J.D. Credit Announces Beautifully, Brutal Par-5 Finalists

Long and forced carries, water, muscle bunkers, forests, wetland and gorgeous vistas are among the features of 16 par-5 holes named as regional finalists in the John Deere Credit competition for the Most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America.

The regional winners were chosen from par-5 entries throughout the United States and Canada by a panel of judges that includes Jeff Babineau, editor of Golfweek; Pat Roberts, publisher of Golfdom; Joe Passov, architecture editor for Golf magazine; and Gary Van Sickle, golf editor for Sports Illustrated. The judges rated the holes based upon their difficulty as well as their scenic qualities.

The par-5 finalists, alphabetically by region include:

Region 1 – Western United States
Breckenridge Golf Club, Breckenridge, Colo., Hole 8, 580 yards
Colbert Hills Golf Club, Manhattan, Kan., Hole 7, 600 yards
The Club at Pradera, Parker, Colo., Hole 18, 575 yards

Region 2 – South-central and Northwest U.S.
Classic Club, Palm Desert, Calif., Hole 18, 564 yards
Indian Wells Golf Resort, Indian Wells, Calif., Hole 14, 519 yards
The Links at Bodega Harbour, Bodega Bay, Calif., Hole 5, 506 yards

Region 3 – North-central U.S.
Sutton Bay Golf Club, Agar, S.D., Hole 1, 669 yards
The Harvester Golf Club, Rhodes, Iowa, Hole 18, 565 yards
Tournament Club of Iowa, Polk City, Iowa, Hole 17, 640 yards

Region 4 – Northeast U.S. and Gulf Coast
Butter Brook Golf Club, Westford, Mass., Hole 7, 554 yards
Shell Point Golf Club, Fort Myers, Fla., Hole 13, 577 yards
The Ledges Golf Club, York, Maine, Hole 18, 618 yards

Region 5 – Eastern United States
Atlanta Athletic Club, Duluth, Ga., Hole 18, 576 yards
Creek Club at Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, Ga., Hole 12, 569 yards
True North Golf Club, Harbor Springs, Mich., Hole 8, 562 yards

Region 6 – Canada (excluding Quebec)
Blackhawk Golf Club, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Hole 7, 575 yards

For more information, visit www.johnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles.

After 45 years of experience, Turfco® is the #1 brand of topdressers and material handlers.

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- Adjustable angle of spinners from 0-15°. Allows for broadcast applications or to drive the sand into the turf.
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Turfco's #1 ranking is according to the National Golf Foundation's Turf Brand Share Report.
We Can All Learn a Lesson From This Kid ... This Very Cool Kid

Several weeks back, we received an e-mail from Patrick Wake, the golf course superintendent of Palmetto Dunes Resort in Hilton Head, S.C. The message was about Wake's son, Logan, and a good deed that Logan did. Wake sent along an accompanying story about Logan that appeared in the local newspaper.

"This is about a boy and a good deed, not about him being my son," Wake wrote.

After reading this, you’ll wish Logan was your son.

Logan celebrated his eighth birthday earlier this year. He told his Dad he didn’t want any presents for his birthday because he already had plenty of toys. But there was an intangible gift that he had his heart set on and it had to do with helping others.

Logan, who loves horses, said he wanted to have a birthday party to support Heroes for Horseback, a nonprofit organization that allows disabled children and adults the chance to ride and care for horses. Logan held his party and his friends and their parents brought money to give him — for his gift to Heroes for Horseback.

Logan then visited the ranch where the kids involved with Heroes for Horseback go to ride. Logan wore a plaid shirt, jeans and a black cowboy hat. He presented a $350 check to the organization. Logan met the kids and watched them ride.

"Logan has a heart bigger than most people I have ever met," Patrick says. "Needless to say, we are very proud of what he did."

— Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

Quotable

"I’d like to caddy for my son, Jeff, on the Nationwide Tour a little this summer and maybe do some other things I haven’t had the opportunity to do all these years."

— Fred Klauk, the certified superintendent who recently retired from TPC Sawgrass after 23 years and a superintendent for more than 30 years. (GCSAA)
Knowledge is power. But you can't expect a weather station to tell you what's happening underground. Now with RZ Wireless, you will know the precise levels of moisture, temperature and salinity in your rootzone 24/7, so you can micro-manage your water better than ever before.

