

Golfdom

08.17

PASSING THE TORCH

With only a handful of superintendents in its 112-year history, Topeka Country Club makes another switch... gradually.

Long-time Superintendent Leo Pellant (left) with new TCC Superintendent Kent Morgison.

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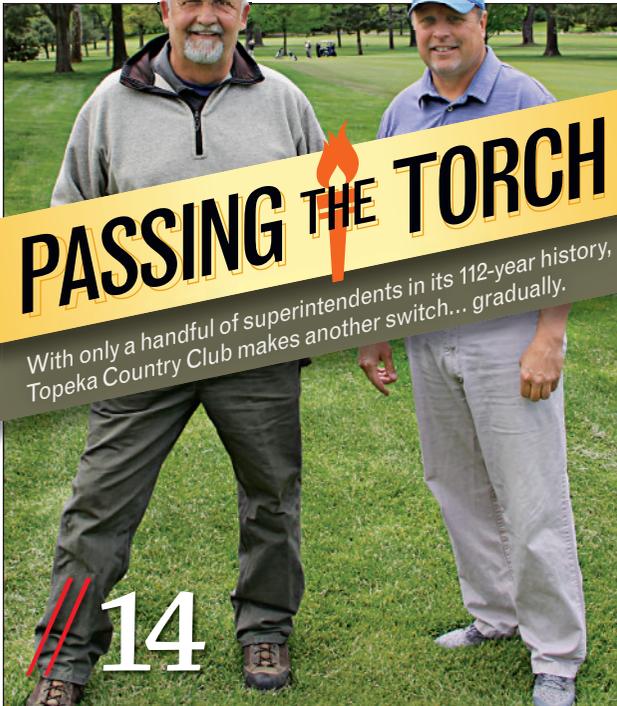


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PASSING THE TORCH

With only a handful of superintendents in its 112-year history, Topeka Country Club makes another switch... gradually.

// 14



// 39

LABOR PAINS PART 3 OF A 3-PART SERIES

Digging deep for labor solutions

Any of this story's five ideas could be the difference between a skeleton crew and a successful crew.

COLUMNS

- // 6 Keeping up with The Jones—Seth Jones
- // 13 Admiral's Cove—Jared Nemitz
- // 52 The Turf Doc—Karl Danneberger
- // 53 Clark Talks Turf—Clark Throssell

DEPARTMENTS

- // 8 Starter
- // 10 Golfdom Gallery
- // 12 My Second Office
- // 54 The Shop
- // 56 The 19th Hole

SUPER SCIENCE

- // 47 How low can ultradwarf bermudagrasses go?
- // 48 One shot to succeed for snow mold control

PLANT HEALTH UPDATE

- // PH1 U.S. Open recap, Stronger sod & BASF Rejuvenation project
(begins after page 18)



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“Kent had no nickname... I was a little scared of him. For that crew, if Lumpy was the friendly superintendent, Kent was the intimidating one.”

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

Nice guys get nicknames

Full disclosure: Back in the early 2000s, one of the guys on the front cover used to boss me around. ¶ “Oh, so you’re writing about your friends now, Seth?” Well, yes and no. I’ve always written about my friends. (In every issue there’s “The 19th Hole,” after all.) But in this case, new Topeka CC Superintendent Kent Morgison and I had fallen out of touch until journalistic fate brought us back together.

Honestly, the quality of work I produced for Kent back in the early 2000s prevented us from being really friendly.

I did course set-up and cut greens for Kent about 15 years ago, when I was a young guy working for GCSAA, still “learning my beat” and working weekends at what was then the 36-hole Alvamar Golf Club in Lawrence, Kan. Dick Stuntz, CGCS, well known in the industry, hired me. He then turned me loose to Morgison and Darin “Lumpy” Pearson (now the superintendent at Eagle Bend GC in Lawrence; Lumpy was featured in the December 2015 “19th Hole”).

Lumpy was fun loving and laid back. His nickname is “Lumpy” — of course he’s laid back. And Kent... well, Kent had no nickname that I knew of. I was a little scared of him. For that crew, if Lumpy was the friendly superintendent, Kent was the intimidating one. If I messed up and cut into a collar, I was hopeful it was Lumpy I’d see back at the shop and not Kent, because Kent would be *pissed*.

Unfortunately, I would typically catch Kent.

So fast forward 15 years to this spring. Regional magazine publisher Sunflower Publishing reaches out to me every now and then to see

if I’m interested in writing something for them (they publish *Kansas Magazine* and *Kansas Outdoors*, but I was most excited when they asked me to write a story for *Kansas Basketball* magazine last summer — *Rock Chalk!*) On this occasion, they wanted a cover story on Topeka CC for their publication *Topeka Magazine*. I thought, hey, sounds like fun, and who knows — maybe there’s a *Golfdom* story out there too.

My *Topeka Magazine* story was mostly about the rich history of the course and the money they’re investing in the club to make it appealing to the younger generation

(think pools and sports bars.) The story I found for *Golfdom* was more along the lines of a smooth transition from one superintendent to the next... something I just don’t hear about too often. I won’t give any details here — please turn to page 14 for the story — but it seemed like a good one to sandwich around the last (and best?) part of our series on labor, our 2017 U.S. Open recap, Dr. Koch’s annual snow mold research update and the other usual goodness you’ve come to expect from the team here at *Golfdom*.

I don’t know that I had seen Kent other than the occasional wave when I was out playing Alvamar in the last 15 years. I did call him to invite him to one of the first *Golfdom* Summits, and that’s when I learned he coaches high school basketball (I’m guessing Bobby Knight is his hero) and travel is impossible for him in the winter months when the team is active. We caught up briefly, and that was it.

It was great to finally really catch up with Morgison. He brought along Topeka CC head pro Cory Proehl, and the three of us teed it up. Morgison is still a stick. Is he still intimidating? Well, I still politely called him by his first name.

At least he’s lightened up enough that he waited until the third hole to mention to Cory how lousy I was at mowing greens.

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Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// PUBLIC TO PRIVATE



Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio, is one of the more than 200 clubs that will soon be owned by Apollo Global Management after purchasing ClubCorp for \$1.1 billion.

CLUBCORP SOLD TO PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM FOR \$1.1 BILLION

\$\$\$ Dallas-based ClubCorp, owner and operator of more than 200 golf, business and sports clubs from 26 states and two countries, recently agreed to be acquired for approximately \$1.1 billion by private investment firm Apollo Global Management, headquartered in New York.

In the all-stock deal, shareholders of ClubCorp, founded in 1957, will receive \$17.12 per share in cash, about a 30.7 percent bump over ClubCorp's closing stock price on July 7.

USA Today reports that ClubCorp has been looking to sell the company for months. In October, ClubCorp said it would miss its 2016 revenue and earnings targets, driving investors to dump shares. The stock fell about 2 percent in the last 12 months and is down 7 percent so far in 2017.

The transaction is subject to cus-

tomary closing conditions, including approval by ClubCorp shareholders, and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of this year. Upon completion of the transaction, ClubCorp will be a privately held company, and ClubCorp's common shares will no longer be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, according to a press release.

The ClubCorp Board of Directors also declared a one-time quarterly dividend of \$0.13 per share of common stock. The dividend is expected to be paid on July 28, 2017, to shareholders of record at the close of business on July 21, 2017, according to the company.

The company lists Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, Calif.; The Woodlands (Texas) Country Club; and Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, as its marquee country clubs.

// PROMOTING SYNERGY

TROON SELECTS NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Troon, headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz., recently named Jim Richerson as senior vice president of business development. In his new role, Richerson will join the team responsible for growing Troon's portfolio of managed facilities throughout the company's related brands, including: Troon Golf, Honours Golf, Troon Privé and Troon International, according to the company.

Richerson currently serves as the secretary of the PGA of America. Prior to joining Troon, Richerson served as Kohler Co.'s general manager and director of golf.



Jim Richerson

"Jim is a seasoned executive, and his mutual paths as future PGA of America president and senior vice president at Troon are both synergistic and strategic," says Dana Garmany, Troon's chairman and chief executive officer, in a press release.

// SPRAYING THE GOOD NEWS

RAIN BIRD NAMES NEW DISTRICT SALES MANAGER

Rain Bird has selected Andy Burns as its new district sales manager for the Carolinas and Georgia sales territories.

Burns' responsibilities will include working with Rain Bird Golf's distribution network in that region to further develop and enhance the company's current presence. Rain Bird Golf added this new district sales manager position to increase distributor support and facilitate stronger partnerships with golf facilities.

Before joining Rain Bird Golf, Burns was a territory sales manager focused on golf irrigation sales and project management in South Carolina and Georgia.

"(Burns has) demonstrated ability to provide excellent sales, and customer service support in the golf irrigation market makes him an ideal person for this job," said Scott Pace, Eastern regional manager for Rain Bird Golf, in a press release.

// "THE GREAT GRUNT"

John Deere Classic volunteer passes away during tournament prep

➔ A longtime volunteer at the John Deere Classic died July 7 as the result of an accident at TPC Deere Run, Silvis, Ill. Charles "Chuck" Austin, 68, of Rock Island, Ill., died of injuries suffered in an accident at the golf course while working to prepare the tournament site, according to tournament officials.

Tournament Director Clair Peterson said in a statement to the press, "Chuck was a very special member of our volunteer force. On behalf of Chuck's 1,750 fellow volunteers, title sponsor John Deere, the tournament staff, the players, and the PGA Tour, I want to express our deepest sympathies to Chuck's wife, Ann, and all of his loved ones."

The *Quad-City Times* interviewed Rock Island County Coroner Brian Gustafson, who worked with the Silvis Police Department on the investigation into the accident, and according to the report, Austin was driving a four-wheeler when the accident occurred.

"It is our belief that he was under the impression that the vehicle was in reverse when in fact it was in forward or drive," Gustafson told the *Quad-City Times*.

This was Austin's 27th year volunteering for the tournament, and he spent many of those as a part of the operations group that referred to themselves as the "grunt group." He also taught math for 31 years at Rock Island High School.

// GOING TWICE... SOLD!

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CLUBS SELL FOR NEARLY \$30,000

\$\$ President Donald Trump's personal golf irons recently hit the auction block and sold for a reported \$29,798, according to Boston-based RR Auction.

The personally owned and used full set of TaylorMade RAC TP Forged Irons, 3-PW with the hosel of each clubhead engraved "D. Trump," were given to his personal caddie, Andrew Lombardo, at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J.

From 2004 to 2008, Lombardo served as assistant caddie master and director of outdoor operations at Bedminster, caddying for Trump more than 100 times.

In related President Trump golf news, footage of the Prez driving across a green at Trump National Bedminster recently went viral. While many golfers cringed at the breach of golf etiquette, superintendents quietly acknowledged the truth: that's just members being members.



PHOTO COURTESY RR AUCTION

// PAY IT FORWARD

GEORGIA GCSA AWARDS NINE 2017 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association (Georgia GCSA) recently awarded nine students with its 2017 Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship offers educational aid to children and grandchildren of Georgia GCSA members. The awards are funded by the Georgia GCSA.

Applications were reviewed independently by the Georgia GCSA scholarship committee. Criteria for selection included: academic achievement, extracurricular and community involvement, leadership and outside employment, according to a press release.

This year's recipients are:

Karli Durden – Daughter of Joe Durden, Savannah Lakes Golf Village, McCormick, S.C.

Joshua Abrams – Son of Mark Abrams, Wolf Creek Golf Club, Atlanta, Ga.

Austin Geter – Son of Jimmy Geter, CGCS, AA Life

Hannah Kepple – Daughter of Ralph Kepple, CGCS, East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta

Morgan Kepple – Daughter of Ralph Kepple, CGCS, East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta

Lydia Connally – Daughter of Steve Connally, CGCS, Fox Creek/Legacy Golf Links, Alpharetta, Ga.

Megan McCord – Granddaughter of Ron Sinnock, AA Life

Ashley Wilder – Daughter of Gary Wilder, Club Corp, LaGrange, Ga.

Tabitha Williams – Daughter of Fred Williams, Apple Mountain Golf Club, Clarksville, Ga.



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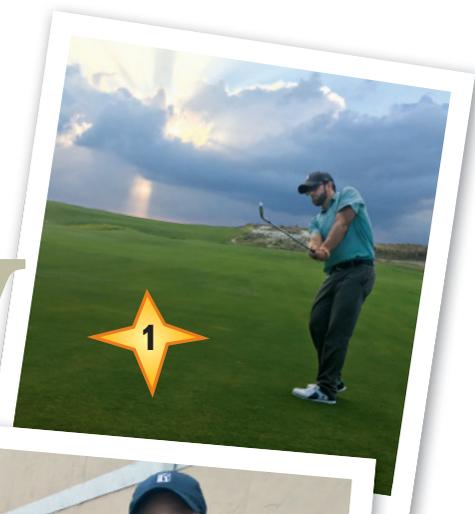
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Golfdom Gallery



1 Take the bump and run Kyle Harris, superintendent of the Blue Course at Streamsong (Fla.) Resort, knows all the grooves at his course, as demonstrated by a properly played bump and run after his playing partners both missed the green.



