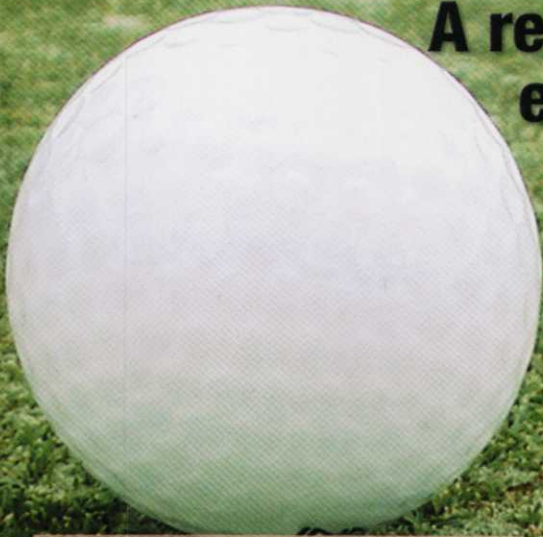


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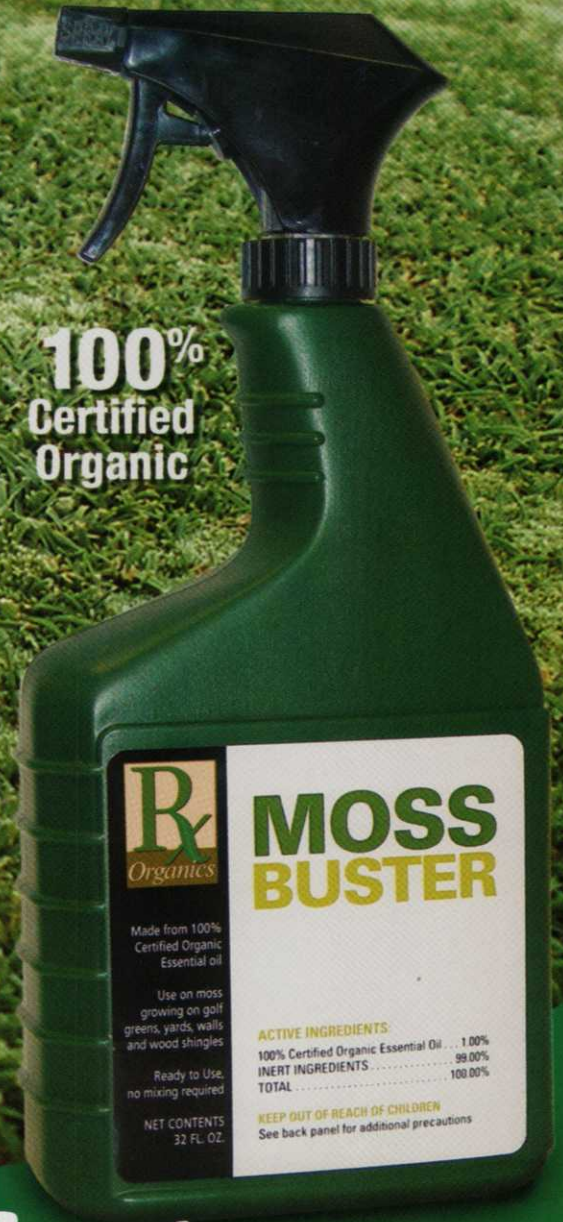


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An Adventure in Life

Weather Affects Everyone Daily

By RANDY WITT, CGCS

Senior Superintendent of Courses, Hong Kong Golf Club

Weather. The constant factor that affects everyone daily, but the one which we have no control over. For most people, weather is tolerated or enjoyed. For those of us in the turf business, weather may have a dramatic affect on our lives. Much of the successes that we enjoy as golf course superintendents are directly related to our abilities to cope with and deal with the weather and all the ways that weather affect our courses. For me, weather can be more a mental challenge than physical. I firmly believe that being a turf manager is more mental than physical and having the ability to mentally cope is essential. How we are able to deal with the challenges of weather will ultimately determine if we as turf managers are successful or not. Being in Asia has made me more aware of how we as turf managers are truly affected by weather and how our abilities to cope with weather and its many aspects directly affects our short term and long term successes and failures.

