Generations of Success

Past · Present · Future

A solid foundation was firmly established in 1955 with the birth of Penncross. The Penn Bent family continued to grow, thanks to the introduction of the Penn A’s & G’s and Seaside II, followed by Penneagle II & PennLinks II. The legacy continues with the recent arrival of Crystal BlueLinks. Just like family, each new variety owes its best qualities to the generation that came before. The Penn Bent family from Tee-2-Green continues to revolutionize the industry, and remains trusted by superintendents around the world.
Like a lone sentry, it stands guard on every hole.

WATCHING ALL.

Witnessing greatness and failure alike.
Joy and anguish.
It will be leaned against.
It will be used to hold cigars.
Over it, jokes will be told, business deals will be cut and bets will be won and lost.
It will be there when a golfer holes out in one.
And yet, nary a thought will be given to it.
Unless, of course, it wasn’t there.
People of the Year
Without these folks, the golf course industry would be minus a lot of integrity and character.
By Larry Aylward and David Frabotta

What a Wild Year
It was exciting, transformational, controversial, wacky and — like everything else — affected by the slow economy.
By Geoff Shackelford

Balancing Act
Superintendents maintain equilibrium for foliar feeding frequency.
By David Frabotta

Year in Review
The people and events that helped shape 2008.

Water Wise: Part 2
While most superintendents consider themselves responsible users of water, they realize they can do even more to be better stewards. Also, a look at undoing overseeding to reduce water use.
By Larry Aylward and Anthony Pioppi

Survival Guide
Check out our special guide on New Orleans — “Big Fun in the Big Easy” — that tells you where to go and what to do in New Orleans during the Golf Industry Show.

Turfgrass Trends
This month, Golfdom’s practical research digest for turf managers discusses how nitrogen affects the summer density of creeping bentgrass. See pages 45-54.
DON’T FORGET to incorporate Milorganite into your next season’s agronomic program & budget.

Milorganite delivers the results that golfers demand.

1-800-287-9645
www.milorganite.com
Fine fescue tees, greens, fairways and roughs showcased at Chambers Bay, host of the 2015 U.S. Open.

Benefits: Extremely low maintenance, irrigation economy and the memorable links look and feel that brings back daily fee players.

Oregon Fine Fescue Commission
www.oregonfinefescue.org

Think Green!
...with the naturally environmentally friendly
fine and tall fescues

Oregon Tall Fescue Commission
www.oregontallfescue.org

Tall fescue bunker faces and rough enhance Mission Hills Country Club.
Benefits: The tall fescue provides a deep green appearance with superb heat and stress tolerance.
Taking Care of a Precious Resource

Gineering department, discusses the company's role in implementing a chemical's brand with its manufacturer. Toni Bucci, the business manager of BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, talks about the golf industry's role in the intelligent use of water.

Navigating Product Evolution and Confusion

Many superintendents have a difficult time correctly identifying a chemical's brand with its manufacturer. Toni Bucci, the business manager of BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, discusses what can be done to diminish product confusion.

Pesticides And Democrats

Neil Cleveland, director of the U.S. Green Business for Bayer Environmental Science, talks about what the future holds for pesticides in a Democrat-dominated government.

Revving Up for Biodiesel Technology

Steve Wood, manager of The Toro Co.'s commercial test engineering department, discusses the company's role in implementing biodiesel technology.

Taking Care of a Precious Resource

Dave Johnson, Rain Bird's director of corporate marketing and marketing manager, talks about the golf industry's role in the intelligent use of water.

Navigating Product Evolution and Confusion

Many superintendents have a difficult time correctly identifying a chemical's brand with its manufacturer. Toni Bucci, the business manager of BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals, discusses what can be done to diminish product confusion.
Know the Sign™

You can’t afford anything but the best results.

That’s why more professionals are turning to the quality and value that only Quali-Pro® can deliver.

That’s a good sign.

Quali-Pro puts you in control of both pests and costs with proven products featuring the newest formulation technologies.

That’s Quali-Pro.

To learn more, visit quali-pro.com or stop by Booth 3351 at the 2009 Golf Industry Show.

©2008 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Know the Sign is a trademark of FarmSaver.com. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.
In the spirit of the season, I want to share a story about a man who received a special gift a little more than a year ago. The gift was not a flashy watch or a spiffy sport jacket. In fact, the gift was something intangible. The man was given the gift of a chance to do something he had always wanted to do.

It was a gift the man will never forget and always appreciate — especially around this time of year when all of us should count our blessings.

Dieumerite Etienne, the man who received the gift, is 38 years old and hails from Haiti. Etienne entered the United States as an illegal alien in 1986 when he was a teenager. Etienne’s mother, realizing her smartest of five children would have a better chance of living a more fruitful life in America, put Etienne on a boat headed for the land of hope and dreams. Etienne, whose father had died a few years before, had a relative in Florida who put him up in his house.