Take water management to a whole new level.

- Moisture, temperature and salinity data transmits real time to your personal computer and is available online at a secure site, 24/7
- Patented technology provides improved precision and reliability
- Easy to install with only a cup cutter anywhere on the course

If you are considering the use of wireless soil monitoring systems, here's something you need to know. A recently acquired license under a key U.S. patent (U.S. Patent No. 7,103,511) on wireless data transmission gives Advanced Sensor Technology exclusive rights in the field of commercial soil monitoring systems under that patent.

WARNING - Because companies without permission cannot legally sell or use wireless soil sensing equipment using this essential patented technology, using a wireless soil sensing technology other than RZ-Wireless is likely infringing on this key patent.

www.advancedsensors.com
Hole of the

Hole No. 6 | South Course, Oakland Hills Country Club | Bloomfield
Ben Hogan deemed the South Course at Oakland Hills Country Club "the monster" after winning the 1951 U.S. Open with a 7-over-par score. Created by Donald Ross in 1918, the course design flows seamlessly from hole to hole along strategically plotted long and short drives that force gutsy shots.

The 18-hole course is one of the game's most treasured tournament venues, having hosted 15 major championships. In August, the 90th PGA Championship will be the first major tournament to grace the newly renovated grounds, which were completed by Rees Jones in 2007. His father, design legend Robert Trent Jones, renovated the course in 1950.

Known to fuel a player's frustration and rally spectators to shouts, the two-tiered putting surface at Hole No. 6 demands an accurate short iron landing onto a 12 yard-wide terrace. Cautious golfers often shoot deep and land on an out-of-play fairway, while daring players shoot the shorter tee and risk landing in one of six bunkers.

But the real tournament battle begins with turf in the early spring and summer when conditions are prime for snow mold and dollar spot.

"Preparing for a tournament is the ultimate disease-management motivator," said Steve Cook, the club's golf course manager since 1997.

Cook, a certified golf course superintendent and master greenkeeper, applies Emerald® fungicide to the South Course greens and fairways at a rate of 0.13 ounces per 1,000 square feet in the spring and fall to prevent snow mold and dollar spot during tournament season. He also plans to expand his treatment program to the club's North Course.

"With one spring application of Emerald, we get control until the end of July and are able to save the club money," he said.

To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.

Emerald fungicide provides unprecedented dollar spot control for up to 28 days with a single application on virtually every major turf species in every region of the United States. For more information, contact your distributor or BASF at www.betterturf.com.
stamp out Gray Leaf Spot in perennial ryegrass

Prevent the dreaded *Pyricularia grisea* (for which there is no cure) by planting new, Gray Leaf Spot resistant ryegrasses developed by doctors for Turf Merchants.

Even the best home lawns, parks and golf courses have Gray Leaf Spot in late summer when days are hot and humid. Gray Leaf Spot isn't pretty. It strikes quickly, affecting young ryegrass seedlings first with gray-to-brown lesions, often contorting tender blades into fishhook shapes. With prolonged hot, humid weather, large, mature turf areas can be lost to this dreaded disease.

In existing, older ryegrass turfs, Gray Leaf Spot can be addressed by applying a preventive fungicide, but once the pathogen has developed, little or nothing can cure it. It's prudent to take precautions.

All this and more — naturally from:

**Paragon GLR™**
- Top-rated NTEP performer
- Traffic stress tolerant
- Number 1 for spring green-up
- Gray Leaf Spot and Crown Rust resistant

**Protege GLR™**
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**Manhattan 5 GLR™**
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- Salt tolerant
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If the Silver Screen Turned Green ...

BY JOEL JACKSON

Shades Of Green

I typically write about the political and operational issues facing superintendents, but this month I thought I'd have a little fun at the movies. So here goes: Indiana Spackler and The Curse of the Fastest Greens: Bill Murray reprises his role as Carl Spackler, who has since shaved and become a GCSAA member. Spackler trades in explosives for education. Admittedly not as hilarious as the original, but clueless club members still provide plenty of comic relief for insiders.