Growing up and working in the Midwest, I was used to,

comfortable with and enjoyed the four distinctive seasons that were part of the climate. Spring, summer, fall and winter were for the most part very different, distinctive and enjoyable. I always looked forward to each special time of the year and the ensuing season with both its positive and negatives, usually many more pluses than minuses. I personally never had a favorite season or time of the year, although as I grew older, the attraction of winter lessened year after year. Snow, wind chills of minus 20 degrees or more seemed to lose their attractiveness as each year passed me by. The exhilarations and beauty of the dawn of a new day on the golf course covered by a new coat of white seemed to lessen and paled in comparison to the daily influences of the cold and all that the cold affected, be it both on the golf course and in our personal lives. Even though winter was a respite from the hustle and bustle of the golf season, the uncertainty of what spring would reveal was always there. A relaxed, comfortable winter could be quickly turned into a season of anxiety with one winter thaw and rainstorm – especially when dealing with poa annua. Each season provided distinctive challenges and opportunities; personal and mental highs and lows. One can experience a wide range of conditions and exhilarations; from the clear, crispiness of an early January morning to the hot, humid dog days of August. The beauty of the golf course landscape after a fresh blanket of snow. The beauty of a freshly groomed cross-country ski trail. The special greenness of the grass on the golf course in early spring. That special fragrance of freshly mowed turf. The beauty of a fall morning with the various species of trees dressed in their respective colorful canopies. The beauty and adventure of the afternoon skies turning dark as the precursor to that summer thunderstorm, lightning dancing across the skies and the freshness of the air after the thunderstorm has passed by. Every season on the golf course has always provided me with a uniqueness and appreciation of how the seasons and weather truly affected my chosen path in life. A daily companion as much as life itself.

Working and living in Asia and more specifically, Hong Kong, has provided a new perspective on weather and how it truly affects the golf course and myself personally. In Hong Kong we do experience the four seasons, but not to the extremes of the Midwest. Spring encompasses the months of February through mid-June, with the daytime highs in the 60s and 70s, and the lows in the upper 40s and 50s. The summer season is from about June 15th through early September. Summer temperatures generally are in the 80s and 90s, with relative humidity of 80% or higher. In mid-summer it is not uncommon to have temperatures of low 90s and humidity's in the 90% range at 5 am. June through August also is the rainy season. In 2006 we received over 30 inches of rainfall in each month of June, July and August. Needless to say, irrigation is not a concern for most of the summer! Initially

(Continued on Page 14)



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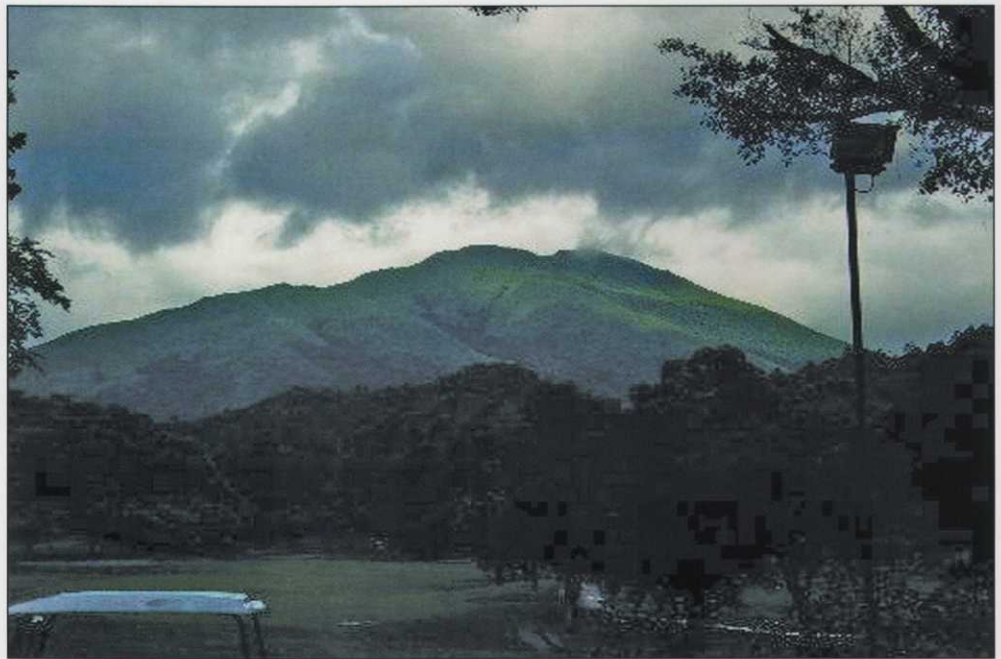

