

## In Bounds-

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nighttime lows never cooled down...ever. Pythium runnith rampant! Anything protected needed a bit extra and anything not was smoked! Even healthy Poa plants just checked out; more of my grass than I care to think about. Soooo lets throw some rabies into the mix; both my wife and daughter were bit by our 'garage cat', on a Friday too boot. No time for quick capture, I plugged him with five pieces of lead and hauled the culprit to the vet. Two tests, several visits to the emergency room to ward off infection, quite a bit of pain and suffering latter; on Monday the orange tabby was diagnosed with rabies. Now the fun began...shots for one and all! Tyler and me included as we lived in the proximity. No tummy injections but a series of four untimely visits. We covered our \$6,000 family deductible!

**Junior year begins for Madeline**, our gun slinger, as she continues her criminal justice degree. Hold on, weren't we just in the BWCA together...last May...a few days ago? September can be such a challenge. The crew gets cut dramatically (sort of nice though after a busy season of management), expectations still run high, the days are shorter, the gardens become ratty, geese do fly bys and we stop changing the water coolers...all 13 of them...every day. Oh yeah, can you say RECOVERY!!!!!! Thank God grass grows in spite of what we do! My club hosts the Wee One Event in Tom's honor. Everyone takes a pause, choke a bit and empathize with his plight as he addresses the group. The support is uplifting, the cause depressing. My sciatic nerve doesn't feel so bad anymore.

**Goooolish October came and went with an incredible display of prolonged Indian Summer.** Not scary at all. Fairways are punched multiple times with the Planetaire. Membership thrilled with lack of disruption. Greens accepting the lack of aerification well too! Justin and Tyler head to Rutgers for their continued

education. Empty nesters at home...love it! Finally, I can tackle the projects that have been waiting since...April?

**Christmas came early in November at the MacKenzie's.** The love of my life, after taking care of our 18-month-old grand nephew for a weekend, informs me that it is time to get a puppy! How does that work? We research Sheltie, Border collie, and Australian Sheppard rescue groups. Nothing available locally, we rescue a miniature (should be 20 pounds or so) Australian Sheppard from a southern Minnesota breeder whose farm was erased in the September flood. Sadie, a beautiful gray, black and brown Merle is a doll. And will stay that way. According to our veterinarian at our second post-purchase visit, Sadie is a 'toy' and won't get much bigger than ten blocks of butter. Well, I have heard that it takes a big man to own a little dog! Got a call from my son the other day. Tied with another for tops in his class; has some amazing options, may be staying out East. Tells me, "you know Dad I wish I would have done this sooner. No, not start my turf education, but I wish I would have applied myself in school as hard as I am now." Ahhh, he gets it! I always knew he was pretty bright.

**The evening sky is incredible in late November.** For all of the sun sets I miss during the summer the early winter always provides me with breath taking displays at a time of day when I can sit back and enjoy them. Next week as Santa Claus I will again visit Carly. Is that gurgle she expresses an acknowledgement of happier times? Could she ever join us again with the energy and exuberance of her former self? Will she ever paint a resplendent orange and pink November sun dipping in the west? I hope so. I pray so.

**Sadie just passed a little puppy gas. God Bless her!** And God Bless you my friends. May your Christmas and Holiday Season bring you joy. May peace reign over your world. In the craziness of this time of year, take account of your blessings; reflect. Life is full of challenges and glory. Embrace it! **Merry Christmas.**

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