2 Three aces of agronomy PGA Tour Agronomists Thomas Bastis, CGCS, (left) and Mike Crawford, CGCS (right) with Anthony Williams, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance and landscaping at Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas, during the 2017 AT&T Byron Nelson. That's a lot of turf expertise in one photo.

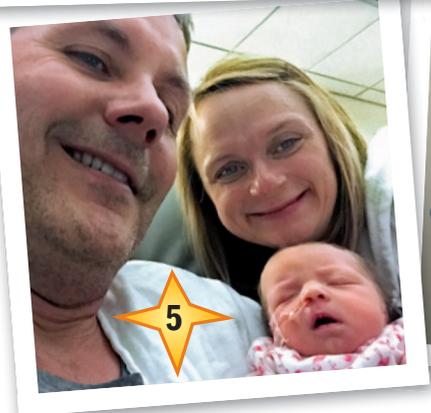
3 Turf school Chip Lewison, CGCS at Saddlebrook Resort (center, wearing hat) in Wesley Chapel, Fla., gives a group of journalists a crash course on Florida greens during the recent Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association meeting. With so many turf journalists present, Lewison was politically correct during his speech, but we know the truth... *Golfdom* is his favorite turf pub.



4 Yellow nutsedge beware! Luqi Li, Ph.D. candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Clark Throssell, Ph.D., *Golfdom* research editor; and Roch Gaussoin, Ph.D., turfgrass scientist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, observe Li's research on yellow nutsedge ecology during the recent Turf Field Day at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



5/6 Babies on board The *Golfdom* family grew by two recently as Bill and Melissa Roddy (photo 5) welcomed Sarah Jane and Breanna Frierson and Dave Given (photo 6) welcomed Grey within a few days of each other. That's longtime dad and *LP Gas* publisher Brian Kanaba nervously holding baby Grey. Nice form, BK!



PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES (1-2, 6); MARISA PALMIERI (3); BILL RODDY (4)

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My Second Office

BECAUSE THE COURSE IS YOUR FIRST

About our host

This month, **BRANDON SCHINDELE** graciously invited us into his (second) office at Edina (Minn.) Country Club. Schindele started his career at Edina CC as an intern in 1998 and accepted the second assistant role soon after, while still a student at the University of Minnesota. After some change in leadership in 2000, he found himself as first assistant. He was promoted to his current position as superintendent near the end of the club's 2010 complete course renovation.

After spending more than half of his life at Edina CC, Schindele admits that he likes to think he knows his course, but even after almost 20 years, it holds some surprises for him.

"I have a bunch of well drillers out here exploring an old abandoned well that we have to decide to use it or fill it up properly. I had no idea that it was here until we started a construction project last year," says Schindele. "A much as I like to think I know it, there's always something that will surprise you."



"At the 2016 Ryder Cup I took Stimpmeter readings, and the crowds were so full we had to walk all 18 holes."

1 VIP PASSES I've been lucky enough to volunteer at a couple tournaments, and I decided to throw a nail up on the wall to hang my passes. So, there's passes from the 2002 Solheim Cup, the 2005 Walker Cup, the old Nissan Open in 2003 and 2004 at Riviera, and of course one from last year's Ryder Cup.

2 ORNAMENTAL DECORATION A staff member found a bunch of Edina CC-logoed balls, and then

he made Christmas ornaments for the staff members. I picked one up but it never made its way to the Christmas tree.

3 FIGHTING SIOUX (HAWKS) OVER GOPHERS That's my degree from the University of Minnesota. I actually transferred from the University of North Dakota so I could study turfgrass. I'm a big Fighting Sioux hockey fan. People ask me who I root for, and after spending two years at North

Dakota, it's hard to drop that allegiance. They are officially the Fighting Hawks now, but they'll always be the Sioux to me.

4 A LEHMAN'S GIFT Tom Lehman redesigned the course during the 2010 renovation, and he used that shovel at the ceremonial groundbreaking. The golf course closed in May 2010 and opened in July 2011. Tom and his team were thoroughly involved during the 13 months of course closure.

5 SNACK SHACK It's my predecessors' fridge, and probably 15 years old, but it still runs. Now it's filled with juice and snacks for my kids (twin 4 ½-year-old boys Colton and Gage and 2 ½-year-old daughter Harper) whenever they visit dad at work.

BY GRANT B. GANNON // PHOTO COURTESY OF BASF
Proud of your second office? Email us a photo of you in it to sjones@northcoastmedia.net, and we may feature you and your office in an upcoming issue of *Golfdom*.



“The idea of acknowledging and disagreeing is giving way to demonstrative political discourse, the kind seen on cable news every night.”

JARED NEMITZ, *superintendent, The Peninsula Club, Cornelius, N.C.*

Taking on social media with respect

I enjoy interacting on social media about all things turfgrass. I'm a believer in the benefits of social media to communicate, advance careers, interact professionally and learn new tips. Twitter is especially fun around the majors, when social media users like Keith Wood (Quail Hollow Club) or Chris Tritabaugh (Hazeltine National Golf Club) give us a behind-the-scenes look into the operation.

Being a part of various turf groups on Facebook and following tweeters allows access to information and interactions not otherwise available. However, the last few years has seen a startling trend of turf professionals degrading, mocking and attacking each other, and a general lack of decency. Bashing ideas that may be outside the box or accusing someone of ignorance has become all too commonplace.

The idea of acknowledging and disagreeing is giving way to demonstrative political discourse, the kind seen on cable news every night. How is it that a conversation on golf attire or mowing heights can quickly deteriorate into a full-throated quarrel over “liberal tears” or “fascist Republicans?” It is an accepted social

norm to steer clear of politics and religion at work. But on social media, that rule seems to be more of a suggestion.

So, I ask this simple question: Where has the civility gone? Trolls have been a part of online interaction since the creation of social media, where the basic rules of decency are suspended and negativity thrives. I thought, possibly naively, that our profession was above it. If the game of golf is built on foundations of integrity, responsibility, courtesy and respect, shouldn't the caretakers of the game exhibit the same values? From some of the interactions observed lately, this is not the case.

The goal of social media should be to invite participation, welcome new ideas and

make yourself and others better. One doesn't have to agree with everyone's opinions, practices or beliefs to get along with them. Acknowledgement of ones' right to those opinions is all that should be required.

Words hurt and have consequences whether you like it or not. What you say and how you say it to others says volumes about who you are as a person. You may never know what the effect of a Twitter blast, post or thread can be. The negative impact of bad behavior on social media can be long lasting.

Every article on the planet implores social media users to watch what and how they post something. More than 60 percent of employers use social media to research job

candidates. Spare me the, “I am not at work,” or, “it's my personal time” rebuttals. Social media is a public forum. Always has been and always will be. The rules haven't changed. Don't post something that could negatively impact relationships or current and future employment.

We all are in this profession together, with common goals. We want to be successful and provide to our clients a good product. We are a tight-knit group of professionals who help each other when needed. This job is hard enough without the added stress of getting attacked by colleagues. If you see a post and your first reaction is to eviscerate or mock, stop. Take a second and ask yourself if what you are about to type is going to benefit or hurt someone.

Even if the rest of the internet is bent on tearing people down, we should concentrate on building each other up. Following basic etiquette would create large advances in raising the level of decorum on social media. For example:

- 1) Be positive and solutions oriented
- 2) Engage in civil discourse
- 3) Be respectful and nice
- 4) Think before you post and think twice before engaging in something negative

If you don't have anything nice to say, sometimes it's best to not to say anything at all.

Jared Nemitz is superintendent at The Peninsula Club, Cornelius, N.C. He can be reached at jared.nemitz@thepeninsulaclub.com or followed at [@jarednemitz](https://twitter.com/jarednemitz).



Former Superintendent Leo Pellant (left) with Topeka CC's new superintendent, Kent Morgison. Though he's no longer in charge, Pellant still clearly cares about the course. "Leo came to me and said he wanted to take a few weeks off in the summer. I said sure, what are you thinking? He says he wants to work through the Divot Derby (member/guest) to help out," Morgison says. "It shows you how much he loves this place, that he still cares enough to help us out during our busiest time."

PASSING THE TORCH

With only a handful of superintendents in its 112-year history, Topeka Country Club makes another switch... gradually.

BY SETH JONES

For the first time since 1979, Leo Pellant was able to take some time off during the month of July.



Pellant started working on the grounds crew at the Topeka (Kan.) Country Club in '79. In 1997, he was named the superintendent. In 2015, he decided not that it was time to retire, but time to start looking for his replacement. He wanted the course to find its next superintendent — only its third superintendent in the last 65 years.

"I didn't want to completely retire, but I wanted to do more of this," Pellant says, gesturing to a rough mower, "and less of the meetings."

The course did a search and, with Pellant's approval, hired Kent Morgison from nearby Perry, Kan. Morgison was told early on that this would be a unique working situation: The person he was replacing wasn't leaving, he was going to be a member of the crew.

Valuable knowledge

"Some of my peers thought it'd be an awkward situation, but I've never sensed that at all," says Morgison, who previously was superintendent at Alvamar CC in nearby Lawrence, Kan. "He's been fully supportive of any changes I've made. I've not made any drastic changes; there's no reason to when things were already going so well."

Morgison and Pellant knew each other, but only from professional networking events such as GCSAA chapter meetings. Still, Morgison believed their personalities would mesh well.

"(Pellant) probably loves this place more than anyone," Morgison says. "I look at that as an asset. Who better to rely on than someone who has been here for 30 years?"

Clay Meininger, president and COO of Topeka CC, says he was at first concerned with how it would work with Pellant on the crew working for Morgison, but that his concerns were quickly allayed.

"Leo and I discussed it, then Kent and I discussed it. Leo's knowledge here is so valuable. After 36 years, he knows every nook and cranny," Meininger says. "Leo's assumed the role of another person on the crew, and he's been supportive of Kent. We're very fortunate all of his knowledge didn't just walk out the door."

Morgison always respected Pellant and the work he did at Topeka CC. Morgison recalls playing the course as a kid, and being in awe of the place.

"I grew up in the area, only 20 minutes from

Continued on page 16

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"It was interesting to see Leo's methods versus Kent's," says PGA Professional Cory Proehl. "Kent has dried out the property more... obviously times have changed. But I like to joke, it's like Star Wars here. We've got Yoda training Luke. It's cheesy, but that's what's happening with Leo and Kent."

Continued from page 15

here. When I was 10 years old, I remember playing Alvamar, and I thought it was a mecca of golf," Morgison says. "As I got older, I felt the same way about playing here. It felt special when you got into this place. I didn't know that it has been around since 1905, but I knew it was special."

Morgison was bitten hard by the golf bug at a young age. By 16 he was working at Lake Perry CC in Ozawkie, Kan. He played on the golf team at Dodge City (Kan.) Junior College. He returned to Lake Perry for four years before going to 36-hole Alvamar CC in Lawrence (now known as the Jayhawk Club, and now 27 holes.)

"I've always loved golf, and I always wanted to be involved in the game in any way I could," Morgison says. "When I was young and single at Lake Perry, I'd work as the superintendent in the morning, the pro in the afternoon and the bartender at night. I'd spend the entire day at the course."

This being the third facility he's worked for, he's hopeful to have the same success as the person he's replacing. Pellant spent 18 years there on the crew, 18 years as the superintendent and is now in his second season of being on the crew again.

"Everyone has been here so long. It's just a nice club to work for," Morgison says. "There's pressure every day, but not overwhelming pressure like you get at some high-end country clubs,

Continued on page 18

PHOTO BY: SETH JONES

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Continued from page 16
 though we are a high-end country club.”

Attention to detail

Topeka CC Golf Professional Cory Proehl, like Morgison, is one of the few new people at the course. He started three years ago, when it was still Pellant in charge of the grounds. He says Morgison has made a few subtle changes since taking over, like keeping greens surrounds shorter.

He says Morgison knows how to keep the course maintained with a golfer’s perspective in mind.

“To have a superintendent here who is also a player — Kent is below a 10 handicap — is fantastic,” Proehl says. “He’s a master at making the course pristine because he understands the game. I’ve (worked) at four different clubs, and this is my first time experiencing that. To me, that’s a match made in heaven.”

Meininger says the course always has been known for small, fast greens. Under Morgison, Meininger says, the greens have been taken to “another extreme.”

“Our greens have remained firm and dry all summer,” Meininger says. “Kent’s done a fantastic job... it’s all in his attention to detail.”



Steve Sidebottom, another longtime Topeka CC employee, maintains the course greenhouse. “Steve comes in here seven days a week to keep this going strong,” Morgison says.