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Weather—

(Continued from Page 12)

summer! Initially I anticipated the heat and humidity of summer would be a problem for me personally and physically. Over the years I had come to dread the heat and humidity of July that invariably would occur and the stresses that occur with dealing with poa. Surprisingly, the heat and humidity never presented a real problem physically. I've theorized that being in a relatively warm climate, mentally and physically I slowly adapted to the warming of the weather and the increasing humidity as summer approached. Days with temperatures and relative humidity's in the 90s never really seemed to be too bad or unbearable. The large amounts of rainfall were more of a concern than the heat and humidity. A major rain event could last for three days and douse the courses with 10 inches of rainfall. We can go through periods where we will receive rainfall every day for a week or more. The Chinese are so use to



these conditions that rainfall is just a fact and way of life. Everyone puts on raingear and just keeps on working as if it was a clear day. Watching the staff just continuing to go about their business was

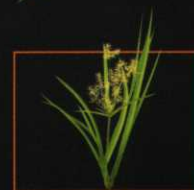
amazing. The only time that the staff or golfer seeks shelter is in case of lightning. The club has a lightning detection system that is monitored by the security staff.

(Continued on Page 15)

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Weather—

(Continued from Page 14)

When lightning is approaching, a siren is activated and everyone clears the golf courses until the threat of lightning passes. Then its back to work and golf once again. Golfers will continue to play as long as the courses are open. All three courses are so well drained that seldom is a course closed due to rainfall. A course closure will occur only until the excessive rainfall drains off. Then it's back to playing golf. A result of the excessive rainfall is that good agronomic programs are essential for turf and golfcourse survival. Constant needling of greens is extremely important in maintaining adequate air to the root system and for surface drainage. The greens' surfaces have a tendency to seal off with the abundant rainfall. Surprisingly, with adequate nutrient levels, especially Ca, disease problems are not a major concern. Chlorothalonil applications on a 10 to 14 day schedule are usually sufficient for dis-



ease prevention and control. The incorporation of phosphites into our agronomic program has been an important tool to aid in the prevention and control of pythium.

Amazingly, one morning in early September one will walk out of the house to experience a cool breeze and a refreshing early morning temperature. That is the signal that fall is beginning. September through mid-November is marked by comfortable daytime highs in the 70s and nighttime lows in the 50s and 60s. Along

with comfortable temperatures, the rainfall stops. Two to three weeks without rainfall is quite normal during the fall and winter seasons. Winter is from late November through late February, and is very comfortable. Daytime highs range into the 60s and 70s and nighttime lows in the 30s and 40s. Last year between Christmas and New Years there was frost on the turf in the early morning hours. Frost, but no snow. Definitely not conditions conducive for winter sports activities but no need for a shovel either.

Did I miss the snow? Not really. Not as much as I initially expected. Being dressed in golf slacks and a golf shirt definitely was better than dealing with shoveling snow and below zero temperatures. A few frosty mornings were enough winter for me. But alas, I did not miss winter and snow entirely. Upon my return to the States in early April for a vacation, I was greeted by temperatures in the 30s and snow. Typical Wisconsin weather in early spring.

