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same time, greens that were once nearly 100 percent *Poa* are now as much as 80 percent bentgrass. Fairways have seen similar transitions. The results are much the same on the Shore Course.

It was during his tenure as head greenkeeper at Mount Lawley Golf Club in western Australia, which opened in 1929 and is about 10 miles from the ocean, that Logan first implemented his theories transitioning the greens from *Poa* to bentgrass. More than 20 years later he says the course is still following his advice.

After implementing his program on a few more courses in Australia, Logan moved to the United States in early 2000 and brought his ideas with him. While growing in the Jack Nicklaus-designed Mayacama Golf Club located in California’s Sonoma Valley, Logan met George Kelley, a former PGA Tour player who had become the owner and developer of Stevinson Ranch Golf Club, an 18-hole public course he designed with Bruce Harbottle III, also in central California. Kelley was impressed with Logan’s ideas and the two formed Greenway Golf in 2002 as a golf course consulting company that morphed into a management company in 2006. Stevinson, Calif.-based Greenway Golf manages all facets at three facilities and the maintenance programs at five others.

Logan says within four months of putting his plan to work at Stevinson Ranch, the long-term moss problem was eliminated and the *Poa* was reduced significantly.

Once Greenway was formed, Logan took his show on the road trying to convince superintendents in the West that his way of *Poa* reduction — even in places like Northern California where *Poa* is the dominant grass — worked. Not surprisingly, his method was, for the most part, rejected. Some balked at the sheer simple fact that his theories run counter to the way virtually every turf school teaches how to maintain bentgrass and the way nearly every superintendent maintains bentgrass. Others bristled at the fact that Logan considered his plan proprietary, which courses paid to learn and were then forbidden to pass on to other courses. There were those who gave Logan’s plan a go.

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— DON POLSON, SUPERINTENDENT, STOCK FARM CLUB GOLF COURSE

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At Monterey Peninsula, Zoller maintains an inland 18 holes and a seaside 18 holes, both which have undergone major renovations in the last 10 years. According to Zoller, he has more bentgrass on his greens, which are A-4, than anyone in the area, even though Poa was the dominant grass from tees to greens within a few years of the renovations. Zoller said he first met Logan when he appeared in his office one day pitching his plan, which he had heard about from his brother-in-law, the general manager at Heron Bay. Zoller was not immediately impressed.

“Lots of guys stop in with the latest miracle,” he says.

At the time, Zoller was having moss problems and agreed to let Logan prescribe a cure.

“By golly if it didn’t help my situation,” Zoller says.

From there, he was hooked and adopted the full Logan regimen that includes cutting back on nitrogen, frequent light applications of iron and reduction in hollow-core aeration, and verticutting. Zoller also uses Trimmit plant growth regulator as part of the program.

“There are a couple ways of doing it, aggressively or modestly,” Zoller says of Logan’s plan. “I realized right away some of the Poa was [dying] too quickly.”

Since then, Zoller has been going about it slowly and the members rave about the conditions.

It was also a moss problem at Stock Farm Club Golf Course in Hamilton, Mont., that was the reason for Logan getting involved. Superintendent Don Polson, who was there when the L-93 greens were planted in 1998, was mystified to discover the problem shortly after the course opened. The moss problem gradually became worse, no matter what he did to stop it. “I’ve always been able to accomplish what I wanted, given the resources,” Polson says.

After hearing about Logan, Polson invited him out to his course. Logan explained his ideas then suggested Polson accompany him on site visits to about a dozen courses in California where he was consulting. Polson did and was sold on the plan, which he implemented with immediate success.

He continues to mow his greens very low and keep them very hungry, both in an effort to reduce thatch buildup on the Tom Fazio design. He puts down potash and manganese, according to the plan. Members at the exclusive course rave about the greens, which roll between 10 feet and 11 feet on the Stimpmeter in the summer.

Stock Farm sees less than 9,000 rounds a year, but Gooding is hosting between 85,000 and 90,000 combined rounds on his two courses at Heron Lakes where he tripexes greens at .065 with smooth rollers. He too has cut back on nutrients while putting down lots of iron in the form of ferrous sulfate. As a result, the bentgrass has hardened off and is producing wonderful putting conditions.

“We’re growing a playing surface and not a crop,” Gooding says. “We don’t want the turf to grow, we want it to just sit there.”

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Superintendents also say Logan’s
agronomic method to control Poa
can be used to control moss on
greens.

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For all the rave reviews Logan has
received, the majority of superinten-
dents approached by him refuse to try
the program even when prominent
superintendents tout the method.

“If we’re not intelligent enough to
question the status quo, we’ll never
evolve,” Zoller says, pointing out that
what Logan advocates were methods
used decades earlier. “This isn’t any-
thing new. This is a retro program.”

The USGA Green Section magazine
from April of 1924 touts the use of iron
sulfate to eradicate dandelions. Zoller
had an English dandelion problem until
Logan came into the picture.

Polson is surprised Zoller’s success
has not changed more minds in the
Monterey area. “If I was one of the guys
next door, at Pebble Beach, I’d be jump-
ing all over that,” he says.

Another reason for the hesitant
attitude may have to do with general
misunderstandings of the program.

“They haven’t embraced it because
they don’t know how to implement it,”

Gooding says, “It’s just a whole different
way of doing it. You have to be inter-
ested in what is happening.”

As Zoller points out, this is not a
boilerplate approach.

“He gives you a template to work with.
It’s up to the superintendent to make
adjustments to his situation,” he adds.

There are serious resignations about
Logan’s theories. In the March-April edi-
tion of the 2005 Green Section Record,
Tom Cook, associate professor of horti-
culture at Oregon State University, au-
thored an article challenging Logan’s ideas
without ever naming him specifically.

On the agronomic side, Cook doubts
the success of Logan’s theories. He says it
might work in a place like New England
with a short growing season and stresses
such extremes in temperature, but not
in the Northwest where grass grows 10
months out of the year.

According to Cook, annual blue-
grass dominates where it does because
it is the perfect grass for many areas
throughout the country. If Poa is re-
moved from putting surfaces, greens
become “islands of bentgrass,” with
superintendents having to constantly
fend off the intruding Poa, he says.

“This notion that we can somehow
make Poa magically disappear; it does
not work,” Cook adds. “All you’re
doing is making sick Poa, but you’re
never going to kill it.”

In his article, Cook predicted
courses that change agricultural prac-
tices to what Logan advocates would
see increases in problems such as an-
thracnose, Fusarium patch and nem-
atoles. He also expects courses with
sand-based rootzones to encounter
problems when nitrogen in the root-
zones is seriously depleted.

But Logan remains undaunted. He
thinks the future will prove him right.

“I’ve always said time is on my side,”
he says. “There was skepticism the first
one or two years, but it’s becoming more
and more irrefutable that we can attain
Poa control and eradication.”