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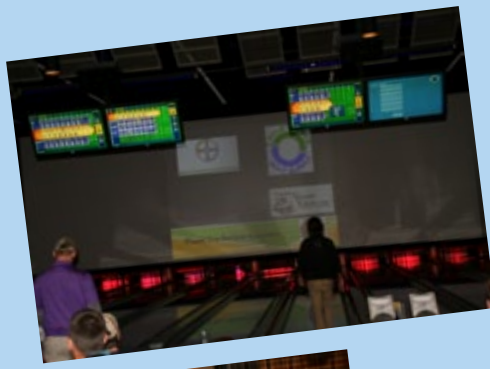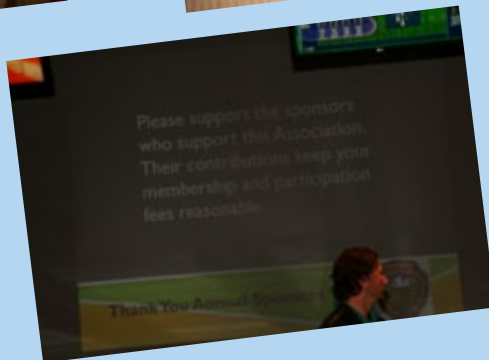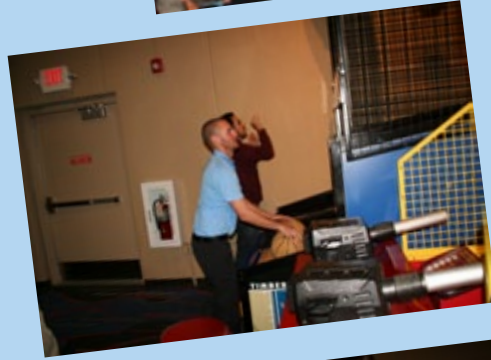
Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak, CGCS

Well, that was quick.

Is it just me, or did it seem like we just got the golf course open this year, only to have the season fly by and come to a rapid, abrupt end the first full weekend in November? Each year I marvel at all the things area Superintendents and their crews accomplish in such a small window of time. Hopefully all of you were able to get the course put to bed before the first snow, or certainly after the melt-down two weeks later.

So now it is the long off season. This year it looks like about five full month's worth of "down time." We are not alone, you know. There are others- roughly half the country- that have a similar dilemma of what to do during the winter.

It is pretty easy to become provincial as a golf course superintendent. Our job consists of taking care of X number of acres and that we pretty much have to be there every day to do

so. We aren't traveling very much to say the least. The fortunate ones get to escape in the winter on a vacation or two, with work likely being the last thing on their minds. A few more are allowed to go to the GCSAA show and experience all it has to offer but even then, I am willing to bet most guys tend to hang out with the same fellows they know from the area mostly. It's what you do. You hang out with the guys you know and are familiar with.

Technology has been able to break down some of that provincialism. Whether it's through TurfNet, Twitter, Facebook, etc. more conversation is taking place between superintendents all over the country and the world than ever before. But why is this conversation happening? What does a guy in Florida have to do with a guy in International Falls, or a guy in the Arizona dessert, or New Jersey?

I recently was lucky enough to be involved in a congregation of ten superintendents from a variety of regions nationwide for a couple days of discussion about the industry. It was an amazing