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Over 200 Attendees Enjoyed The UIM/MTGF Field Day

By JACK MacKENZIE, CGCS
MTGF President

Over two hundred individuals attended the annual University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Days hosted by the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation.

Attendees enjoyed a greet and meet with Allen Levine, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, followed by NTEP trial tours next to the campus and completed at the TROE Center where they observed new maintenance concepts, phosphorous run off trials and turf evaluation experiments. Several vendors had booths and everyone enjoyed the buffet lunch of Famous Dave's BBQ.

Kathy Aro, Executive Director of the MTGF, promises that next year will be even better with a "new" demonstration area for equipment use, more trials, vendors and participants.



Matthew Clark, a research assistant in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the University of Minnesota spoke on genetic improvement of Prairie Junegrass for use as a turf.



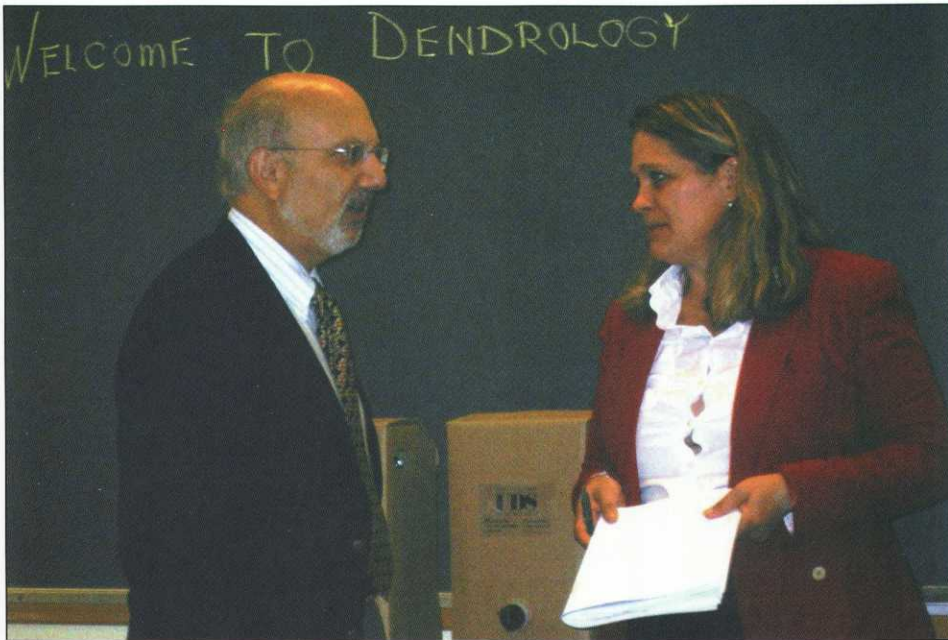
Fine Fescue Cultivars at the University of Minnesota.



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Allen Levine, Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, converses with MTGF Executive Director Kathy Aro, MTGF

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Andrew Hollman, scientist, Department of Horticulture spoke on Fine Fescue Cultivars. Pictured below are the National Kentucky Blue trials taking place at the University of Minnesota.

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U of M Field Day host Dr. Brian Horgan



A Guide for Selection and Maintenance

Courtesy of the TRE Nursery Team
 Jeff Gillman, Gary Johnson, Chad Giblin, Dave Hanson and Patrick Weicherding

Why Elms?

For much of the past century, American elms have been a very important part of our urban forest, especially in the Twin Cities. Since the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease (DED), however, urban foresters and nursery growers have been scrambling to find suitable replacements for these tough specimens. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been involved in trying out the resistant elm varieties for many years. This interest helped establish a cooperative research project between the MPRB and the University of Minnesota Teaching, Research, and Extension (TRE) Nursery to evaluate the various elms available in the nursery trade. The goal was to find as many new elm selections as possible and get a feel for their suitability in the city of Minneapolis. Since 1999, over 1,000 elms selected from 20+ different varieties have been evaluated.

Variety is the Spice of Life!

