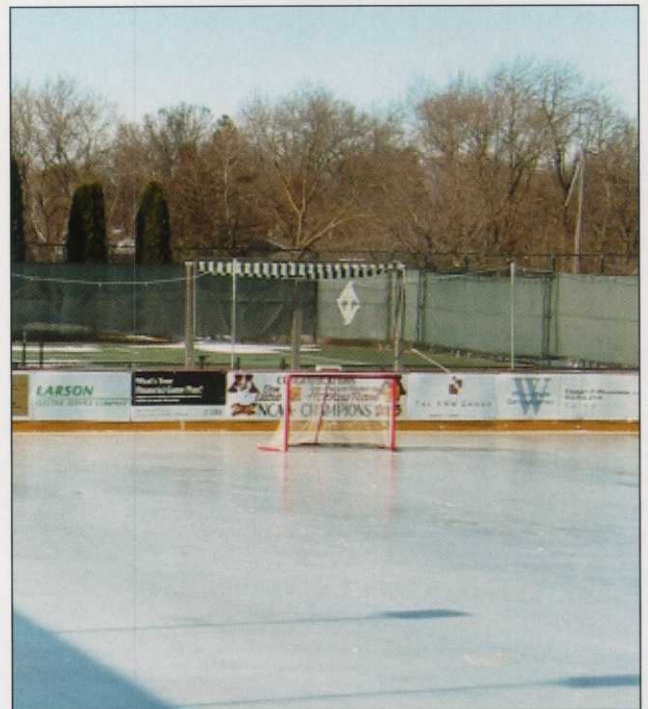
Some more specialized equipment that the club has purchased to provide better ice conditions include a Zamboni and a motorized ice edger. The club obtained a vintage 1950's model Zamboni and had it restored. It does a great job of smoothing out any uneven spots on the ice rinks. The ice edger is a piece of equipment that shaves down the ridge of ice that often forms along the hockey boards.

Even with all of this equipment, the quality of ice can vary greatly due to the weather conditions. No matter how much time is put into the ice surfaces, if the weather isn't cooperating, the quality of ice



will be poor. The rinks have opened up as early as December 5th and can last anywhere from the middle of January to the beginning of March. However, once there has been a significant thaw, it is difficult to get the rinks back up and ready for skaters.

The recreational opportunities and activities for the membership that the ice rinks have provided has been well-received and is significant during a season that has historically been slow at the Country Club. The Skating Facility has proved to be a very useful tool in recruiting additional memberships to the club, especially in the pool and fitness category. Overall, the hockey and ice skating rinks have been a great success for Interlachen County Club, "The Club of Hockey."



## Letters from Iraq –

(Continued from Page 12)

and then following on to Iraq. They will then go to Ar Ramadi north west of Baghdad and be working with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. So that should tell you where I am going. Not the cush job that I wanted but I did not really think that I would end up somewhere nice and cozy. Anyway, they are leaving the 28th and we won't be done with training by then so we will hook up with them in country. The good thing is that my year in country starts sooner than later and I could be home before my year and a half is up. Most of the 2-28 has been on orders from January of 05 and will be done around August 06 if everything goes ok. The unit seems pretty good of the guys we met. Most of them are home now before they leave for Iraq. We got most of our "battle rattle" as we call it, which includes all of the armor vest and everything. Hopefully I won't need it. I don't know specifically what I will be doing in the engineer battalion because we haven't met the commander, but they didn't know we were coming either (big surprise there). It was a shock to them to see four Captains walk in and say we're here. Anyway once we finish training we have to wait for a plane to take us overseas which I

guess can take a while so there may be a chance of my getting home one more time before I leave. Otherwise, things are ok and I still am in good spirits, a little more sarcastic, but good spirits anyway.

June 24, 2005

Hello all. Hope all is well with you guys. I heard the weather there is heating up - over a hundred degrees with high humidity. Well, welcome to my world and buck up little soldiers. We have the added bonus of chiggers. They are little bugs that bite you all over when you sleep in addition to gnats and mosquitoes. Well that's enough whining about being down here. No sense in complaining, it is better than where I am going. Let's see where did I leave off from last week. Well we finally met the Battalion commander. He is a squared away guy and seems very competent. He graduated from West Point so he is probably not a dummy either. Anyway, we talked to him and got an idea of what he is looking for and where he might put us within the battalion (BN). It is going to get a little vague sometimes because I do have to keep some things out of public view. That is just in case there are any Taliban members among you, especially over at the workhouse (this is a reference to the Ramsey County Correctional Facility that supplies the inmates and corrections officers

that work on the Ponds at Battle Creek GC). Nevertheless, the BN is leaving this week and will eventually end up in Ar Ramadi. We will be doing various missions to secure the area and defeat any insurgent we encounter. Pretty much that is everyone's mission; to search out and capture or interrupt insurgent cells. It doesn't matter what kind of unit you are in, you can be assured you will be doing presence patrols and knocking on doors. The Iraqi police are still in the process of being trained and organized and the coalition forces are giving them a hand when needed. As for me, we are continuing to do training. This week we did land navigation and some classes on radios, GPS and IEDs (improvised explosive device). Those are the little honeys you hear about in the news all the time. They make them out of everything. This weekend we will be firing our weapons and except for the gas chamber next week, we will be done. We still don't know when we will be shipped over but hopefully not until after the 4th of July. I am trying to get home that weekend to see the family before I set sail. Anyway, that is all I have for you this week. Take care and if I don't see you on the fourth have a good weekend. Peace out to all the homies.

