

PHOTO TO THE EDITOR



**Timing
is
Everything**

This photo shows exactly why they call the osprey a "fish hawk." Submitted by Joe Hubbard.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proud of Friends' Professionalism

Joel,

Just wanted to drop you line after spending the last 18 months in and out of the Dominican Republic, and I had an opportunity to read the The Florida Green and see you are still at it.

What I like about the magazine is that there are many friends mentioned and that they are all doing great stuff for the business and the fact that your magazine recognizes their feats.

As you know I once was in the profession and have worked with the likes of Phinny, Matt Taylor, Bob Wagner, Jimbo Rawlings, Glen Klauk and countless others.

I just wanted to say how proud I am of the golf industry professionals that take our work to a higher level and constantly work

at making the golf course a better place for the environment and better conditions for all.

Stefan L. Masiak
SENIOR DESIGNER
FAZIO GOLF

Steve,

The rewarding part of my job is getting feedback from readers like yourself and from telling the stories of the people you mentioned and those countless others over the years. It was fun and educational working with you on the Disney Osprey Ridge project – omigosh – 16 years ago. They say time flies when you're having fun, maybe that's why it's whizzing by.

Keep in touch and please share those positive environmental contributions of some of your new projects so we can all continue to learn how to do it better.

Joel

You, Me and Planet Earth



**AS I SEE IT
By JIM WALKER**

Save the whales, save the snails, save the trees, save the bees. In the 150 years since the Industrial Revolution, man has managed to all but destroy the environment in which he lives.

Never in the history of

our profession has there been more pressure to be prudent with our pesticide and fertilizer applications and Best Management Practices are the standard operating procedures.

Now, this is a very good thing, and don't get the wrong idea about where I go from here.

But, sadly, I think it is too little too late. Let's also remember that what golf puts on the ground is just 1 percent of the problem and homeowners, industry, farmers and Mother Nature herself are dumping the other 99 percent.

Industrial pollution and vehicle emissions have created holes in the ozone layer at the North and South Poles of our planet, and the ice packs are melting at an alarming rate.

Governments across the world are meeting, eating, and retreating to solve the problem.

We are telling South American countries to stop cutting down their forests, despite the fact we cut all of ours down 50 years ago. I'm on board, you shove off.

Oil is nearly \$100 a barrel and the USA and all the other major players in the world can't get enough, and can't burn it up fast enough in our vehicles, factories, and electric generating plants.

I say we are starting to see the beginning of the end. It may take a few hundred years, but the end of civilization as we know it is at hand.

Only the pompous, arrogance of man can come up with the mantra that we are now going to save the world. Well, I've got a

hot news flash for you. The planet isn't going anywhere; we are.

The human species is nothing more than a dead-end biological mutation destined for extinction by its own hand. It will be the first time in the history of our planet that the species at the top of the food chain did itself in.

And you know, it's probably about time for us to check out. All we care about are our SUVs, Bluetooth phones, laptops... our text-messaging, bottled-water-drinking, multi-tasking existence, feeding each other to the alligators and hoping they will eat us last.

We pay athletes millions of dollars a year to play

games for our enjoyment while we pay our teachers a wage just above the poverty level and the news media can only tell us about which celebrity is sleeping with whom, or the big wreck on the Interstate, or the innocent kid killed in a drive-by shooting. They cover hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and forest fires with timely precision, and remind us we have now spent almost \$500 billion on the war in Iraq.

In retrospect, you wonder why the planet let man evolve to the point that he has. The age-old question: Why are we here? One answer comes to mind – plastic! The earth wanted plastic and couldn't make it for itself. That's why we are

here — to make plastic?


Well, the earth is finished with us now. It has plastic and is probably sorry it does. The planet will shake us off like a bad case of fleas and begin to heal itself. I hope you don't think the planet perceives man as a threat to its existence. Man has been here 50,000 years and the planet two billion. Planet Earth is not afraid of us. Ask the people of the Gulf Coast if they felt like they were a threat to the planet the day Katrina came to visit.

In the meantime, golf course superintendents will give 100 percent effort to use in a prudent and safe manner their 1 percent of the earth's pesticides and fertilizers, and make

the world a safer place for the Haagen-Dazs-eating, Docker-wearing, and Volvo-driving environmentalists.

Doesn't it just amaze you that the industry which contributes so little to the earth's pollution problems has been singled out as one of the biggest offenders? Everywhere you go, and everyone you talk to says: "Those damn golf courses are ruining the world."

I guess it's easier to pick on the little guy and let the homeowners, industrialists and farmers go free to continue their evil, polluting ways. I just have one more thing to say: Google, Ipad, MP3, You Tube, Xbox, and GPS at the end of the day. This is Captain Jim. Over and out.



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