It might also be his long memory. Topeka CC recently hosted a high school golf tournament, and Morgison admits it’s hosting those events that are his favorite part of the job. It takes him back to those days when he was a young golfer, amazed at the conditions of the course, courtesy of the man who now works on his crew.

“For those high school kids — maybe it’s because I played high school and college golf — I know that could be the biggest event of the year for these kids,” Morgison says. “I try to treat all the events like they’re the biggest event of the year. Who wouldn’t want to make their facility look as good as possible?” ©

PHOTO BY: SETH JONES

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INSIDE

- A WORD FROM THE SPONSOR PH3
- ERIN HILLS EARNS RESPECT PH4
- REJUVENATING CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS PH10
- BOOSTING PLANT HEALTH ON BABY GREENS PH17

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BASF: Partnering to create 'championship conditions,' one course at a time



BY JEFF VANNOY

At BASF, we talk a lot about what it takes to create “championship conditions” on a golf course. Preventing disease, providing extended control, and nourishing strong, healthy plants that bounce back quickly is part of the equation. But the other key ingredient is the vision and drive of superintendents and their teams to make their courses championship ready.

I've been lucky to witness this winning combination at multiple courses hosting major events this year. BASF is partnering with superintendents and their maintenance teams to prescribe a spray program leading up to these major events. Working with Zach Reineking at Erin Hills before the U.S. Open (the greens got rave reviews!), Keith Wood at Quail Hollow before the PGA Championship, and Greg James, who is hosting the Presidents Cup at Liberty National, is inspiring stuff.

In each case, the superintendent and BASF worked together to prevent disease and ensure the best possible playing conditions. Products like **Lexicon® Intrinsic®** brand fungicide, a foundational product for greens, and **Honor® Intrinsic** brand fungicide, for fairways, tees and bunker faces, are the products supers turn to when the stakes are high.

Another enlightening opportunity to learn from supers is taking place this playing season at five courses with very different back stories. BASF has partnered with these courses on the “Championship Rejuvenation” program, where each course is comparing BASF turf prevention and treatment products with products the courses previously used. Those superintendents are:

- Josh Pope, The Greenbrier in West Virginia
- Mike Golden, Sterling Farms Golf Course in Connecticut

- Dan Marco, Ruth Lake Country Club in Illinois
- Brandon Schindele, Edina Country Club in Minnesota
- Chris Ortmeier, Champions Golf Club in Texas.

In one case, the course is in complete turnaround mode. In two other cases, 2016 flooding wreaked havoc, creating urgency around returning the courses to top form. All five courses are mid-way through the season and are reporting excellent prevention and extended coverage, helping them maximize their budgets and minimize the resources spent on treatment.

On another note, I am pleased to share that the EPA has granted BASF a fourth labeled application of Lexicon® Intrinsic® brand fungicide. This allows superintendents even more flexibility and an even greater ability to protect greens. You'll be hearing more about this during our upcoming Fall EOP season.

Bit by bit, one step at a time, BASF is working to make superintendents' lives easier – bringing every course we work with one step closer to championship conditions. We listen, we challenge the norms, and we talk to supers every day to find better ways to do things. That's our journey. Let's take it together.

We look forward to working with you in the 2018 season and beyond.

Jeff Vannoy is Senior Product Manager, BASF Turf Products



Erin Hills earns respect

THE FIRST U.S. OPEN IN WISCONSIN BRAVES SEVERE WEATHER AND EXTREME HEAT TO PROVIDE THE ULTIMATE TEST OF GOLF.

BY SETH JONES AND GRANT B. GANNON

There wasn't much drama on Sunday at Erin Hills when it came to who would hoist the 2017 U.S. Open trophy. Brooks Koepka overpowered the course and went birdie-birdie-birdie on holes 14, 15 and 16 to leave the field gasping and grab the tournament by the throat.

But the first U.S. Open to be played in the state of Wisconsin did have some drama when it came to the golf course itself. Wild weather, an angry

Tour pro and mid-week adjustments kept the course, its conditions and its crew in the spotlight right up until the players teed off on Thursday.

Despite the drama, the course and its crew came through impeccably,

earning rave reviews from both players and pundits. The 2017 U.S. Open at Erin Hills in Erin, Wis., will be a tournament long remembered by the crew, the players and the 26.5 million television viewers who tuned in around the world.

Na problem

The tall fescue rough at Erin Hills was talked about early and often, both by talking heads on TV, then the players. Most notable was PGA Tour player Kevin Na, who posted a video on Instagram blasting the tall rough as "almost unplayable." The video was viewed more than 70,000 times and created a mild uproar from golfers and golf fans.

On Monday night, high winds and heavy rain blew through the course, knocking down areas of the rough. Upon orders of USGA CEO Mike Davis, and under the direction of USGA Director of Championship Agronomy Darin Bevard, two areas of rough (on No. 4 and No. 14) quickly were mowed down by a crew of two dozen

Erin Hills maintenance workers. Cameras ascended on the work and conclusions were jumped to. Many accused the USGA of overreacting to Na's comments.

But the USGA stood firm in its pronouncement that the mowing was done in order to fix damaged areas, not because of any golfer's Instagram video.

"It's for playability. We're cutting down areas that were knocked down by the rain," Bevard told *Golfdom*. "It would be completely unplayable — that's not our goal."

In the weeks following the U.S. Open, Bevard reflected on the rough being mowed, and noted it was something that Erin Hills Superintendent Zach Reineking predicted would need to happen.

"I'll be honest, I don't think there were any curve balls (at the 2017 U.S. Open)," Bevard said. "Even the little bit of cutting the fescue when it was all matted and laid down — Zach predicted that would happen. We were prepared to evaluate it on Tuesday morning, react and do what we needed to do."



Though he missed the cut, Rory McIlroy was quick to defend the tall fescue at Erin Hills, saying if players couldn't handle it they should "go home."

Bevard went on to heap praise upon Reineking and his crew at Erin Hills.

"Strictly for course set-up, I'd give them an A+," Bevard said when asked how he'd grade the crew. "The one thing I told Zach, organizationally, he and his team were as good as any team we've worked with. In terms of sequencing and getting guys going in the morning, they really had things dialed in and organized, which makes

our jobs easy. My parting thought to them was simply, 'Thank you,' because they made us look good on the USGA side, when things go that smoothly on a daily basis."

Bevard had only one complaint, and it concerned the one thing no one can control: the weather. He wished it would have been drier and windier. He laughed, and said that everywhere

Continued on page PH6



Jim Furyk gives a few pointers to his son, Tanner Furyk, during a practice round.



An area of tall rough on No. 14 gets a quick clip.

Continued from page PH5

he went, he seemed to have a target on his back for bad weather — it was pouring rain on him at the U.S. Women’s Open at Trump National Bedminster as he was speaking.

“If the weather is hit-or-miss, it seems I’m going to get hit,” he says. “Eventually, I’ll get missed. But conditions were lauded all week, both by players and even media types. In terms of conditioning — where my focus is — (Erin Hills) was about as good as it could be.”

Best. Surface. Ever.

It seemed the greens at Erin Hills universally were adored by the players. Obviously, Koepka enjoyed them, but so did Justin Thomas, who shot a blistering 63 on Saturday, breaking Johnny Miller’s 44-year-old record of lowest round in relation to par in a major (Miller went 8-under in the ’73 U.S. Open, posting a 63, while Thomas went 9-under, also posting a 63.)

Golfdom interviewed eight players at the U.S. Open (including Thomas, who described Erin Hills as “just pure”), and all of them raved about the course, especially the greens.

“The greens are as good as any you’ll ever see, and the rest of it is in good shape too,” said Martin Laird. Tommy Fleetwood said, “The greens are great... overall they have been very true. I walked onto the putting green

on Sunday and it was pretty much the best surface I had ever seen.” And Jim Furyk, after calling us liars (see footnote) said, “Course conditions are phenomenal. I couldn’t imagine it being any better.”

Reineking said it was both humbling and surreal to have the best players in the world rave so much about the greens.

“I think superintendents in general



Erin Hills’ Architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan (left) and Zach Reineking.

OK, so Furyk called us liars. But it’s all good; Furyk is cool and he’s funny, too. He always gives us good interviews and he likes to mess with us. Gannon asked him if they could talk about course conditions, then his first question was about course set-up. Furyk called him out for it and may have said something about fake news. Jones once got the business from Furyk for asking him to explain the difference between putting on bent versus Bermuda. Furyk loved that one.

PHOTOS BY: (TOP LEFT) GRANT B. GANNON, SETH JONES



are critical of their own facilities,” Reineking said. “We’ve had the fortunate experience of attending the last couple U.S. Opens. We went to Oakmont. Oakmont is meticulous! Every blade of grass is exactly where it’s supposed to be. To hear comments from players like that, who just the year prior played Oakmont? It is a surreal thing.”

Reineking said there was talk in the maintenance building before the tournament about what the winning score might be. The one thing everyone agreed on was that someone might go low based on the trueness of the greens.

“One of the great traits of Erin Hills is that the greens roll really pure,” Reineking said. “We knew if someone was hot on their putter, scores would be low because these guys are so good. There was a stat that came out on Saturday, that the top 60 players didn’t miss a single putt from within 5 feet of the hole. That shows one, the quality of golfers playing in the U.S. Open, and two, the purity of our greens that they roll so true that if you’re on-line, it’s going to roll in.”

Elation at the end

One benefit Erin Hills enjoyed in anticipation of the U.S. Open was that

Despite extreme heat and heavy storms, the maintenance crew at Erin Hills was up to the task of hosting Wisconsin’s first U.S. Open.

it was closed for months before the tournament, allowing staff to build up the course without the burden of daily play. The course was in excellent condition when it was time for the 2017 U.S. Open to commence.

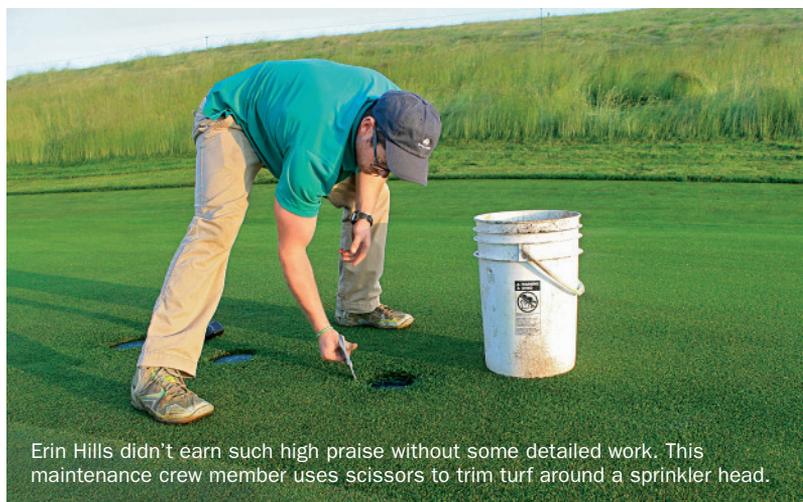
Reineking said the biggest challenge he and his crew faced was the atypical weather.

“The combination of a cool/wet spring, then a heat wave where we came close to record temperatures, plus the rain,” Reineking noted. “You can plan for two of those, but to get all three, that’s hard to predict.”

Reineking said that the crew was

thanked by both the owner of the course and the general manager in a ceremony near the 18th green just after the tournament ended.

“It was a new venue for a U.S. Open, there was a lot of questioning of if the course was capable of hosting the U.S. Open,” Reineking told *Golfdom*. “Getting to that day and knowing the feedback of the players and the media — who can be pretty critical of the USGA and the U.S. Open — it all came back positive. We put so much time and effort into the tournament. To be in that moment and let it all sink in... it was just elation.” **G**



Erin Hills didn’t earn such high praise without some detailed work. This maintenance crew member uses scissors to trim turf around a sprinkler head.



Stress test: Delivering championship conditions at **Erin Hills**



Zach Reineking, Director of Grounds for Erin Hills, knows the meaning of pressure. This June, his Wisconsin course hosted its first major championship. For products that would condition his turf for the most rigorous demands, he turned to **Intrinsic®** brand fungicides from BASF.

The work began in 2010, when Reineking and his staff accepted an invitation to host the tournament. “BASF came to us immediately,” said Reineking. “Shortly after that, we developed a seven-year plan on how to prepare.”

Reineking worked with BASF Sales Representative Randy Lusher, who recommended **Honor® Intrinsic** brand fungicide for fairway disease control and **Lexicon® Intrinsic** brand fungicide as the foundation of his greens program. **Intrinsic** brand fungicides also deliver

research-proven plant health benefits, including longer, stronger roots and greater tolerance to stressors like temperature extremes and mechanical stress.

The course itself — carved from glaciers eons ago — stretches across 300 acres of rolling terrain, 150 of which are maintained native areas. A rarity in Wisconsin, Erin Hills has fine fescue fairways as well as bentgrass greens and tees.

