There's cut quality. Then there's E-Cut™ quality.

Discover the difference. Superior after-cut appearance. Lower fuel costs. And more. Contact your John Deere Golf rep or visit JohnDeere.com/Hybrid for all the details.
When it comes to golf courses, turfgrass is king. However, trees are an important component of the golf course landscape that are sometimes ignored or overlooked by superintendents and their crews.

Challenged to improve fairway playability, The Club at Carlton Woods took a new approach toward dealing with organic matter.

Freelance agronomist Jim Connolly shares his adventures in getting golf off the ground in the land of Genghis Kahn.

Even in tough economic times one U.S. Air Force course renovation soared with careful planning.
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?
BASEBALL BATS AND BIO

As I write this, I’m sitting in my palatial office in the penthouse suite of GCI’s global headquarters looking at a baseball bat.

I love having a bat sitting prominently right next to my desk. It dramatically reduces employee whining. I’m thinking a TASER gun would be the ultimate deterrent, but it may be a wee bit over the top.

Anyway, the reason I have a baseball bat in my office is I recently attended an event hosted by our friends at Lebanon Turf that was held in Cooperstown, N.Y. Being no strangers to the business of fun public relations themes, the nice people at Lebanon gave attendees a baseball bat with our names and their company logo engraved on it.

The event put a spotlight on Lebanon’s non-traditional plant nutrition lines. Over the past few years, the company acquired both the Roots/Novozymes and Emerald Isle/CPR products and, I think, discovered just how much confusion there is in this market segment. The event was an attempt to help a bunch of us dumb media types learn what these kinds of products do and therefore be able to write about them better.

Now, getting a reporter to understand this kind of technical information is roughly equivalent to teaching Britney Spears to rewire the space shuttle, but they brought in my old fishing buddy Dr. Roch Gaussoin and several other really smart guys to try anyway. Here’s what I think I learned.

Nobody is really quite sure what to even call this category of products. Are they biostimulants? Are they foliars? Liquids? Soil supplements? Microbes or bacteria? Are they based on amino acids or are they made from seaweed? The answer, of course, is “all of the above.”

At least half of superintendents are using them in some fashion, ranging from the full ongoing program approach to greens-only applications to tossing a bit of something into a tank mix to prevent phytotoxicity. Nearly all use them in combination with a reduced granular program.

Of those superintendents using them, most use more than one in combination to get broad spectrum results. Creating a “witches brew” of various bio components is pretty common.

Those who use them as part of a program generally love them and keep using them as long as they see a positive impact...and they can afford them.

Their acceptance – and use – continues to grow steadily.

The last point seems to be the crux of the matter when it comes to these “supplemental plant nutrition products.” Over the past decade or so, companies like Lebanon, Floratine, Grigg Brothers, Growth Products, Nutramax and others have stepped up to independently prove their claims about better rooting, vigor, improved nitrogen efficiency and stress resistance. The suppliers who have legitimized their products have moved beyond the realm of snake oil to become accepted parts of maintenance programs at thousands of courses. Sure, there are still some turf professors and consultants who continue to question their value, but superintendents believe in research and, more importantly, their eyes and their soil probes. That’s where the rubber meets the road.

I’m hardly an agronomist, but it’s clear to me that while there are still many of you who are perfectly happy with your tried-and-true granular NPK programs, the demands of “fast and firm” and the resulting decreased reliance on nitrogen left a void that non-traditional bio fertilizers have filled nicely.

And, as communities and states heighten scrutiny of phosphorus and nitrogen loading, traditional options may also go the way of the ten-cent ballpark hotdog. What was seen as an alternative will become more of a primary turf nutrition source when legislators and regulators decide that it’s politically expedient to take tools away from us. Does anyone seriously think that’s not going to happen?

Baseball is strongly rooted in traditions started more than a century ago, but the game has changed and evolved for the better – except for the DH rule, which is just communist. Golf course maintenance is evolving, too, and it’s time we fully accept the fact that bionutrients are going to be a major-league part of our future. GCI
New Ecologic SG's organic Ecklonia maxima Kelp formula naturally increases root volume and root tips.

- Increases turf's natural ability to uptake moisture and nutrients
- Improves turf's natural resistance to the stresses of drought, nutrient deficiency and salinity
- Can reduce the amount of traditional fertilizer applied
- Saves time and money: No extra application steps necessary – in most cases SG can be co-applied with existing fertigation programs
More feedback to “Catharsis”

Editor’s Note: The following responses to Pat Jones’ column on his experiences as an alcoholic (“Catharsis” August 2010, page 4) have been excerpted and anonymous because they often included personal comments.

“I just read (“Catharsis”) and wanted to say how much I admire your courage to openly discuss your issue. I hope and pray your article helps others get on the road to recovery.”

“I just want to congratulate you on a brilliantly written piece, and in a larger sense, for realizing you had a problem and dealing with it. Many people never take that brave move and just continue to disintegrate in mind, body and spirit. As Jerry Lee Lewis once said, and I’m paraphrasing, ‘The devil keeps running through my door and I have to keep grabbing him by the scruff of the neck and running his ass back out.’”

