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Circle No. 101
Blast Off
Skyrocketing expectations about fast greens ignore good turf maintenance practices — and the good of the game.
By Ron Furlong

Giving A Charge?
No one can say whether the electric triplex greens mower will transform the way the industry does maintenance. But the machine is gaining a presence in the industry.
By Larry Aylward

Inside the Fringe
News from the dance floor, including updates on velvet bentgrass and painting cups to get the tournament look.
By Frank H. Andorka Jr.
Beware of Lyme Disease

The risk of contracting the tick-borne ailment is higher than you think. Here's how to prevent getting it.

Part four of our Living Well series

By Robin Suttell

cover story

BY SHANE SHARP

The brash, new bermudas are headed north, challenging bentgrass varieties as a choice for greens in new areas of the country.

26

About the cover

We asked illustrator David W. Fogle of Rocky River, Ohio, to depict the Johnny Appleseed of the industry on our cover. Only in this case it's Johnny Bermudaseed.
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Golfdom’s Joke of the month

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Turn to Golfdom’s Classifieds each month for great deals and one of our favorite jokes

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SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER
10 Iowa Turfgrass Institute
Burlington, Iowa
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10 Mississippi Valley GCSA
Monthly Meeting
St. Louis
Contact 618-259-3207

13 Intermountain GCSA's
Annual Meeting
Ogden, Utah
Contact 435-259-6674

15-16 Oregon Golf Course Owners
Association's Fall Meeting
Black Butte Ranch, Ore.
Contact 503-378-0344

18 Western Washington GCSA's
Annual Meeting
Kent, Wash.
Contact 360-705-3049

22 Georgia GCSA's Innovative
Superintendent Series
Rome, Ga.
Contact 707-742-2651

29 Georgia GCSA's Assistant
Superintendent Seminar
Villa Rica, Ga.
Contact 707-742-2651

NOVEMBER
1 Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod's Annual Meeting
Sandwich, Mass.
Contact 508-693-0578

3-7 Georgia GCSA's Annual Meeting
St. Simons Island, Ga.
Contact 707-742-2651

5 Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod's Nine Hole Meeting
Amherst, Mass.
Contact 413-253-3520

5 Oregon GCSA's Environmental Meeting
Welches, Ore.
Contact 541-549-1960

6 Iowa GCSA Annual State Meeting
West Des Moines, Iowa
Contact 515-232-8222

6-9 West Virginia GCSA's Annual Turf Conference and Show
Morgantown, WV.
Contact 304-243-4112

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 fandorka@advanstar.com.

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BUSINESS STAFF

John D. Payne GROUP PUBLISHER 440-891-2786  jpayne@advanstar.com
Tom Conlon VP/GENERAL MANAGER 440-891-2819  tconlon@advanstar.com
Nicole Caprara ADMIN. COORDINATOR 440-891-2734  ncaprara@advanstar.com
Jill Hodl PRODUCTION MANAGER 216-739-9129  jhodl@advanstar.com
Rory Bradley PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 216-723-9770  rbradley@advanstar.com
Darryl Arquitte CIRCULATION MANAGER 216-723-9422  darquitte@advanstar.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS
7500 OLD OAK BLVD.
CLEVELAND, OH 44130-3609

Kevin Stoltman MIDWEST MANAGER 440-891-2772  FAX: 440-891-2675
Pat Roberts WESTERN MANAGER 440-891-2609  FAX: 440-891-2675
Michael Harris DISPLAY, ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE 440-891-3118  FAX: 440-826-2865
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REGIONAL OFFICES

Tom Galligan GROUP SALES DIRECTOR
3901 52ND AVE.
KENOSHA, WI 53144-1830
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MARKETING SERVICES

Marcie Nagy REPRINTS (500 MINIMUM) 440-891-2744  mnagy@advanstar.com
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Defibrillators spark debate

This morning I picked up a copy of Golfdom while waiting for a meeting at city hall. As a local Fire Rescue Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief, I was disturbed by some of the information and comments found in the article "Defibrillator Demand?" (June). First, all local laws do not dictate that a medical director be in place at a golf course for AED placement. In most cases, it only takes a prescription from a physician (though each jurisdiction may be slightly different and should be consulted prior to getting an AED unit).

In addition, we only charge $20 per student for AED instruction, not the $50 to $70 per student indicated in the article. I was most concerned, however, by Don Mahaffey’s comments regarding AEDs on his course. He is quoted as saying his local fire department would rather the course not have AEDs, but in the event of an cardiac arrest call on a golf course, however, when responding to an average response time of five minutes. This all takes valuable time. A cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival decreases 7 percent to 10 percent for each minute he or she goes without defibrillation.

To give them the best possible chance of survival, AEDs should be part of every golf course’s minimum equipment. I commend those courses that have had the foresight to get these life-saving devices in place.

Chris R. Brown, EMS Commander
Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Ill-conceived Comparisons

I’m writing in response to the article “Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself” (Flagstick, July). I loathe the attitude about our profession that the article espouses — that being a superintendent is more difficult and stressful than any other job.

You compare an accountant who makes a minor math error to an  herbicide contamination. If putting herbicide where it shouldn’t be is a minor error, what is a major one? I think a fairer comparison would be if the accountant made a mistake so bad that the IRS was investigating his client.

Everyone has budgets to meet, difficult bosses, office politics and occasionally unfair performance judgements. People in all professions have to justify their salaries against what they are worth to their organizations. Those stresses aren’t limited to superintendents.