“It’s a large property to maintain on a daily basis,” says Reineking. “Fine fescue is a low-input turfgrass, but there are some

problematic times of the year for us. We get summer patch, fairy ring and brown patch, plus times in July when we get *Pythium*. So **Honor Intrinsic** brand fungicide became a great product for us to use peak season that gets so many of these issues all at once.”

He adds, “Our greens have performed really well. We’ve also seen an increase in turf health. And now, **Honor [Intrinsic brand fungicide]** and **Lexicon [Intrinsic brand fungicide]** are the foundation of our IPM program.”

Following the tournament, Erin Hills received accolades from the golf industry and the professional golfers who took part. “The course is in magnificent shape — probably the best-conditioned golf course we may see ever in a major,” said golfer Steve Stricker.

For Reineking and his staff, that translates to a job well done. Reineking adds, “Knowing that we have support on a regional and national scale from BASF — that gives us a lot of comfort in using their products.”



Years in the making. A week in the spotlight.



*Erin Hills' Superintendents, left to right: Assistant **Alex Benson-Crone**, Director of Grounds **Zach Reineking**, Associate **John Jacques**, and Assistant **Adam Ayers**.*

Seven years ago, Zach Reineking of Erin Hills paired with BASF to build championship turf for Wisconsin's first major championship. With so much focus on the course, he needed a proven fungicide that would stand up to the pressure. "**Lexicon**[®] **Intrinsic**[®] brand fungicide was the backbone that helped us deliver championship greens," he says. For equally impressive, healthy greens on your course, rely on **Lexicon Intrinsic** brand fungicide.

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Rejuvenating championship conditions

FIVE GOLF COURSES WITH DIVERSE BACKSTORIES – AND DIFFERENT TURF TREATMENT APPROACHES – ARE PUTTING BASF PRODUCTS TO THE TEST AS PART OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP REJUVENATION PROGRAM.

BY STEVE RICHARDSON

Each year only one course in America gets to host the U.S. Open. But every course strives to achieve its own version of championship conditions.

That's why BASF, in partnership with *Golfdom*, again is hosting the Championship Rejuvenation program. The program takes five golf courses from around the country and presents them with a plan (and the product) to integrate new and old BASF chemistries into their maintenance programs and see what results the courses get.

The hope is that the course managers get to see that their own version of championship conditions are well within reach.

"I think championship conditions mean something a little different to everyone," says BASF Senior Product Manager Jeff Vannoy. "Whether it's a member/guest, a father/son, a public course that gets a lot of play on Saturday mornings... our goal at BASF is to support all these types of courses. We have a wide range of chemistry, from



our latest, most innovative stuff like Lexicon and Xzemplar, to the stable of great products like Emerald, which have been around for a lot of years, but are still really amazing products. We have a lot of everything. Our goal isn't just to support a few really amazing courses, but to support the industry and make sure they know how to use our chemistry effectively and responsibly."

The five superintendents and courses participating in the 2017 Championship Rejuvenation program are:

- Josh Pope, Greenbrier Old White TPC Course, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
- Chris Ortmeier, Champions Golf Club, Houston, Texas
- Brandon Schindele, Edina Country Club, Edina, Minnesota
- Mike Golden, Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford, Connecticut
- Dan Marco, Ruth Lake Country Club, Hinsdale, Illinois

"We want to take superintendents from a variety of types of courses, levels, budgets... and help them see what newer, innovative chemistries can do for their course," Vannoy says. "They agree to be followed through the season. We'll learn what they saw different at their courses. We have a great team at BASF, we'll be checking in with them, taking photography... it's a team effort."

Golfdom and BASF will follow all

five participating courses throughout the summer and fall. Visit Golfdom.com for progress reports from all five superintendents as the season progresses.

Edina Country Club

In 2010-2011, the Edina Country Club underwent a large-scale construction/renovation effort designed to turn-around the golf course, boost membership and satisfy current members who were becoming vocal about issues on the private course.

Since that project, Superintendent Brandon Schindele has been on a mission to maintain and continuously improve the course. Like many parts of the country, Minnesota saw extreme weather fluctuations early in the year — something they've now experienced for several consecutive years.

"The days of setting a calendar and just following it are over," Schindele says. "We monitor the course conditions much more carefully and adjust our approach on the fly."

Beginning with his first spray in early May, Schindele is incorporating Lexicon Intrinsic brand fungicide, which he plans to use through Oc-



Schindele says he tries to play the course as often as he can to see a member's perspective of the new spray program and his team's work.

tober. Lexicon Intrinsic is a broad-spectrum turf fungicide that also is formulated to maximize plant health. Lexicon controls dollar spot, brown patch, fairy ring, *Pythium* root dysfunction, snow mold, summer patch and 22 other diseases.

"I have been hearing good things from my colleagues about the new BASF formulations. One colleague I really respect told me he was blown away by the improvement he saw," Schindele says. He also will be using BASF's Orkestra Intrinsic brand fungicide and FreeHand 1.75G herbicide in his ornamental beds.

Schindele says a combination of his own visual inspections and member feedback will indicate how success-

ful he is with his new approach. He adds that he tries to play the course as often as he can to see a member's perspective of his team's work.

"Edina is a challenging course, with things like unique roll-offs and false fronts, and our members love that they get to use all their clubs when they play here," Schindele says. "They are very in tune with the condition of the course, so I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do to improve upon an already great course."

Ruth Lake Country Club

Ruth Lake Country Club Superintendent Dan Marco is a fan of good planning, data points and the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" philosophy. At the same time, he acknowledges that there always are new things to learn and ways to continue to improve his approach.

"I keep an open mind about using new products, so I was definitely interested when the BASF team approached me about participating in this program," Marco says.

Marco's impeccably kept private course features 26 acres of fairways, three acres of tees and four acres of greens. As a fan of spreadsheets and cost analysis, he is excited to be using BASF formulations on roughly half of his greens, tees and fairways, and

Continued on page PH12



(L to R) BASF Technical Service Representative Kyle Miller, Schindele and BASF's Nathan Mezera.

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Ruth Lake Country Club saw a boost to membership after a 2004 course renovation.



(L to R) Miller, Marco and BASF Sales Specialist Randy Lusher.

Continued from page PH11

keeping the other half managed with products he has used in previous years.

Marco began using both Lexicon and Xzemplar fungicide in mid-May. Xzemplar provides curative and preventive control of dollar spot on fairways, tees and greens. It's both a contact fungicide and a long-lasting preventative treatment.

"We used to wait at the start of the growing season until we saw the first signs of dollar spot, and then begin our treatments. Now we stay out in front of it and get a preventative application out prior to the onset. This has really helped us keep on top of dollar spot rather than chase it all season," Marco says. "When we didn't get started ahead of the problem, we ended up using more product to treat dollar spot and had to treat more often. It's much better not to see it in the first place."

Now in his 16th year at Ruth Lake, Marco oversaw a complete rework of the course in 2004, including regrassed greens, the building of five new holes and being one of the first courses in the region to put in newer varieties of bent-grass greens. Those improvements were a real boost to the club, he says,

and resulted in retaining members and attracting many new ones.

"It's a very playable, fun course. It's not necessarily a nationally recognized golf course, but lots of times the comments back from those who play it for the first time are very positive. It's more than what they would have expected," Marco says.

Sterling Farms Golf Course

Sterling Farms Golf Course was a public course in need of a turnaround when Superintendent Mike Golden was hired in early 2017. The general manager had played Golden's former course, and recruited him to help

improve Sterling Farms, which sees more than 50,000 rounds each year.

After ensuring that he had strong support from the course's board of directors, Golden jumped right in by planting 3,000 square feet of nursery sod throughout the 18 greens. Trees and drainage work on the hilly course also began right away.

"Our greens, tees and fairways were all struggling," Golden says. "Being in turnaround mode, we are the perfect candidate to see what we can do by being part of this program."

He is using Emerald fungicide first, followed by Xzemplar, and finishing with a second application of Emer-



Superintendent Mike Golden was recruited to Sterling Farms to enhance the course.

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"Our greens, tees and fairways were all struggling," Golden says. "We are the perfect candidate to see what we can do by being part of this program."

ald on his tees and fairways. For the greens, Golden is using Lexicon fungicide throughout the growing season. His goal is to stay ahead of disease.

"I need to get as much as possible out of my tee and fairway sprays," Golden says. "With so many rounds being played, we have to limit the time our sprayers are out there. Plus, we need to maximize our dollars on each spray, so I have high hopes using BASF's new chemistries."

Golden's primary goal is to reach optimum plant health and re-establish turf coverage on all greens. Once achieved, he hopes to reach daily green speeds of 10, with the ability to

get to 11 for tournament play.

"Our turnaround efforts are off to a great start, but next year is when we're really going to see Sterling Farms pop," Golden says. "I'm hoping Xzemplar and Emerald play a big part in making all of our work pay off."

Greenbrier Old White TPC Course

Less than two weeks before the 2016 Greenbrier Classic, the unthinkable happened. A 1,000-year flood devastated Greenbrier's Old White TPC course, canceling the tournament and leaving behind an uncertain future for the historic venue.

The damage was extensive and essentially required Greenbrier to rebuild the course. And there was little time to mourn — Superintendent Josh Pope and his staff developed a plan to rebuild the course in time to host the recent 2017 Greenbrier Classic, a PGA Tour event with a field of 156 professionals. The team rebuilt the course to honor the original architects, C.B. MacDonald and Seth Raynor. The course re-opened to the public following the tournament.

"BASF products are our go-to for championship conditions," Pope says. "I have used BASF products throughout my career, and I know how well they work in times of stress. They are reliable. They are a sure thing."

Pope's plan for championship conditions was developed alongside BASF Technical Service Representative Kyle Miller and Area Sales Manager Scott Waltz. Pope is using Lexicon Intrinsic brand fungicide on fairways, greens and tees, Honor Intrinsic brand fungicide on bunker banks and Xzemplar fungicide in primary rough.

With all the new sod they've put down during the restoration, Pope says his primary measure of success

Continued on page PH16



Superintendent Josh Pope



The Old White TPC is surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains.

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Use Sites and Benefits

Product	Primary Use Sites	Key Benefits
1 Lexicon® Intrinsic brand fungicide	Greens, approaches, surrounds, new sod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New fourth annual application allowed. See label for full details at www.cdms.net ■ The plant health foundation for greens ■ Optimal disease control for cool- or warm-season greens ■ Broad-spectrum control of 27* diseases with residual up to 28 days
2 Honor® Intrinsic brand fungicide	Fairways, roughs, tees, bunker faces, primary roughs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The plant health foundation for fairways/tees ■ Superior control of dollar spot and other fairway diseases ■ Broad-spectrum control of 26 diseases for up to 28 days
3 Insignia® SC Intrinsic brand fungicide	Fairways, primary roughs, tees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broad-spectrum disease control ■ Control of key diseases: summer patch, brown patch, rapid blight, <i>Pythium</i> root dysfunction
4 Pillar® G Intrinsic brand fungicide	Green surrounds, tees, roughs and any sloped areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broad-spectrum control of 27 diseases ■ Granular formulation ■ Control of key diseases: Snow mold, brown patch, anthracnose, summer patch

Intrinsic brand fungicides: the cornerstone of the Holiday Spray Program

The holiday spray program from BASF, anchored by **Intrinsic** brand fungicides, provides optimal disease control and plant health benefits to protect cool-season turf from stressors like heat, humidity and foot traffic, and warm-season turf from stressors like cold temperatures and reduced sunlight.

Cool-season program

- Apply before Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day.
- Spray **Lexicon® Intrinsic** brand fungicide on greens and **Honor® Intrinsic** brand fungicide or **Insignia® SC Intrinsic** brand fungicide on fairways, tees and surrounds.

Warm-season program

- Apply before Halloween, after Thanksgiving and around Valentine's Day.
- Spray **Lexicon Intrinsic** brand fungicide on tees and greens, and **Honor Intrinsic** brand fungicide or **Insignia SC Intrinsic** brand fungicide on tees and surrounds, and as a spot treatment on fairways.

* Subject to BASF Recommendation under FIFRA 2(ee) for spring dead spot in certain states. See www.cdms.net for BASF Technical Information Bulletin.



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We create chemistry

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The Champions Golf Club's treatment is designed to maximize the course for the 2020 U.S. Women's Open.

Continued from page PH13

will be avoiding any issues throughout the tournament and the rest of the season.

“When my greens went into the tournament, they were only 11 months old, so I need strong chemistries to protect my turf,” he says. “If any products can do this, it’s BASF products.”

Champions Golf Club

Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas, has a colorful past — drawing top-level players and prestigious tournaments since it opened in 1957. Founded by Jack Burke, Jr. and the late Jimmy Demaret, the Cypress Creek course features more than 70,000 trees, wide fairways and enormous greens.

But like Greenbrier, Mother Nature also was unkind to Champions last year, flooding more than a third of the course. Superintendent Chris Ortmeier and his team doubled down to ensure a quick recovery, but he is still working to eliminate some flood-related issues, such as doveweed kyllinga.

