

## Fun Facts

Here are some things you may not know about our cover story superintendent

1. Car: I want to find and restore a 1959 El Camino.
2. The last good movie I saw: A Beautiful Mind.
3. I stay home to watch: Educational television, The Learning Channel, History Channel, etc.
4. The book I've been reading: The Bible. Tough reading. Small print.
5. Favorite meal: Bob Rehberg's fried snook, turnip-greens soup, broccoli slaw and Dirty Bob's hush puppies.
6. Favorite performers: Bob Seger, Pure Prairie League, Meg Ryan, George Carlin, Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker.
7. Prized possession: My dad's 1963 Farm Chemical bowling team shirt he wore when he bowled a 300 game in Louisville, Ky.
8. Personal heroes: Golf course maintenance personnel who happily go in every day and grind it out. Mark Black - he has a gift for getting peo-

ple to do what needs to be done.

9. Nobody knows that: I want to take flying lessons
10. If I could do it over: I would have spent more time with my family. Tournaments, etc. made me miss a lot of things in the early stages of our life together.
11. I'd give anything to meet: Vanna White.
12. My fantasy is: Be a contestant on Wheel of Fortune and meet Vanna White.
13. The one thing I can't stand is: Laziness.
14. If I could change one thing about myself: Increase my tolerance for stupid people
15. My most irrational act: Calling a 6-5, 250-lb. well driller, who buried his truck in a fairway, a stupid SOB. I apologized for getting my blood all over his fist.
16. My most humbling experience: Birth of my son - 12:10 AM, December 25, 1979.
17. The words that best describe me: Only just slightly obsessive compulsive.

shade will not be a problem. He leaves as many snags in place as possible, but removes any that might be a safety problem. When he has to remove a snag, he uses the cut-up tree to create brush-pile habitats and food sources in out-of-play areas.

The club is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Estes has helped in making the program an active part of club life.

"One of our members, Mr. Buddy Pollock, has been a tremendous resource for our pro-

gram. Mr. Pollock personally tends our feeding stations and installs and monitors our nest boxes," he said.

I asked Estes if he was working on making San Jose a certified sanctuary. "We haven't formalized the process yet, but we are doing so many of the requirements it's time for us to document them and get on with the program. I am sending Teresa Xander, our landscape supervisor to the ACSP workshop in Orlando to give her a hands-on orientation in the process to help us get started."

Getting San Jose certified would just be one more accomplishment in a career that has led Estes from Florida to Texas and back. He probably has one of the most diverse resumes I've come across in my years of profiling superintendents. This diversity of experience is a boon to San Jose as he has done everything from municipal course operations on a shoestring budget to preparing high-profile courses for television coverage of professional events.

He credits much of his on-course and career success to former PGA Tour agronomist Alan Maccarrach.

Estes said, "In my opinion American golf is where it is today because of Alan's influence. In the age of televised golf Alan was at the heart of the grooming programs and standards that were set. Those conditions set the mark that others sought to achieve on a regular basis. What I learned was that a well-conditioned golf course came about by following a sound, year-round program and did not result from

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The clean detailed look of the par 3, 162 yard 8th hole is a testament to the professionalism of the maintenance staff. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

a mad dash to glory in the last few weeks before an event. Undoubtedly, the high standards depicted at tournament sites have raised golfers' expectations but it has also raised our stature in the game.

"I came to know Alan during my tenure at The Tournament Players Club during construction as a student at Lake City and as an assistant superintendent after graduation. It seems we developed a mutual respect as he was instrumental in my landing several key jobs that gave me the opportunity to work at high-profile clubs like Onion Creek in Austin, Tex. and

TPC at Prestancia in Sarasota and prepare those courses for the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf and the LPGA Chrysler Cup respectively.

"My introduction and inspiration into golf came from my dad and my grandfather. My grandfather worked at Big Sandy GC in north Georgia after retiring from the farm and fencing business. My dad taught me the game when I was six years old and he dreamed of going to Lake City Community College for the golf course operations program. He never got to go, so I did."



Aerial photo of San Jose C.C. shows the parallel hole layout popular in the Donald Ross era. The St. John's River can be seen in the upper left hand corner. Photo by Joel Jackson.

It seems that family and close knit relationships are essential to Estes' personal and professional values and success. They make a good fit with San Jose's traditional Old Florida family lifestyle.

