20 billion years ago
The Universe tees off with a bang.

150,000 years ago
Neanderthal man shows up and starts thinking about what to do with all that open land!

Born in 1821
Old Tom Morris is born. He soon joins a foursome, gets hooked, and becomes a noon-time regular at St. Andrews – golf enters the modern age.

Turf School opens in 1921
The Turfgrass Agronomy program is born at Penn State University. Dr. Burton Musser begins search for quality putting bentgrass for golf course greens.

Unknown
Dr. Joe Duich is born – eventually joins Penn State’s Agronomy program, works with Dr. Musser, and assists his bentgrass breeding research efforts.

Debuts in ’55
Penncross is born and grows to become the most widely used bentgrass in the world, and this is still true today.

The 80’s
PennLinks is developed for improved upright growth for superior greens and Penneagle for flawless fairway performance.

A’s & G’s 90’s
The Penn A’s and G’s are developed – trusted today to provide the finest quality, most consistent putting surfaces possible.

The 2000’s
PennLinks II and Penneagle II are developed; both maintain the same traits as their predecessors but provide added value with improved dollar spot and brown patch resistance.

Today
The Penn bents are known worldwide as the finest and most tested bentgrass varieties available for golf course greens, tees, and fairways.

Since the beginning, we’ve bred the Penn bents for success. It started with Penncross and continues today with the Penn A’s and G’s, Seaside II, Penneagle II, and PennLinks II, each the top-performing result of meticulous research and real-world testing on golf courses.

That’s why you can be confident that the Penn bent variety you choose will provide the finest-quality playing conditions, time-proven maintenance with fewer inputs, improved money-saving disease resistance, and beautiful greens, tees, and fairways.

Don’t take a chance when you can seed with the best: the Penn bents from Tee-2-Green, time-tested and golf course proven.

Not Just a Story

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Cover photography courtesy of Vail Resorts Development Co.

EDITORIAL MISSION STATEMENT:
Golf Course News reports on and analyzes the business of maintaining golf courses, as well as the broader business of golf course management. This includes three main areas: agronomy, business management and career development as it relates to golf course superintendents and those managers responsible for maintaining a golf course as an important asset. Golf Course News shows superintendents what's possible, helps them understand why it's important and tells them how to take the next step.
What the other guys don’t want you to know about us.

Research data proves that the stabilized nitrogen technology in UMAXX provides consistently better results in every category:

- Better color and quality
- Increased nitrogen efficiency
- Extended nitrogen availability
- Environmentally sound for soil and turf

A lot of companies make claims about their product and ours. We stand by the research. UMAXX is the most efficient source of nitrogen available, giving you the best results and the best value for your money.

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ONLINE-ONLY FEATURES:

OLD IS NEW AGAIN
Excessive rain, hurricanes and a change in fairway grasses in the 24th hour were just a few obstacles faced while renovating the Manakin Course at Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, Va.

AFTER THE STORMS
Like many California golf courses, Soule Park in Ojai started the 2005 season poorly but recovered from considerable flooding en route to a solid year.

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Golfer relations

While talking with many golf course superintendents for a story about burnout (page 50), it was hammered home again that you love the technical aspect of your jobs. It's why most of you entered the business in the first place. Simply put, you like to work outside and grow and maintain turfgrass so golfers can enjoy it. That technical expertise translates into compliments from golfers, right? Well maybe sometimes, but unfortunately the more ignorant, negative and demanding comments from golfers are the ones that cause consternation among you guys (and gals) and stress you out. That's the part of the job many of you dislike – dealing with golfers.

At the average club, how many members understand your job and what it takes to maintain the course they play? That could be evident by the amount of complaining you hear. There's always a vocal minority (maybe it's bigger) who rub you the wrong way.

The superintendent position has evolved from strictly working on the course, with little interaction with club management and members, to one in which a larger part of the job involves dealing with management and golfers. Obviously, this varies from job to job, depending on the responsibilities.

Many of you are climbing the golf management ladder and thinking about becoming general managers. Dealing with golfers becomes more prevalent with that job. Jim Singerling, chief executive officer of the Club Managers Association of America, sheds light on what a typical general manager deals with (page 24). It sounds like many of you stress about the very thing you would be spending most of your time doing as general managers.

More communication between golfers and superintendents is needed and could help alleviate some of that stress. To deal with golfers more effectively, you should be getting pointers from general managers, especially those who used to be superintendents, as well as your peers. Sharing ideas usually helps.