Iron Man: The story of a former golf course superintendent turned turf equipment salesman. Our hero must adjust from the caterpillar-eat-grass world of turf management to the dog-eat-dog world of sales quotas, constant travel and endless solicitations from local chapters in need of sponsors.

Sleepless in Seattle: Superintendent vents fears and anxiety on national radio call-in show about hosting an upcoming member-guest tournament. A reporter does story about superintendent stress syndrome. They fall in love and start up a superintendent support group with offices in the Empire State Building.

Sixth Sense: Supernatural tale about a turf student who sees dead grass (it's everywhere). The student ends up working for a veteran superintendent, played by Bruce Willis. Using the kid's special talents, Willis corrects problems before they happen. Nevertheless, Willis' career is dead. The club wants to take it to the next level.

Titanic: A new fungicide developed by Gen-X scientists combats snow mold but does not protect against ice damage. Can the young lab rats prevail against corporate heads who want to market the flawed product?

As Good As It Gets: Obsessive-compulsive disorder can't sabotage this superintendent. Special event goes off without a hitch. Weather cooperates. Crew goes above and beyond. Members publicly praise superintendent at reception. A fantasy sure to delight the whole family.

I Am Legend: The biography of Old Tom Morris. Young Tom, played by Daniel Radcliffe of Harry Potter fame, invents turf management in a pre-academic world. Old Tom, played by Sean Connery, is a master club maker and top golfer, although he must still use the club's rear entrance.

The Bucket List: Superintendent roams a 54-hole golf complex one weekend on a front-end loader slated to be junked for parts. Looking for projects, he works through the nights rebuilding tees and bunkers. But the tractor blows a head gasket and cracks the engine block, sealing its fate to the scrap heap. Moral of the story: It's better to wear out than rust out.

2001: A Turf Odyssey: "Hal," the irrigation computer, shuts down the entire system when the superintendent tries to override the ET rate. While the turf dies, Hal illogically maintains the prime directive from the water management district. Superintendent and crew save the day by hand watering with hoses until the rainy season starts.

When Harry Met Sally: Romantic comedy about two superintendents who meet and fall in love at the Golf Industry Show. When fuel prices get so high that long-distance dating is impossible, the couple must decide where the grass is greener. Funniest bit is when Harry and Sally browse a Lesco truck and she fakes an orgasm over latest biostimulant on the market.

Ocean's Eleven: Former superintendent Denny Ocean builds an 11-hole golf course in Las Vegas using money from a casino heist by his brother Danny. The course does not meet USGA qualifications for handicaps, but it does provide faster rounds to help grow the game. The brothers find it is a great way to launder stolen money.

The Dirty Dozen: 12 pin placements during major events that shocked the golf world. Hidden cameras in this docu-drama reveal the sadistic elation of committee members as professionals three and four putt greens. The superintendent is forced to go into the witness protection program.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is executive director of the Florida GCSA.
for every industry member who was pleased to see Golf Digest’s extensive coverage imploring greater environmental stewardship in golf, there were just as many who rolled their eyes and said, “Welcome to the party.”

Or worse, a surprising number of readers heaved their magazines across the room and wrote angry letters about politicizing their beloved monthly dosage of instruction. Yep, Golf Digest was flooded with hate mail for delving into “politics,” even though a close reading reveals that the magazine devoted its coverage to golf’s environmental impact and future outlook. (Go to GolfDigest.com/editorsblog to read some of the vitriolic stuff the magazine received.)

There’s no question that, at times, the green movement gets out of hand. And that’s coming from someone who fully subscribes to doing everything we can to conserve water, preserve wildlife, protect wetlands and, in general, leave the next generation with a world in better condition than we found it. But if you read the Golf Digest package or my story on the subject in this issue (page 43) and my interview with John Barton on the Golfdom Web site, you’re probably mumbling something about having had enough of the lecturing.

The modern-day environmental movement relies way too heavily on guilt to prompt people to act instead of asking simple questions such as, “Wouldn’t it just be wise to do the right thing, whether or not global warming is real?”

Too much guilt and fear mongering will drive people to rebel, and that’s what we saw with Golf Digest’s package — even though it was well done and equitable. It did not matter what was said; a segment of the American public just doesn’t want to hear it anymore. That select demographic is older, crankier and getting more selfish by the day.

