



Peek- A -Boo!

**As I See It
By Jim Walker**

Oh my god. Excuse me for a moment while I go and change my shorts. I just watched the Boo Weekly interview which followed the third round of the PGA Championship. They don't spend nearly enough money on "edgecagation" in Milton where Boo was born July 23, 1973.

This man, who turned pro in 1997 and has won over two million dollars in 2007, doesn't know squat about the

Ryder Cup, the FedEx Cup, and "ain't no good at math." His player profile indicates he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, but doesn't say how long he stayed. I'm shocked he went anywhere that has a five syllable word in its title. While he enjoys the PGA Tour, he says it would be "funner" to be back home catchin' 10 pounders with his buddies.

I have always liked Boo's

playing skills but have never heard him speak before. Now that I have, I still like him except he says after 10 or 12 years on the Tour, and he has enough money in his bank (Sealy Posturepedic Savings and Loan). He is giving up the grind and plans to sit home and do whatever folks living on the Redneck Riviera do.

Boo, it's not nice to take what you want from golf and not plan on giving anything back to the game that will put you in a Jon boat or duck blind instead of the local chemical plant. I have always liked John Daly as well, who is a good old boy from Arkansas, but Boo makes John seem like a Rhodes Scholar. Hellfire, Jeff Foxworthy could do a 30-minute routine on the Boo'ster without even trying. God love ya' Boo.

Bobby Clampett, who almost drove himself into the looney bin trying to hit the perfect golf shot (Do you remember the book, "The Golf Machine" by Homer Kelly? Bobby took it to heart) says you have one of the ten best swings he has ever seen. You are a helluva player with clearly the right mental attitude for the game. Git 'er done!

Many years ago, I went to Perdenales, Texas to try and sell "The Red Headed Stranger" (Willie Nelson) some orange iron when I worked for Watson Distributing. They had some strange rules at his nine-hole course. A couple that stick in my mind are, "A foursome shall consist of no more than 15 players," and, "The guy with the fastest golf cart always gets the best lie."

I tell this story because I want Boo to know that I like country music and I'm no snob.

Good ol' boy golf is just fine. To each his own. It is the game of a lifetime. But when you have the title "golf professional," there is a small burden of proof to act like a professional.

Arnie's folks taught him table etiquette and, while he did puff cigarettes on TV back in the 50s and 60s when it was still politically correct, I never saw any tobacco juice dribbling down his chin. Tim Finchem must have felt a migraine coming on during Boo's interview.

Now imagine if you will, a Golf Channel reporter is interviewing a golf course superintendent about fertilizers or pesticides When asked about nitrogen or phosphorus applications he says, with a chaw or pinch of tobacco in his lumpy cheek, "I don't know nuthin bout no BMPs, PPEs, MSDS, OSHA and all that gummint crap! I've been putting out fertilizer every other Monday for dern near 20 years now." Now Steve Mona is the one reaching for the Extra-strength Excedrin.

Of course the difference is that Boo and the pros are the entertainers and performers and superintendents are the technicians. We know — from recent and all-too-frequent media stories about personal train wrecks — that entertainers can self-destruct instantaneously and sometimes say the darndest harebrained things on the air.

Thankfully superintendents tend to be

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just a tad more practical and generally reticent about putting their feet in their mouths. Maybe it's just as well that we don't get more air time than a cameo appearance at the major events. Professionalism may be different things to different people. I might not be able to define it, but I sure know what it when I see it, or when I don't.

Boo left me wanting so much more from a person with such a talent for the game, but one having so little interest in the finer points of the history and opportunities of the profession. Boo certainly isn't one of those bland golf clones. He's more of a golf clown just joking around. Golf just doesn't need him to be the punch line.



It's Not My Job!

GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON

(Is Anybody Listening?)

Acknowledgment: A tip of the hat to Richard Staughton, president of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association

whose recent President's message in the GGCSA's Through the Green Magazine revived this old chestnut and provided the opening lines and inspiration for this column.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. However, Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

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It seems to me that the above scenario could easily be applied to our world in the area of volunteer participation on our local chapter boards of directors and committees. Also the act of providing data and input on local, state and national surveys dealing with economic and environmental issues that affect how we conduct our golf course maintenance practices. Anybody can fill out the survey, but usually Nobody does. Sometimes 30 percent is a good return. How much more effective would the data be if we had a 70 percent return?

Here is a little quiz to measure who you are in the little story above. Did you participate in the recent FGCSA Golf Course Maintenance Survey? Did you participate in the GCSAA member surveys on fertilizer use, water use and environmental

resources? Did you send any comments to EPA regarding methyl bromide, MSMA or Namacur when their cancellation notices were posted? Have you ever attended or volunteered to serve on a Green Advisory Board of your regional water management district? Have you attended a city or county commission meeting held on fertilizer regulation issues? Have you paid or made sure your 2008 dues were renewed on time?

I'm sorry. You may not like it but, in today's world, it is your job. I know they didn't teach advocacy in turf school. Call it one of life's lessons. I call it survival, given today's rush to judgment and regulation of our industry. If we don't speak up as a unified group, who will?

Everybody should, Anybody can but Nobody does except for a precious few.

You manage 100-plus acres in one of the state's many watershed basins, and a goodly portion of them have been declared impaired. Florida's DEP will be assigning Total Maximum Daily Load limits for everybody living and operating in those basins. The more you participate, the better informed you will be about your role and the responsibilities that are tied to your practices. Plus you owe it to your club to make sure they (you) don't get into any hot water over these issues.

So Everybody has a stake in best management practices to minimize any negative impacts and Everybody affects the public perception of golf

course operations. Nobody should take shortcuts with environmental stewardship. Anybody can do better and Everybody should.

You are fortunate that in our associations — from national to local — there are people who are willing to deliver positive messages, provide testimony at hearings, engage and educate regulators and lawmakers. It is your job to support them. It is your job to respond to surveys and to provide information that can be used to defend your practices. It is your job to inform your club officials about the issues facing our industry so we build public support.

Today Anybody can become the target of a negative news story. Nobody is exempt. It only takes one phone call from a disgruntled employee or an unfortunate accident. Somebody could be fired and a reputation ruined. Everybody will suffer the consequences.

So to Everybody out there, is Anybody listening?

ATTENTION!

New Association Manager
Jennifer Innes started Oct. 1.

New FGCSA office contact information:

Watts line: **800-732-6053**

Phone: **772-334-7515**

(Fax number TBA)

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Marie and Jennifer will be working together until complete transition has occurred.