Veteran superintendents have said that when they were younger they didn't want many golfers on the course because they were trying to maintain certain conditions and golfers didn't help that. But in their wisdom, they now realize, because this industry is a business, the more golfers the better. However, it can be a double-edged sword. The more golfers there are, the more money in the budget, but the more wear the course endures.

If dealing with golfers is getting you down, something needs to be done about it because golfer/superintendent interaction is likely to become more involved in the future. Young golfers in their preteens and early teens are more sophisticated than their counterparts a generation ago. Their expectations are high and could add to the strain of the golfer/superintendent relationship.

You need to develop a clear, open line of communication with golfers – one that's not a one-way street in which golfers just unload on you, but one in which you can explain your side of the story. "The customer is always right" mentality is acceptable to a point, but you need to respond to golfers to help them understand why things are the way they are. Golfers need to listen. There are too many golfers who don't respect you enough.

This is a tough situation because you can't expect golfers to study or learn more about course maintenance. Many golfers have the mentality that they're on the golf course to have fun, not learn. So, unfortunately, the onus is on you to do more to improve communication and the relationship.

You could pick out the golfers or members who want to learn more about course maintenance and impart wisdom on them with the hope that they will, in turn, tell others. Maybe the knowledge will spread.

I'd like to hear from those superintendents who have managed that line of communication with golfers successfully. I'd like to hear success stories in which golfers became enlightened because they actually listened to you. E-mail me at jwalsh@gie.net or visit the message board on the Golf Course News Web site to share these golfer-relation stories.

And here's to improving the golfer/superintendent relationship and hoping the worst part of your job gets better.
Bobcat® all-wheel-steer compact machines are easy on turf.

Golf clubs can do a good enough job hacking up your course. No need to wreck it further just performing routine maintenance. Bobcat A300 all-wheel-steer loaders, Toolcat 5600 utility work machines and B300 loader backhoes have four steerable axles, so the jobs you do with them won’t include repairing tire tracks. And, with all the attachments available, that’s a lot of jobs. Bobcat all-wheel-steer compact equipment. Easy on you, easy on your golf course.
Calendar

Feb. 28-March 2
Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show
Greater Pittsburgh ExpoMart
Monroeville, Pa.
Call 814-238-2402 or visit www.paturf.org.

March 2-7
Canadian Golf Superintendent Association's 57th Annual
International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show
Vancouver (B.C.)
Convention Centre
Call 905-602-8873 or visit www.golfsupers.com.

March 6
Western Regional Conference
Buffalo/Niagra Marriott
Amherst, N.Y.
Call 800-873-8873 or visit www.nysta.org.

March 6-9
New England Regional Turf Conference
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, R.I.
Call 401-841-5490 or visit www.nertf.org.

March 7
California Golf Course Owners Association
Board and Member Meeting
Strawberry Farms Golf Course
Irvine, Calif.
Call 877-465-3122 or visit www.californiagolf.org.

March 30
Adirondack Regional Conference
Lake Placid Resort (N.Y.) – Holiday Inn
Call 800-873-8873 or visit www.nysta.org.

CD, directory

A practical learning tool about soil wetting agents is available—Crop Science Society of America's "Soil Wetting Agents" CD. It provides information about how soil wetting agents work, water chemistry, how water moves in soils, soil water repellency, soil wetting agents and the use of soil wetting agents to address water repellency. The CD also features:

• Information about common turf maintenance and management;
• Information for professors, students and practicing turf advisors/managers; and
• Tools for staff training at golf courses, athletic fields and other turf facilities.

It can be ordered online at www.societystore.org, by calling 608-268-4960 or by e-mailing books@crops.org.

The 2006 University of Massachusetts Green Directory is available. The 32-page comprehensive guide to educational resources for Massachusetts agriculture industry professionals includes:

• Contact information for agriculture specialists and faculty;
• Upcoming conferences, seminars and workshops;
• Plant diagnostic lab submission information for insect, disease and cultural problems;
• Soil- and tissue-testing lab submission information;
• Pesticide license information, including test dates, training workshops and how to get a pesticide license;
• Extension newsletters, Web sites and publications; and
• Frequently used phone numbers related to agriculture.

To receive the directory, send a mailing address to greeninfo@umext.umass.edu, fax 413-577-1620 or call 413-545-0895. It's also available online at www.umass.edu/agland.