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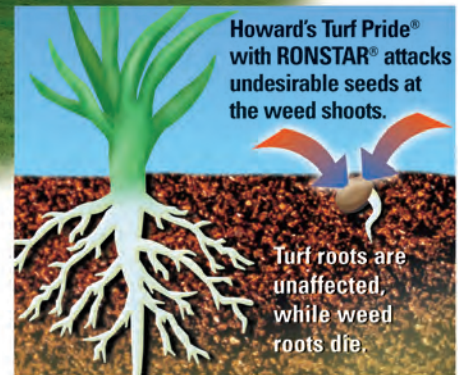
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# Professionalism - Stop Hiding!

By Robert LaChance

Despite seventy-five years of the national golf course superintendents association's efforts, when you mention a professional at your golf facility, there is still only one - the golf pro. GCSAA in recent years has tried to address this issue, and after a failed effort at educating the public is now focusing on educating us, its members. Maybe if we can somehow certify that we have the required education, time on the job, and attend even more educational programs continually, we will be viewed as professionals along with our golf-merchandising brothers. Realistically I doubt it.

The goal of providing education to its members in the many diverse areas of our profession is admirable. Continual education in a profession changing as rapidly as ours is a requirement just for holding on to your job. That is my point. These things do not make us professionals or make others view us as professionals. An education and a commitment to continuing education are prerequisites for our jobs. Like the prerequisites in college, you have to take the classes, do the work, and pass the exams in order to prepare for your more advanced classes. Frequently, the prerequisite classes do not even count toward your degree.

Our on-the-job performance is what sets us apart as professionals, and if we want to change our image to that of professionals, we need to change how our performance is perceived by the public, our members or golfers, our staff, our golf professionals, general managers and everyone else we interact with in the performance of our duties as golf course superintendents. After all, when we say we want to be viewed as professionals, we are actually asking for our due respect.

Respect, the adage goes, is earned. Your position or education or certification, do not guarantee respect. You earn respect by how others perceive you while you perform the duties of your job and in how you interact with others while you perform that job. You earn respect by being perceived as deserving respect.

Now this bothers quite a few people, and rightly so I would say. In a world that seems to be more about perception than reality, image than performance, perception is hardly truth. Nevertheless, the reality is that if we want to be perceived as knowledgeable, resourceful, and dedicated; we are going to have to project that image. We can no longer hide in our own little world, and expect others to recognize our achievements. We need to get out and show people what we do - and how we do it. That means we need to interact with more than our own staff, the golf pro's staff, and maybe the accounting staff. We need to get out more!

We need to be seen as doing our job, an important job that requires many talents, all of which we are capable of and proficient in. We need to be perceived as efficient and effective in the performance of our duties. We need to let people know what it is we do.

How can we do this? Most importantly, I believe we must stop hiding. The grounds maintenance building is usually situated where it will not be seen. Is this so the golfer will think the course takes care of itself? I have wondered sometimes.

As impractical and outrageous as it may sound, maybe the superintendent needs to have an office in the clubhouse, an office in which he or she can be seen and even visited. This office needs to be a bit like a professor's office with designated open office hours each week that the superintendent will be in to answer questions and other related tasks. The office at the "barn" does not have to be abandoned, but we need to be perceived as being available to more than our own staff. How about signs on our carts, "Golf Course Superintendent?" As a professional we need to be willing to take responsibility for our work.

Speaking of our staff, how many times have we heard that if you can raise up the lowest, everyone will benefit? Do we speak highly of our crew as trained technicians and quality people? Are they educated in their jobs and do they project and image of competency? We need to address this issue if we want to be viewed as professionals ourselves. Professionals supervise trained personnel, not interchangeable laborers.

The relationship with our assistants and interns needs to be examined too. Some assistants are merely interns putting in the time to qualify for a better job. We need to treat these people with respect and be sure we are providing the education, training and opportunities to learn that a person in these

positions deserves. They are not just extra cup changers, spray technicians or irrigation technicians; and if you are paying them salaries, the Wage and Hour people can straighten you out on this matter. We need to treat our assistants as the professionals they will one day be, and if we are lucky enough to have one of those career assistants, be sure to treat them with the respect and professionalism that you would want applied to you. Another adage is that you earn respect by giving respect.

We need to seize opportunities that present themselves to us. Why not speak to your kid's class on career day or get up and say a few things at your club's annual meeting when you are recognized. You can write for your club newsletter or chapter publication. You might even want to serve on the board of the local affiliated chapter of GCSAA or serve on a national committee if you have a special area of interest. Any of these activities show your dedication to your profession and consequently, your own professionalism.

