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With its die-cast design, easy dual-point adjustment, and bedded

an ideal cut, as low as 1/16 inch, time after time. Contact your

will never say a riding greensmower

will never say a riding greensmower

will never say a riding greensmower

will never say a riding greensmower

will never say a riding greensmower

will never say a riding greensmower
Forget what you’ve learned.

Can’t cut as well as a walk behind again.

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Golfdom

JANUARY 2003 • VOLUME 59 • NO. 1

Mona in the Middle

GCSAA PREVIEW

50 Into the Deep South With the GCSAA
As long as you don’t mention the Civil War or drink Pepsi products, you should be able to have a good time at this year’s GCSAA show in Atlanta.

By Mark Luce

58 New at the Show
Here are some products you’ll want to see as you’re walking the aisles of the Atlanta Convention Center.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

64 ‘Princess’ Royal
New seeded hybrid bermudagrass features fine leaf texture, color and density — just what this superintendent needed to grow grass in the desert.

By Larry Aylward

68 Back to the Basics
Stick to the central tenets of good agronomy so your spring fertility program can kick-start your season.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.
cover story
BY LARRY AYLWARD

GCSAA CEO Steve Mona talks about the challenges the association faces and addresses superintendents' concerns in the lead story comprising our our GCSAA show preview

About the cover
Topeka, Kan., photographer Aaron Delesie caught Steve Mona in a serious pose at the GCSAA headquarters last November.

The Big Picture
Check out Golfdom's new statistics page featuring the numbers that shape your business.

Turfgrass Trends
This month, Golfdom's practical research digest for turfgrass managers features a story by USGA's Matt Nelson, who writes on how to maintain collars like greens for their best performance. Pages 33-48

clarification
Kevin Breen, certified superintendent of Lahontan GC, called us to clarify something we wrote in December's Hole of the Month. Though he does use organic fertilizers on the hole, he does not use them within 30 feet of the water's edge, as the article indicated.

In fact, Lahontan GC maintains an application-free (including chemicals and fertilizers) buffer zone around all bodies of water on the 860-acre property, Breen says. Furthermore, Breen adds that he maintains the water quality without the use of chemicals as well. Golfdom apologizes for the misunderstanding.

news with a hook
11 American Golf at the Turn
14 Sprig Measurement

Sprucing Up Tees on a Bargain Budget
You'll be surprised at what you can do without breaking the bank.
The Nature Safe Difference

with Scott Curtis at Eagle Crest GC

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American Society of Golf Course Architects
111 E. Wacker, 18TH FLOOR, CHICAGO 60601; 312-577-1000; WWW.GOLFDESIGN.ORG

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
1421 RESEARCH PARK DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3659; 800-472-7878; WWW.GCSAA.ORG

Golf Course Builders Association of America
727 "O" STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68508; 402-476-4444; WWW.GCBAA.ORG

National Golf Course Owners Association
1470 BEN SAWYER BLVD., STE. 18, MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464; 843-881-9956; WWW.NGCIOA.ORG

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment
1555 E 15TH ST. NW, SUITE 400, WASHINGTON, DC; 202-872-3860; WWW.PESTFACTS.ORG

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I was recently leafing through an issue of the “old” *Golfdom* magazine from the 1930s when I came across an article about the “revolutionary” new practice of fairway irrigation. At the time, it was bad news for the guy who used to drive the water truck, but it was clearly good news for everyone else.

The article got me thinking about the evolution of golf course management and our remarkable tradition of progress and growth. Agronomic science, technology, formal education, compensation and recognition are all light years beyond what was available when that old article was written.

Think about this: a golf pro from 1935 could climb into a time machine, arrive in 2003 and still be able to recognize and use today’s versions of the basic tools of his trade — sticks and balls (and cash registers, I guess). But a greenkeeper of that era magically teleported to today would be absolutely baffled by the products and practices we use now. In short, time has been very good to this profession overall.

But time has also eroded certain traditions, and that is worrisome. For example, I’ve heard many veteran superintendents express concern that young people entering the profession now have inflated expectations and little patience for “paying their dues.”

I think there’s more to this than some old guys whining about how they had it tougher when they came up. The promise of a quick move into a head superintendent’s job seems to be a commonly held belief among many young folks coming into the business.

The problem with this fast-track mentality is that it bypasses one of the most valuable and time-honored traditions of our industry: apprenticeship and mentoring. In short, we need to remind those enthusiastic and aggressive young turfheads that they will ultimately be more successful and happier if they invest a few early career years to learn what no school can ever teach.

Mentoring is a two-way street. The young person has to have the patience and foresight to accept it. But the process ultimately relies on the veteran who’s willing to put in the time and effort to shape and mold a future professional. Many of you reading this right now are probably thinking of that special person who decided you were worth it. If so, give them a call to say, “Thanks.”

*Golfdom*, in partnership with Floratine Products, is also saying thanks to some special individuals who’ve excelled in mentoring young superintendents. Next month, we’ll reveal the names of the four winners of our inaugural “Keepers of the Green Award.” Our first group of honorees is amazingly diverse in terms of age, facility type and geography. But they share one common trait: a deep commitment to passing along a lifetime of knowledge to the generations that have followed them into a profession they love.

For that, we should all say, “Thanks.”

**Other 2003 notes**

If you aren’t currently receiving our new biweekly e-newsletter, *The Golfdom Insider*, log on to Golfdom.com right now and subscribe.

Going to Atlanta for the big show? If so, drop by and see us at Booth #2317 and share your article ideas, comments and complaints.

Not going to Atlanta? Log on to Golfdom.com during the show for daily coverage of the hot news, the best rumors, the coolest new gadgets and much more. It’s just like being there (without having to stand in line for four hours for a stinkin’ badge).

Pat Jones is the publisher/editorial director of *Golfdom*. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com
Other preemergents talk a lot about crabgrass. With Pendulum, it never comes up.

Pendulum herbicide consistently controls crabgrass better than other preemergent herbicides.* What more can we say? How about Pendulum controls a broader spectrum of weeds than any other preemergent—more than 40 grassy and broadleaf weeds, such as oxalis and spurge, in all. It also controls costs, to offer you greater value. Plus, Pendulum comes in granular and liquid formulations, and BASF pendimethalin is available on fertilizer from Scotts and Helena, for maximum application flexibility.

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Golf Rounds Played

The percentages below represent the difference in number of rounds played in the month of October 2002 compared to the number of rounds played October 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>Y.T.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England: ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT</td>
<td>-12.2%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic: NY, PA, NJ</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central: MI, OH, IN, IL, WI</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West North Central: ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO</td>
<td>-23.1%</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic: WV, VA, DE, MD, NC, SC, GA, FL</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic: without FL</td>
<td>-8.6%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East South Central: KY, TN, AL, MS</td>
<td>-8.8%</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central: OK, AR, LA, TX</td>
<td>-18.5%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central: without TX</td>
<td>-18.6%</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain: MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific: WA, OR, AK, HI, CA</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific: without CA</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>-.2%</td>
<td>.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL UNITED STATES</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>-17.2%</td>
<td>-9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan/Manitoba</td>
<td>-29.9%</td>
<td>-10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>-.3%</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Province</td>
<td>-15.4%</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social Graces

What's the biggest factor contributing to lapses in player etiquette?

- Lack of respect for the game: 44.9%
- Lack of knowledge of the game: 22.3%
- Not enough public education from golf's governing bodies: 16.3%
- Increased regulation of pesticides: 13%
- First-time golfers new to the game: 8.5%
- Lack of lessons/caddying experience: 5%
- Don't know/No answer: 3%
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