Inset Photos: Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club, Rockford, IL
Scott White, Golf Course Superintendent
A Stimulus Plan that Will Pay Off

No one knows how the stimulus plan will turn out, but here's a plan we know works. To crowd out *Poa annua* and get dense, more diverse greens, interseed with the Penn bents. Superintendents say it's a small investment that pays big dividends, and who couldn't use that kind of confidence today? View success stories on our website: www.tee-2-green.com/interseeding.

FREE seed, 25lbs of Crystal BlueLinks plus 25lbs of any Tee-2-Green variety, with purchase of a T.I.P. seeder.
Course Renovation
80
LONG TIME COMING
Westmoor Country Club's renovation — including green, tee and bunker upgrades — preserves the spirit of William Langford.

Product focus: On-course restrooms
92
BATHROOM BREAK
Lee Terry turned to solar-powered, waterless restroom facilities to troubleshoot a pressing problem at Denver's Pinehurst Country Club.

Product focus: Wetting agents
93
LESS WATER, BIG SAVINGS
Bonnie Briar Country Club's superintendent quenched his course's thirst for costly Big Apple water with wetting agents.

IN THIS ISSUE

Course maintenance
67
FOLLOW THE SAVINGS
Outsourcing some maintenance tasks may be the way to go.

Overseas education
74
HANDS-ON LEARNING
Managers at Oman's Muscat Hills hope an in-house turf maintenance academy will help foster a golf course work force in the Middle East.

Course Renovation
80
LONG TIME COMING
Westmoor Country Club's renovation — including green, tee and bunker upgrades — preserves the spirit of William Langford.

Product focus: On-course restrooms
92
BATHROOM BREAK
Lee Terry turned to solar-powered, waterless restroom facilities to troubleshoot a pressing problem at Denver's Pinehurst Country Club.

Product focus: Wetting agents
93
LESS WATER, BIG SAVINGS
Bonnie Briar Country Club's superintendent quenched his course's thirst for costly Big Apple water with wetting agents.

FEATURES

Researcher profile
24
THE FUNGUS AMONG US
As one of the undisputed stars in the small weird world of plant pathology, Dr. Bruce Clarke preaches common sense to superintendents.

COVER STORY:
Career management
32
IS SOCIAL MEDIA RIGHT FOR YOUR CAREER?
A primer on popular opinion platforms like blogging, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Greens maintenance
42
INCREDIBLE SHRINKING GREENS
Careful monitoring and maintenance practices mitigate decreasing green sizes.

RESEARCH
GAINING CONTROL
In the second of a two-part series on Poa annua, David M. Kopec, Ph.d., presents several control strategies.
Introducing three new E-Cut Hybrid Fairway Mowers.

With electric reel motors instead of hydraulic lines, there’s almost no possibility of a hydraulic leak. Based on proven technology, these mowers also offer a consistent frequency of clip, lower fuel consumption, quieter operation, and the convenience of new Quick Adjust 5 cutting units. Ask your John Deere Golf distributor for a demo of the 7500, 8500, or the highly maneuverable three-wheeled 8000 E-Cut Hybrid. And see the confidence going electric can generate.

www.JohnDeere.com • 800-537-8233
Under the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, buyers of low-speed, battery-electric vehicles are eligible for a tax credit of 10 percent of the cost, up to $2,500.
YOU'LL HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OVER PYTHIUM. GOLFERS NOT SO MUCH.

WITH THE NEW CHEMISTRY OF FLUOPICOLIDE AND THE PROVEN POWER OF PROPAMOCARB COMBINED IN ONE PREMIX, STELLAR® FUNGICIDE PROTECTS YOUR COURSE WITH POWERFUL PYTHIUM CONTROL. AFTER ALL, YOUR TURF IS ALREADY UNDER ENOUGH ATTACK, ISN'T IT?

Stellar
FUNGICIDE
PROTECT YOUR TURF.
LEARNING FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

You may have heard by now that Ontario banned the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Quebec has a similar law, and Alberta and Nova Scotia are eying their own. Ontario’s ban went into effect on April 22, which was, not coincidentally, Earth Day. Golf courses are exempt from the ban, providing they adhere to a slew of new regulations.

I celebrated Earth Day this year by researching this column, including putting in calls to experts in Canada to learn more about Ontario’s ban, how the golf industry views it and what golf course superintendents in the U.S. can do when the pesticide-banning bandwagon starts making its way south.

First, some background. Ontario’s Premier Dalton McGuinty promised in late 2007 during his reelection campaign that he’d replace the patchwork of more than 30 municipal pesticide restrictions with a single law. In June the Ontario Legislature passed the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act. By November, the Ministry of the Environment released a draft regulation with 45 days for public comment. Less than six months later the new regulations are law. It’s said to be the fastest a bill ever has been pushed through the system, says Mark Scenna, manager of business operations for Environmental Investigations Ltd., a Burlington, Ontario-based company that performs audits for the Ontario IPM Accreditation Program. Scenna is also the co-author of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association’s Environmental Management Resource Manual.

The Canadian golf course industry is thankful for its exemption, though it’s not thrilled with all of the provisions, especially one requiring golf courses to conduct annual meetings informing the public about their pesticide use.

