

Letters..

...to the Editor

Thanks for article

Joel,

Your article was fantastic! The pictures are beautiful. We are all very proud of Joe and our golf course. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Jon McMillin

General Manager, Winter Pines GC

Response

Jon,

You're welcome. It was an easy story to write having known Joe, the man and the superintendent all these years. Did I forget to mention I once shot five over par on Winter Pines when it was a par 63? Maybe I'm biased. From all of us, thank you for being an owner who understands the business and participates in getting things done.

Superintendent - Vendor Relationships

Dear Mark,

While attending the joint meeting of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach GCSA's in Hobe Sound, I was moved by your comments in regards to the FTGA state show and its lack of participation by members. I was so moved that I decided to write a letter and volunteer myself if vendor comments or committee participation is wanted.

Today I read your "Afterwords" articles in the Fall issue of the Florida Green and realized the time to write is, NOW! Maybe I am not as well read as I should be but I felt this was one of the first published articles to put some sutures in an open wound. The relationship between superintendents and vendors has become more financial than professional.

Your joint meeting comments and article have a strong correlation and it falls back to finances. All of our organizations need financial support for existence. Golf course vendors need sales to continue their financial support. If we bury our heads in our USGA spec greens and don't address the problems

at hand, we will lose what's left of our professional relationships.

Mark, when someone of your caliber and respectability within his profession sends out a cry for help, we all know it's time to come to the table and try to work things out.

On behalf of all vendors I want to thank you for the articles. It should awaken all parties concerned that we can solve this problem as soon as we address it. The same Fall issue also showed us that Joe Ondo plans to provide leadership that welcomes questions on things we don't like or understand.

If you feel we are thinking along the same lines please call me and we can plan a method to get ourselves to the next level.

It will probably be a little more difficult to organize a group of vendors as we are also competitors, but when our professionalism is at stake, I am sure a good representation can be formed.

Respectfully,
Mark A. Atherholt
Pro Greens Turf Services

Seeking Help for Fairy Ring Control Research

I recently published a popular article on Fairy Ring Control, Preliminary Observations in the Florida Turf Digest, Sept/Oct. 1997, pages 26 - 27. In this article, we (John Cisar and I) discussed the symptomatology of fairy ring, causal agents of fairy ring, unknown factors that influence the development of the ring type and control.

Our focus on control was chemical although cultural practices also may influence ring development. In this study, we evaluated two fungicides (Heritage and ProStar) and a wetting agent (Aqueduct) for their curative effects in reducing the visual symptoms of the ring. Although we were able to reduce the ring with one of the fungicides, it is too early to tell if this will always be the case.

This was one experiment in one location, during one season.

I would like to continue with product testing for trying to curatively control fairy ring. Since I, and many other researchers do not know how to artificially induce fairy ring in the field at will, it would be very difficult to effectively evaluate fungicides and other products for preventative control at this time. However, with superintendents providing sites on golf courses where fairy ring is presently a problem (now or in the future), we could design experiments to evaluate curatively many of the products that are being sold for fairy ring control more vigorously.

If you are in agreement I would appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached at University of Florida IFAS - Everglades Research and Education Center, Belle Glade, Phone 561-996-3062 ext 148, FAX - 561-996-0339, E-mail - LEDA@GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU.

Lawrence P. Datnoff
Associate Professor of Plant Pathology
University of Florida

Famous Golf Quotes

- "Golf is a compromise between what your ego wants you to do, what experience tells you to do, and what your nerves let you do."
-Bruce Crampton
- "My best score is 103, but I've only been playing 15 years."
-Alex Karras, former NFL defensive lineman and actor
- "What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive - the white ball sailing up into the blue sky, growing smaller and smaller, then suddenly reaching its apex, curving, falling and finally dropping to the turf to roll some more, just the way I planned it."
-Arnold Palmer
- "For most amateurs the best wood in the bag is the pencil."
-Chi Chi Rodriguez