Golfdom’s big haul

Golfdom won seven Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) awards in 2012, and we were happy.

Golfdom won nine TOCA awards in 2013, and we were proud.

This year, Golfdom hauled in 21 TOCA awards — more awards than all of our competitors combined — and we just don’t know what to do with ourselves. The awards included nine firsts, ten merits, one Gardner (a ‘best in show’) and the Plant Health Writer of the Year award, sponsored by Bayer, and presented to columnist Karl Danneberger, Ph.D.

“It’s hard to be humble about the results of the 2014 TOCA awards,” says Pat Roberts, publisher of Golfdom. “We underwent a major redesign of the magazine in 2013, led by (editor) Seth Jones and (designer) Pete Seltzer. The resulting 21 awards are the result of that redesign. They emphasize that this publication is the industry leader in editorial, design and photography. And that’s something the entire team is exceptionally proud of.”

Of note, the Golfdom Daily (www.golfdom.com/blog) won “best blog” for the third consecutive year. For a complete list of Golfdom’s TOCA awards, see page 20.

Toro rocks the bell

Now that’s the way you celebrate 100 years of business.

The Toro Co. visited the New York Stock Exchange recently and was given the honor of ringing the closing bell to commemorate the company’s upcoming 100th anniversary. The official 100th anniversary is next month (July 10th), but the company is celebrating all year.

The Toro Co. offers irrigation equipment, mowers, utility vehicles, cultivation equipment and more.

To learn more about Toro’s 100 years in the business, visit www.toro.com/100, and to share your own story, use the Twitter hashtag #Toro100 or visit the company’s Facebook page.
We Are Golf took to Washington D.C. in May for National Golf Day. This was the seventh year for the event where leaders in the industry discuss the economic, environmental, charitable and fitness benefits from the game of golf with government leaders.

Representing the golf industry were leaders from the USGA, GCSAA, CMAA, NGCOA, PGA Tour, the PGA of America and World Golf Foundation.

Miehls replaces Corbett Schnatmeyer, who moved from the West Coast to cover the T&O market in the Northeast after Allan Dufoe was named to the newly created position of T&O key account manager and nursery and greenhouse market lead.

A recent graduate of the University of California, Riverside, Miehls holds a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences and a master’s degree in plant biology. She conducted her thesis project on salinity and water management of perennial ryegrass.

2014 National Golf Day takes the Capitol

We Are Golf took to Washington D.C. in May for National Golf Day. This was the seventh year for the event where leaders in the industry discuss the economic, environmental, charitable and fitness benefits from the game of golf with government leaders.

Representing the golf industry were leaders from the USGA, GCSAA, CMAA, NGCOA, PGA Tour, the PGA of America and World Golf Foundation.

Throughout the day, over 120 Congressional meetings took place. According to the We Are Golf website, industry leaders discussed the game’s tax benefits to local communities along with other benefits golf provides society.

“Today we stood together in D.C. to represent the two million men and women whose livelihood depends on the golf industry,” said Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation and administrator of We Are Golf. “Our unified voice helps Congressional members better understand the profound influence golf has on the American economy.”
Nothing Puts You in Control of Sedges Like Dismiss® Herbicides

Why is Dismiss® the industry’s number one choice for sedge control? Unbeatable performance. Dismiss herbicides produce visible results against sedges like yellow nutsedge, green kyllinga and purple nutsedge* in as little as 24–48 hours.

But Dismiss also makes a visible difference the following season by reducing future sedge populations. That’s because Dismiss herbicides penetrate the soil and work to control sedge tubers underground. With Dismiss, you’re getting the industry’s fastest visible results and fewer sedges next season, saving you time and money.

For more information on Dismiss herbicides, contact your FMC Market Specialist or local FMC Distributor.

*FMC recommends two applications of Dismiss turf herbicide or one application of Dismiss South herbicide for optimal control of purple nutsedge. Always read and follow label directions. FMC and Dismiss are trademarks of FMC Corporation. ©2014 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved.
1 Full throttle As Golfdom publisher Pat Roberts (left) was traipsing through another airport, he spotted Michael Ballard, owner of Full Throttle Saloon and star of the TruTV show of the same name.

2 An untold Joel’s Journey Joel Jackson, senior contributing editor, checks up on the Geoponics (geoponicscorp.com) Girls, who were hosting a hospitality tent at the Everglades GCSA Poa Annua Classic.

3 2014 Environmental Communicator of the Year Brandon Horvath, Ph.D., University of Tennessee, and Patty DiMucci, marketing communications manager, Bayer CropScience, moments before heading out to Bourbon Street to celebrate Horvath’s newest honor — Project EverGreen’s Environmental Communicator of the Year.

4 Colonial Crew Chris Ortmeier, assistant superintendent, and Scott Ebers, CGCS, at Colonial CC during last month’s Crowne Plaza Invitational. For a candid video interview with Ebers, where he talks about politics and golf maintenance, visit Golfdom.com.

