W e’ve been covering myriad irrigation topics since day one. I recently spent some time scouring the irrigation stories in the Golfdom archives the past several years for things superintendents and other irrigation experts had to say about the state of golf course irrigation — from their courses’ use of water to the industry’s use of water. Their statements make you think about the present and future of golf course irrigation.

“I’m very proud of the fact this golf course has used nothing but reused water since it was built, and I think it’s our obligation to do that.” — Wayne Kappauf, certified superintendent of the Island Country Club on Marco Island, Fla., on irrigation and responsibility.

“I don’t care if you’re in New York, Chicago or Washington D.C., all business is going to go effluent at some point.” — Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy at Desert Mountain, a golf community with six Jack Nicklaus-designed tracks in Scottsdale, Ariz., on the future of effluent water use.

“In the end, the biggest trick is to understand the equipment you have and make it work. What better way to intimately know your golf course than go out and touch every sprinkler head and measure the spacing between every head.” — Mark Clark, certified superintendent of Troon Golf & Country Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., on knowing your stuff.

“Everybody’s goal is to minimize the waste of water. I don’t think we can eliminate the waste. Until we invent sprinklers that aren’t circular, there’s always going to be a certain amount of unevenness in the overlap patterns. We always strive for the best uniformity, but nobody has ever gotten there, and I don’t think anybody ever will. But we can get closer and closer as we get better with the products and better with the application of the products.” — Jim Barrett, a Roseland, N.J.-based irrigation consultant and president of James Barrett Associates, on improving technology.

“Every day is different, and it’s all based on the look of the course, the feel of the course and the feeling in my gut.” — John Gurke, certified superintendent of Aurora (Ill.) Country Club, discussing his strategy for irrigation and disease control.

“I can say for a fact that I’m using less water because I have much more control over what I’m doing than I did in the past. I was putting out 250,000 gallons a day before. With my new irrigation system, I’m putting out more like 160,000 gallons.” — Rick Slattery, superintendent of Locust Hill Golf Club in Rochester, N.Y., on the wonders of new technology.

“There are components throughout an irrigation system where you have the option to purchase cheaper parts. Invariably, they don’t last, and you end up spending a lot on labor to replace them.” — Curt Leming, superintendent of Glendale Lakes Golf Course in Geneva, Ill., on getting what you pay for.

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