(Editor's Note: In the next issue, Rob ships out to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, one of the more hostile regions in the country.)

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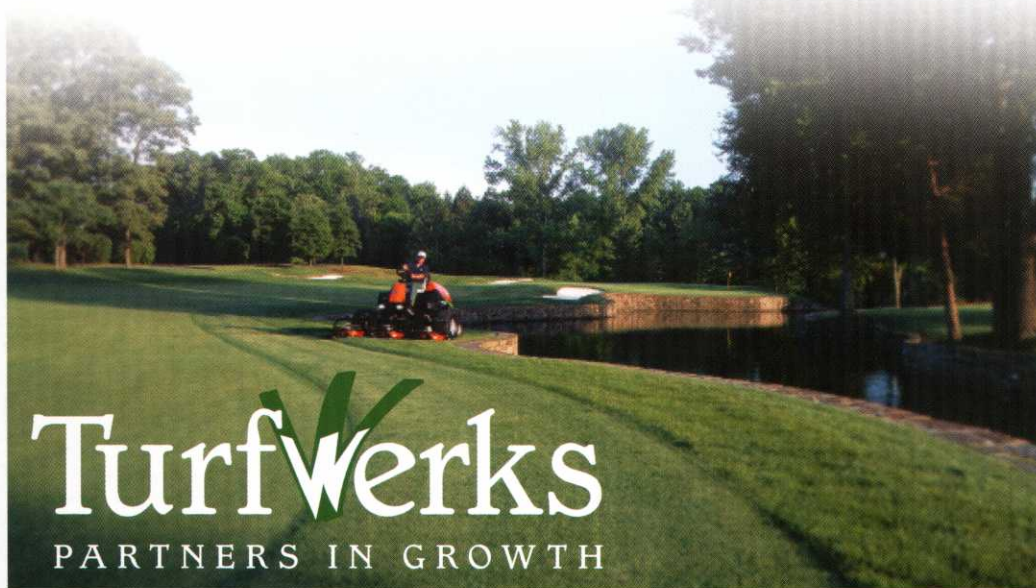
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## Affiliate News—

(Continued from Page 8)

### *Precision Turf and Chemical, Inc.*

Precision Turf and Chemical, Inc. has announced the company will no longer supply or distribute the product lines of Bayco Golf Inc. and Aqua Control. Although these are very reputable lines of Golf Course Accessories and Fountains/ Aerators, management has decided to streamline operations to better meet the needs of our current and future clientele. Coupled with its current lines and the addition of Pursells Technology Inc. (Polyon), Magic Green Corp. (White Gold, Salt Exit) and Precision Labs (Sync fungicide activator) lines, the company's management decided that it needed to stress its commitment to the agronomic aspects of the "Green Industry." To that end, we will devote all our efforts to meet the growing demand for better service, education and information regarding turfgrass health and maintenance products.

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### *E-Z-GO / Versatile Vehicles*

2005 was a year of change for E-Z-GO in Minnesota. We moved from factory direct sales reps in mid-year to positioning our local dealer (Versatile Vehicles) into the role of direct fleet sales to the golf channel in all of Minnesota. Versatile Vehicles became our Distributor with two full service locations - one in Savage and one in Brainerd. They added a larger on road sales force of four reps. They have a staff of seven factory trained service techs. When in season, their service techs are on the road with well stocked service vehicles to handle most needs and repairs on-site at the courses. Along those lines both locations have retail sales, service centers, and tournament fleets to serve your event needs both large and small. The move we believe will make E-Z-GO and Versatile Vehicles a larger factor providing a complete one-stop center for fleet, and specialty needs to the golf channel in Minnesota, North Dakota and Western Wisconsin.

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## In Bounds: Exciting Time

By JOHN "JACK" MACKENZIE, CGCS  
North Oaks Golf Club

Spring, for me, the most exciting time of year. When shadows are visibly shorter, tree buds swell and lake ice begins to honey-comb. The smell of melting snow and the release of long-captured odors tantalize my nose. And I listen for my favorite seasonal harbinger, the red-winged blackbird, to proclaim his territory and announce that spring has finally arrived.