Moderation is always a wise choice. Accordingly, MPRB is taking a cautious approach to replanting large numbers of any particular tree on the city streets. For example, Minneapolis has approximately 19% ash trees on the streets and is trying to limit the over-planting of any one particular species or variety. City foresters are conscious of the role increased tree diversity plays in preventing infestations such as the emerald ash borer in ash. Species diversity, combined with a good tree inventory, allows for quicker more efficient planning and response to exotic pest introductions or disease outbreaks. The multi-specific parentage of these elms will contribute high levels of genetic diversity to the urban forest and may help stop or delay major outbreaks of disease and insect infestations.

Maintenance

Elms require unique levels of maintenance for long-term health. Many varieties will require pruning and training throughout the growing season for the first few years of their lives outside of the nursery. Maintenance of strong central leaders is of critical importance, especially for boulevard plantings. In many cases it appears that elm bark beetle feeding sites may create branch inclusions that may tear out under stress in the future. Scouting for these dysfunctional branch attachments is critical when trees are young to avoid "tear-outs" which, in many cases, send an otherwise good tree to the chipper!

Because pruning young elms is so important, several new research sites will examine both traditional and relatively unconventional pruning methods and their effects on tree health and performance.

Elms for the Twin Cities: A Guide for Selection and Maintenance (rev. 2/27/2007)

	DED Resistance ¹	Growth Rate	Hardiness	Insect Resistance	Form	Maintenance Requirement	Storm Breakage	Blvd. Use ²
Accolade™	very good	fast	excellent	excellent	vase	moderate	excellent	***
Danada Charm™	very good	v. fast	good	fair	vase	high	fair	***
Commendation™	very good	v. fast	excellent	fair	oval/vase	moderate	good	****
Camperdown	unknown	slow	poor	good	weeping	moderate	excellent	n/a
Cathedral	good	v. fast	excellent	good	vase	high	fair	***
Discovery	good	slow	excellent	good	upright	moderate	excellent	***
Frontier	good	slow	poor	fair	upright	low	excellent	n/a
Homestead	good	v. fast	good	fair	upright	moderate	good	**
New Horizon	excellent	v. fast	excellent	excellent	upright	high	good	***
Patriot	excellent	fast	excellent	excellent	vase	low	excellent	****
Pioneer	good	moderate	fair	fair	globe	low	excellent	**
Princeton	good	fast	good	fair	vase	high	fair	****
Prospector	excellent	moderate	fair	good	vase	high	fair	*
Triumph™	very good	v. fast	excellent	fair	vase	moderate	moderate	***
Valley Forge	excellent	v. fast	good	fair	vase	high	fair	**
Vanguard™	very good	fast	excellent	fair	vase	high	fair	**

1 Dutch Elm Disease resistance and some of the insect resistance recommendations are based on data and observations at the University of Minnesota combined with previously published work. Please refer to the *Elms for the Twin Cities: A Guide for Selection and Maintenance* for a complete list of citations.

2 This column rates suitability for use in boulevard planting strips. Four stars indicate high suitability; one star indicates little or no suitability. This rating is based primarily on form and growth characteristics observed in the research nursery setting, but may also include exceptional salt, heat, and drought tolerance. Extremely high-maintenance varieties and those with spreading forms might be precluded from use in these areas.



The 10th annual Hope Golf Classic was held August 1 at Phalen Golf Club. Money raised is for the Susan G. Komen Golf for the Cure of Breast Cancer. Host Superintendent was Jeff Hable.

