

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

Clippings

Pesticides said to pose little danger

Editor's Note: This didn't make page one like the unfounded scare with Alar on apples, but I did find these results and recommendations from a panel of cancer experts on page 11 of the Nov. 14, 1997 Orlando Sentinel. Post it and share it with your co-workers and club members.

ATLANTA (Associated Press)—The trace amounts of pesticides on fruits and vegetables pose practically no risk of cancer to people, an expert panel says.

In fact, the danger was found to be so small that it would actually be riskier to stop eating fruits and vegetables.

"A diverse diet that has plenty of fruits and vegetables is very important in reducing cancer," said Dr. Clark Heath of the American Cancer Society. "Compared to that, the risk of cancer from man-made chemicals is negligible."

Pesticides are thought to be toxic to people in large and frequent doses, but most people are exposed to them only in tiny amounts in fruits and vegetables.

Nonetheless, public fear prompted the panel of cancer experts to form in 1994 and review at least 50 published studies on pesticides to find out whether there was cause for alarm. The studies were published between 1981 and 1996.

For the average person, there's nothing to fear, the panel said in a published in the journal *Cancer*.

The American Cancer Society recommends people eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day to help reduce their risk of esophagus cancer by 90 percent, their risk of colon cancer by 50 percent and their risk of breast cancer by 27 percent.

Quote

"Competitive golf is played mainly on a 5-1/2 inch course, the space between your ears." -

Bobby Jones

Viewpoint...

Lack of environmental information can make you surprisingly gullible

BY DAVID B. LONG, CGCS

Lakeview G. C., Ardmore, Okla.

As a golf course superintendent, I like to think that I'm doing my part to protect the environment. We have worked hard to change the image of the "greenskeeper" and to educate people about what it takes to be a golf course superintendent.

Our job is more than growing grass. It's our responsibility to protect golfers, animals, watersheds and trees. We need to think what the land we care for will be like when we leave it.

New laws change our working conditions almost daily. New products and chemicals hit the market almost as fast. Do you take time to educate yourself about new products? Have you overheard someone say a particular product or chemical is bad for the environment, and before checking it out or researching the product, you just agree and discontinue its use? It's our goal — and our duty — to protect the environment as much as we possibly can. Part of this duty is staying informed. I ran across a story (author unknown) that illustrates this point so well I thought I would share it.

A freshman won first prize at a city science fair last spring. He was attempting to show how conditioned we have become to the alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding the strict control or total elimination of the chemical "hydrogen hydroxide." The chemical:

- Causes excessive sweating and vomiting
- Is a major component in acid rain
- Causes severe burns in its gaseous state
- Kills when accidentally inhaled
- Contributes to erosion
- Decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes
- Has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients

The student asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided and only one knew what the chemical was.

The title of his prize-winning project was, "How Gullible Are We?"

He believes the conclusion is obvious. So, 43 of 50 people polled wanted to ban hydrogen hydroxide. I believe we would be in a lot of trouble if we decided to ban or discontinue the use of products or chemicals just because their names sound terrible or we have failed to do our research. Where would we be if we banned hydrogen hydroxide? We'd be without water. It makes you think, doesn't it?

Editors Note: This Viewpoint column from the November 1997 *Golf Course Management* magazine was just too good to pass up. It relates directly to the concerns in the cancer risk article and the scare tactics of environmental extremists.