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   04 O 40 Resort
   05 O 50 City/State/Municipal
   06 O 55 Other Golf Courses (please specify)
   07 O 60 Golf Course Architect
   08 O 70 Golf Course Developer
   09 O 90 Golf Course Builder
 10 O 105 University/College
 11 O 100 Others Allied to the Field (please specify)

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)
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  13 O 15 Assistant Superintendent
  14 O 25 Owner/Management Company Executive
  15 O 30 General Manager
  16 O 35 Director of Golf
  17 O 70 Green Chairman
  18 O 45 Club President
  19 O 75 Builder/Developer
  20 O 55 Architect/Engineer
  21 O 60 Research Professional
  22 O 65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify)

3. What is your facility’s annual maintenance budget?
   23 O A More than $2 Million
   24 O B $1,000,001-$2 Million
   25 O C $750,001-$1 Million
   26 O D $500,001-$750,000
   27 O E $300,001-$500,000
   28 O F $150,001-$300,000
   29 O G Less than $150,000

4. If you work for a golf course, how many holes are on your course?
   30 O A 9
   31 O B 18
   32 O C 27
   33 O D 36+
   34 O E Other (please specify)_________________________

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33 ○ D 36+
34 ○ E Other (please specify)

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Name
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Don't necessarily go with the lowest bidder
By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

Without a proper pump station, even the best irrigation system in the world won't fulfill your needs. With all the different pump station options facing superintendents, however, the choice can be confusing.

Superintendents must ask the right questions to determine which station will best fit their needs, says Willie Slingerland, new product sales manager for Dallas-based Flowtronex/PSI. Many superintendents often look solely at the bottom line — and that's a mistake, he says.

"Though important, the number on the bottom line can be deceiving and vary widely from manufacturer to manufacturer," Slingerland says. "Each company does things a little differently, and these differences can play a major role in the final price. It's up to the buyer to ask the right questions."

Don't necessarily purchase your pump station from the lowest bidder, Slingerland says. If the superintendent merely puts out a Request For Proposal (RFP) that talks about required gallons per minute and pressure per square inch without specific system details, the resulting bids will vary dramatically," Slingerland says. "Selecting the lowest bidder under those circumstances almost guarantees the station purchased will not match the station the superintendent had in mind."

Continued on page 44

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Continued from page 43

Once you’ve determined your price range, you must decide on which type of pump will work the best for your course, says Jim Simonini, market development manager for Norcross, Ga.-based SynchroFlo. There are primarily two types of pumps on the market today — end suction or vertical turbine. Simonini says most superintendents today choose vertical turbines.

“Turbines are more efficient,” he adds. “You’ll save money on water and on energy.”

Superintendents should also examine the pump station housing and internal parts, Slingerland says. They should be skeptical if they haven’t heard of the brand names of the pumps, motors, drives and starters in a prospective pump station.

“TO ENSURE A LONG-LIVED PUMP SYSTEM, MAKE SURE THE COMPONENTS ARE ALL FROM WELL-KNOWN COMPANIES.”

―Willie Slingerland, Flowtrones/PSI

manager. What some superintendents forget is that the cooling system must run even when the pump station is not.

“That’s a crucial point that is poorly understood,” Adams says. “On hot days, even if you’re not running the system, you can fry out an electrical system from the heat of the sun. You want cool air blowing across the front of the electrical system and not the back.”

Simonini says lightning protection packages are also important.

“We’ve all heard countless stories of superintendents whose pump stations were destroyed by lighting during a thunderstorm,” Simonini says. “The only way to protect yourself from suffering the same fate is to purchase a grounding package.”

Such packages usually cost between $200 and $300, he added. Superintendents should make sure that components are easy to access for service, Adams says. “You don’t want everything packed in there so tightly that you can’t reach all the parts,” Adams says.

Slingerland says superintendents should pay attention to the warranty offered by pump station manufacturers because the last hassle you need is a broken pump station with no quick way to fix it, he adds.

“The actual value of a warranty is determined by what is included and by how the manufacturer handles claims,” Slingerland says. “A product is often only as good as the service that backs it up.”

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Hunter Golf introduces the G870, an electric valve-in head rotor with easy, through-the-top access to all serviceable components. The design eliminates the need to dig or disturb the turf during routine service or other irrigation system maintenance, according to the company.