“Doveweed has been a big challenge,” Ortmeier says. “It just keeps coming back.” Doveweed thrives in warmer climates and prefers wet areas. With nearby Cypress Creek posing an ongoing flooding threat, Ortmeier has a plan.

Developed in tandem with BASF Technical Service Representative Kathie Kalmowitz, Ph.D., and Senior Sales Specialist Scott Dunham, Ortmeier’s treatment approach is designed to help maximize course conditions leading up to the 2020 U.S. Women’s Open.

The program includes an aggressive plan to control

doveweed and various other weeds using a combination of Tower herbicide — a broad-spectrum pre-emergence herbicide — and Pendulum AquaCap herbicide, a water-based formulation of the industry’s leading pre-emergent active ingredient, pendimethalin.

Ortmeier will control fairy ring with Xzemplar fungicide, which also controls leaf spot and patch diseases. He’ll use Honor Intrinsic brand fungicide prior to the next aeration. BASF trials on ultradwarf Bermudagrasses

show quicker hole closure and healthier turf. In the fall, Ortmeier will integrate Lexicon Intrinsic brand fungicide into his program to provide protection from the tropical hurricane season and potential changing winter temperatures.

“I’m a data guy. I like to make my decisions based on data,” Ortmeier says. “That’s why I’m excited to be involved in this trial with BASF, so I can see firsthand what impact the products are having on the Cypress Creek course.”

St. Louis-based writer Steve Richardson is the owner of The Richardson Group, a marketing communications company.

Championship Rejuvenation on Golfdom TV

For regular updates from the five participating golf courses in the BASF Championship Rejuvenation program, including video interviews with BASF’s Jeff Vannoy and Ruth Lake’s Dan Marco, visit Golfdom.com.



PHOTO BY: STEVE RICHARDSON

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Boosting plant health on baby greens

AS LEXICON'S POPULARITY INCREASES, BASF FOCUSES ON BENEFITS IT OFFERS NEWLY ESTABLISHED GREENS.

BY CHRIS LEWIS

In January 2014, BASF announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had registered its Lexicon Intrinsic fungicide, a premix product of Insignia comprised of pyraclostrobin (28.58 percent) as well as a new ingredient known as fluxapyroxad (14.33 percent).

Lexicon has since been used regularly on golf course greens because it inhibits mitochondrial respiration, thereby improving greens' health, along with tolerance to stress (including aeration, drought, heat and humidity) so they can withstand more diseases longer.

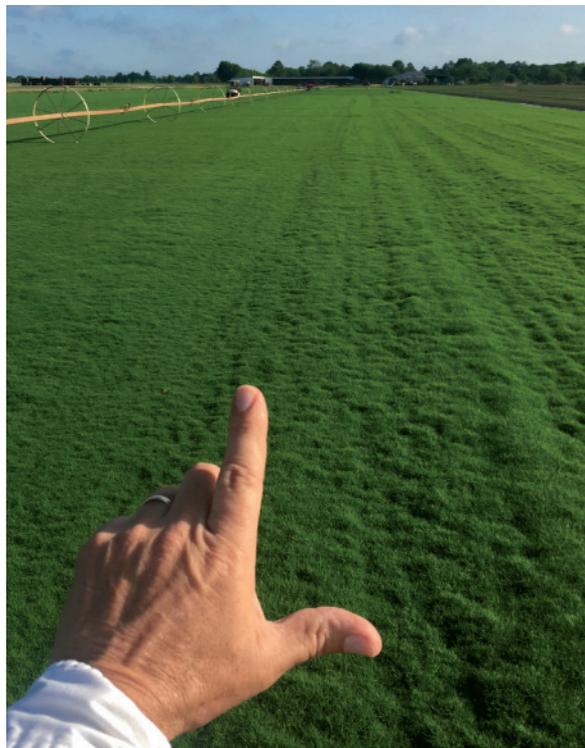
As Lexicon's popularity increased — likely because of its control of 27 cool- and warm-season diseases for up to 28 days — BASF decided to focus on its other benefits as well, such as sprigs and Bermudagrass conversion.

"Lexicon is able to reduce a stress hormone in grass as it blocks it, if it is applied be-

fore the stress occurs," says Brian Thompson, Eastern regional sales manager-T/O, BASF. "Because of its strong history of being a reliable plant health product on existing turf, we began to consider new turf as well. If you're a sod grower, your customer has the responsibility to maintain the sod. So, the end user sees the value in pre-treating the sods and sprigs, as there is a stress mitigation."

The Champion Turf experience

As vice president of Champion Turf Farms in Bay City, Texas, Mike Brown and his crew began to test Lexicon on recently devel-



Brown indicates the line between the treated area on the right which was much thicker than the untreated on the left.

oped sprigs in March 2017. They were particularly interested in any differences in stolon performance, and how sprigs would withstand the processes of harvesting, shipping and establishment. The crew applied Lexicon to a test area in the sprig nursery six weeks before they intended to harvest from the field.

Brown chose Lexicon because this spring was a difficult time to grow Bermudagrass along the Gulf Coast — with unseasonably cool and dry weather — and because the area had poor sunlight last fall despite high temperatures, a combination detrimental

to Bermudagrass.

"We were really concerned, as we had a full slate of golf courses that we were converting this year, and the sprig supply was already tight," Brown explains. "When we saw that the areas treated with Lexicon were responding better to the fertility inputs we were making (within four weeks they had grown considerably more than the non-treated areas), we immediately got more and applied it to the other fields."

After experiencing such success, not only in producing healthier planting stock but also by increasing the yield itself (by roughly

Continued on page PH18

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Continued from page PH17

20 percent), Brown and his crew intend to apply Lexicon each year as part of their production protocols.

Clemson partnership

During the winter of 2015, Carolina Fresh Farms, a 2,000-acre sod farm located in South Carolina, purchased NewLife Turf and continued to operate it as a sod production facility that mainly installed green surfaces of TifEagle Bermudagrass.

After the purchase was complete, Mills Grant, horticulturist at Carolina Fresh Farms, considered new methods that could grow NewLife Turf's sprigged and sodded greens faster and more efficiently. After speaking to Bruce Martin, Ph.D., professor of plant and environmental science at Clemson University, he decided to apply Lexicon to his sprigs to protect them from pathogens.

"We must keep the new sprigs moist for up to two weeks, depending on the environment, but consistent and constant moisture during warm, humid weather definitely increases the development and spread of potential fungi in the native soil," Grant states. "Why not treat the sprigs with a fungicide immediately after plant-

“After experiencing such success... Brown and his crew intend to apply Lexicon each year as part of their production protocols.”

ing, or, better yet, prior to delivery to help combat the potential of disease?”

Shortly after purchasing Lexicon, Grant decided to provide sprigs that were treated with Lexicon (as well as sprigs that were not) to Martin so he could conduct a clinical trial. Since then, the sprigs — which were treated with Lexicon seven days prior to harvest — have been installed at the university and are now being studied. The university has found that the application of Lexicon prior to the harvest of sod and sprigs improves health enough to aid in quick establishment.

At NewLife Turf itself, Grant has noticed greener sprigs and planting stock. In fact, the sprigs treated with Lexicon have been handling the stress of recent warm temperatures better than the untreated sprigs.

"To date, we have provided Lexicon-treated sprigs to three construction projects," Grant adds. "There is no doubt that the sprigs certainly present themselves as healthier planting

stock when compared to the untreated stock. And as we strive to maintain the previous successes of NewLife, Lexicon will help us continue to provide the best sod product possible."

Protecting newly established greens

Regardless of the field of agriculture, preventative disease control is crucial at the time of planting. Fungicides are, more often than not, used either on seeds or drenched into seed furrows. Without such control, soil-borne illnesses like *Pythium* root rot may damage crops, produce uneven stands and reduce yield.

According to Martin, newly established golf greens are no different. But they have not received much attention from formal research — until now.

"BASf is trying to alleviate that through their work with Lexicon," Martin says. "After all, disease protection for plant material being used to establish new greens should be a fundamental consideration."

Sod farms typically provide Bermudagrass sprigs that are washed free of soil and packaged in refrigerated storage. The sprigs, prior to shipping and planting, still can harbor undetected pathogens. It's vital to use a fungicide that penetrates plant organs and carries over into newly planted material after sod is treated on a farm and harvested for sprigs. In doing so, the newly planted green will have early vigor and will establish rapidly.

"Harvested sprigs will also be more tolerant of the stress that occurs dur-





On four of Pinehurst No. 7's new greens, half of the sprigs were treated with Lexicon (left) and half were untreated.



The Lexicon treated sprigs on the left are looking greener and fuller compared to the non-treated sprigs on the right.

ing sprig harvest and subsequent planting," Martin continues. "In addition, since both components of Lexicon penetrate the plant, it controls diseases longer than fungicides that don't penetrate."

Martin also has talked with several golf course superintendents and found that they prefer grow-ins to be completed as soon as possible.

"Quick establishment allows the green to be brought back into play faster, so revenue becomes available sooner," he says. "It also allows more time for rhizome development in Bermudagrass, which provides a healthier base of turf for overseeding or survival in Transition Zone environments."

He adds, "In tropical and Transition Zone environments, the quicker the turf matures, the more resilient it becomes to cultural practices like constant topdressing, low mowing and verticutting."

Establishment at Pinehurst No. 7

In preparation for new green establishment at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort's No. 7 course in 2017, superintendent Steve Wilson and his crew decided to use sprigs that were treated with Lexicon twice at Champion Turf Farms, with one treatment 28 days before harvest and another 23 days later.

Once harvested, the sprigs were transported and installed on some of

Pinehurst No. 7's greens. Since then, the treated sprigs have had a better appearance, and have more green tissue when compared to untreated sprigs.

"We took four greens and sprigged half of them with Lexicon-treated sprigs and half with non-treated," Wilson says. "The Lexicon treated-sprigs have been much more vibrant in color."

Likely because of better establishment, the treated sprigs also have grown in better than the non-treated. In fact, four weeks after installation, the greens with treated sprigs have had more turf coverage as well.

"On the non-treated side of one particular green, 35 plugs were used to replace areas washed out by a storm," Wilson states. "The Lexicon-treated side of the green had spots, but none were big enough to need plugging, though, which greatly reduced our labor during the grow-in process."

Wilson and his staff also have sprayed sections of the four greens with Lexicon twice since installation.

"By using Lexicon in this way, grow-in and establishment will continue to speed up," he explains. "I also believe the greens will be able to withstand the stresses of daily play once they're used by golfers again."

Success at Old Memorial

During the summer of 2015, Superintendent Trent Inman decided to use Lexicon throughout the grow-in of

the greens at Old Memorial Golf Club, Tampa, Fla. He divided the greens roughly in thirds. After the first mowing, the crew sprayed the first third with another manufacture's product combined with fertilizer. The second third was sprayed only with fertilizer, but the final third was sprayed with Lexicon and a fertilizer at a rate of 21 ounces per acre.

"At the time, the results from the three different applications were not overly different," Inman says. "However, after a couple months, I noticed that the final third — the Lexicon/fertilizer combination — seemed to have the most density among all of the greens. I thought enough of the difference that I made another Lexicon application to all of the greens that fall."

Since then, Inman has based most of his fungicide applications on Lexicon first. He starts with it, then works other products in around it, as it has such a broad spectrum of control.

"We have different disease pressures year round, and I feel Lexicon has the largest spectrum of control to help us every month," Inman adds. "I would highly recommend any superintendent to make Lexicon their base fungicide all year long." 

Michigan-based writer Chris Lewis is a frequent contributor to *Golfdom*. He recently wrote about Forest Dunes Golf Club, America's first reversible 18-hole golf course.

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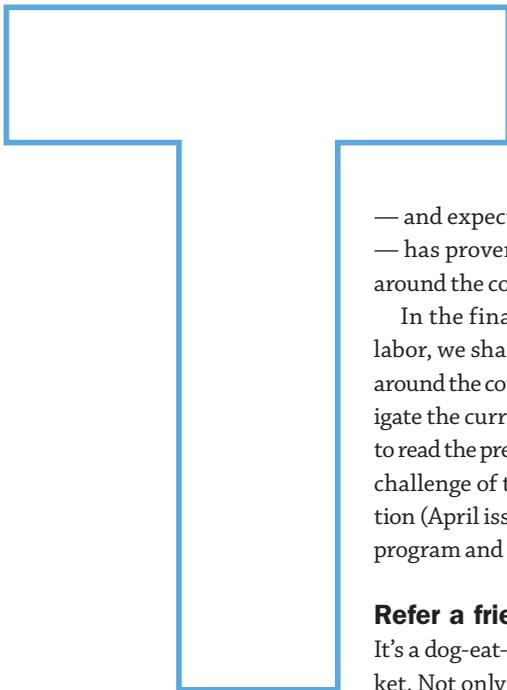
We create chemistry

BY SETH JONES AND GRANT B. GANNON

Digging deep FOR labor solutions

Any of the following five ideas could be the difference between a skeleton crew and a successful crew.