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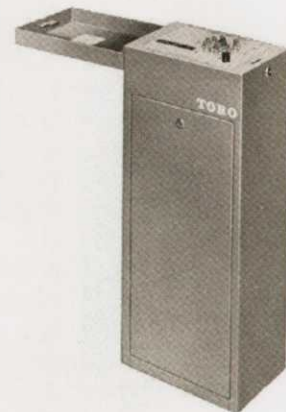


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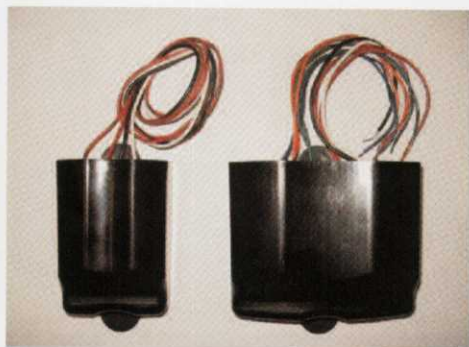


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Count on it.

Vinkemeier, Huwe, Hahn, Vinkemeier Win MGCSA Spring Mixer at Deer Run

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association held their Spring Mixer at Deer Run Golf Club on May 14. Sixty-six players teed it up on a warm and windy day.

Host Superintendent Barry Provo and his staff had the course in great shape, not a blemish on the track. Tom Abts, General Manager and Head Golf Professional along with his staff helped make our Spring Mixer fun and successful.

Guest Speaker Gail Franc, LifeLine, Inc., gave valuable information on the importance and uses of Automated External Defibrillators.

Glencoe GC's Jeff Vinkemeier and his crew of Marv Huwe, Brian Hahn and Jeff's dad Manley Vinkemeier blew away the field by shooting a 25-under par score of 117. Finishing in second place was the team from the University of Minnesota, scoring an 18-under par 124. Team members were Charlie Pooch, Brian Horgan, Carl Mielke and Eric Watkins. Finishing one stroke back was the team of Tom Notch, Bent Creek GC; Bill MacDonald, Tiziani Golf Car; Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller GC, and Randy Ryski, MTI Distributing.

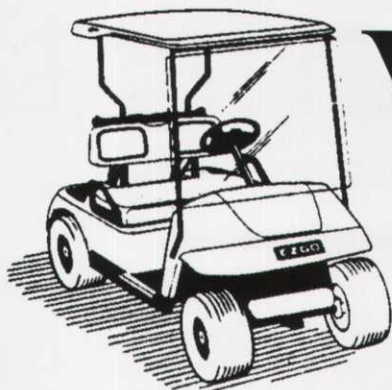
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2007 MGCSA SPRING MIXER WINNERS FROM GLENCOE GC
(left to right) Brian Hahn, Marv Huwe, Manley Vinkemeier and Jeff Vinkemeier.

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Spring Mixer—

(Continued from Page 18)

Kurt Ruehling, Versatile Vehicles shot a 73 for the low score of the day. Bill MacDonald and Tom Notch both shot 75s.

We had six proximity events. The four closest to the pin winners were Charlie Miller, Goodrich GC; Erik Pille, The Meadows at Mystic Lake; Chad Belland Oneka Ridge Golf, and Larry Gorman, GreenImage. Sinking the longest putt of the day was Tom Stout, Deep Tine LLC. Hitting the longest drive was Ron Manske, Versatile Vehicles.

As always, a big thanks to the following companies who generously are sponsoring our 2007 meetings. BASF Corporation, Bayer Environmental Science, Cycle Works of Minnesota, Dow Agrosiences, HydroLogic, Lesco, Mom's Garden Management, Par Aide Products Co., Plaisted Companies, ProSoure One, Superior Tech Products, Syngenta Turf & Ornamental and Turfwerks.

Thanks also to Kevin Norby and Dave Newinski who supplied the field with some Deer Run yardage books.



Barry Provo
Host Superintendent at Deer Run Golf Club



Gail Franc
Guest Speaker at the Spring Mixer

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PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

Question for Superintendents and Assistants: What type of spray tips and at how many gallons per 1,000 square feet do you incorporate into your pesticide and spoon feeding programs?