**To enjoy this feast of sensations** I only have to go outside, maybe sit at the base of a tree, breathe deep, and allow the sun to work its magic upon my face. I have never relied upon the wily woodchuck or for that matter, the more often wrong than right, weather forecaster to tell me "spring has sprung." In fact I am convinced that weather forecasters are doing much more harm than good in our industry.

There once was a time when the local news channels devoted no more than five minutes to climate conditions. Current readings were generated "from the airport," tomorrow's predictions came via telephone from Sioux Falls, South Dakota and long-range estimates were gleaned from reading the Farmer's Almanac. It was a simpler time, yet the details were fairly accurate due to their short-term nature, and limited an anxiety problem created by a psychological and sometimes physical problem I call weather expectationitis, or WE.

**The advent of satellite images, radio-relayed data from weather balloons** and Doppler radar generate a wealth of information and visually exciting media. Combine these statistics with attractive and articulate weather readers and a captive audience can be created, much to the delight of advertisement agencies everywhere. And because the presentation is laced with technical material and delivered with a sales pitch that makes used car vendors jealous, the average viewer can become addicted to the smooth promises made regardless of reality.

**Weather expectationitis takes hold of the audience.** Television weather reports have become more and more theatrical, with greater detail of forecasted future irrelevance, projected more frequently and longer over the course of a news report

that it almost appears as if the presentation model is straight from the pages of a BMP! The weather prediction industry has become so bold that viewers have a cable television channel dedicated to "the weather" available 24/7/365. Thus perpetuating WE and the behavior associated with this pathological malady.

The delivery of speculative weather projections has become an art and the captive viewers gobble up the prognostication as though it was fact. People love to watch the weather. No sooner is one weekend over, when the next weekend's weather is already on the radar of the news channels. Weather what, weather when and weather how are always in question. People live their lives by the weather and make plans according to the dispatcher's long-term guess. This can play havoc with our industry.

**Do you think that golfers think twice before making weekend plans one week ahead** if the outlook is gray and maybe wet? You bet they do. How many Thursday cancellations are caused by a not so sunny, but expensive anyway, Saturday projection? Ever wonder if a long-range forecast will limit resort activity in the northern sections of our state, impact a Guest Day or clip a wild hair golf idea? And how exact is the forecast!?? Even I know that the farther out you foretell, the less likely the projection will be right. What of the "professional" meteorologists? Don't bother trying to find any scientific statistical data pertaining to the accuracy of the forecasts, privately and publicly generated. There isn't any, I checked. So why all the hype?

**It is all in the packaging.** By golly, some of the weather projectionists are quite attractive. And their ability to zoom into an area, throw a three-dimensional map upon the screen and speculate as to the bright and sunny future is pretty intriguing. We all hang our hats on a bright and sunny forecast. And when a storm front is a half-mile away, the television screens are ablaze with details, down to the block next door. Then again, in these situations I am making my own short-term storm predictions because I like to watch them barrel down my boule-

vard, sometimes from the roof of my house or shop!! But all too often the long range, more than one day, estimation is inaccurate. Yet our clientele, especially those with WE, continue to watch with baited breath the too often inaccurate estimate of what is to come.

**Some weather communities have begun rating the conditions** for the day depending on the activity planned in relation with their weather estimate. Now I have to ask how that works. Who is responsible for a discriminate value placed upon the forecasted weather? What is the criteria? Too hot? Too cold? Clouds and/or precipitation? How truly arrogant for any individual, computer-generated scenario or weather service to tell me how much enjoyment I will get or expect using a gradation system dependent upon the activity I am planning. Ridiculous.

**Perhaps it is time that the meteorological industry be set on its heels a bit.** Maybe if all outdoor industries including garden centers, fishing enthusiasts and golf banded together and educated the forecasters as to the economic damage they are creating, we could change the system, or at least limit the injury. It is possible to plant flowers in showers, catch fish in the fog and play golf when it is windy.

**Instead of making it sound as though a rain out is imminent, claim the unstable cold front an opportunity for the true sportsman** who appreciates all of the challenges including a dynamic weather pattern, to take on a track and conquer it, catch fish under limited conditions and at the very least buy flowers at the outdoor market in anticipation of a break in the weather. Or better yet, limit the projections to a 48-hour period. At least then the forecast would be closer to accurate.

**Today is Thursday, February 16 and I am waiting with shovel close at hand for the "HUGE" snow event** the weather crystal ball watchers have been predicting since last Friday. Yesterday at lunch I told my mechanic that I thought the cold high pressure system coming down from Canada was going to limit any precipitation to the lower portions of our state and probably miss us completely. Yet I still arrived early to prepare for what the "professionals" claimed was coming our way.

**Just another storm of the year I guess.** Just another crappy long range forecast propagated by a pretty face. I saw my first Robin of the year earlier this week and am going out on a limb with this statement, "spring is coming."