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.
Moment of Silence

The golfers walk up the fairway. And as they journey in search of their shots, there will be talk.

Small talk.

Big talk.

Trash talk.

There will be talk of business. Talk of terribly unimportant subjects.

And talk of the latest jokes.

But then one golfer finds his ball, buried in the shallow grave called the bunker. Buried under the lip.

And the golfer, noting this perfectly groomed patch of humility, is suddenly silent.

As he reflects on the death of his round.
Voting With Your Pocketbook

Superintendents overwhelmingly say economic policy drives their voting preferences.
By David Frabotta

Been Around

Times have changed for these ‘old-time’ superintendents, but they have no regrets about getting into the business.
By Ryan Graff

About the cover
Larry Aylward photographed Joe Hubbard in all his glory – in the midst of a beautiful environmental setting on the Old Course at the Broken Sound Club.

Primo at 15

PGR has developed into a vital apparatus in superintendents’ turf maintenance toolbox.
By Larry Aylward

Turfgrass Trends

This month, Golfdom’s practical research digest discusses how simple IPM techniques can mitigate grub damage in the desert, among other topics. See pages 53-64.

Online Exclusive

See this only at www.golfdom.com:

Allen James urged pesticide and fertilizer industry representatives to promote the safety of their products during his Sept. 3 address at the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment’s (RISE) meeting in Washington. See “Golfdom Video Podcast” at www.golfdom.com for an excerpt of his speech.

www.golfdom.com
Looking for a cost effective source of slow release nitrogen? Choose the one trusted by golf course superintendents for over 80 years.

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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

Oregon Tall Fescue Commission
www.oregontallfescue.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.

Mission Hills Country Club / Mission Hills, KS / Keith Foster, Architect / Brad Gray, Golf Course Superintendent
Lost dogs without tags usually end up being put to sleep at the shelter when they lose their way home. Even worse are the dogs that never had homes to begin with. There aren’t enough good homes for all the dogs out there, so have your dogs spayed or neutered, and do not allow them to breed! In America, 4 million cats and dogs are put down every year. That’s far too many! If you want another dog, consider adoption instead.

Bailey. Her owner is Steve Hammon, superintendent at Traverse City Golf and Country Club in Traverse City, Mich.

( Photo by: Steve Hammon)
Know the Sign.

Time To Stop Snow Mold Cold.

Get the proven seasonal control you demand for turf diseases like Pink and Gray Snow Mold. Learn more at quali-pro.com.

**Know The Sign. Greater Than Or Equal To.**

Quali-Pro products feature formulation quality second to none for performance results equal to the competitive brands they replace.

For more about the industry’s most comprehensive portfolio, stop by and see us in Booth 2512 at the 2008 Carolinas GCSA Show.
The presidential election is only a few weeks away. Who will you vote for? Barack Obama has pushed his aim-to-change message. But are you concerned about Obama's inexperience to lead the country? John McCain has announced his intent to get the country back on track. But speaking of inexperience, are you concerned about McCain's selection of Sarah Palin as his running mate?

I like Obama, but I don't know if he can change everything he wants to change. McCain is one tough SOB, but will he be too tough? Joe Biden seems like a viable vice presidential candidate. But is Sarah Palin? Yeah, she’s a great speaker and has the ability to connect, but is that enough?

I recently returned from Washington, where RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) held its annual meeting. RISE’s members include pesticide and fertilizer producers, suppliers and distributors for the golf course maintenance industry. To no surprise, most everybody was talking about the election.

There is definite concern about what could happen within the green industry if either candidate is elected, especially Obama. As one golf course superintendent put it so matter-of-factly recently, "A Republican president usually means fewer environmental regulations being initiated."

If that’s the case, more environmental regulations are probably coming because Obama will most likely win the election. That prediction comes from David Crow, the president of DC Legislative & Regulatory Services, who spoke at the RISE meeting. Crow knows politics like Tiger knows getting up and down for par.

Crow says McCain will keep it close until the end, but Obama will win by 5 percent. Crow says he doesn’t see "the energy, the spirit, the drive or the will of the Republican party" to match that of the Democratic party.