One of the easiest ways you can show your professionalism is to host a local chapter function. Nothing is more impressive to those at your course than to see that you and your peers get together to share each other's perspective, receive some education, and share some quality time together. Your course can host a golfing event or an educational meeting. Guaranteed, the staff at the clubhouse, the golf staff, and general manager will view you differently when they see the professionalism of your local chapter. Sure, they know you belong to this organization and might even read the newsletters that you leave lying around, but bringing the event to your facility for all to see will make a lasting, positive impression.

Professionalism is about acting as a professional. To be perceived as a professional one must be seen as one. We cannot hide what we do. We need to be visible managers of our facilities and our staff. We do not need certification or a public relations campaign. We only need to be ready to put our best foot forward and let others see us as the professionals we are. We need to stop hiding.

*Reprinted from the Cincinnati GCSA Green Breeze with permission from Bob LaChance, editor.*



# TIFSPORT

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This inside view of a typical TifSport plug shows TifSport's impressive root system, stolons and rhizomes.



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# Controlling Insects and Nematodes - Products and Programs

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

We have to pick Hands-On topics a year in advance so we can publish and broadcast our media kits and editorial plans to our advertisers. They like to target specific products and services to meet your needs relative to the management theme of the issue. So it was at least a year ago we came up with this insect-control topic.

It had been several years since we discussed this aspect of turf management, and the EPA has been running roughshod over the organophosphate family of insecticides for a couple of years, thanks to the Food Quality Protection Act. We thought it might be time to check on how insect control was going in the new millennium. Several trends were evident from the interviews I did at the Harrell's Turf Academy in Pine Mountain, Ga. I had a captive audience of superintendents and suppliers. Here's what they had to say:

## General Trends

Insect damage on turf is not a major concern in today's management programs. This is primarily due to the advances in product technology and more thorough monitoring of threshold levels.

Routine spraying of insecticides is rare and applications for worm control are more of a last resort than an automatic preventive.

The products of choice for worm control tend to be the old standbys, with Orthene and its acephate clones leading the way. The pyrethroids are used sparingly if at all. Most are waiting for more peer feedback on successes.

Thanks to Chipco Choice, mole crickets are not the turf devastator they once were. While you still have to pay attention to infestation pressure, most people are more concerned with when, where and how often to apply the product to stretch the budget dollars.

Grub damage is problematic and some cover their bases by alternating Merit with Chipco Choice. Known areas are treated with Merit, but most did not feel they had any significant grub problems.

Nematodes remain a constant threat to weaken turf especially during stressful conditions. Many saw good results from Curfew applications during the recent drought. As NemaCur fades away, we await Dr. Crow's results of testing on alternative products.

## Specific comments on products, programs and pests

Susan Leisure, Dow AgroSciences: "One of our new products for worm control that works both on turf and ornamentals is Conserve, an environmentally friendly product. The active ingredient is spinosid and is naturally occurring. The product works by contact and ingestion and has a 14-day residual. Some superintendents are using it in rotation with their regular products. Mach 2 is a pyrethroid product that works to control grubs and surface feeders."

Joe Conoly, Bayer Environmental Crop Sciences: "Sevin sales are up for worm control, and of course many folks use the Merit program and time their applications to control grubs as well as the hatch of mole cricket nymphs." I asked Joe about the use of Chipco Choice in relation to its cost and course budgets. Conoly said, "Acreages are up for the year. We are finding medium and lower budget courses can't afford not to use Choice to get a handle on their mole-cricket problems and stay competitive. Top Choice gives courses the opportunity to custom apply to only specific areas of concern so they can manage their budget dollars accordingly."

Dick Naccarato, Naples Beach Club: "Costs of materials are a concern for us. I use Top Choice to treat the perennial trouble spots. The crickets always seem to come back to the same spots each year due to soil type, moisture, whatever. I prefer the bagged material so I don't have to take a chance on turf damage by the slit injection equipment. I have also tried Talstar sparged on fertilizer. The products are getting better and more effective and so the insect pressure and damage are less. We have learned to manage the pest and the pesticide much better to avoid a lot of repeat applications."

Jim Schilling, Bonita Bay East: "Frankly, I just don't have a really big insect problem. One reason may be the rock layer just a few inches down. It's not a bug-friendly environment. We did slit inject Choice over the entire course and where we either missed or didn't treat, we got hammered. I followed up on those areas with a bait called Snare and applied some Top Choice. I had mixed results with 20 acres of Curfew treatment. Again the rock so close to the surface may have been a problem. Our worm problems are small. We monitor the damage and selectively treat as needed. Usually we grow out of the problem before we need to spray. When we do spray we tend to use Orthene."