Continued on page 40



here were no new *Terminator* movies this summer, but Sky-net clearly hasn't won. Most work on the golf course is still done by humans.

But finding those humans — and expecting them to “*be back*” each season — has proven a constant challenge for courses around the country.

In the final part of our three-part series on labor, we share five ideas that superintendents around the country have used to successfully navigate the current labor market. Visit **Golfdom.com** to read the previous parts, where we discussed the challenge of the assistant superintendent position (April issue) and the challenges of the H2-B program and attracting laborers (June issue).

Refer a friend

It's a dog-eat-dog world in the Chicago golf market. Not only are courses competing for golfers,

they're also competing for labor.

At Briarwood Country Club in Deerfield, Ill., superintendent Justin VanLanduit has a full crew for the first time in six years. And yes, he admits some of his best new workers came from other area courses. But that's business — Briarwood made those workers a better offer, thanks to a new bonus system that rewards employees for referring friends and rewards those who return each season.



Justin VanLanduit

“It's really helped me retain my labor,” VanLanduit says. “At the end of the day, we may spend \$10,000 on this seasonal bonus program, but it saves me a lot of time and a lot of money not having to re-train guys only to lose

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them and having to re-train more guys the next year.”

In previous years, VanLanduit had to get by with a crew of 16 or 17. He now has 22 hourly laborers. With a full staff, he hopes to come in 30 to 40 percent under budget on overtime pay. Plus, the crew has built a sense of continuity and experience, and he says it shows in the way the golf course looks.

The system works like this: An employee who refers a new employee receives \$300 if that new hire finishes the season at the club (one worker is potentially due \$900 at the end of this season). Also, a seasonal worker who returns from one season to the next receives a \$350 bonus for returning. If they stay until the end of June they get another \$250 bonus, if they stay until the end of August they receive another \$250 bonus.

“We’re just like everyone else — we’re hurting, and not only is it harder to find good guys but it’s even harder to keep them,” VanLanduit says. “If you bring in a guy, what are the odds of keeping him

the following year? That’s why we had to get inventive.”

Inmate labor

It’s a small crew at Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton, S.D. The peak-season crew at the city-owned course is nine people.

That includes two people who must dress in bright orange shirts that read “INMATE” on the back.

Rockie Wampol has been working at Fox Run GC for 26 years. Even though it’s a city-owned course, Wampol says there are expectations to keep course conditions at country club levels. His inmate labor comes cheap — the state is paid about \$1.75 for every hour the inmates work, while the inmates make 25 cents an hour.

“Honestly, I’d rather hire (people from the community) to take the jobs, but on the other hand, we’ve had some good in-

mates who can work circles around the others,” Wampol says.

Wampol must arrange for daily transportation for the inmates to and from the course. Yankton Community Work Center, a minimum-security facility, is less than 2 miles from the course. It’s Wampol’s obligation to monitor the inmates. That’s why he keeps a maximum of two inmates on the crew at any one time.

“Any more than that and they’re hard to keep an eye on,” says Wampol. “They are in prison for a reason.”

Wampol has been using inmate labor for more than 20 years. He’s asked for specific inmates by name before, and one inmate successfully worked three seasons on the crew before transferring to a different prison.

“Sometimes they’ll make an enterprise of it and they’ll try to pick stuff up while out on the golf course (to take back to prison,)” the longtime superintendent says. “Again, they’re in jail for a reason. It comes down to trustworthiness. After a

Continued on page 42



Rockie Wampol



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Continued from page 41

while you get good at it and can tell within a few weeks if someone is worth keeping. We make it work. The bottom line is saving money.”

A win-win in Ohio

Mark Jordan, CGCS, oversees 36 holes of golf at Westfield CC, Westfield Center, Ohio. Jordan several years ago recognized there were a few jobs that were notoriously hard to keep filled. Those jobs included equipment washing and a dedicated shop cleaner.

He reached out to the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities to see if there was the potential to work together. The Board sent a life coach to meet with

Jordan and learn about the jobs and their requirements. Following that initial meeting, the Board suggested a few candidates. Since that first meeting, Jordan successfully has used workers with developmental disabilities to help not only in the shop, but also on the course.

“We have a gentlemen who started out as an equipment washer for us, and his learning capabilities allowed him to progress. So, he hopped on a bunker rake and then a fairway mower, and now he’s mowing rough for us,” Jordan says. “He loves it and he does a wonderful job. You have to take into account safety and risk, and you’re not going to put someone into harm’s way. Their coaches will help guide you on that. So, they

work with you, and it’s not just your judgment or your call on what they do.”

Another program Westfield has taken advantage of is Project Search, which provides internships for young people with developmental disabilities who are about to graduate high school. He calls it a “win-win” for the golf course and the student intern.



Mark Jordan

Jordan says that while he has had many superintendents tell him they appreciate what he’s doing with the programs, no one has asked him for guidance on how to try it at their course.

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“Go online, find Project Search in the area,” Jordan advises. “There are county groups in each state that have developmentally disabled programs. It’s another (labor) option for superintendents to investigate.”

If you build it, they will come

Rick Mooney never thought he’d be learning about sewer systems and developing grounds for apartment construction, but that’s what the superintendent at White-tail Club in McCall, Idaho, currently is working on.

The club, part of the Shore Lodge Resort, is in a remote ski resort town. The local labor pool is small to begin with. That’s why Mooney must recruit labor from outside the area and offer living ac-

commodations to make it easier for someone to relocate there for the season.

“The labor market is just getting tougher and tougher, and after we kept going farther and farther with the J-1 (Visa) and H-2B programs, we finally started looking elsewhere to find people to come here during the high demand season,” Mooney says. “It’s a game-changer for us in the market. We’ll get people to experience Idaho and get them to stay for an entire season.”

The resort currently has 24 condominium units on site. The plan is to work with a company in Spokane, Wash., that builds pre-fabricated single-room units that can be joined together with a shared living room, adding 32 single rooms. Plans are

for the building to be located next to the corporate office for Shore Lodge — a par 4 distance to the golf course.

When completed, Mooney hopes to have close to 100 beds on site for laborers at the resort. Mooney says Shore Lodge charges minimal rent (about \$175 a month) on the rooms to make residents feel responsible for taking care of them.

“Imagine you’re from Ohio and you secure a job with us. As soon as you land in town, you’ve also secured housing,” Mooney says. “We know this is going to cost us, but the result is we have more people who want to try to come work for us. A lot of people have never experienced the mountains. This makes it an easy entry

Continued on page 44

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LABOR PAINS
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Continued from page 43
point for them to come here and work a season for us.”

MilitaryHire.com

A common challenge for military veterans is writing a résumé that translates to a non-military job. They might be the perfect fit for a civilian job — say, mowing fairways — but does operating a tank qualify as relevant experience?

It does, says Sean Pritchard, CEO of **MilitaryHire.com**. A veteran himself, Pritchard and MilitaryHire.com have helped more than 500,000 veterans in their career search.

“There’s a perceived gap between what a military veteran has as far as experi-

ence and what an employer is looking for,” Pritchard says. “Golf course maintenance is a great example of something you’re not going to learn in the military. However,



Sean Pritchard

what the military does teach is how to do new jobs. It’s hard to capture on a résumé, but these people are used to hitting the ground running and quickly learning what they

need to do to be successful and giving it their best.”
Customers of the site pay a monthly subscription fee. Employers can post jobs and access résumés. There are no finder’s

fees or commissions when a match is made. Pritchard says the site’s most successful users aren’t the people who wait for résumés to fall from the sky, but the employers who proactively contact the veterans.

Golf courses are regular customers of the website, Pritchard says, and have had success finding maintenance workers.

“When it comes to learning how to operate different kinds of machinery, that’s a common thing in the military,” Pritchard says. “Early hours aren’t going to bother a veteran because they have been waking up and training at 5:30 a.m. the whole time they were in the service. And they are certainly used to doing a hard day’s work in the hot sun — a golf course is a lot nicer than a faraway desert.” ☺

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// WINTER IS COMING

HOW LOW CAN ULTRADWARF BERMUDAGRASSES GO?

By Eric DeBoer, Mike Richardson, Ph.D., and Doug Karcher, Ph.D.

As ultradwarf bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*) use moves farther north, there is increased risk of winter injury from low temperatures and desiccation. The use of protective covers during winter is an expensive but obligatory practice for ultradwarf bermudagrass putting green survival. Currently, the USGA recommends covering ultradwarf bermudagrass at forecasted low temperatures of 25 degrees.

Research being conducted at the University of Arkansas is examining predicted low temperature thresholds for determining when to cover ultradwarf greens and examining effects on spring green-up from a late-fall wetting agent application.

This multiyear trial is being conducted on a green built to USGA guidelines planted with replicated plots of Champion, MiniVerde and Tifeagle ultradwarf bermudagrass. The protective covers are composed of permeable, black, woven polypropylene. Covers are deployed based on predicted low temperatures for Fayetteville, Ark. The predicted low temperatures used are 25, 22, 18 and 15 degrees, as well as an uncovered control. Once a cover is placed, it remains in place until forecasted temperatures exceed 45 degrees. During the green-up period winter injury is assessed using digital image analysis and visual ratings of percent green turfgrass coverage.

Two winters of data show that Champion is significantly less tolerant of cold temperatures than both Tifeagle and MiniVerde, resulting in more turf injury. The spring of 2015-16 showed hastened spring green-up in plots receiving a wetting agent application but results were not as conclusive for 2016-17.

Eric DeBoer, Mike Richardson, Ph.D., and Doug Karcher, Ph.D., University of Arkansas. Eric DeBoer can be reached at ejdeboer@uark.edu for more information.

NEWS UPDATES

SCANTURF AND SCANGREEN PUBLISH 2017-2018 TURF VARIETY TEST RESULTS

SCANTURF and SCANGREEN, a pair of turf variety testing programs organized by the turfgrass seed industry and researchers in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, recently released its test results.

Conducted in Europe, ScanGreen is a variety testing program for golf greens cut at 3 to 5 mm, funded by the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation. Started in 2003, the testing period is one seeding year plus three evaluation years, with trials started every fourth year. In 2005, the turfgrass seed industry started SCANTURF to test fairway height turf mown at 10 to 20 mm. SCANTURF's testing period is identical but its trials are every second year.

Nordic countries are separated into the Northern Zone — including Finland, Iceland and the northern, mostly continental parts of Norway and Sweden — and the Southern Zone, including Denmark and the southern, mostly coastal parts of Sweden and Norway.

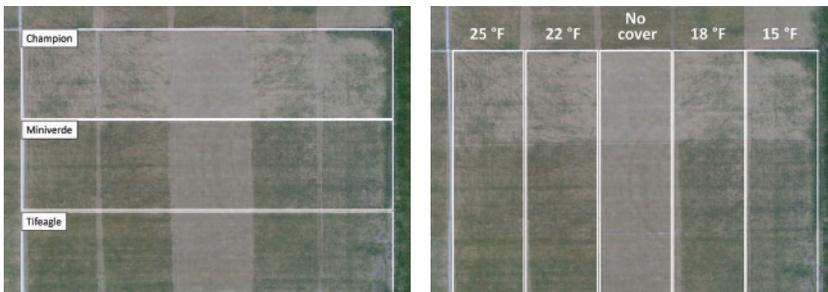
Researchers evaluated each turfgrass on a 1-9 scale for a variety of desirable traits — visual appeal, density, fineness of leaves and color — as well as looking at disease resistance, growth rate, wear tolerance and ability to withstand winter damage.

The full results of the study can be found at www.scanturf.org.

“OUR RESEARCH INDICATES THERE ARE NUMEROUS EFFECTIVE SNOW MOLD TREATMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AT A RANGE OF COSTS.”

Paul Koch, Ph.D.

(see story on page 48)



(Left) Cultivar effect on spring green-up on March 21, 2017. (Right) Cover temperature effect on spring green-up on March 21, 2017.

// I AM NOT THROWING AWAY MY SHOT

One shot to succeed for snow mold control

By Paul Koch, Ph.D.

One of the most important aspects of a superintendent's job is effectively controlling disease. However, not all turf diseases are created equal. We sometimes observe certain diseases that are not necessarily destructive. Examples include many leaf spots and rusts. Other diseases are more isolated in nature but can be extremely destructive, examples of which are patch diseases like summer patch and take-all patch.

In general, the highly destructive diseases require preventative fungicide applications to provide acceptable control, and the less destructive diseases usually are kept in check with curative applications, if any applications are made at all. Even dollar spot, a highly destructive disease if left untreated, is brought under control if checked early with multiple curative fungicide applications.