We are switching nozzles at **North Links** this spring as a result of the Syngenta talk at the Green Expo. We were using Tee Jet XR 8008 but there was some striping seen in the tracker dye. When spraying a surface like the parking lot, it wasn't noticeable but on the green you could see the light and dark stripes from the tracker dye. I am going to switch to the 110 deg. tips rather than the 80s to try to get a more uniform coverage. So we are going to the XR 11008. At the speed that we travel and running at 38psi we put out 1.95 gal/1,000. - *Eric Peters, North Links Golf, North Mankato*

At **North Oaks** we utilize the TeeJet XR 8006 for basically all applications of plant protectants and fertilizers. Using 32 psi we apply 1.15 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet. Information at the PACE web-

site indicates that foliar products work best at one gallon per thousand and only root-targeted products need two gpm. Also, watering in a product can wait until the normal evening irrigation cycle without any loss of product effectiveness, something that is news to me. - *Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks GC, North Oaks*

At **The Ridge at Castle Pines** it all depends on the product being applied and where it's being applied. Since many of our green spraying tank mixes include products such as systemic fungicides and wetting agents, we use a walk-boom with two Boom X Tender XT020 nozzles (made by Hypro). At 30 psi this provides 2.22 gpm and gives perfect coverage with no wheel marks or chance of streaking. On fairways and tees we use the Turbo TeeJet 11008's at 45 psi providing 1.19 gpm. -

David J. Soltvedt, The Ridge at Castle Pines North, Castle Rock, Colorado

At **Wildflower** we use Tee Jet AI 11004VS nozzles for foliar fertilizers and growth regulators. These are air-induction nozzles that allow very little drift potential. These are used at 40psi and 1.27 gallons/mft². Our plant protectant nozzles are Tee Jet XR 8008VS, at 40 psi, and are calibrated to 2.3gallons/mft². We have both of these nozzles set up on a three nozzle bank, with the third one being a blank or spare.- *Chris Leach, Wildflower GC, Detroit Lakes*

At **Dellwood** we use the TurboDrop air

induction nozzles. For greens and tees we use 2 gal./1,000 and this year we will be spraying fairways with 1.5 gal./1,000. Previously we sprayed fairways with .8 gal./1,000. - *Eric H. Peterson, Dellwood Hills GC, Dellwood*

At **Madelia Golf Course** I use the Turbo TeeJet (TT11008) on all pesticide applications. I run my sprayer at 5 mph using 40 psi which gives me 1.1 gallons per 1,000 square feet. Tips run at 0.80 gpm. - *Shawn Swenson, Madelia GC, Madelia*

At **Como** we use and the TeeJet XR 8008 for applying plant protectants and fertilizer for our greens and tees we are at or near two gallons of water per M. We spray at 30 psi. For the fairways and roughs we use a Turbo TeeJet TT11004 at 30 psi. - *Stephen R. Dinger, Como GC, St. Paul*

At **Tanners**, we use the Turbo TeeJet Flat Spray Tips #11008 White. This will deliver 1.5 gallons per 1,000 at 15 psi for our greens, tees and aprons. - *Kevin Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC, Forest Lake*

At **Hazeltine**, our greens sprayer is calibrated to spray at three gallons of water per 1,000 sq. ft. There are two flat-fan #7.5 nozzles at each of the 12 locations along the spray boom. The two flat-fan nozzles are mounted so that the first one is angled slightly forward and the second one is angled slightly backward. The coverage from this arrangement is greatly improved from the single cone-type #15 nozzles that we had used for many years. - *Joe Maloney, Assistant, Hazeltine National GC, Chaska*

We are going to try some new tips this year at Somerset. We will use Twin-Jet 11010 nozzles that will produce a medium droplet size across broad pressures. Those will be used for contact applications. We apply 2.3 gallons per 1,000 square feet on our greens and 2 gallons per 1000 square feet on our fairways, so it is hard to find a nozzle that can handle that kind of volume and still make a reasonable droplet size. For systemic type applications we will use either Turfjets or Delavan Raindrops. - *Josh Olson, Assistant Superintendent, Somerset Country Club*

163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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