

“scramble”. Of course the later would only come back to haunt me as they likely didn’t know how to fill the tires and to what pressure.

It took a few years, but I soon realized that agronomists, and in particular, golf course managers, are plagued by many challenges beyond their control. I could not control somebody else’s actions any more than I could stop a three-inch rain event during the state two-man event. Realizing and acknowledging my impotency in these matters was actually quite empowering. With patience, I learned that rather than wrestle with the “what ifs” and “shoulda, couldas”, I only needed to take a deep breath and implement a plan “B”.

You could say that my up-north reprieve was moist, no, it actually was quite wet, and cold too. Very little precipitation fell (just a nuisance snow), but the lakes were high and streams overflowing, often atop of and down the portages. Enter another life lesson learned at a golf course. Dry and warm feet are hard to beat.

For my birthday I received

from my understanding bride a pair of Chota Hippies and Portage Trekker boots. Supportive, warm and completely dry, these protective coverings allowed me to step from my canoe up to my high thighs into frigid water, wade through portages normally above the river level, and my toes toasty warm the whole time. Amazing technology that really made the trip comfortable.

As a turf manger, perhaps like you, I was constantly plagued with damp feet caused by morning dew, broken irrigation heads, malfunctioning water coolers and pond fountain corrections often placed my feet in wet and uncomfortable situations. In the winter time it was perspiration soaked Sorrell boots that seemed to get cold quickly and made it feel like my feet were encased in ice cubes.

My first remedy was a series of footwear to be exchanged through the day as conditions changed. Low cut muck shoes to sneakers and then onto boots or sandals depending upon my task of the day. Typically, if I remembered to place the wet shoes

in the sun, I could begin the process over the following day and maintain dry feet once again. However, the hottest ticket for foot bliss came with the investment of a Peet Shoe Dryer.

This incredible device, <http://www.peetdryer.com/>, became an indispensable tool in my extremity management toolbox. Gloves, sox, hats, shoes and of most importance, boots were dried overnight to provide a bit of luxury to my often wet days. Perhaps you should consider one or even several to share at your shop.

My choice for propulsion in a solo canoe is double blading. During the third day of my travels, following 25 miles of wet and then dry hands, my thumbs developed serious skin cracking adjacent to the nails. This very painful condition reminded me of cup cutting, and the wear and tear I used to place upon my whole hand.

The soil tended to dry skin out and when combined with wet followed by dry conditions, my digits were often lined with deep and agonizing fissures. The persistent seasonal condition, as well as the continuously dirty hands, required me to wear thin, rubber palmed, gloves

made from bamboo fiber. The dirt never impacted my skin and thus the damage was limited. When I did develop a cut or sore, I would slather my hands with three-in-one antibiotic ointment prior to donning my gloves. The recovery was incredibly fast.

With limited means, I performed the same task in the wilderness. My trusty first aid kit contained all of the tools I needed to clean, anoint and protect my thumbs and after a few hours I was rewarded with comforting relief.

Why solo tripping you ask? I suppose it is all about the freedom and often-personal challenges to do what I want or need to do with no external resources. The accomplishment of which brings its own rewards. Soloing also affords me a time for reflection. No noise pollution, emails, phone calls, meetings or obligations beyond what I need interrupts my thoughts and prevent me from contemplation... or wondering how my pesky spruce grouse could possibly mistake me for a potential mate.



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The all-new **Sand Pro (SP) 2040Z** mechanical rake is unlike anything else in the marketplace; a zero-turn mechanical groomer delivering unmatched maneuverability and productivity. This unique machine is a daily bunker rake that will reduce a golf course's labor costs for both mechanical and hand raking of bunkers. A brand new "flex" raking system with the patent-pending "lift in turn" feature enables an operator to turn tightly in bunkers without leaving unraked teardrops or tire marks.

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**Count on it.**  
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# *Norma O'Leary, CGCS, and the U.S. Women Win Bronze at 2014 World Senior Curling Championship*

(STEVENS POINT, Wis. World Curling Federation) - After two previous attempts, Margie Smith is a world medalist. Smith (St. Paul, Minn.) and the U.S. ladies defeated Sweden's Ingrid Meldahl rink, 8-3, to win the bronze medal this morning at the 2014 World Senior Curling Championships in Dumfries, Scotland.

“We're very excited. We've been here a couple of years and we've yet to do this (win a medal),” Smith said after the win. “We worked hard; we just needed to stay tough. We were reading the ice well and the girls were throwing the rocks really well so patience was the key.” Smith's teammates include Norma O'Leary (Silver Bay, Minn.), Debbie Dexter (St. Paul, Minn.), and Shelly Kosal (Edgerton, Wis.). They are coached by Jim Dexter (St. Paul, Minn.).