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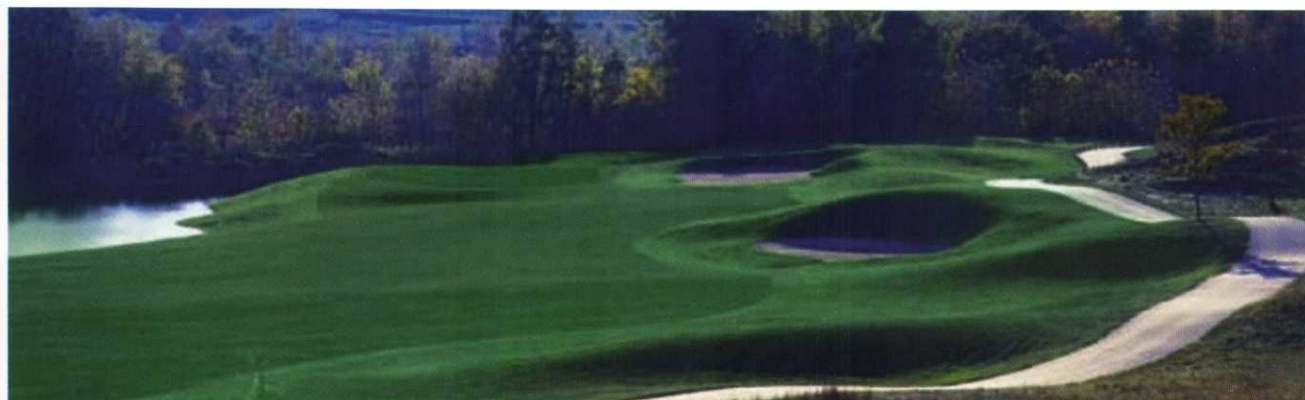
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Two Years of Preparation for the Olympic Games Culminates on August 11 at Hong Kong GC

By RANDY WITT, CGCS
Courses Manager, Hong Kong Golf Club

August 11, 2008 was the culmination of 2½ years of planning and works in preparation for the Olympic Equestrian Cross Country Event at the Hong Kong Golf Club. Leaving my residence at 5 a.m., I was greeted by a typical Hong Kong summer morning of heat, humidity and rainfall. Just the type of conditions that had been prepared for in the planning of the Olympic Event. The day began with our normal morning briefing at 5:30 a.m. with the various course superintendents, assistants, equipment manager, and the equestrian supervisor and his staff. These people and myself were the only staff members that had been granted Olympic credentials for the day due to very strict security reasons. All other golf course maintenance staff members enjoyed a day off away from work. After the briefing, everyone headed out to the venue for security clearance and admittance. After 6 am a staff member could leave the venue, but was not permitted to re-enter as the staff security entrance was closed. The superintendent and assistant for their particular course had the responsibility of monitoring their course greens while the Event was held. All greens had been roped off, but with 18,000 people attending, I was a bit apprehensive about people being curious and wandering onto the putting surfaces. With very little green space available to the public in Hong Kong, we had concerns that many of the attendees would treat the Event as a day in a public park. Each of the Equestrian team members had specific duties related to maintaining the track and jumps in the best possible condition during the event. Jumps that were prone to divoting by the horses had a team of two individuals stationed at the jump site. After a horse and rider went thru, the team quickly went out to retrieve the divots and quickly pack them back in place with hand tampers. With the competitors going off at three minute intervals, quickness was a necessity.

The first of the spectators arrived and

entered the security area beginning at 6:30 a.m. Due to limited highway access, a shuttle service had been set up from a train stop located at the Shatin Jockey Club site. This shuttle service transported 90 per cent of the spectators that attended the event. The Jockey Club Shatin site also served as the venue for the other Equestrian events that were held during

"An important attraction of the Cross Country event was the opportunity for the Asian people to get onto and enjoy the open spaces afforded by the golf courses."

the week with Dressage and Show Jumping events being staged at the Shatin site. The shuttle service was set up such that spectators were bused to and dropped off at the car park of the golf club. A temporary walkway or hexi deck had been installed to create a hard surfaced walkway from the parking lot, traversing across three golf course fairways and eventually ending at one of the golf course nursery site. The nursery had been transformed into a security entrance similar to the security that is in use at most airports today. Although I was a bit apprehensive of the logistics, the security area was able to process approximately 18,000 spectators between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. My visual observations bore out the fact that a large number of the attendees were non-Asians. It appeared that Equestrian events are not of great interest to the Asian culture compared to the open interest. The Asians derive more pleasure from betting on the horse compared to equestrian events. The major form of gambling in Hong Kong is betting on horses. During the racing season the Hong Kong Jockey Club holds races on Wednesday nights and weekend afternoons.

