Four things to ask yourself before teeing off:

Yardage?

Wind?

Club?

and...
Only GIS registered show attendees are eligible to play. John Deere employees, distributors and GIS exhibitors are not eligible. One Golden Tee arcade game (valued at $5,995) will be awarded to the person who places it closest to the hole. In a case of a tie for several hole-in-one scores, a playoff will commence at 3 p.m., on Friday, February 10, 2006 in the John Deere booth. A cash equivalent will not be awarded in lieu of the Golden Tee game. Delivery and set-up charges will be taken care of by John Deere. Any applicable taxes shall be the responsibility of the winner. Participation is limited to golf course superintendents, their assistants and persons responsible for the purchase of golf course equipment.

Where will I put it when I win?

Play The John Deere Golden Tee Challenge in Booth 4637.

Golf is hard. But playing the John Deere Golden Tee Challenge couldn't be easier. Simply go to the John Deere booth, fill out a form, and you're registered to play. You'll take a shot at getting the ball closest to the hole on one of the two Golden Tee Live games in our booth. If you're still the leader by 3 p.m. Friday, you'll be taking home an actual Golden Tee arcade game!

Even if you don't win, you'll walk away with a cool John Deere hat and a preview of where John Deere One Source is headed in 2006.
Your window of opportunity for controlling grubs just got bigger.
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Unlike other turf insecticides, ARENA™ Insecticide with clothianidin lets you apply from early spring to early fall and still get unsurpassed white grub control. Plus, ARENA offers proven performance against sod webworms, chinch bugs and other damaging pests. To learn more, contact your turf products supplier, log on to www.arystalifescience.us/arena or call 1-866-761-9397 toll free.

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Wave of New Pesticides Ready for Market

Superintendents, in search of more efficiency, ponder post-patent offerings.

By Thomas Skernivitz

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PETA Leader Speaks out

A player herself, wildlife biologist Stephanie Boyles lauds the golf industry to a degree while noting that superintendents could do a better job, especially when it comes to removing Canada geese.

By Geoff Shackelford

---

Down on the FarmLinks

Pursell on a “Passionate Pursuit of Excellence” to make PTL’s “Experience” even better.

By Larry Aylward
Amputees, paraplegics and others with physical impairments want to play golf and say that golf courses will only benefit by making them feel more welcome.

About the cover
Editor in Chief Larry Aylward photographed Bob Wilson during the National Amputee Golf Association's championship at Bethpage State Park last summer.

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW PREVIEW

What's New?
You'll see for yourself when you take the exhibit floor at the Golf Industry Show.

When to Water
Superintendents must be cautious with their irrigation practices to avoid turf disease breakouts.

News with a hook
14 Hughes Not Thrilled About Gulf Bill

Turfgrass Trends
This month Golfdom's practical research digest for turf managers discusses glyphosate runoff on fairways as well as Typhula blight control. See pages 57-67.

Online Exclusive
Read this story only at www.golfdom.com:

Oxymoron or not, Chris Dalhamer paid his dues at Pebble Beach Golf Links. He can thank the Northern California Golf Association (NGCA) for the experience.

By Thomas Skernivitz

www.golfdom.com Golfdom 3
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Long Lasting Control

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We Don't Make The Turf. We Make It Better.
Late last year, when we conducted an online survey to gather information for our annual state of the industry report, we asked superintendents to list the current challenges they face at their respective golf courses. Many of their replies reflected a similar challenge — although it’s more of a nagging problem than a challenge.

After reading their responses, it’s evident this problem is rampant at golf courses throughout the nation — from country clubs to public tracks to municipal facilities. And the problem seems to be growing. In fact, it’s turning into King Kong, and superintendents are lugging this mammoth-sized monkey of a mess around on their backs.

The problem is golfers and their impractical demands for perfect conditions. But let’s allow the superintendents who responded to the survey to better define this headache.

“Demanding members that want dollar greens on a dime budget,” said Robert Stringer, the certified golf course superintendent of Germantown Country Club in Germantown, Tenn.

“Giving very rich members weekend- TV-tournament-quality golf for 52 weeks of the year,” said David Major, the certified superintendent and director of agronomy at Shady Canyon Golf Club in Dana Point, Calif.