All sprinkler components, including the internal gear drive and valve, the pilot valve, pressure regulator, solenoid, valve seat and rock screen can be pulled out for cleaning and maintenance while the Hunter rotor body remains in the ground.

For more information, contact 800-248-6561, www.hunterindustries.com or CIRCLE NO. 200

Root control system

Biobarrier Root Control System is a method of inhibiting tree and shrub root growth from areas you want to protect. The permanently attached nodules on the durable geotextile create a zone on either side of the fabric that prevents the division of root-tip cells. So when a root reaches the zone, it's diverted to grow in another direction. Placed between the tree and the hardscape or landscape that needs to be protected, Biocarrier works invisibly to prevent tree-root intrusion.

For more information, contact 800-284-2780, www.biobarrier.com or CIRCLE NO. 201

Water management

Flowtronex PSI introduces Integrated Water Management, a new approach to efficiently overcome the effects of poor water quality in pumping and irrigation systems. IWM incorporates the fundamental processes of water quality with current distribution methods and single-source accountability.

IWM combines fertigation, pH control and filtration into a single intelligent system. By rolling these processes into one pumping station, the result is true integrated water management, the company says. The pump station becomes the focal point where data can be retrieved from all points in the irrigation cycle.

For more information, contact 800-786-7480, www.flowtronex.com or CIRCLE NO. 202

Crabgrass control

A recent study demonstrated crabgrass control as high as 100 percent with Drive 75 DF herbicide from BASF. Drive 75 DF is a broad-spectrum post-emergent herbicide that offers overseeding flexibility and turf safety to the professional turf market.

The study was conducted by the Davey Tree Expert Co.

For more information, contact 800-545-9525, www.turffacts.com or CIRCLE NO. 203

Software

TRIMS Software International introduces the Gold and Silver Editions for TRIMS Grounds Management Software, an updated version designed to increase user efficiency through the bar coding, Palm O.S., compatible portable data collection devices and Internet file transfers.

For more information, contact 602-277-8027 or CIRCLE NO. 204

Herbicide

Griffin LLC. announces a new product registration for TranXit herbicide: It's safe to several varieties of warm-season turf and is good for removal of overseeded turf during the sensitive transition period in the spring. It contains the active ingredient rimsulfuron that has pre-emergence and post-emergence activity.

TranXit is effective in controlling poa annua and a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds with no adverse impact on most warm-season turf. Research shows TranXit to consistently deliver at least 95 percent control of poa, according to the company.

For more information, contact 800-237-1854, www.griffinllc.com or CIRCLE NO. 205

Descaler

ClearWater Enviro Technologies offers ScaleBlaster, a product that eliminates formation of limescale deposits in irrigation systems. The integrated circuitry produces a modulating frequency waveform that hits the resonant frequency of the calcium-carbonate molecules, causing them to lose their adhesive properties. Existing scale is removed and never forms again.

For more information, contact 800-756-7946 or CIRCLE NO. 206

Utility vehicle

The new Cushman Commander utility vehicle from Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products carries large cargo loads and can be customized for many missions, according to the company. Replacing the Cushman Hawk line, the Commander features leaf springs, hydraulic shock absorbers and reinforced front suspension.

For more information, contact 888-922-TURF or CIRCLE NO. 207

Continued on page 46
Syngenta Professional Products introduces Pest Outlooks, a predictive tool to help superintendents and other turfgrass managers anticipate potentially damaging outbreaks of insects and disease. The online service allows customers to retrieve, at the click of a mouse, information that used to take days to collect from multiple sources. Pest Outlooks is one of the first services under the new company's GreenCast brand, which it created to offer customers a range of value-added information and technology services.

Located at www.greencastonline.com, Pest Outlooks is a proprietary service available only to Syngenta customers. It was developed in partnership with Pest Forecasting Group and university turf experts. It uses weather data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, historical data and pest models to identify — on a weekly basis — climatic conditions that favor outbreaks of a variety of diseases and insects. The service currently covers seven of the most common diseases encountered by superintendents: dollar spot, gray leaf spot, summer patch, brown patch, pythium blight, rust and red thread. It also covers eight common white grub species.

