

BUNKER SHOTS

Ramblings from a Semi-Warped Perspective
By Ken Williams, CGCS

I made it through another Masters' Week. It has to be a superintendent's most favorite and least favorite week of the year. Thank god it falls when our Nor Cal courses are generally looking great. Could you imagine the comparisons if Masters' Week fell in mid-August!

Does anybody know what happened to former GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS? Not that I was a huge fan of his, but it was like poof, and he magically disappeared from his CEO position. I understand that there are some confidentiality issues involved here, but what, are we some secret society? How about just a little explanation please, he was our CEO? Now I do know he has landed with Landscapes Unlimited, due to the suddenly friendly mass emails he has sent out!

Now I do like new GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. But what's up with another guy from the city of Mesa, Arizona? Somehow that doesn't appear that the GCSAA did a very wide candidate search. And please tell me some minority candidates were considered! Our profession needs to start separating itself from the ugly look of white executives controlling a largely minority workforce. I will say that it was great to see Rafael Barajas, CGCS, a man of Hispanic descent, finally elected to the GCSAA Board. Hopefully he'll pave the way for others to follow suit.

Have you seen the news lately about the local water districts raising our water rates? The reason given was that revenue was down because we've been too good at conservation. WHAT THE (HECK) is that? Something is definitely wrong with this model! This is another example that proves government agencies shouldn't be running anything!

I do agree that water use should generally be cut back on golf courses. It is not just for playability, but to be good environmental citizens. In fact, there are two things in golf that need to be cut back, #1) Water use and #2) Distance the golf ball travels. Maybe if we worked hard at #1, the USGA might finally be able to do #2.

I'm still ticked off that the PGA Tour still allows steel spikes in golf shoes. If one of their claims is that the players use the same equipment as we do, how about finally banning steel spikes? It has been about time for the last 12 years!

And finally, last month we had the NCPGA Section out for a tournament. 108 Professionals were competing in one of their early events in a season-long competition. Rounds averaged well over 5½ hours. I found it a bit ironic that these local PGA pros are generally the people charged with speeding up the pace of play....

CADDYSHACK MOMENT



ABOVE: Half-full water truck was rolled down the hill by vandals from construction site above green...Luckily, no major damage done...I ended up laughing because one of the water department guys said, "You're always complaining about not getting enough water." That wasn't exactly how I envisioned the delivery!

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