Contact Rob Thomas, associate editor, at rthomas@gie.net or 800-456-0707 to submit resource information.
Introducing New Broad Spectrum 26/36 Fungicide™, With A Dual Mode of Action

New 26/36 Fungicide™, with its contact and systemic modes of action, is double trouble for a broad spectrum of tough to control diseases like dollar spot and brown patch. And the dual-action benefits don’t stop here.

Better Resistance Management, Long Lasting Control

The proprietary formulation of 26/36 Fungicide—a combination of iprodione and thiophanate-methyl—reduces concern for resistance and increases the length of disease control, up to 21 days. That’s better resistance management with long lasting disease control.

Great Replacement for the DMIs

26/36 Fungicide is also a great summer replacement for the DMIs that can have a growth regulation effect leading to lower overall turf quality, reduced turf density, bare spots and poor playing conditions.

You Can Count on Cleary – and New 26/36 Fungicide

Cleary, with over 65 years of commitment and experience, has been the name you can count on for fungicides and disease control solutions that work time and again.

New 26/36 Fungicide – Long-Lasting Disease Control, Without Growth Regulation.

For more information on new 26/36 Fungicide and Cleary’s Solutions Programs, visit our web site at www.clearychemical.com

Go to: www.golfcoursenews.com/readerservice - select #13
Panel examines conservation

Pasadena, Calif. — Environmental and water conservation experts examined landscape irrigation conservation initiatives and strategies at the second annual Intelligent Use of Water Summit, which was hosted by Rain Bird Corp. The symposium panel focused on the relationship among water conservation and landscape water use, water conservation policies and legislation, and potential programs and initiatives to increase awareness of the need to conserve water.

Taking place after a recent release of a United Nations report predicting an eminent and devastating global water shortage by the year 2025, the summit provided a venue for panelists to encourage civic and business leaders to promote water conservation. Panelists urged leaders to abide by current water-conservation policies and impose more strict water-regulation policies on their organizations.

The panelists included:

- Eric Klotz, water conservation and education section chief, Utah Division of Water Resources;
- Stuart Styles, director, Irrigation Training and Research Center;
- Robert Glennon, professor, University of Arizona, Rogers College of Law
- David Minner, professor, Iowa State University;
- John Neylan, manager, AGCSA Tech, Australian Golf Course Superintendent Association;
- Mark Welterlen, publisher, Grounds Maintenance; and
- Tim Blair, program manager, Water Use Efficiency, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Panelists' written submissions can be downloaded at www.rainbird.com.

Golf weather improves in 2005

Buffalo Grove, III. — 2005 closed with net favorable weather at the national level compared with 2004, according to Pellucid Corp. Golf playable hours in December was 4.6 percent higher than December 2004, which ensured the full-year weather comparison to remain positive — GPHs increased 1.6 percent in 2005.

National rounds in November outperformed weather for the first time in 2005 with a 10.4-percent increase, creating a weather-adjusted rounds index of 204 for the month.

"With half the country shut down for the winter, the weather information is now heavily influenced by the Sunbelt states where we saw double-digit gains in GPH across all three of the California reporting regions," says Pellucid president Jim Koppenhaver. "Florida and Texas also had positive Decembers, which added to their year-to-date increases. Positive results for 2005 were widespread with the breadth indicator showing 12 regions finishing with higher GPHs versus 2004 against six decliners producing a breadth ratio of exactly 2:1."

For key state geographies where direct comparisons between GPH and rounds changes can be made, rounds generally have followed weather, but there's no linear correlation between the weather and rounds results.

"For every negative influence, there's generally an unheralded corresponding positive influence somewhere reducing the volatility of the weather variable across annual periods," Koppenhaver says. "By studying both local and macro results, we can paint a more accurate picture for serious business people regarding which direction and to what extent variances in weather helped or hurt them throughout the year."

Winners selected for environment

Lawrence, Kan. — Recognizing their commitment to environmental stewardship, Los Lagos Golf Course in San Jose, Calif., and its certified golf course superintendent, Alan R. Andreasen, were named the overall winners of the 2005 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards.

Syngenta Professional Products and Rain Bird Corp., Golf Division are the presenting partners of the award.

Judges selected winners in three national categories (public, private and resort courses), and an international winner, with an overall winner being selected from the group. The other national win-