“Thanks for sharing your story. My wife is now in the same place as you were. I pray for the same end of story with her.”

“I just finished reading your alcoholic diatribe in the August issue after digging it out from under the pile of trade mags I’ve been carefully stacking on the corner of my desk. I don’t mind saying that there was a tear in my eye as I finished reading your piece of catharsis. Kudos to you for having the guts to put that in print for all to see. I would agree that our industry has more than it’s fair share of ‘alcoholics’ who come to depend on a buzz to get them through the twists and turns of this highly stressful career path. Just as we would share what growth regulators work best on what turf at what time of year with each other, so also should we allow ourselves the vulnerability to lay out more personal issues and to seek help, love and support from our trusted peers. After all, who else can come closer to knowing and understanding within the length of a gnats eyelash what all we struggle with professionally than our very own peer-set? And who better to help make sense of the madness that is balancing life and work as a golf course superintendent?”

“I applaud your honesty and courage to bare all of this to your readers and sincerely hope that it will serve as a wake-up call to those who are only fooling themselves with even the slightest addiction to alcohol, or any
other drug. As you so eloquently put it… 'Life's too short and too beautiful to be viewed through the bottom of a bottle.'

"I wanted to drop you a note to congratulate you on your new found life style. I have a sister who has gone through a similar situation and has been in AA – and sober – for 13 years. Best of luck in taking it 'one day at a time.' I've been using that mantra a lot this summer."

"I just read your heart-emptying story from the land of light and sobriety. Bravo my friend... bravo. The best and most touching thing you have written to date."

"Thanks for 'wasting' several perfectly good trade-journal pages to tell us your story. Very good. Hope you reach your full potential."

Clarification

Stan Burton had no involvement in the origination of Wolf Run Golf Club (“He bleeds red, tartan & blue,” August 2010, page 14). All credit for the great vision that evolved into Wolf Run came from Dr. Jack Leer.

John Westermeier, CGCS
Twin Lakes Golf Club
Carmel, Ind.

Editor's Note: We followed up with Steven and you're correct Jack Leer was the founder and visionary of Wolf Run. Stan was one of the first pros and later put together an investor group and they took over the club.

CFO feedback

I really enjoyed the article about Gary Grigg (“CFO” July 2010, page 54). I have known Gary for many years, but I learned more in your article than I ever knew about him. He is a good and humble man who has been a great influence for the golf industry. Many thanks to Gary for his contributions.

Dale Walters, CGCS
Moorings Country Club
Naples, Fla.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
E-mail us at gci@gie.net with your thoughts and opinions.

Superintendents are using Green Lawnger® turf colorant with ColorLock™ technology, replacing expensive overseeding programs while extending play on their course, and promoting better turf growth the following season. Extended play and stronger turf next spring equals added revenue. Trust your course to the proven leader in turf colorant.

Green Lawnger®

Green Lawnger® is a registered trademark and ColorLock™ is a trademark of Becker Underwood, Inc., Ames, IA.

800-232-5907 www.beckerunderwood.com 801 DAYTON AVE., AMES, IA 50010

www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #15
Strange invaders

Spend any amount of time on a golf course and you're bound to see some odd stuff.

However, our intrepid field agents are reporting back that real strange invaders are being reported on golf courses here and abroad.

Take, for example, reports that wild hogs ripped up a large chunk of the 14th green at Sebastian Municipal Golf Course in Sebastian, Fla.

Sunshine State wildlife experts report wild hogs, which can weigh as much as 750 pounds, are running roughshod in rural Florida areas, suburbs and even a few cities, digging up cemeteries, gardens and now golf courses.

That ain't all folks. There were also reports of PIRATES!

That's right: Pirates. Apparently the staff at Royal North Devon Golf Club — touted as England's oldest golf course — recently found two passed-out pirates asleep in the back of a Land Rover that had run aground in a sand trap. How does that pirate tune go? "Yo, ho, ho and a (empty) bottle of rum?"

We wonder if, prior to their removal, the pirates and their vehicle constituted as a natural hazard?

Arrrrrr, matey.

Finally, GCI field agents report Dellwood Hills Golf Club Superintendent Eric H. Peterson has been plagued by some Pepe Le Pew's tearing up his course.

According to Peterson, the furry black and white interlopers are sneaking onto his course at night and tearing up the turf to get at succulent Japanese beetle larvae. While the beetle problem is easy to treat, Peterson says the skunk situation, errr, is more of a stinker and will have to be dealt with more delicately.

So we asked Peterson, which invader would he rather have to deal with — skunks, wild hogs or pirates?

A good sport, Peterson responded: "At least you can serve the hog to your membership... what a great way to cut expenses."

SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Dr. Leah Brilman, dressed as host Jamie Hyneman of the television show MythBusters, debunked popular myths often heard by turf managers when they are considering the right seed for their project.

According to GCI agents, Brilman surprised even her co-workers when she gave her MythBusters presentation at Seed Research of Oregon's 2010 Seed Technology Camp.

Spirits and cameras were raised by Brilman's humorous impersonation.