Curling is a sport in which players slide stones on a sheet of ice

towards a target area which is segmented into four concentric rings. It is related to bowls, boules and shuffleboard. Two teams, each of four players, take turns sliding heavy, polished granite stones, also called rocks, across the ice curling sheet towards the house, a circular target marked on the ice.[2] Each team has eight stones. The purpose is to accumulate the highest score for a game; points are scored for the stones resting closest to the centre of the house at the conclusion of each end, which is completed when both teams have thrown all of their stones. A game may consist of ten or eight ends.

The curler can induce a curved path by causing the stone to slowly turn as it slides, and the path of the rock may be further influenced by two sweepers with brooms who accompany it as it slides down the sheet, using the brooms to alter the state of the ice in front of the stone. A great deal of strategy and teamwork





go into choosing the ideal path and placement of a stone for each situation, and the skills of the curlers

determine how close to the desired result the stone will achieve. This gives curling its nickname of “chess

on ice”.

Much like most of the week, the U.S. ladies got off to a strong start to the bronze-medal game scoring a deuce in the opening end. After holding the Swedish ladies, who have won a medal in nearly every appearance at this event, to a single point in the second end, the U.S. again scored two points. A steal of one point in the fourth gave the Americans a comfortable lead at the halfway point at 5-1. The teams exchanged deuces as the second half developed. Another steal by the U.S. ladies in the seventh end sealed up

the bronze medal win for Smith’s team.

“You realize that it’s any team, any day. You just go out there and we were pretty confident in the second year that we were going to be up there. We struggled a little bit, but it’s all about finishing and we did that this week,” Smith said.

Editors note: *While in Scotland, Norma made great use of her spare time and visited The Old Course at Saint Andrews. Congratulations Norma on bringing home the Bronze.*





*“Standing on the medal stand – as they raised the American flag – was an absolute AMAZING experience... My trip to Scotland kept getting better though, one win at a time.”*





I have been in the industry over 30 years, and have been a Golf Course Superintendent since 1983. My husband Mike, who is a former World Bronze medal winner himself, introduced me to curling nearly 20 years ago.

I love the sport of curling, but the only reason I curl is because I can't grow grass or play golf during the winter months in Northern Minnesota.

I came up to Northern Minnesota when I got married in 1988, with the intention of working on the golf course up here for about 10 years, and then relocate to the Southern part of the state where the golf season is 4 to 6 weeks longer. Sixteen years later I am still up here because the members here in Silver Bay have been very good to me, and it is really hard to quit a job you love!

I did not score very well at St. Andrews, nor did I care. I have wanted to visit that golf course since I was in college, so just being there was an absolute thrill for me. I was also



fortunate enough to have my sister walk the course with me and take over 300 pictures. I actually got to play the Old Course twice. The course is actually pretty easy if you stay out of the bunkers. I did not stay out of the bunkers. Several of the bunkers I went in were over my head, and on two occasions, my only shot was to bounce my ball off of the bunker wall to get back far enough to make a swing. The Caddie's are very professional and I had a blast with all of them. Gordon Moir, the Superintendent came to visit me on the golf course, which also added to my experience. When



PRESENTS:

# MGCSA SOUTHERN EXPOSURE Golf Event

Sponsors:



Monday June 30, 2014

## The Bridges Golf Course in Winona

Registration with Pizza Buffet Lunch between 11:00 and 12:00

Shotgun Start at Noon

Host Superintendent: Kyle Kleinschmidt

***\$25 per player includes lunch and golf***

Player Name \_\_\_\_\_

Player Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Checks Payable to: Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents ' Association

PAYMENT METHOD: \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_ DISCOVER

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***RSVP REQUESTED by June 22nd***

**MGCSA and Non-MGCSA Area Superintendents**

**and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend this event**

**Scan or Mail to Jack MacKenzie Executive Director MGCSA**

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I left the golf course after my second round I said to my sister, “no matter what happens from here on out – this trip has been spectacular!”. My trip to Scotland kept getting better though, one win at a time.

My experience at the World Championship was spectacular as well. I knew my team was capable of medaling, but we did make it to the World Championship last year, and did not fare so well, finishing in 6th or 7th place. This year was a different story. We played very well all week long going unde-

feated throughout the round robin and gaining the #1 seed from our pool of 8. We faced Scotland in the Semi-finals, losing on the last shot of an extra end. Scotland was playing in their home club and the crowd was spectacular. Their were obviously cheering extremely loud for their home team, and as much as I wanted to win, I could not help but feel thrilled for Scotland when they made the last shot to beat us. The crowd erupted and I genuinely felt very happy for them. This winter I also had the experience of winning the Women’s Club National Cham-