For more information, contact 336-632-2115, www.syngenta.com or CIRCLE 208

Colonial bentgrass
Glory Colonial bentgrass, developed by Pure Seed Testing and experimentally designated as PST 9HG, will be available from Turf Seed this fall. Adapted for the cool temperate regions of the United States, Canada and Europe, the improved colonial bentgrass provides a dense, upright turf. Glory has good fall and spring density and exhibits strong summer turf performance, Turf Seed says.

For more information, contact 401-295-7271 or CIRCLE NO. 209

Erosion control
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For more information, contact 800-207-6457, www.profileproducts.com or CIRCLE NO. 210

Poa triv
Hubbard, Ore.-based Turf-Seed and Lake-land, Fla-based distributor Golf Ventures have entered into an exclusive arrangement in the state of Florida where Golf Ventures will have exclusive distribution in the marketing of Turf-Seed's Winterstar poa trivialis, which features a deep green color with improved density and texture that allows a rapid spring transition in the southern overseeding markets.

For more information contact, 401-295-7271 or CIRCLE NO. 211
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A yuppie was sent a ransom note saying that he was to bring $50,000 to the 7th hole of the country club at 10 o'clock the next day, if he ever wanted to see his wife alive again.

He didn't arrive until almost 12:30.

A masked man stepped out from behind some bushes and growled, "What took ya so long? You're over two hours late."

"Hey, give me a break," whined the yuppie. "I have a 27 handicap!"

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daddydom calls

THE UNEXPECTED NEWS OF MY IMPENDING FATHERHOOD IS THE COOLEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME

BY MARK LUCE

I recently drove 1,707 miles to California, grappling with a Ryder truck routinely tossed around by crosswinds and watching as gasoline prices shriveled my wallet. I tried feebly to find something decent on the radio, with two tranquilizer-addled cats and my darling Jennifer in tow, ready to start a new life in the Golden State.

We settled quickly into a beachside apartment and reveled in our decision to swap the swelter of Kansas' ovenbaked summer for what may well be Southern California's motto: 76 degrees and sunny.

The first nine days were great. We went to the beach, scoured the area for hot spots, found the right coffee shop, befriended the record-store hipsters and caught the low-key vibe that typifies the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach.

Jennifer was to start her new job on Monday, and I was to get back to the task of waltzing with words for wealth. I had meetings planned, a couple of solid leads and some long-forgotten fiction to revise. I would read every day from 10 a.m. to noon at the sandy shores of the Pacific. The years-in-the-planning and bank-breaking Midwest takeover of the Golden State was about to begin.

All that changed after we took a test on a sunny Saturday last month. The day started with my visit to the Los Angeles Coliseum to watch the USC Trojans battle the Kansas State Wildcats (my arch enemies as a Jayhawk). When I returned to our new pad, where Jennifer had patiently waited for the cable guy who never showed, we were hungry and a bit exhausted. We went to dinner and then we took the test that would change our lives.

It was a pregnancy test — and we passed, much to our amazement, with two blazing blue-neon stripes. I'm going to be a dad.

Initially, I was slack-jawed. What are we going to do? Will we stay here or beat a hasty retreat to the Midwestern nexus of family, friends and support? What are the scrubs in the hospital made of? Can you slide on the floor with those slipper things? Can anyone speak through those masks over their mouths?

After that initial wave of questions, we burned up fiber-optic lines with calls and e-mails to friends, family and editors. We hurried plans to wed (finally) after four years of living together. Congratulations crackled over the cordless phone, zapped into the in-box of our e-mail account and left us feeling excited, grateful, terrified and more than a bit crazed.

Through the emotional insanity, return-trip logistics and the sheer shock at your world being turned upside down, I found a surprisingly rational refrain repeating in my normally hyperactive head, "This, by far, is the coolest thing that's ever happened to me."

That voice, despite its rather colloquial patois, kept me going as Jennifer quickly flew home to see the doctors and get some parental loving.

It kept me going as I re-boxed the apartment, shut off the utilities I had just turned on, got back in that big Ryder truck with two confused cats and drove 1,737 miles to Kansas City to begin our new life.

Mark Luce now lives in Kansas City with his new wife Jennifer. You can e-mail him at mluce@earthlink.net