The same is not true for snow molds. If budget cuts or a forecast of a warm winter lead the superintendent to reduce the level of snow mold protection, and if the course is unexpectedly buried in snow for months, the superintendent doesn't have a lot of good options. You can't go out and spray curatively because the turf is covered in snow.

DO NO HARM

Trying to remove snow to reduce disease pressure sometimes causes significant damage, as anyone who has tried to remove ice cover is keenly aware. Few sites are as disheartening to northern superintendents as dead turf once snow finally melts in spring, whether it's from disease or winter

FIGURE 1



The budget for this course in central Wisconsin only covers spraying greens and approaches, and the snow mold on the nontreated areas is immense and can take weeks to fully heal.

injury (Figure 1). Widespread damage results in reduced revenue from lost play, and it almost certainly increases expenses while the turf is nursed back to health, expenses that most maintenance budgets can't cover without cutting elsewhere.

This concern is why most superintendents in the North "overspray" for snow mold, which in this context is "spraying more fungicide than really is needed." I've talked with numerous superintendents in the southern Great Lakes region — where snow cover rarely sticks around for more than a few weeks — but who still spray two to three active ingredients for snow mold control. I've talked with other superintendents who haven't seen snow mold on their fairways in 15 years but still spray three

or more active ingredients to ensure clean turf the following spring.

To be clear, I'm not criticizing those decisions. I think most of them are good decisions based on the expectations and budgets present at their facilities. The agronomic risk associated with underspraying snow mold simply is too great and the economic risk associated with overspraying too low for most northern superintendents to justify significantly reducing their snow mold protection.

WISCONSIN RESEARCH

Choosing the right product, however, doesn't always mean choosing the most expensive product. A variety of tools are available to assist superintendents in building their snow mold

PHOTO BY PAUL KOCH

program, including some from several universities that conduct snow mold fungicide research.

Every year, my program at the University of Wisconsin conducts one of the largest snow mold product testing trials in the country. This year, we tested 106 treatments (84 of which are non-experimental compounds) at three sites across the upper Midwest: Cherokee CC in Madison, Wis., Wausau CC in Wausau, Wis., and Marquette CC in Marquette, Mich. (Figure 2). All trials were conducted on fairway-height turf comprised of a mixture of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.). Special thanks to superintendents Eric Leonard, Randy Slavik and Craig Moore for hosting trials.

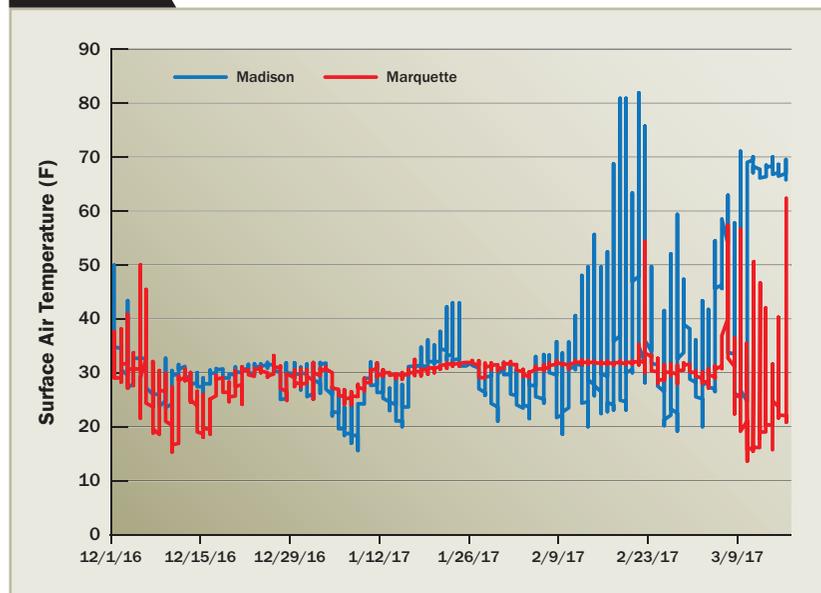
The upper Midwest once again had a relatively mild winter that resulted in no snow mold at the Madison site, moderate pink snow mold at the Wausau site and high levels of pink snow mold at the Marquette site.

Speckled snow mold (*Typhula ishikariensis*) normally is the predominant snow mold present at Marquette CC, and the fact that we saw pink snow mold there this year speaks to the relatively mild conditions. The comparison of surface air temperatures at Madison versus Marquette, as measured by our Spectrum Watchdog Data Loggers, shows that Marquette had a nearly constant surface temperature all of January and February, while Madison's surface temperature fluctuated wildly (Figure 3). This clearly indicates that Marquette had a deep insulating snow cover during this period that favored snow mold development, while Madison did not.

The trial at Marquette CC had the highest disease pressure, and is the focus of this article, but the full research reports from all three sites, including pictures of each treatment, are available at the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Fungicide Testing Results webpage (www.tdl.wisc.edu/results). I encourage

FIGURE 2

This drone photo of the 2016-2017 snow mold trial at Wausau CC shows the immense size of the experimental plot.

FIGURE 3

Surface temperature readings provided by Spectrum WatchDog Data Loggers from both the Madison and Marquette sites in 2016-2017. The nearly flat line in Marquette indicates a deep insulating snow cover that is perfect for snow mold development.

you to visit the website and view the results in more detail.

THE MARQUETTE STORY

The non-treated control at Marquette CC averaged 70 percent disease over four replications (Figure 4). Despite this high snow mold pressure, 58 of the 106 treatments tested in the trial averaged less than 5 percent snow mold. You may

see some treatments that performed best in this trial, and in numerous other trials in recent years, in Figure 5.

The highest-performing treatments had multiple things in common, but all contained multiple active ingredients from multiple chemical classes. Oreon is a new product from AMVAC, a combination of PCNB and tebuconazole, and

Continued on page 50

FIGURE 4

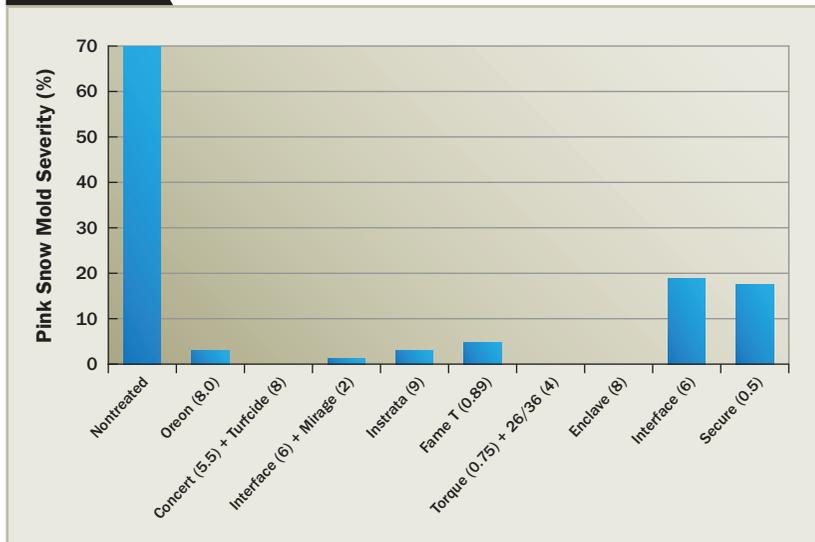


Non-treated controls at Marquette CC averaged 70 percent disease, with pink snow mold comprising most of the disease present.

Continued from page 49

can be an effective option for fairway snow mold control. Fame T also is a relatively new product, a mixture of fluoxastrobin and tebuconazole, and has performed well in our trials for two consecutive years. Other treatments in Figure 5 have become “standards,” meaning they have performed at a high

FIGURE 5



A small subset of the treatments tested at Marquette CC in 2016-2017 and their efficacy against pink snow mold. The full research report, along with treatment pictures, can be accessed at www.tdl.wisc.edu/results.

level in our trials over multiple sites and multiple years, and have become measuring sticks for new products coming on to the market. These include Instrata (chlorothalonil plus propiconazole plus fludioxonil), Interface (iprodione plus trifloxystrobin) with Mirage (tebuconazole), Concert (propiconazole plus chlorothalonil) with

Turfcide (PCNB), Torque (tebuconazole) with 26/36 (iprodione plus thiophanate-methyl), and QP Enclave (chlorothalonil plus iprodione plus thiophanate-methyl plus tebuconazole).

These treatments contain at least two active ingredients, and in most cases three active ingredients (with Enclave having four). However, there also are

FIGURE 6



Torque tank-mixed with 26/36 provided excellent snow mold control, but when either product was removed, the control provided dropped dramatically. These pictures are from the 2013-2014 snow mold trial at Wausau CC.

PHOTOS BY: PAUL KOCH

a disproportionately large number of effective snow mold treatments that contain tebuconazole.

Of the above treatments, tebuconazole is included in Oreon, Mirage, Fame T, Torque and Enclave. Tebuconazole is a demethylation inhibitor (DMI) fungicide, and DMIs in general are highly effective snow mold products. I typically recommend that a DMI of some nature go out in every snow mold application where disease pressure is significant.

But why is tebuconazole included in so many products in place of other DMIs like Banner MAXX (propiconazole) and Trinity (triticonazole)? Our research shows that tebuconazole is not tremendously more effective on snow mold compared with most other DMIs, so my assumption is that tebuconazole gets included more often because of its affordable price. Prices vary wildly depending on numerous factors, but superintendents can often purchase generic tebuconazole for less than \$50 an acre — an affordable price for an effective product.

However, even tebuconazole must be mixed with other active ingredients to be effective under intense snow mold pressure. A trial we conducted at Wausau CC in 2014-2105 revealed a useful comparison of Torque combined with 26/36 as well as each product applied alone. Torque applied as a tank mixture with 26/36 provided excellent protection, but when either product was removed, control provided dropped dramatically (Figure 6). We saw this same scenario, where an effective product as a mixture performed poorly on its own, with other effective products like Interface and Secure at Marquette CC this past winter (Figure 5).

THE BOTTOM LINE

Until there are more effective long-term winter forecasting models (get it together, weather researchers) and/or more effective methods for predicting snow mold pathogen activity (get it

together, turf pathologists), superintendents are justified to plan for the worst.

Planning for the worst for most northern superintendents entails applications containing two, three or four active ingredients applied shortly before snow cover. Planning for the worst, however, does not necessarily mean spending the most money.

Our research indicates there are numerous effective snow mold treatments available to the superintendent at a range of costs. Peruse the research from Wisconsin and your local university, consult with a local representative you're familiar with, and find the plan that will provide the snow mold control your club demands at a price that your club can afford.

Paul Koch, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please call (608-262-6531) or email Paul (plkoch@wisc.edu) with questions, comments or concerns.

Ad Index

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ADVERTISER	PAGE
BASF 11, PH2, PH3, PH8-9, PH14-15, PH20, 45	
Buffalo Turbine	40
Control Solutions Inc	3
Cub Cadet	CV3
Ecolawn Applicator	9
GreenJacket	44
Irrigation Association	46
Jacobsen	7
Koch Turf & Ornamental	5
Mi-TM Corporation	43
Nufarm	16
PBI/Gordon	CV4
Plant Food Company Inc	40
POGO Turf Pro	4
Smithco	CV2-p1
Syngenta	41
Toro	17
Turfco	18, 44
Vitamin Institute	42
Z Line Products	42

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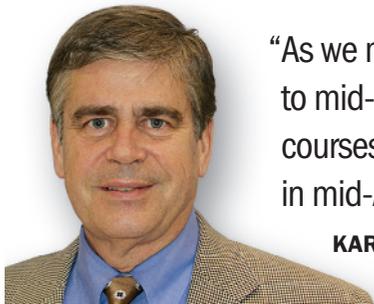
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“As we moved field days into early to mid-August, I observed more golf courses coring and topdressing in mid-August.”

KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D., *Science Editor*

Not another back-to-school commercial

When I arrived at Ohio State University in the 1980s, we held our research field day on the second Tuesday of September. We continued this through most of the 1990s. I liked the schedule because it was after Labor Day, which for most marks the end of summer, and because it was before the start of classes (we were on quarters at the time).

The field plots looked visually appealing, particularly important in studies where quality was a factor. Weed control studies, especially crabgrass studies, provided attendees with a visual impression of how long a herbicide might work, which also applied to insect control studies such as those on white grubs. Unfortunately, disease studies often were limited mainly to dollar spot control.

Over time, September was criticized as being too late in the growing season. An earlier date was becoming more desirable because researchers wanted a more stressful time that would differentiate treatment effects from both abiotic and biotic factors, and superintendent attendance was dropping. The most common reason was that seasonal help was returning to school, causing a labor shortage at a time when the labor-intensive practice of coring and topdressing was occurring. An “all-hands-on-deck” attitude was growing,

and it was difficult for superintendents to get away for a day.

