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By Larry Aylward

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By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

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The Dog Days of Summer (Patch)
Reducing turfgrass stress and promoting healthy root development are keys to controlling the difficult disease.
By Mike Boehm and Joe Rimelspach
cover story
BY LARRY AYLWARD AND FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.
In honor of Father's Day, six industry individuals pay tribute to the fathers who helped shape their lives.

About the cover
Maryland photographer Edwin Remsberg met Andrea Bakalyar and her stepfather John Merryman at the family farm in Upperco, Md., to snap the cover photo.
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Syngenta Significantly Improves and Redesigns Customizable Agronomic Information for Turfgrass Managers

Based on feedback from you—golf course professionals—Syngenta Professional Products has updated and enhanced GreenCast (www.greencastonline.com), the leading technology platform that provides turf and ornamental professionals with timely, credible resources to enable better agronomic, business, and environmental decisions.

The recent enhancements to the GreenCast Web site include:

- Higher-resolution and more current pest forecasting maps that are updated daily rather than weekly. The maps are more current, showing forecasts for today, tomorrow, and the next day. The resolution is higher, displaying for over 680 regions nationally, as opposed to approximately 360 regions, and allows you to drill down to regional views displaying over 1500 separate regions.
- Improved navigation and quicker access to the information you need
- Easy to customize and navigate for information important to you and your course

The newly designed GreenCast site offers a new graphic and visual design and technology update, along with enhanced mapping tools. The expanded mapping tools nearly double the number of reporting locations at the national view and offer more than four times the number of reporting locations on the regional level with data that is more current and updated daily, offering you more in-depth access to agronomic data, while helping you obtain solutions to various pest problems.

This unique 30-year-normal disease mapping resource is designed to help you:

- Anticipate the likelihood of destructive diseases like anthracnose, dollar spot, brown patch, or pink snow mold
- Track disease pressure and plan preventive applications
- View data that shows the predictive averages of turf disease onset in your area, using historical data gathered over the past 30 years

The user-friendly GreenCast Web site is designed to provide you with easy access to valuable tools and services tailored to your specific geography and issues to help you better manage your turf, including:

- Agronomic solution suggestions
- View historical patterns of disease pressure
- Advanced disease outlooks
- Local and nationwide soil temperatures
- Scouting reports
- Updated weather reports
- Consolidated turf news and university studies

In addition to information shared among golf course professionals throughout the country, you can personalize your start page so that every time you visit GreenCast, you will see

GreenCast offers invaluable tools to help you manage your turf and guide your chemical purchase and application decisions—available at your desktop 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For updated and customizable agronomic information and solutions, visit GreenCast at www.greencastonline.com.
A Hickory-Sticks History Lesson

BY PAT JONES

Based on my experience, it occurs to me that what our industry really needs is a golf course time machine. All whining, Big Bertha-wielding weekend warriors who beef about course conditions could be beamed back to the days of horse-drawn mowers and unirrigated greens and left there until they beg to come back.

So off we went attempting to hit these antiques. In a nutshell, it was tougher than a two-dollar truckstop steak. No hacker-friendly oversized faces or cavity-backs. No forgiving shafts that can flex like a circus contortionist. No laser-guided putters that caress the ball gently into the hole. It was a history lesson consisting of stiff hickory, clunky steel, slick-leather grips, 2-foot divots and mounds of frustration. By the turn, we had turned more clubs into kindling than I'd seen broken in my entire life.

And, of course, it was an absolute delight. Why? It was a reminder that golf is supposed to be a game that pits human vs. nature, requiring creativity and skill. We quickly learned the joys of punching a low two-iron in from 120 yards. And getting four attempts at an 8-foot putt was by no means an easy thing using a "10-iron" with a shaft as crooked as Boss Tweed. Pars, which are usually considered failures in a scramble, were met with cheers and high fives.

As I considered the experience on the drive home that evening, it occurred to me that all the advancements in sticks-and-balls have been matched stroke for stroke by advancements in our side of the business. In fact, as Byron Nelson is fond of pointing out, the biggest change in the game since his heyday is not the equipment, it's the conditioning of the course and the putting surfaces.

So based on my hickory-stick experience, I think what our industry really needs is a golf course time machine. All whining, Big Bertha-wielding weekend warriors who beef about course conditions could be beamed back to the days of horse-drawn mowers and unirrigated greens and left there until they beg to come back.

Now that would be my definition of a great history lesson.

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I spotted the big shot shortly before the conference began. His face was tan and his hair was neat. The big shot walked the room wearing a light green shirt, a yellow tie and a dark green jacket.

But there wasn't exactly an aura to the big shot's presence. He didn't swagger, and he didn't preen. In fact, the big shot didn't act like a big shot at all.

He chatted pleasantly with attendees of the conference. He smiled broadly. When the conference began, the big shot took a seat in the back of the room. Clearly, he wanted to blend in with everyone else.

That's Jon Scott for you.

Make no mistake. In the world of golf course maintenance, Scott is a big shot. The 53-year-old holds the prominent title of vice president of agronomy for competitions for the PGA Tour. He's in charge of course preparation for the PGA Tour. It doesn't get much better than that.

On a recent spring day, members of the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association (NMTMA) invited Scott to their spring meeting to present him with a prominent award — their Distinguished Service Award.

It was a homecoming for Scott, a native of Michigan, who also spent five years as superintendent at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich., from 1982-1987. Scott, who now "lives" in Ponte Vedra, Fla. (he spends about half the year on the road), says the time spent in northern Michigan as a superintendent marked a "pivotal point" in his career.

Like many superintendents looking to make strides in their careers, Scott moved around the country to gain experience and move up. He worked in the Carolinas, Florida, Maryland and Virginia. He spent a year at the prestigious Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., before joining Golfturf/Nicklaus Design as an agronomist for nine years.

That was his dream job, but Scott couldn't pass up the PGA post when it was offered to him 1998.

Scott could have waxed grandly about his career during his acceptance speech for the award, but that's not him. He stood courteously in front of the crowd on the green and purple floral carpeting decorating the modest Holiday Inn room. He clasped and unclasped his hands as he talked. His body language, as well as the pitch and tone of his soft-spoken voice, told of a humble man genuinely thankful for the award and his career.

"How did I get here? he asked. "I'm nobody special. How did I get here? I got here because of the people who helped me — all along the way."

Later in his speech, Scott said he reached a point a few years ago where he felt obliged to give back to the industry what it had given him. He says he's trying to do that by helping others realize their goals, much like the people who helped him realize his.

"I will carry that on until I get put in the box," he vowed.

At the end of his short speech, Scott bowed to the crowd and thanked them. It was clear he was bowing to them, not at them.

Scott’s sincere speech moved Jeff Holmes, who presented the award to Scott. Holmes, certified superintendent of Egypt Valley Country Club, spent nearly two years as Scott’s assistant at Grand Traverse.

"Obviously, Jon has spent some time thinking about the things he’s been blessed with," Holmes said. "He realizes he didn't get to where he's at in his career by himself. That's pretty special — because a lot of people give themselves all the credit."

Don't ever call Scott a big shot. He won't believe you.

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