Perhaps Brian Mohr, superintendent of Spencer Municipal Golf Course in Spencer, Iowa, summed up the problem best with a call for a solution. “There needs to be a huge effort in educating people that it’s not possible or feasible to maintain a golf course at the level people see on television for the pro events,” he said.

While this is a current problem, it has also been in reruns longer than Leave It to Beaver. And as the conditioning and maintenance standards continue to rise at courses that host televised professional tournaments, golfers will continue to stare in amazement at the lush green fairways and the fast, smooth greens on their TV screens and say to themselves, “That’s what I want at my course!”

What they fail to realize, unless they’re members at Augusta National or another esteemed club, is they can’t have those near-perfect conditions at their courses because their courses don’t have the bucks in their maintenance budgets to furnish them.

I realize this topic gets beaten like Tiger Woods’ wedge when golf’s most “explosive” player is having a bad day. But when several superintendents list it as a present challenge — and I’ll bet a sleeve of Titleist balls that more superintendents list the same challenge in our survey next year — I’m convinced that little is being done to battle the problem.

But it’s a tough case to crack. It’s not like a superintendent can go to his club’s members and tell them he can’t provide the superb conditions they desire because he doesn’t have the resources to provide them. (Memo to superintendent who tries this explanation: Sears is hiring.)

Echoing Mohr, there must be a huge effort in educating golfers to correct the problem. And that effort must begin now — not next month or next year — because the problem is growing as fast as broadleaf weeds in the spring. It’s time superintendents rally together and come up with solutions to address the problem. While it’s likely the problem can’t be corrected entirely, it can be contained. But it will take time, effort and patience on behalf of superintendents. It will take solid organization.

Many of you know that golfers’ demands for Augusta-like conditions at your courses are unreasonable. You don’t deserve this undue pressure.

If you have any ideas on what to do to correct this problem, please call me or write me an e-mail to share your solutions. Golfdom will publish your thoughts in an upcoming issue to help superintendents share information with each other to help correct this matter. We’d like to be part of the huge effort to educate.

It’s time to tell these golfers to get real.

Larry Aylward can be reached at 216-706-3737 or laylward@questex.com.
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- Robert M. Donofrio, Shadow Lake G.C.

"It really does work."
- James Longhi, Longhi's Golf

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**TIDBIT OF THE MONTH**

**Paving Over Paradise**

Owing to an overabundance of courses, with more than 100 built in the past decade, Michigan is seeing some of its golf facilities being replaced by residential and commercial developments. Although this type of conversion is happening around the United States, the overbuilt Wolverine State, with a total of 850 courses, has been particularly active. Recently closed facilities or courses being considered for redevelopment include Veronica Valley and Mitchell Creek in the Traverse City area; Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township; Eldorado Golf Club and Links of Pinewood in Commerce Township; Pontiac Country Club in Waterford Township; Links of Novi in Novi; Bogie Lake Golf Club in White Lake Township; and Clarkston Golf Course in Clarkston. In late November a groundbreaking ceremony was held on a portion of the former Partridge Creek Golf Club in Clinton Township for the 600,000-square-foot Partridge Creek Fashion Park. For details on these and other golf projects around the U.S., visit [www.golfconstructionnews.com](http://www.golfconstructionnews.com).

**Golf Rounds Played**

The percentages below represent the difference in number of rounds played in October 2005 compared to the number of rounds played in October 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England (ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT)</td>
<td>-28.1%</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic (NY, PA, NJ)</td>
<td>-16.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central (MI, OH, IN, IL, WI)</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West North Central (ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO)</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic (WV, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA)</td>
<td>-8.7%</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>-14.2%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East South Central (KY, TN, AL, MS)</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central (OK, AR, LA)</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain (MT, ID, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM)</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific (WA, OR, AK, HI)</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL UNITED STATES</strong></td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Winning the Big One**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America asked its members: Who's the best player to have never won a Major? They replied:

- Sergio Garcia 25%
- Darren Clarke 19%
- Jay Haas 15%

**Trying to be Green**

Are you trying to cut back on pesticide and fertilizer use on your course to benefit the environment?

- Somewhat, we’re trying to find a balance 54%
- Yes, we need to do our part as environmentalists 32%
- No, we do what we have to do to keep the course looking good and the golfers happy 13%
- No answer 1%

*Based on 379 responses*