Ken Arsenault, Golf Club of Jacksonville: "I've seen more worm problems this year than ever. Maybe it was the wet summer; they sure came out after every rain and usually on the same spots on the same greens. We tend to monitor damage first to see if it is widespread and causing a real problem. When they were as active as they were this year, we generally had to spray all greens if the damage was exceeding our threshold tolerances. We rely on acephate to control any worm outbreaks. I'd like to see more product evaluations on the new products. Right now I rely on what I know works. I learn from my peers and my mentors. The grapevine and word of mouth tell me what's working."

As far as mole crickets go, we are into our third year since our last Chipco Choice application, and we think we have been lucky to get that much good control out of the product. Next year we treat again. We have used Merit for some problem areas not covered by the Choice."

Bill Alford, Golden Eagle C.C.: "I don't have a lot of insect problems. If worms pose a problem I'll chase them with Orthene, Sevin and Talstar. The mole crickets we have don't like the heavy clay soils, which we do have a lot of. Where they are active on fairways and tee tops, we have applied Chipco Choice. We treated two years in a row and the third year we just monitored for hot spots and treated as needed with Top Choice. In the roughs where the slit injection isn't practical (tree roots, slopes etc) we have used the new slow release, coated Orthene product called Precise."

Alan Puckett, The Club at Eaglebrooke: "My biggest insect problem when I got here was that mole crickets were out of control. We used Chipco Choice to get them under control and the course cleaned up well. We treated the fairways the last two years and next year we will skip them and do the roughs. We'll use Top Choice on the slopes. I want to learn more about the new coated Orthene product, Precise, and see how it might fit into our program."

"Worms aren't a big problem. If we see the signs that they are active, we monitor them closely and, if looks like we need to spray, we hold off until the end of the week so we don't have any fire drills over the weekend when the course is busiest. We use a combination of Orthene and Dursban usually. I have tried some DeltaGard, but I really haven't messed around with the new products that much. One thing we do when we spray is to make sure we start and stop the spraying into the collar since the worms will inhabit the tall grass around the green."

"Nematodes are my next concern. I have used NemaCur on three of our fairways for chronically weak areas that don't outgrow the damage. Next year I think I'm going to have to treat the greens. The pressure is building and they aren't reacting as well to cultural practices. I am going to use some Neotec, which Steve Ciardullo has been successful with over at Mountain Lake. We've got to find something that works on 'todes with NemaCur phasing out."

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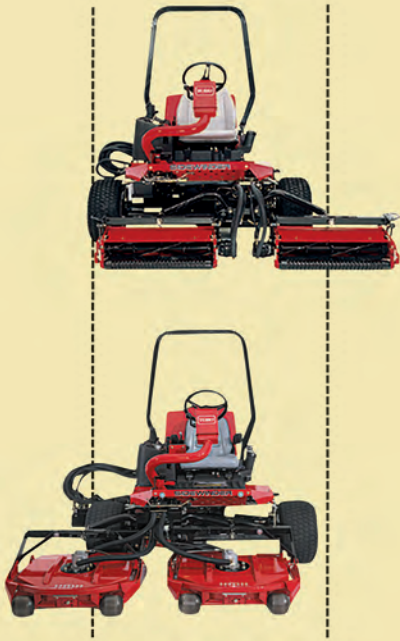
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# Frost in Florida?

**YOU BET! AND YOU'D BETTER BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN FROST DAMAGE TO YOUR GOLFERS.**

*Editor's Note: It's that time of year. Here is some general information on the potential for turf damage when the course is having a frosty morning and comments by fellow superintendents on how they handle the necessary delays at their courses. This information can be accessed at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).*

## How can a footprint be a killer?

When it's a footprint made on a putting surface that's covered with frost. It's hard to believe that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage, but the proof will be there in a few days as the turfgrass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That's why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. And it's also why golfers who appreciate a quality putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

## Why does frost cause problems?

Greens are fragile. The putting sur-

face, or green, is an extremely fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained at 3/16 or even 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This stress makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold - and frost.

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It's not much different from cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, you can't put it back together.

## The proof is in the prints

Although you won't see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge within 48 to 72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. And, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive.

## Thanks for understanding

The damage isn't just unsightly - putting quality will also be reduced until repairs are made. Those repairs are expensive and, in some cases, the green may have to be kept out of play for days or weeks until the new turfgrass is established. A short delay while the frost melts can preserve the quality of the greens, prevent needless repairs and may even save you a few strokes the next time you play.

## Super Tips - Avoiding a frosty reception

Frost delays may be among the most contentious issues a superintendent will encounter during late winter and early spring. Temporarily closing the course until frost subsides can prevent unnecessary damage to turf, but it can also anger golfers eager to tee it up and club professionals anx-

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