5 Fort Worth friends Kevin Long, executive director of the First Tee of Fort Worth (left), and Brian Cloud, GCSAA field staff and longtime Fort Worth resident, take time for a pic at the Crowne Plaza Invitational.

6 Jan the Man Jan Dixon, head mechanic at Colonial CC, has been keeping the equipment running right for more than 30 years.

7 Applebrook visit EIC Seth Jones (center) with his friends at Applebrook Club in Malvern, Pa., where Ken Brown (left) is the assistant and Jared Viarengo, CGCS (right) is the general manager/superintendent.
Chicken poop.

Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, let’s talk about what it can do for your turf.

Healthy Grow® is manufactured from Aerobically Composted Chicken Manure (ACCM), and the benefits that it offers your turf are no joke. Healthy Grow is an organic-based solution available in a variety of nutrient-enhanced formulations. Rich in humates, carbohydrates and proteins, Healthy Grow naturally conditions the soil and stimulates microbial activity to support strong root development and healthy stress-resistant turf.

Healthy Grow is fully composted, virtually odorless, and non-burning. Available in custom formulations, and SGN sizes from 90 to 200, Healthy Grow can be used anywhere on your course, including greens. If you’re serious about the long-term performance and playability of your course, it’s time to get serious about chicken poop. It’s time to get Healthy Grow.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jeff Leuzinger, Sales Manager
815-291-9627
jleuzinger@Healthy-Grow.com

HEALTHY-GROW.COM
My Second Office

BECAUSE THE COURSE IS YOUR FIRST

About our host

ADAM ZUBEK, golf and property manager at Mississauga (Ontario) G&CC, knows the path to success.

He’s happy to share it with anyone. In fact, it’s hanging right there on his wall (No. 6), for all to see. Learned over the years, the path isn’t a straight line. Instead the path is full of hairpin turns, thrilling climbs, rapid descents and even vicious backtracks.

“It shows what people think (the path to success) looks like, and what it really looks like,” he says.

A Penn State University graduate, Zubek completed an internship right out of school at Baltusrol Golf Club in N.J. He then spent 10 years at Capilano G&CC in Vancouver, British Columbia. Zubek is currently enjoying his fourth year at Mississauga, and his path to success, though not a straight line, has been a fun journey.

1 SOME GOOD LUCK That box was a gift that was given to me by an intern I had at Capilano, who is now a superintendent on a course in China. He sent it to me when he got the job. It’s a sacred Chinese gift that’s supposed to bring you good luck.

2 CAR CHASE ON NO. 1 FAIRWAY That’s a flag from Baltusrol, where I did my internship. They gave me the flag at the end of my internship. My funniest memory I have of working those six months, was when I saw a police car driving down the middle of the first fairway, chasing a suspect from a burglary. They caught him. It’s a very old, prestigious club that’s hosted many U.S. Opens and the PGA, but you never think you’re going to see a police car barreling down the fairway chasing a robbery suspect.

3 sampler platter It’s been a terrible winter all over the Northeast and there’s a lot of dead grass out there. These are three samples that we pulled out of Poa spots on one of our greens to see if they were growing back. Fortunately, we’re the anomaly in this area and the majority of our greens are bentgrass and we don’t have any major issues. We’re rocking.

4 HOME AWAY FROM HOME I love Barbados. I’ve spent many years going there and it’s like a second home. When there I enjoy spending quality time with my family and visiting old friends.

5 BIG PLANS The blueprints are drainage and irrigation plans. We’re just finishing up a $4 million renovation plan. It’s kept me busy and by the time we’re done, it will be the better part of two years — 22 months for everything. The lion share was irrigation.

BY MOLLY GASE PHOTO BY ADAM SLICK
Proud of your second office? Email us a photo of you in it to sjones@northcoastmedia.net, and we may feature you and your office in an upcoming issue of Golfdom.
A Green Links™ World

SENSIPRO'S GREEN LINKS™ turf colorant makes it possible. Green Links new long-lasting pigment technology enhances your turf perfectly to any shade of green you need and protects it from harsh conditions:

• Extensive coverage rates keep you in the green
• Reduce or eliminate costly over seeding, fertilizers and irrigation
• Superior UV protection and weather-fast performance
• Highly effective on tees, greens and fairways for more playable rounds

Don’t settle for less. Go with the pro. SENSIPRO™
I want to buy a house with you before I die.” Those were the words Megan McDaniel said to her husband Jay, superintendent at Kinsale Golf and Fitness Club in Columbus, Ohio, in early 2012 — not even a year into their marriage.

While on their honeymoon in July 2011, Megan began experiencing extreme fatigue and elevated blood pressure. What followed was three months of intermittent hospital stays culminating in a diagnosis of kidney failure.

