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To date, we've worked with some of the leading researchers in turf, soil, and agricultural sciences to focus our efforts on fertility performance. As an ideal food/carbon source for soil microorganism populations, Nature Safe delivers the necessary energy to stimulate the soil ecosystem. "Diversity of food resources leads to diversity of beneficial organisms." The result, "microbial activity in the soil is the foundation of proper soil management and sound plant health programs."  

So when you're thinking of maximizing fertility and turf health, make Nature Safe Your Natural Choice for Optimum Soil and Plant Nutrition!

### Figures

1. The bacterial population continued to increase with Nature Safe while the bacterial population decreased with the synthetic.

2. Soil Organisms And Their Role In Healthy Turf, Turfgrass Trends, August 1998, Elaine R. Ingham, Ph.D.

For a Nature Safe distributor near you, FREE video, research and product information, call (800) 252-4727 and visit our website at www.naturesafe.com
Wise Guys
Golf maintenance's mentors know what it takes to be a consummate leader.
By Larry Aylward

Land of Hope and Dreams
Millennium kids aspire to build their turf management careers on the golf course.
By Frank H. Anderka Jr.

Tangled Up in Fairway Mowers
In this high-tech age, it's complicated, but you can keep your equipment rolling down the fairway.
By Bruce Allar
Golfdom presents its choices as young leaders — the innovators, influencers and mentors of the next decade.

**Taming the Turf**

Why use growth regulators? Increasingly, the more cogent question is, "Why not?"

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

**Hoofing It?**

There are points to consider when purchasing a walk-behind greens mower.

By Larry Aylward

**Handle With Care**

ClubCorp's chief outlines his company's approach to meeting and exceeding golfer expectations.

By Robert H. Dedman Jr.

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About the cover

Tucson, Ariz.-based photographer Chris Mooney snapped this photo of young leader and superintendent Bill Zeglin on a warm, November night in cactus land.

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Civilized Debate Continues

Congratulations on tackling a difficult and sensitive issue. ("Management Companies: The Civilized Debate Continues," October).

As an administrator of multiple golf course operations, a former CGCS and golf professional, I applaud the articles by Greg Plotner and Joel Jackson. I can't say as much for Mike Hamilton's article. He's in la la land if he thinks the GCSAA, USGA, PGA and CMAA will get together to regulate and accredit management companies.

I'm sure that many of Hamilton's horror stories can be validated. But the whole point concerning management companies has been missed. Any golf course operation that's considering hiring a management company is as lost as a golf ball in tall grass if it doesn't execute extremely thorough due diligence.

Last year, I spoke on the management company issue at the National Public Golf Forum in Palm Springs, Calif., and I presented every aspect of developing a request for proposal and all of the due diligence in terms of investigating a management company's background (there's an extensive checklist). If you don't do it, hire a bonded consultant to perform the evaluation.

You can get burned if you don't have your act together. Any contract with a management company must be closely monitored. Hold its feet to the fire in terms of every aspect of performance, including a performance bond. It's not a once-in-a-while contract performance to check. The club must have someone who has the ability to manage the contract.

If Hamilton's horror stories could be investigated, I'll assure you that the majority were the result of not properly managing the contract. Good management companies are professionals. They know the business and can probably do the job more efficiently in every aspect. It's not about doing it cheaper. It's about doing it better, eliminating a lot of headaches and producing cost savings.

Gene Burress
Golf Operations Director
Brevard County, Fla.

Gone fishin'

As you stated in your October Flagstick column, fishing and golf are cut from the same cloth. Where else can you spend hundreds of dollars on boron-graphite fishing rods, then turn around and purchase the latest titanium metal wood for the equivalent cost?

Where else can you find solitude in the rain while playing golf on a deserted golf course or throwing spinner baits from a bass boat with no one else around? Where else can you find peace and tranquility as I walk my course at sunset with no golfer in sight, enjoying the accomplishments my staff and I have worked so hard for, or climb in the bass boat at sunup wondering what the day of fishing has in store for me?

Yes, I'm also addicted to fishing.

Doug Holcomb
Superintendent
Delta View GC, Pittsburg, Calif.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at patrick.jones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2075 or send them via snail mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.
Events

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

JANUARY
22-26 National Golf Course Owners Association’s Annual Conference
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Contact 843-881-9956.

25-27 Virginia Turf & Landscape Conference & Trade Show
Richmond, Va.
Contact 540-942-8873.

FEBRUARY
9-11 Western Pa. Turf Conference & Trade Show
Monroeville, Pa.
Contact 814-863-3475.

10-12 Turfgrass Producers International Conference & Expo
San Antonio.
Contact 800-405-8873.

14-20 GCSSA Show and Conference
New Orleans.
Contact 800-472-7878.

MARCH
6 Management of Localized Dry Spots and Water Repellent Seis Seminar
Providence, R.I.
Contact 800-472-7878.

24 New York State Western Regional Turfgrass Conference
Buffalo, N.Y.
Contact 516-783-1229.

APRIL
5 New York State Turfgrass Association Adirondack Regional Conference
Lake Placid, N.Y.
Contact 800-873-8873.

22 Bentgrass and Turfgrass Maintenance Seminar
Albany, N.Y.
Contact 800-472-7878.

28 New York State Turfgrass Association’s Southeast Regional Conference
Suffern, N.Y.
Contact 800-873-8873.

MAY
4 Human Resources Seminar
Sacramento, Calif.
Contact 800-472-7878.

JUNE
15-16 Warm Season Turfgrass Research Tour
Maricopa, Ariz.
Contact 520-783-2050.

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to fanorka@advanstar.com.
Facing Up to the Fountain of Youth

BY PAT JONES

Staff called me and said in a rather irritated voice, “I see you’re doing an issue on the young leaders of the industry. What about us old farts?”

Now that, Regis, really is the million-dollar question.

What happens to the veterans — the leaders who made this profession what it is today — when they’re knee-deep in youngsters willing to work for half what they make? What survival skills should the 50-something superintendent possess? Should we take steps to stem the flow from the fountain of youth or simply let the market sort itself out? Tune in next month for a look at careers, compensation and, of course, the much-debated GCSAA Professional Development Initiative (how could Golfdom possibly stay silent on that?).

We’ve rightsized

You may notice that Golfdom seems to be thicker. That’s because more advertisers are turning to Golfdom in 2000. The good news for readers is that, since we maintain a 50/50 ratio of editorial to advertising, you’ll get more articles and fun in between the wonderful words from our sponsors.

We’re also narrower than last year’s extra-wide design because advertisers and readers told us the oversized look was cool, but annoying when it came to storing the magazine in a file folder or producing ad “films” to match our old non-standard size. Consequently, we reformatted to “normal” magazine size. Curiously, this may be the only “normal” thing about our humble magazine. Happy reading!

Pat Jones is the publisher/editor of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or patrick.jones@advanstar.com