The bottom line is that architects and superintendents must embrace the green movement for their own survival, and many already have. It’s coming to a golf course near you. You will be expected to make it part of your business plan. Or else, they’re going to start a new club committee charged with watching every move you make and monitor every chemical you administer.

In other words, embrace the movement to cut them off at the pass and ensure your place in the golf business. Make this your issue and make yourself relevant or, even better, in complete control of the situation.

That might not appeal to your senses, but I know one thing from talking to superintendents: You are conservationists at heart. You probably won’t be at the next Green Peace fundraiser or handing out leaflets for the National Resources Defense Council, but as trustees of these vastly complicated environmental settings known as golf courses, you know that conservation will carry the day.

You’ve known this for a long time, but the conservationist label is not nearly as sexy to golfers. Yet conservation is really at the heart of the environmental movement, only minus the fear and guilt.

If you haven’t already, figure out ways to be proactive on the environmental front. Perhaps you can start writing about some of your safer modern practices in the club newsletter, or you can begin a blog documenting all of the wildlife at your course.

Whether it’s for your own peace of mind and sense of job security or to quiet the cranky coots who want to see the world go down in flames because they only have a couple of years left, look for ways to preach the gospel of conservation. It’s what makes sense both for the health of the game and the multi-billion-dollar industry surrounding it, but also for the common good of mankind.

Wait, there I go making you feel guilty. Ah, you know what I’m saying. End of sermon.

Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com. Visit his Web site at www.geoffshackelford.com.
We’ve Been Thinking About Saving Water. Have You?

Research has shown that using AXIS® calcined diatomaceous earth can reduce your overall water usage by as much as 30%. AXIS® has the largest pore size of any mineral soil amendment, allowing for maximum delivery of water directly to the root zone. Deeper, stronger, and healthier roots are the result.

Isn’t it time to think about saving water at your course?
In the midst of summer, a vast majority of golf course superintendents face a chronic problem of localized dry spots (LDS) on their courses' greens and fairways. LDS is caused by a hydrophobic (water repellent) soil condition. The result is a lack of uniform soil moisture across the turf, resulting in isolated dry patches. Although LDS is commonly associated with sandy soils or greens with high sand-content rootzones, it is found across a wide range of soil conditions in agricultural settings.

In the western United States, hydrophobic soil conditions can occur over a large area of a recently burned forest. Intense heat and burning of litter and organic matter results in a waxy substance being produced that can coat soil particles or form a layer at the soil surface. The waxy substance produces a hydrophobic condition. Additionally, some soil fungi can excrete organic substances that can render the surface soil hydrophobic. These waxy and organic substances often are associated with LDS on turf.

Within the turf profile, a hydrophobic area can develop in the thatch layer or in the top inch of the soil profile. Thatch hydrophobicity normally becomes more pronounced when soils reach low moisture levels. Although there appears to be a correlation between depth and the potential for LDS, there are exceptions. The hydrophobic zone is normally in the top 1-inch of soils, but can be as deep as 8 inches (Dekker, 2004).

LDS turf symptoms are similar to wilt or drought symptoms. Diagnosing whether the cause of the drought symptoms is due to LDS or a lack of water is important in treating the cause. The water drop penetration test is one method for determining the presence and location of hydrophobicity in the rootzone.

By taking a rootzone core and placing water droplets along the profile from the thatch layer through the first few inches, the presence of the hydrophobic layer can be determined. If the water droplet penetrates the rootzone profile in less than five seconds, then the hydrophobic conditions are not present. However, if the water droplet does not penetrate (remains beaded), then a level of water repellency exists that can range from moderate to severe depending on the time needed for penetration.

Maintenance practices, some based on antidotal experience, range from modifying the rootzone to applying various products. Wetting agents are the most common and effective method for treating LDS. Wetting agents reduce the surface tension of water to allow for rootzone/soil penetration. There are several wetting agents/surfactants shown to reduce LDS.

In general, a combination of wetting agents along with good management practices, including coring and proper watering, provide the best results. Because of improvements in wetting agents, LDS is much less severe on turf than it once was. However, LDS is a chronic problem that needs to managed annually.

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