Megan had undergone a kidney transplant while in college and, due to complications following her transplant, the kidney that she had received from her mother was now failing. Without another transplant, she faced daily dialysis treatments and, ultimately, a tragically early death.

Upon her diagnosis, Jay and several other family members and friends immediately volunteered to donate a kidney to her, but none were a match. Five months after her diagnosis, she was placed on the Donate Life Ohio kidney transplant list, putting her in line for a deceased organ donor’s kidney.

The first call came, coincidentally, during a house hunting trip. A potential donor had been found and the final testing procedures were initiated. As would be the agonizing pattern that would repeat itself several times over the next 18 months, the donor kidney was not a match.

Almost as bad as the cycle of optimism followed by disappointment, was what Jay described as “the surreal and conflicted feeling of knowing that someone needed to die for Megan to live.”

By August 2012, it was apparent that Megan’s health was deteriorating to the point that time was no longer a luxury she had. In a last-ditch effort to save his wife’s life, Jay posted a plea for donors on Facebook. Over 120 people applied. Again nothing — no suitable matches.

While anti-rejection medications reduce the need for perfect matches in most cases, Megan’s previous transplant made a close match more of a necessity. As a result of her previous transplant, she had not only her naturally occurring blood and tissue antibodies, but also antibodies from the first donor kidney. The combination of antibodies increased the chances that her body would reject a new kidney.

Megan was told she’d be a match with only nine percent of the world’s population. That seems like it would be a pretty significant number of people given the earth’s population is around seven billion, but when you consider the fact that people aren’t exactly lining up to donate organs to people they don’t know, the odds of finding a match becomes pretty discouraging.

Unless you’ve lived it, it’s probably impossible to imagine dealing with the stress that comes with the possibility of losing your spouse, especially while working in a profession that can be as all-consuming as ours.

It would certainly be understandable if someone in that situation was not quite as focused or productive as usual. But not only was Jay still producing at a high level at Kinsale while also simultaneously pursuing a second college degree, he was faithfully supporting and advocating for Megan throughout her illness.

Finally, in 2013, a ray of hope. During a check-up with the transplant team at the Cleveland Clinic, a nurse mentioned the National Kidney Registry (NKR) to Megan and Jay.

The NKR is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of people facing kidney failure by increasing the quality, speed and number of living donor transplants. Living donor transplantation has been shown to have better long-term outcomes than transplants from deceased donors. This is accomplished by enrolling donor/recipient matches from a database called the National Kidney Registry (NKR).

Jay didn’t hesitate to enroll as Megan’s donor partner and, after passing the medical testing, they were approved.

MATT NEFF, assistant superintendent, Wedgewood G&CC, Powell, Ohio
Introducing 'The Carrier' by Redexim North America. This three-wheeled power unit is self-propelled and features a 32 HP, rear 540 PTO and hydrostatic drive. The Carrier can be fitted with attachments such as aerators, top dressers, cutters, seeders and artificial turf machines. The Carrier’s large turf tires provide traction and minimize ground compaction. The Redexim Carrier is less money, faster, deeper, wider, and has more options than any unit in the marketplace today.
Golfdom Takes Home 21 TOCA Awards!

TOCA First Place Awards

» Writing, Operations Profile: “Flower Power,” Christina Thomas
» Writing, Editorial/Opinion: “The Beauty is a Beast,” Golfdom
» Writing, Product Information Article: “What’s the Next Big Idea at Spectrum Technologies?” Seth Jones
» Writing, Environmental Stewardship Article: “A Sharp Mind at Sharp Park,” Seth Jones
» Writing, Business Management: “A Sharp Mind at Sharp Park,” Seth Jones

TOCA Merit Awards

» Writing, Column: “The Life of a Golf Course,” Seth Jones
» Writing, Column: “No Better Backpack,” Seth Jones
» Writing, General Feature: “An America Dream,” Seth Jones
» Writing, Coverage of an On-site Event: BASF launches Xzemplar and Lexicon, Seth Jones
» Writing, Headlines: “Early to Rise,” Beth Geraci
» Writing, Turf Feature: “Beat the Summer Heat, Plan for Snow Mold,” Paul Koch, Ph.D.
» Writing, Original E-newsletter: “Golfdom’s Super Science,” Curt Harler

Photography, Best Cover
Photograph: “5 Keys to Picking Up Women,” Pete Seltzer

Photography, Pictorial 1:
“Fertilizing for the Future,” Pete Seltzer

Photography, Print Magazine Cover:
“My Green Heaven,” Pete Seltzer

Design, Single Page:
“The Golfdom Daily,” Seth Jones

New Media, Blogs:
“The Golfdom Daily,” Seth Jones

Plant Health Writer of the Year — Karl Danneberger, Ph.D.
Sponsored by Bayer, the award is provided annually to a writer for excellence in writing on plant health issues to their green industry audience.