

No one can convince superintendent Dick Schulz that working at Atlanta Country Club is a 24-hour-a-day job. Maybe 22 or 23. But never 24.

That's what happens when you're in the middle of the Atlanta Classic, a PGA Tour event, and a Texas-sized thunderstorm does its best to wash away your course overnight. You also find out what your staff thinks of you.

The storm was an interesting tribute to the 20th anniversary tournament, June 20-26, 1988. The deluge started at around 9:30 Saturday night. "An inch-and-a-third of rain and hail in nine minutes," Schulz recalls, shaking his head. "You couldn't see 10 feet in front of you. The wind blew about 60 miles an hour." The casualties: seven trees down, six more hit by lightning; tents, tables and umbrellas blown all over the countryside; two copiers tossed 20 feet into a pond; 63 bunkers washed out; trash everywhere.

"It was incredible," Schulz remembers. "We figured out we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out."

Sounding the call

Two of Schulz's assistants—Cory Hopke and Scott McDaniel—along with two turf students living and working at the course, were there when the storm hit. Schulz and the rest of the staff—10 full-time and three part-time people—had gone home.

Schulz had been cooking out with houseguests. When the storm hit, his brother (one of the guests) got on the phone and started calling crew members. He reached all but two part-timers. "Some of the people had already made it back in before my brother called. They knew the storm had hit. We worked through the night."

They broke for some sleep around 3 a.m., but not much. They started up again at 4:30, joined by the Atlanta Classic Foundation President Jim Abney, past president J.L. Jerdin and president-elect Leo Corely.

"They got some volunteers together and started picking up the trash," Schulz says. "We worked on turf areas and the sandtraps. We cut up a bunch of trees, blew trash off the greens. We worked our way around the course in order, finishing at around 9:30 a.m."

"I wasn't sure we'd play Sunday because I had never experienced that kind of storm during a tournament. We stayed ahead of the golfers and we didn't have to delay the start-up at all."

WEATHERING A CHAMPIONSHIP

What do you do if a massive thunderstorm pummels your course in the middle of a PGA tournament? Hope Dick Schulz is on your side.



Atlanta Country Club superintendent Dick Schulz recalls repairing his course overnight in the middle of a PGA tour event. "It was incredible," he says. "We figured we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out."



Touring pro Larry Nelson, a club member, spent a couple of minutes in front of the CBS cameras talking about what a great job the staff did.

The staff received much recognition for the job it did on the course that night.

Plug on CBS

"Touring pro Larry Nelson, a club member, got out on the 18th green after the tournament ended Sunday and spent a couple of minutes in front of the CBS-TV cameras talking about what the staff did; and the newspapers—it was incredible!" Schulz recalls proudly. "My assistants worked a 24-hour shift with that hour-and-a-half sleep."

This was Schulz's fifth Atlanta Classic. (The sixth runs May 22-28.) The first four were somewhat less eventful. "The tournament is probably the most fun week of the year. It's tough," he understates. "There's a lot of hours, but it's fun because we worry about the golf course only.

"It's pure turf management and personnel management and it's exciting. We get to see the players and we have more exposure each year through CBS and the media. Some of the players even stop by and say

'hello.' It makes the staff and the crew feel good."

In calmer times, the job is a bit easier. Schulz and his staff only have to deal with things like drought, a fairway irrigation system in the process of renovation and other little annoyances like a climate conducive to turf diseases. New wells will help ease future drought conditions and the membership approved a \$125,000 program to improve the irrigation system.

Fusarium fighter

Schulz keeps the summer diseases—mainly fusarium, which has plagued the course through its 25-year history—at bay with a rotation of preventive fungicide applications anchored by a one- to two-ounce spring application of Mobay's Bayleton.

"Bayleton is very strong on fusarium," Schulz comments. "From a cost-per-ounce-applied and results standpoint, it's superior."

"We've come up with a program

Are you fully equipped to do the job?



We are.

When your livelihood depends on your equipment, you can depend on Maruyama.

Whether pest control, landscape maintenance, nursery or greenhouse operating, produce growing or farming, you can count on Maruyama equipment for durability, quality and performance.

A Complete Line of Equipment:

- **Sprayers** — Manually or gas engine operated; backpack, cart, or frame mounted.
- **Brushcutters** — 5 models to choose from — 18.4cc to 40.2cc — low vibration, lightweight.
- **Trimmers** — Dual reciprocating blades 15.9cc or 24.1cc Mitsubishi drives, clean cuts.
- **Water Pumps** — Three models, 32gpm to 132gpm for irrigation or moving murky water.

- **Mist Dusters** — Handles liquid spray, dust, or granules.
- **Granule Spreader** — 18 ft. range, dry chemical or seed, with tank agitator to bust up clumps.
- **Blowers** — Powerful air blast makes cleanup jobs easy.
- **Soil Injectors** — For precise injection of chemicals.
- **And much more.**

Choose an International Leader.

Maruyama — producing the very best since 1895.
U.S. Office: Maruyama U.S. Inc.
15436 NE 95th St.
Redmond, WA 98052
(206) 885-0811

Head Office: Maruyama Mfg. Co. Inc.
4-15 Uchi-Kanda 3 Chome
Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 101, Japan



The very best.

'It was incredible. We figured we moved between 500 and 600 tons of sand in the bunkers that night trying to dry them out.'

—Dick Schulz

that functions extremely well. We have not had disease problems since I came here in February, 1984," Schulz says.

This all serves to make the crew's job a little easier, and Schulz's job a little more secure. He has the support of his members, reflected in their willingness to increase pay to bring in better people. He has a lot of confidence in his staff, which includes three assistants—Hopke, McDaniel and irrigation specialist John Miller—and a mechanic.

"I'm either going to look good or bad depending on the type of staff I have," Schulz believes. "It's a people business."

Schulz has a history of working with good people though he's only 33, but it's a bit of a problem. "Whenever you have a really good staff they move on." To date, 14 of his former assistants are now superintendents. Still, it's a good problem to have. **LM**

Circle No. 133 on Reader Inquiry Card