

OFF COURSE

Rusty Stachlewitz, Associate Editor



• It is always interesting to learn what makes people in our industry tick. What excites them and find out what they do in their spare time. I'm not sure if this is a Clark Kent/ Superman story or a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde situation. By day a mild mannered sod farm operator/sales person, by night an audio/video producer.



When the whistle blows at Huber Ranch Sod Nursery in Schneider, IN it is a good bet that you can find John Huber as his alter ego in his home recording studio on the farm property. This is not a small room with a tape recorder and a few microphones. This is the real deal, a full blown audio recording facility. Isolation booths for drums, vocals or horns as well as a large enough space for a full band to set up and jam are showcased in his main studio. A computer driven sound board that rivals anything I have ever seen is the showcase of his production room. Check out the studio at www.thepotstudio.com. I'll admit I don't understand a quarter of what goes on with all the equipment but the output is fantastic. John has completed several projects for me and all are of the best quality possible.

A stop upstairs will bring you to his 'green screen'. Yep, like the one that the weather man uses. This allows for action to be filmed and placed over any background. Using this technology John has created a virtual band for himself. He has video taped people playing instruments in front of the screen and compiled them on video to assemble a virtual band that can be projected behind him when he plays his guitar at area night clubs. Who wants to split the pay with the rest of a band when you can pay them to play once and tape it? Oh yeah, John plays the guitar and sings. He is currently playing in "The Average Church Band" and their CD can be found on the Internet at www.cdbaby.com/averagechurchband.

John is also unique in that he has lived out his life-long fantasy of playing with some of rock and rolls greatest musicians. In the summer of 2006 he won a trip through Sweetwater Sound to Rock & Roll Fantasy Camp in New York City. John played and met with the likes of Joe Satriani, Dee Snider, Dr. John, Jon Anderson, George Thorogood and many others. To truly understand how this affected him you have to talk to him about the experience, he will be more than happy to tell you about it.

• Haven't had enough grass in your life? Pick up this new book from Ted Steinberg, *American Green-The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn*, brought to you by Norton Publishing.

The Professor of History from Case Western Reserve University takes us from the advent of the American lawn to present day. It is hard at times to tell if the author loves or hates turf-grass. It is certain that he advocates a common sense approach to maintenance of grass and the book is a quick and entertaining read.



• I think this internet thing is going to catch on. When you get a chance, check out these sites. They probably won't make your life better but you never know.

www.changethis.com

This site offers "Manifestos" from noteworthy authors and those who hope to be. Don't worry it isn't Unabomber stuff. Every month the site releases another list of titles that are completely free! They are also short which is great for those with short attention spans. Topics are usually business oriented but some of the content is very valuable.

www.bored.com

Yeah, it has pop-ups but it also collects a lot of the coolest stuff on the web in one place. By cool, I mean, dumb and trite but interesting in a car crash sort of way.

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