An important attraction of the Cross Country event was the opportunity for the Asian people to get onto and enjoy the

open spaces afforded by the golf courses. Hong Kong has a limited amount of open green spaces such as parks, and very few homes have green spaces. The Hong Kong Golf Club is located in the most rural area of Hong Kong called the New Territories. Traveling south from the New Territories towards Hong Kong the amount of open land and greenery diminishes, quickly giving way to commercial developments and high-rise apartment buildings and Chinese flats or small homes. Any type of open land is at a premium no matter how small. For many people, this afforded them a chance to spend some time walking on grass and getting close to nature.

The Equestrian Event itself is one of the 28 sports in the Olympic Games and is made up of three disciplines: Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country. There are both individual and team competitions in all disciplines, thus a total of six gold medals are awarded. The Cross-Country Track covered 5.7 kilometers with a total of 29 jumps. The track was somewhat shorter than in previous Olympics due to weather concerns. The heat and humidity of a typical Hong Kong summer day was of concern to all involved with the Equestrian events, thus the track was designed to be shorter than in other Games. The weather really was not an issue as the day was cloudy with a light rain, so heat and humidity never became a problem.

I was able to basically spend the day moving around the venue taking photos and watching the competition at various jump sites. The water jumps provided the most interest as these jumps provided the most difficulty for both horse and rider. Seventy competitors were sent off at 3-minute intervals during the competition. The first rider to have a problem and fall from her mount was an American girl at the Birdcages jumps. The Birdcages did not appear to be a difficult jump site, but

(Continued on Page 29)

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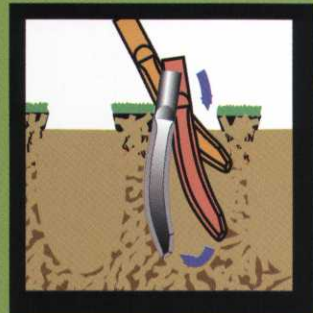
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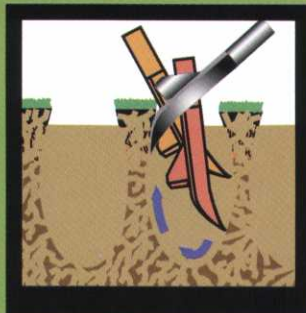
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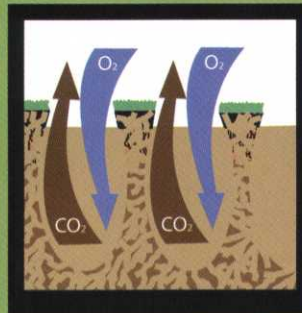
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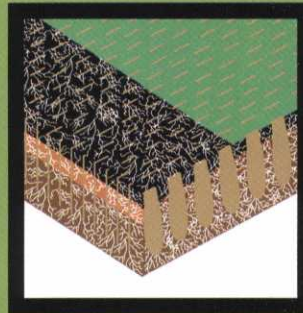
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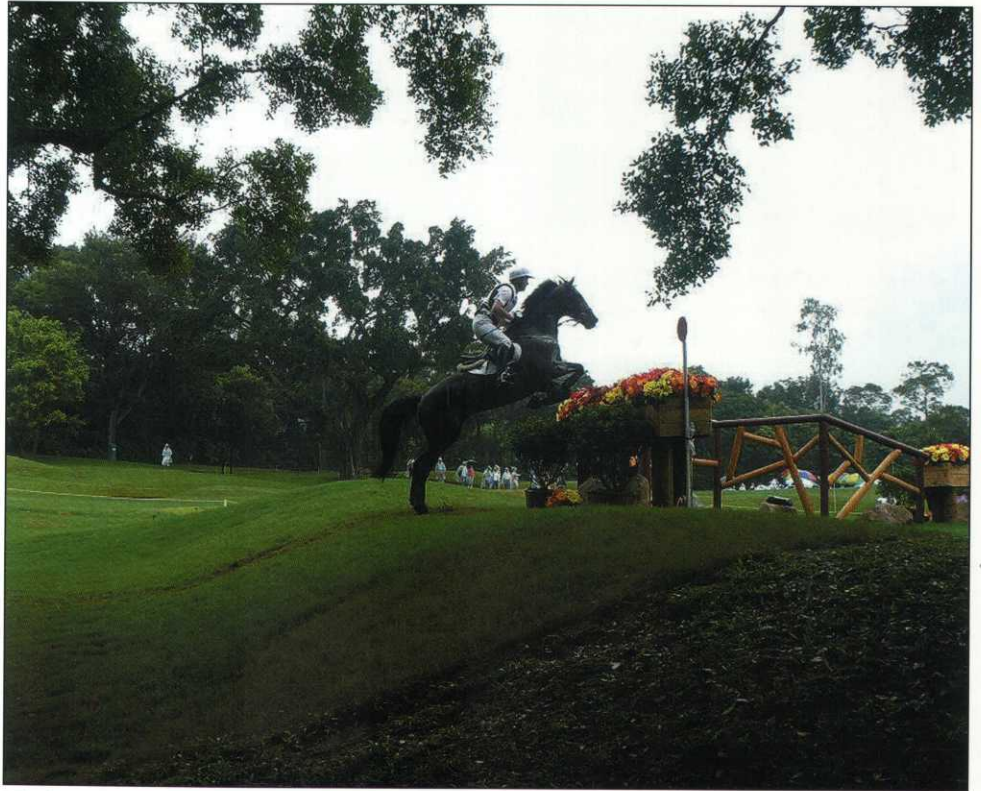
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Equestrian-

