1 **Call of the wild** We spotted this primate during a visit to the Control Solutions Inc./Quali-Pro headquarters in Pasadena, Texas. This Namibian baboon was taken by CSI president Mark Boyd in 1991. The CSI lobby contains more than 80 trophy mounts, from antelope to wildebeest.

2 **Pass the mic** Merion GC superintendent Arron McCurdy reports the afternoon assignments to the crew during the 2013 U.S. Open.

3 **The weight room is that way** Tom Marzolf, senior design associate at Fazio Golf Course Designers, points out some landmarks at Merion to a couple of golf fans. The Hogan plaque, where Ben Hogan hit his 1-iron shot in 1950, was a few paces away.

4 **Brilliant minds think alike** Matt Shaffer, director of GC operations at Merion, brainstorms with friend John Zimmers, superintendent at Oakmont (Pa.) CC. The Open heads to Zimmers’ course in 2016.

5 **Preferred reading** We were happy to see copies of Golfdom circulating around the Merion maintenance facility. (OK, honestly, we put them there ourselves.)

6 **The champ is not here** Dumb luck meant Golfdom EIC Seth Jones got to catch a ride with the U.S. Open trophy. Jones doesn’t deserve to hoist a junior high golf trophy, let alone this beauty.

7 **Latshaw’s lads** Retired superintendent Paul Latshaw Sr. (right) takes time for a quick photo with Zimmers, one of his many students in the industry.

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**Nerves of steel** Despite soggy conditions to start the week, the crew at Merion was determined to get the job done, and with a smile.

**Green day** A train of John Deere fairway mowers rolls in formation on the front nine at Merion.

**What I did for summer vacation** Somehow we convinced a high school guidance counselor to let Sawyer Opalich (right, with *Golfdom* publisher Pat Roberts) come work for us for a few weeks. Sawyer’s report back included a lot of “golf course site visits.” Nice work (and swing), Sawyer!

**Eye on the prize** Robert Smith, equipment technician at Merion, keeps a close eye on clippings as work is being done at the U.S. Open. For a story on Smith, and how he helped create a mower, see ‘Mower Rebirth’ on page 10.

**Don’t you call this a regular mag** We’re just going to guess that we’re the only turf mag with a shot of rapper/actor L.L. Cool J in it this month. A recent *Golfdom* team building event in Cleveland included 18 holes of golf followed by an L.L./Public Enemy/Ice Cube/De La Soul concert. If this issue has a funky beat, now you know why.

**Like white on rice** Golf cups get painted at Standard Golf in Cedar Falls, Iowa. We were treated to a tour of the facility recently, and came out with a new appreciation of the work that goes into the accessories we take for granted on the course every day.

**Does it all** We asked Steve Tyler, national sales manager for Standard Golf and a former superintendent, to describe his job. The self-proclaimed “Old Dog” pretty much does it all, we’ve decided.