Etienne was only 17 at the time. He didn’t speak English. His new world was a lost world. He struggled. He scraped. But he persevered. Etienne landed a job with a local landscape company. He worked hard and learned the craft. He was promoted to foreman. Etienne made $5 an hour and sent much of his money back home to his mother and siblings.

Etienne kept very busy, wanting badly to make something of himself. He went to school every day after work to learn English. He stayed out of trouble.

In 1987, Etienne took a job on the golf course maintenance crew at the Broken Sound Club, a 36-hole country club in Boca Raton, Fla. Having learned English — and being the only one who could translate what the large Haitian crew at the club was saying — Etienne was a valuable employee.

Etienne was as thankful as a kid who found a new train set under his tree on Christmas morning. It has been more than a year, and Etienne remains gracious to Hubbard for giving him a chance. Hubbard says the gift was well deserved.

Yes, Etienne struggled in his first year and learned how stressful it can be as the top dog at a private course. Most every superintendent experiences those highs and lows.

“It has been a tough year,” Etienne admits. “But I made it. And I look forward to making it another year, another year and another year.”

Etienne reminds us all how we should appreciate the real gifts in our lives. The gift of work. The gift of getting the chance to make a difference.

Aylward can be reached at 216-706-3737 or laylward@questex.com.
You have enough things to worry about. Don’t let turf disease be one of them. Trust BASF for a full line of innovative, effective fungicides to keep your most troublesome diseases under control. With some of the most efficacious chemistries on the market, BASF has a fungicide that’s perfect for your rotation. So don’t get alarmed about turf diseases — get BASF.

betterturf.com | 800-545-9525

Emerald, Insignia and Trinity are registered trademarks of BASF.© 2008 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.
Shades Of Green

I there’s a nip in the air here at the Lake Omigosh Golf Club in central Florida, but it’s not as cold as the economy.

Our superintendent Duffy McDuffly is learning how to maintain the course with five fewer crew members, thanks to an economy that went from bedrock to quicksand during this past fall. Leaves weren’t the only things in red that were falling in September and October.

And the fairways and roughs aren’t so dark green anymore. They’re more often greenish-yellow thanks to high fertilizer costs and budget cuts. Some club members still don’t understand why things have changed. There will be less overseeding this year thanks to the fear of watering restrictions and the economy.

Greens and tees are still being overseeded in central Florida and through the transition zone to prevent wearing out the dormant or semi-dormant bermudagrass. But further south in the semi-tropics, they hope the winter is another mild one so they can skate through with no major cold spells to send the turfgrass an off-color. Members just can’t seem to adjust to the color purple in Florida.

It’s a tough spot for a lot of superintendents who must cut staff and somehow try to get the same amount of work done. Some senior superintendents find themselves on the chopping block and being replaced by those making smaller salaries. Longevity and loyalty become expendable as the club ponders shrinking income and rising costs.

The ripple effect of the economic meltdown obviously is being felt far and wide. After valiantly trying to overcome the stigma of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath and helping out New Orleans, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America faces a very real possibility of a downturn in attendance as tightening purse strings strangle travel budgets for superintendents. Hopefully, a post-election rebound will be enough to propel GIS attendance. However, I don’t think this will be a record-setting year.

I’ve heard comments from superintendents who are revamping their fertility programs and switching to less-expensive products to save money, and others are converting to biodiesel for some of their mowing equipment. When the going gets tough, the tough adapt and survive the best they can.

It seems obvious to me that our industry is headed for some of its biggest changes in recent memory. Turf management is going to be different very soon. I’m not preaching gloom and doom, but we will need to be more creative to meet expectations.

Between water availability, conservation, water-quality issues and irrigation technology, we will be required to show more water savings than ever before, and we should expect some of that forced conservation to be written into new permits and permit-renewal language.

We are losing the battle with the Environmental Protection Agency on soil fumigants and other products. And while I want to remain cautiously optimistic, I think the days of preserving certified turfgrass varieties are on the way out. We will plant new grasses into unfumigated ground and try to grow in new or renovated courses in competition with the indigenous weed/grass seed bank, disease spores, insect larvae and nematodes.

There will be less incentive to switch to new grasses requiring fewer inputs if the prospect of contaminated turf is the outcome. We will likely end up having to use more fertilizers, water and conventional pesticides in the grow-in process and run a greater risk of runoff and leaching. That’s ironic because the Environmental “Protection” Agency is forcing the issue.

The days of a pristine monostand of turfgrass may well be over, and that will be a change that will take golfers some time getting used to.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is executive director of the Florida GCSA.