You make an excellent point about taking care of your life and remembering what really matters, but please get off the high horse and realize that everyone has stress.

Tony Campanelia, Superintendent
Hampshire CC
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

Lighten Up!

Editor’s Note: In the July issue, John Baute of the CC of New Orleans, wrote a letter that criticized Golfdom for running what he considered a photo of Southern Hills CC superintendent John Szklinski using unsafe practices on his golf course. Szklinski responds:

It has been quite an educational experience as the host superintendent of the 101st U.S. Open. You can’t completely comprehend how wonderful it is until you experience it. I have been extremely fortunate in my budding career to experience all that life has to offer.

I’ve also learned that there are individuals who always choose to look at the negative, and it would appear, that John Baute (Letters, July) is such a person.

He assumed the material being dispensed from the Multipro was fertilizer, but it was only sand. We at Southern Hills don’t require our staff to wear protective gear while playing recovery shots from our bunkers. Additionally, Baute assumed the vehicle was in motion, but it wasn’t.

It’s a shame that Baute has a tendency to search for the negative. Life is awesome, so enjoy it.

John Szklinski, Superintendent
Southern Hills CC
Tulsa, Okla.

On the Mark

I have been the wife of a superintendent for almost four years now. Every now and again, I like to read some of the articles in my husband’s golf publications. "Career and Family The Balancing Act" (July) caught my eye, and I read it to see what people in the industry had to say about balancing this stressful career and having a family.

When I met my husband, he was about to attend turf school at the University of Massachusetts. He explained to me what taking care of a golf course entailed. It was not until the following year, when he attended the turf program at Rutgers University, that I really understood what superintendents do, however.

When he would visit me or I would visit him, I would help him study the different varieties of grass, trees, plants and diseases. I was amazed and impressed by the amount of knowledge it took to do his job and do it well.

Although I do miss him during the summer and jokingly call myself a “golf widow,” I understand why Brian keeps the hours he does. I also know that in November we’ll have more time together and will take a much-needed vacation.

Kim Luccini
West Kingston, R.I.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at fandorka@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2575 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.
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Your course is only as good as its foundation.
For most superintendents outside of the Sun Belt, Labor Day is like the finish line in a marathon course lined with land mines. The end of the hel-lacious summer of 2001 (which seemed to instantly arrive after a winter that just wouldn’t quit) seems like a good time to reflect on the best and worst of our version of the silly season.

**Best recovery from a near-death experience:** Winterkill hit many in the Northeast, but nowhere did it hit harder than Salem CC in Massachusetts, site of the U.S. Senior Open. Kip Tyler, his crew and the USGA Green Section brought the course back from death’s door in a matter of two months. Nice work, guys.

**Best trend of the summer:** Thanks largely to the efforts of local superintendents and the GCSAA, golf media in the Northeast were actively supportive of superintendents whose courses were hit by winterkill. Maybe some of these local scribes are finally starting to get it.

**Best place to hang out for an architecture junkie:** The ASGCA’s Donald Ross Banquet, where you can rub elbows and talk shop with the world’s finest designers — and then watch them sheepishly edge over to the head table to get autographs from Jack and Arnie.

**Worst pest of the summer:** This is a tie between the armyworm, which unexpectedly ravaged many courses in the North, and that nasty little woman who hosts “Weakest Link.”

**Worst development trend:** Some new courses we visited that were opened WAAAAAAY too early under terrible agronomic circumstances. Developers are in such a huge hurry to cut cups and start the cash flow that basic grow-in practices are ignored. My message to the money men: A little patience will pay off within a year or two.

One notable exception to the sod-it-and-sell-it phenomenon: David Pursell of PTI, who broke ground on his FarmLinks course in Alabama early this summer. The golf caps given to guests at the event had “Est. 2003” embroidered on the back.

**Worst reporting gaffe of the summer:** In my August column, I suggested GCSAA would try to solicit funds from industry companies for its planned new political-action committee. Bzzzzz! Wrong! PACs can only take contributions from individuals. Companies usually can’t contribute ... so they’ll be soliciting you instead.

**Best round of golf I didn’t play:** I was merely a spectator at the pro/am honoring superintendents at the John Deere Classic in July. But I nonetheless sweated along with the superintendents, employers, Tour players and Deere staff who endured a 120-degree heat index to play TPC at Deere Run the Monday before the Classic. And you know what? Despite being baked to medium well, these guys absolutely loved the course and the experience.

Best of all, Big Green has turned the Classic into an unparalleled public showcase for superintendents. At Deere’s urging, CBS and the rest of the media generated more awareness of superintendents and maintenance in one week than the rest of the Tour events do in the entire year.

**Worst round of golf I did play:** I dropped into a well-promoted daily fee in the Midwest for a quick 18 with a friend. After we paid and we’re heading out of the pro shop, I gave my card to the assistant pro behind the desk and said, “Please give my regards to your superintendent.” He said, “Oh, we don’t even have one. We just hire some college kids and some (insert Hispanic ethnic slur here) and the place looks just fine.”

After about six holes of hitting balls off dirt and clover, we bagged it and went to a real golf course with a real superintendent.

**Worst proofreading gaffe of the summer:** Mis-spelling Ken Mangum’s name in August’s Hole of the Month. Doh! Sorry Ken.

**Best final words about this summer:** It’s over.

Pat Jones is the publisher/editorial director of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com