That's not all the bad news for the Republicans. Crow also expects the GOP will lose 20 to 25 seats in the House of Representatives and five to seven seats in the Senate.

The Democrats already control the House and Senate, and the party will have even more clout if Crow’s prediction is true. And if Obama is elected, the Democrats will have hit the trifecta. So much for vetoes.

Crow says he expects Obama’s first 100 days will be an “absolute blitzkrieg” of bills involving climate change, environmental policy and energy issues. Apparently, Obama is a golfer, but a hack (he’s like most of us!). Being a liberal, he probably doesn’t prefer the perfection of some courses. It will be interesting to see if he brings an anti-pesticide mentality to the table. If he does, things could change in the golf course maintenance industry.

The good news is the specialty pesticide industry has a solid relationship with Debbie Edwards, director of the Environmental Protection Agency’s office of pesticide programs. Edwards, whose position is not by appointment, has spoken at the past two RISE meetings.

“I do believe — and it’s clear — that pesticides have a real and important place in society in the United States,” she has said.

Hopefully, the Democrats will look long and hard at any pesticides before making any rash decisions about banning them. Hopefully, they will see the effort — in terms of time and money spent on research and development — that the basic pesticide manufacturers have devoted to making pesticides safer. I’ve heard more than one university researcher comment on how amazed they are with the low toxicities of some of the new active ingredients in pesticides.

Of course, it’s more imperative than ever that the golf course maintenance industry — from superintendents to pesticide manufacturers — let their voices be known on this topic. Tell anyone who will listen that you make and use pesticides responsibly.

This is no time to sit idly by.
Zip up your greens for maximum winter protection. TransFilm® Anti-transpirant minimizes moisture loss from winter desiccation and can often eliminate the need for greens covers in less exposed areas. You can even tank-mix your winter fungicide application with TransFilm. This winter, zip it up with an overcoat of TransFilm!

- Resists peeling and cracking
- Anti-transpirant and sticker
- Uniform emulsion
Activity in Arkansas

Several golf projects are underway in Arkansas. Among them is the new Links at Rainbow Curve in Bentonville, a nine-hole layout that will serve as the centerpiece of a new housing development backed by Lindsey Management Co. with about 500 multi-family units. Lindsey is also seeking approval for The Links at Fayetteville. Near Wynne, work continues on Village Creek State Park Golf Course, a 27-hole design by Andy Dye that’s slated to open later this summer. For details on these and other golf projects around the United States, visit www.golfconstructionnews.com.

TIDBIT OF THE MONTH

How Are You Managing the Demand for Faster Putting Greens?

We’re rolling them more often .................................................. 57%
We’re double cutting several times a week .............................. 15%
We continue to lower the height of cut ................................... 15%
We’re telling golfers the greens are faster than they really are ....... 7%
Other ......................................................................................... 31%

Golfdom survey based on 635 responses. Respondents could choose multiple answers.

Can’t Buy Me... Job Happiness

Employees want more than money to keep them happy, according to www.communityinvestmentnetwork.org, which states in study that intangibles such as respect and trust are major motivators to do a good job. Here are the eight key factors that influence happiness-at-work factors:
1. Appreciation
2. Respect
3. Trust
4. Individual growth
5. Good boss
6. Compatible co-workers
7. Compatible culture
8. A sense of purpose

Golf Rounds Played

The percentages below represent the change in the number of rounds played in July 2008 compared to the number of rounds played in July 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>Y.T.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England  ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic NY, PA, NJ</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central MI, OH, IN, IL, WI</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>-4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West North Central ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic WV, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA</td>
<td>-5.1%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>-5.6%</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central KY, TN, AL, MS, OK, AR, LA</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific WA, OR, AK, HI</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL UNITED STATES</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: GOLF DATATECH

Budgets Gone Awry

Unexpected sharp increases in fuel prices and other costs have caught golf course superintendents off guard. Golfdom recently asked superintendents: How much have price hikes impacted your 2008 maintenance budget?

(Based on 80 responses to an online survey)

I’m over budget more than 10% .......................... 10%
I’m over 5% to 10% ........................................ 18%
I’m over less than 5% ................................. 21%
I’m still within my budget without cutting maintenance 23%
I’m within budget because I’m cutting back on maintenance 29%