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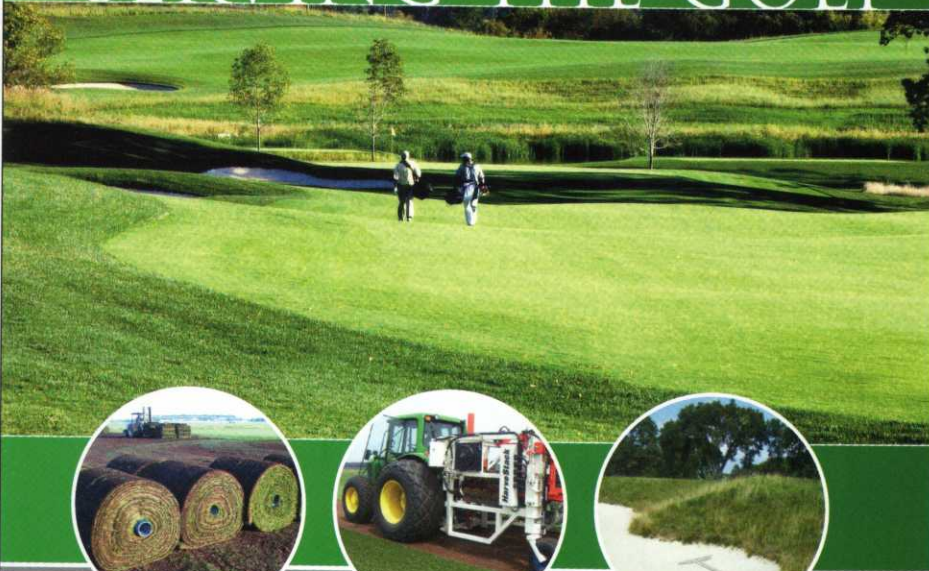
as the horse landed after clearing the jump he stumbled and the rider came off leading to a disqualification. Unfortunately, the American team did not fare too well in the Cross Country event, with the German team finishing on top. As the last competitors were making their way through the venue, the intermittent rain turned into a steady rain and finished with a significant downpour. This served to clear the venue area rather quickly as the spectators headed out looking to catch the shuttles to return home.

After a lot of planning and hard work, the event itself went off with a minimal amount of problems and the day and the Event was deemed a rousing success. Now the real work and challenge would begin: returning the three golf courses back into playing condition as quickly as possible and preparing for the 50th Hong Kong Open in November, setting the stage for another Adventure in Life.