As the Ontario Allied Golf Associations said in a memo to the Ministry of the Environment, “The argument that public meetings provide an opportunity for golf course management to inform the public about their pesticide use is valid. As anyone who’s ever sat in a local meeting about pesticide restrictions knows, that’s usually not the case. Joe Public and anti-pesticide activists aren’t interested in hearing about the testing pesticide products undergo to become registered (which are even more rigorous in the Canada than in the U.S.), the efficacy of such products or the precision with which superintendents apply them. They don’t care about IPM or that it’s counter intuitive to assert that a superintendent who operates with a tight budget would use unnecessary amounts of very pricey products.

That’s why the golf industry fears anti-pesticide activists will use the mandatory public meetings to resuscitate the emotional side of the issue year after year, or that disgruntled neighbors who are annoyed for any given reason will take the meeting off topic.

The bill was written in the interest of providing transparency about when, where and the amount of pesticides used; most of the industry believes that the other provisions sufficiently achieve transparency.

So how long before New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota or other states head down this road?

No one’s sure, but because of the emotional motivation behind the new regulations, Scenna believes such restrictions could be enacted anywhere.

“ ‘This is not based on science,’ he says. ‘It’s political. Because of that, I’m sure it could happen anywhere if the right people are in power and are making good on a campaign promise.’

His advice to superintendents in the States? Self regulate and document everything.

The reason the golf industry escaped Ontario’s all-out ban was its solid IPM accreditation program, which had been voluntary. Scenna encourages associations at the state level to put such programs in place. The government likes when industries are proactive, and – as was the case in Ontario – rewards them accordingly.

Additionally, even though Scenna knows most superintendents practice IPM to do their jobs well, they don’t chart their course.

“Documentation is lacking,” he says. “Implement a structured documentation routine for your IPM practices – it’s something you can always fall back on.”

Marisa Palmieri
Senior editor

Marisa Palmieri
Senior editor
The Liquid Fence Company is proud to introduce EcoLogic™, the next generation of eco-safe turf, landscape and agricultural products. Landscape professionals, turf specialists, horticulturists and commercial growers alike, will now experience the benefits of "going green" while enjoying the unparalleled service and economy they have grown to expect from the makers of America's best all-natural animal and insect repellents.
Columnist kudos

Congratulations to GCI columnist Monroe Miller on celebrating a monumental retirement! He was a superintendent at one club for well north of three decades. I've been a superintendent for 35 years, but this is my sixth stop as a super. And kudos to him for saving everything! ("Moving out... and on," page 16, March issue). I've saved a lot and given a lot away, but working at Merion and whiling away winter days in our archive room (which I believe is probably one of the best in golf), I realize the value of keeping everything. It's people like Monroe who allow someone that possibly isn't even born yet to realize what a great adventure it was to be a greenskeeper in the 1970s! I only hope his retirement is half as good as his working life, then he truly will have an adventurous retirement.

Matt Shafer
Director of golf operations
Merion Golf Club
Ardmore, Pa.

I just caught Terry Buchen's column in the March issue of Golf Course Industry magazine (Travels with Terry, page 87). Thanks for the great article.

Jeff Jamnik
Equipment manager
Great Southwest Golf Club
Grand Prairie, Texas

'Food for thought' fails

In your March issue, Jeff Higgins offered the "Agronomist's view" on the meta-catalyst article ("A new approach," page 76). We hear familiar objections to microbial products: questions about shelf life, how such microbes are overwhelmed in the "natural" environment, and how "bugs in a jug" serve only as food for the indigenous microbes in the environment.

This viewpoint is hardly new, and represents deeply entrenched opinions that seemingly ignore recent advances in applied biological science. The risk is, of course, that we miss the value of whole categories of discovery and learning, including:

- The positive effects of secondary metabolites - rich content of naturally-occurring biochemicals exuded by diverse communities of microorganisms;
- Groundbreaking science on elicitor and signaling molecules - pathways that may explain how microorganisms induce physiological changes in plants. To quote Dr. Joe Kloepper of Auburn University, "even a single species of microorganism can make a difference...if it is the right one" (a point well proven with many bio-control products);
- Discoveries about "extremophiles" - bacterial species that remain viable for eons under the harshest imaginable conditions.

There is a growing body of knowledge in soil microbial science - an area of which many experts agree we know less than 1 percent of what may ultimately be knowable. We urge the agronomist community to explore, for themselves, the fascinating results of work being done by credible researchers in hundreds of test applications. As the writer/philosopher Eric Hoffer once said, "It is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists."

David Lanciault
President & CEO
Advanced Microbial Solutions
Pilot Point, Texas

Applauding April

I finally made it through the last few stories in the April issue. It took awhile because I found so many of the stories and columns so interesting and informative that skimming just wasn’t good enough – I had to read practically every word. In particular, the package on private clubs was well researched and told from several perspectives so readers got a well-rounded view of the issue.

It was the kind of in-depth reporting that is too often lacking these days. Congratulations on a great issue.

Bill Bryant
Bryant Marketing Communications
Atlanta

I enjoyed and agreed with Marisa Palmieri’s Teeing Off editorial in the April issue ("Refuting 'golf=bad,'" page 6).

Just because golf is a favorite of Wall Street, doesn’t mean the people on Main Street are (continued on page 97)