Before the 1980s, the vast majority of high schools didn’t start classes until after Labor Day. From the 1980s on, we have watched the start date creep back before Labor Day, with most schools starting between mid- to late August. Being of a generation that went to school when air conditioned buildings were an exception and not the rule, I assumed the earlier start dates were due to modern schools having air conditioning. That assumption, however, was not the case. Educational professionals reported that earlier start dates boost academic outcomes (those infamous test scores).

As we moved field days into early to mid-August, I observed more golf courses coring and topdressing in mid-August. I know it takes more than just losing your seasonal staff to school to cause a change in the important practice of coring and topdressing. The

move away from traditional staffs to those described in this issue of *Golfdom* have an impact on “seasonality.” The golfing schedule at a club influences whether coring and topdressing is done early or late into the fall.

For many, mid-August coincides with the impression that the “worst” of summer is over. However, just like having earlier field days or earlier school start dates, it’s still hot outside. August is still known as the “dog days” of summer — a time of considerable heat and moisture. Thus, the intensive mechanical operation of coring and topdressing requires a few cautionary steps.

When coring, check to make sure that adequate moisture is present. Coring and exposing the holes to rapid drying from evapotranspiration rates causes rapid wilting of the turf around the hole. In combination with topdressing, work the sand in as quickly as possible. Sand remaining on the turf surface can result in a rapid temperature buildup. Providing irrigation immediately following coring and topdressing reduces the risk of moisture stress. Additionally — and this often is overlooked — check the core holes over time to see if some of them are devoid of sand. These core holes devoid of sand topdressing (often associated with some sort of mistake during moving the sand into the holes) are due to cutworms.

As we move to earlier and earlier start dates for coring and topdressing, the advantage of quicker turf recovery from coring and topdressing needs to be balanced against the risk of both abiotic and biotic stress. Whether you outsource fall coring and topdressing or not, be sure you have the proper equipment and labor requirements for a successful agronomic operation.

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., *Golfdom's* science editor and a professor at The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.

Yellowjackets and garbage cans

Timothy Gibb, Ph.D., is an entomologist at Purdue University. Tim has worked on numerous insect problems throughout his career, including turfgrass pests and insects that can impact human health. You may reach Tim at gibbs@purdue.edu for more information.

Q Is it wasps or bees that hover around garbage cans on the golf course in late summer and early fall?

Yellowjackets (yellow and black stinging wasps), are most commonly found around garbage cans on golf courses in late summer, although a few bees may be present as well. Yellowjackets are the most prevalent, annoying and dangerous.

Q What is the general life cycle of yellowjackets?

Yellowjackets are social insects that live in colonies with a queen and have a one-year life cycle. The queen leaves the nest and mates in late fall, passes the winter in a protected site and lays eggs in the spring, starting a new colony each year. The queen always locates her new nest in a protected site such as a cavity below ground, in a tree or inside a structure.

In early spring, the queen nurtures the young yellowjackets, but as the colony increases in number, workers assume the role of caring for, feeding and protecting the colony. The queen's primary function is to lay eggs. All the worker wasps in the colony are female, are capable of stinging and can sting re-

peatedly. They aggressively protect the nest and colony. The population of the colony may increase rapidly to 5,000 or more yellowjackets by late summer.

In extreme circumstances, a person who unwittingly disturbs the nest can be stung many times, and if that person happens to be hyper-sensitive to the venom, they may go into anaphylactic shock and possibly die.

DURING TIMES OF HIGH YELLOWJACKET ACTIVITY, RELOCATE THE GARBAGE CANS AWAY FROM PLACES WHERE GOLFERS CONGREGATE. GARBAGE CANS PLACED ON THE TEES WILL PUT GOLFERS CLOSE TO THE YELLOWJACKETS, WHERE BAD THINGS MIGHT HAPPEN.

On the other hand, in nature, yellowjackets are quite beneficial. They only become a problem when encountering people.

Q What attracts yellowjackets to the garbage cans?

Sugars and proteins attract yellowjackets. Residue from beer, soda pop, sports drinks, fruit, sandwiches, hot dogs and hamburgers accumulate in garbage cans. Once one yellowjacket finds

a food source it will communicate that location to the rest of the workers in the colony. Soon the garbage can will be swarming with yellowjackets.

Q What can superintendents do to decrease the number of yellowjackets around the garbage cans?

First, understand that spraying pesticides is not the answer. Yellowjackets are the safety concern, not bees. We need to protect bees for their ability to pollinate plants. In late summer, remind golfers to be aware of yellowjackets.

Good sanitation practices

bad things might happen. If possible, place the garbage can somewhere between a green and the next tee to minimize contact between golfers and yellowjackets.

The same principle holds true for garbage cans and dumpsters around the clubhouse. Relocate them where there is lower potential for people/yellowjacket encounters.

Q What can superintendents do to decrease the population of yellowjackets around the golf course?

To reduce yellowjacket populations and to prevent accidental encounters, eradicate all yellowjacket nests on the golf course where contact with golfers is likely. (There is no need to search for or control yellowjacket colonies that are not in areas frequented by people). Sevin (carbaryl) or Ficam (bendiocarb), as well as various pyrethroid insecticides, are effective for controlling yellowjacket nests. Use dust formulations and apply at night when wasps are in their nest and are less active. There is no need to plug the entry hole.

There are no effective traps to eliminate yellowjackets.

constitute the best prevention on a golf course. Using plastic garbage can liners and removing trash daily will help. Wash garbage cans regularly to remove any food or drink residue. Garbage cans with self-closing lids may also help.

During times of high yellowjacket activity, relocate the garbage cans away from places where golfers congregate. Garbage cans placed on the tees will put golfers close to the yellowjackets, where



Clark Throssell, Ph.D., loves to talk turf. Contact him at clarkthrossell@bresnan.net.

The Shop

// MUST-HAVE NEW EQUIPMENT



1 LF557 & LF577 Fairway Mower

The LF557 and LF577 fairway mowers are both seven-reel, Tier 4 Final, and offer a 139-inch cutting width that can cut up to 11 acres per hour, according to **JACOBSEN**. The mower also features an adaptive throttle control and a monitoring and full-text diagnostics readout. The system also provides automatic maintenance reminders at scheduled intervals on an LED screen. The LF557 is equipped with 5-inch reels, and the LF577 comes with 7-inch reels. Jacobsen.com

2 Flex-Select Spreaders

The Flex-Select model spreaders feature interchangeable shut-off trays (the complete bottom of the hopper, including the shut-off) that can convert the spreader to disperse any type of material. Superintendents can select from the **EARTHWAY'S** Ev-N-Spred, capable of spreading fertilizers and free-flowing granular products, or the EarthWay High-Output Top Dressing/pelletized high SGN material spreader, or the Low-Output low-application-rate fine chemical/fine grass seed spreader. The company offers these spreaders in two chassis types, two hopper sizes and three application trays. Earthway.com

3 Reelmaster 3555D & 3575D

TORO recently released two new models in the Reelmaster family of fairway mowers — the Reelmaster 3555-D with 5-inch reels and the Reelmaster 3575-D with 7-inch reels. Both deliver a 100-inch (2.5 m) width of cut. The mowers also feature Toro's new EdgeSeries reels in eight- or 11-blade configurations, and are built on Reelmaster platforms. These machines feature Toro's Dual Precision Adjustment (DPA) cutting units with EdgeSeries reels. Toro.com



4



5



6

4 | 8900A PrecisionCut

The 8900A PrecisionCut Large Area Reel Mower from **JOHN DEERE** features a width of 114- to 130-inches, depending on cutting unit size. It's capable of mowing speeds up to 8 miles per hour and provides a quality of cut in undulating terrain thanks to a rear-attaching yoke on the cutting unit. The unit can attach 26-inch and 30-inch verticutters and large-capacity reel motors for scalping during overseeding operations.

Deere.com

5 | Snake

The Snake from **TRIMAX** is the accumulation of more than 30 years of Trimax innovation, engineering and customer insight, according to the company. The approximately 2,700-lb. tow-behind mower attaches to a tractor, and provides a cutting width of 127 inches. Each Snake is fitted with Trimax's LazerBladez high-grade alloy steel blade system. Its Kerb Jump feature allows the user to raise all three mower decks off the ground. The mower comes with a three-year warranty from Trimax.

trimaxmowers.com

6 | Turfco Spreader

TURFCO'S WideSpin 1550 topdressers are available in truck-mounted and tow-behind models, with engine or hydraulic power options. Superintendents can choose manual controls or new electronic controls that give the widest range of rates and can lock in up to four presets. The hopper has a 20-percent-greater capacity, and the hydraulic system and spinner design allow applications to go from super light to heavy and everything in between. Turfco offers a three-year warranty.

Turfco.com

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The 19th Hole



Rick Mooney

SUPERINTENDENT // Whitetail Club, McCall, Idaho

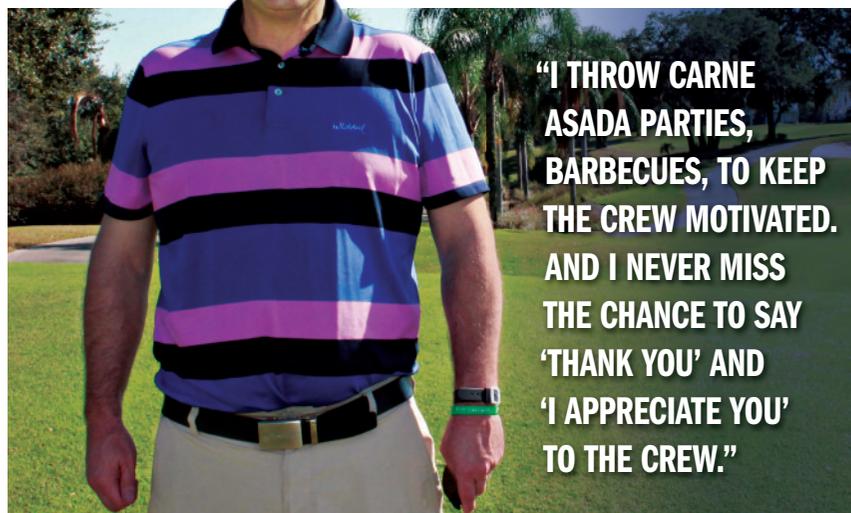


What can I get you? Jim Beam and 7 Up. (Cypress Point superintendent) Jeff Markow got me drinking Jim Beam and ginger ale in 1994, but most people make fake ginger ale, so I've moved on to 7 Up.

Tell me about your family. My wife of 23 years, Michelle, known to all her friends as "Mush." My daughter Payton, named after Walter Payton, is going to be entering her first year of high school. My son Cael loves to run cross country, also going into high school this year. He's named after Penn State wrestling coach Cael Sanderson. My third kid, Quinn, is 10 years old. He plays hockey and he's most likely to go with me to a football game or caddie for me. Last, we've got Wilson, a 3-year-old border collie.

How about Whitetail Club? It's a fully amenitized golf club and community in central Idaho. Golf, fishing, skating, skiing, pickleball, tennis, mountain biking, water sports, and we might have one of the best clubhouse settings in the world.

What is life like in McCall? It's mostly known as a ski town, snow and water. We have great back country right out our back door. Most people who come to McCall are going to go huckleberry picking in the



"I THROW CARNE ASADA PARTIES, BARBECUES, TO KEEP THE CREW MOTIVATED. AND I NEVER MISS THE CHANCE TO SAY 'THANK YOU' AND 'I APPRECIATE YOU' TO THE CREW."

summer, and if they're here in the spring they're going to go morel hunting. And, of course, we have a great golf course.

What are your sports teams?

Michigan State and whoever the Wolverines are playing.



If you could go back in time to see any band, who is it, when and where?

I don't need to go back in time, I'd go right now. I'd see Kid Rock at the Fox



Theater in Detroit with my buddies Jonas (Conlan, superintendent at Indian Wells Golf Resort) and (Sean) Reehoorn

(superintendent at Aldarra Golf Club).

What was the last act of kindness you witnessed?

Recently, my wife had to have a medical procedure. We had a unique and special friend come help out for 10 days — the person is my daughter's biological grandmother — my daughter is adopted. She came out and helped for 10 days, cooked and cleaned, took care of the family while my wife got back to good health. That was nice, and my wife is good now, she's back up and hard at it.

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

Water skied behind an airplane. They just take off and stay on the water, but the prop wash is horrific. It's like getting hit in the head with golf balls; you have to get to the side pretty quick. Someone said they'd pull me, so I said 'What the hell.'

As interviewed by Seth Jones, July 17, 2017.



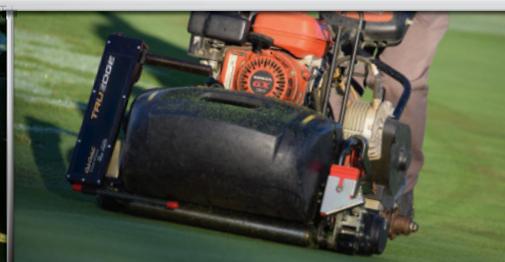
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