The Equestrian Cross Country event for this year's Olympic Games was held at China's Hong Kong Golf Club. MGCSA member and Hole Notes columnist Randy Witt is the Courses Manager at Hong Kong Golf Club.

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In Bounds: *Mysteries*

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

Jackson Browne's *Running On Empty*, I liked it in the '70s and still do today.

Have you ever hopped in your vehicle, made a road trip, arrived at your destination and realized that you don't remember anything that happened along the way? Left turns, right turns, stops and starts, radio messages and songs just seem to have faded into your memory bank even though you obviously experienced the occurrences. Along the way you passed cars, gas stations, houses, creatures and people without a thought. It is almost as if you were transported to your destination magically.

You think about your journey and its nonexistence. You have arrived and I suppose that is all that really matters. So what if you were just vegetating snug in your vehicle. Maybe your brain was recharging or needed a break from everything. Maybe you were just "running on empty."

The last weeks of August often seem like this to me. I get up

"For every three individuals I have on my crew there will be one "mystery" occurrence on a daily basis. With 27 staff members I will have nine unexplained events daily."

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in the morning, do my thing about the house, hop in the truck, mentally plan my day and then I arrive at the shop ready to start the work day even though I am subconsciously well into it. At times I am cognizant of my surroundings as I drive, but quite often I am not and just seem to materialize at the shop.

After a hard day I am sometimes just whisked back home. Who knows what I missed along the way or what missed me! Suddenly I am pulling into my driveway again, ready to do some projects, maybe a bit of fishing and then go to bed only to recite "get up and do it again," another line from the Browne album, as my head hits the pillow.

Is it a reflection of our multi-tasking society to occasionally put ourselves on "auto drive" and meander through our lives without a thought or care? Perhaps there is too much data floating inside our brains and the grey matter just needs a little break to simplify things. Relax, think nothing, repose, and just breathe. Is it a good thing? Perhaps.

At times my consciousness has become consumed with the little things that would just irk me. Minor issues like crooked or run over directional stakes, partially filled divots, half empty cone cup containers and improper pin location markers on the fairways, a dirty spoon left in the sink or items

not put on the grocery list. Trivial stuff yes, but when accumulated, these "mysteries" can add up to a bit of brain consternation.

To remedy this frustrating and often stagnating situation I developed a mental program to address the little "mysteries" in life. I call it the "division of threes."

For every three individuals I have on my crew there will be one "mystery" occurrence on a daily basis. With 27 staff members I will have nine unexplained events daily. Why was a beer can left in the parking lot after the service crew had been through? That is a mystery. How come nobody straightened the downed red hazard stake while line trimming ponds as a team? That's a mystery. Who left the hose running on the wash pad? That too is just another mystery.

Continuing the theme I can apply "mystery events" to all facets of my life in an effort to let go of all that I cannot control and thus laugh at circumstances rather than bemoan them. The numerous club staff that I know of are given 15 daily mysteries. There are six of us in my close family including my wife and four kids thus two mysteries are allotted each day for the MacKenzie/Sunday household. Personally there are three of me, Me, myself and I. Because I am not perfect I too am guilty of a mystery each day. A touch of complacency? No, more likely a skip in my lawn mowing technique or the milk left out inadvertently.

On a broader scale the "division of threes" also applies. When driving on the freeway in a group of three cars one is sure to do something that cannot be explained. In the line at a bank with several people at least one "mystery" will occur to slow down the process. At a ball game, on the beach, in the theater or even the library incidents are always occurring. By dividing the number of individuals by three I am able to justify mysteries that would otherwise stain the moment.

In an attempt to simplify my life and eliminate the compilation of "little things" the division theory applies itself quite handily. Perhaps it won't bring consciousness to a benign trip to or from work, but the journey may be just a bit less constrained and even momentarily memorable.

Meanwhile if I feel my mind going off into oblivion I will just slip a little Jackson Browne into the player and "stay just a little bit longer."