

GCN MAILBAG

"The Ode to Interseeding"

Editor's note: Kevin Downing, superintendent at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart, Fla., penned this poem and posted it in the clubhouse for the edification of his members.

Now is the time to heed
Hence we have planted
the seed
Golfers beware...
No Greens have been
mowed
No Cups have been
placed
We water to settle the
thirst,
As we wait for those
seeds to burst.
One week from now...
We can start to cut...
So once again you can
begin to putt.

GPS doesn't keep pace

To the Editor,
Having just played my first round on a course with GPS installed, I must say that on the first tee I was thinking it was a great way to speed up play. (Speed of Play focus, GCN October 2001) But by the seventh hole I was cussing the system

because while we were supposedly "keeping pace", we had waited on every tee ball and approach shot since the second hole. Since the group ahead of us was within acceptable times, they saw no need to allow us to play through. This resulted in a four-and-a-half hour round instead of the three-and-a-half hour round we would have played.

Some work needs to be done.
Sincerely,
Vance Voth, Mann & Co. Architects & Engineers
Hutchinson, Kan.

Personal Ranger a hit

To the Editor,
I just finished reading the speed of play articles from the October issue. Here at

Balmoral Woods we too have implemented the Personal Ranger pace of play system. For a relatively low cost, it has improved our pace of play and it is easy to use and understand. I highly recommend it for all golf courses.

Sincerely,
David Mortell, General Manager
Balmoral Woods Country Club
Crete, Ill.

Fundamentals

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Why? The grass plant is composed of approximately 80 percent water, so without it you have no turf. In many cases, with too much water, you also could have no turf or poor quality turf. I believe the best water managers still rely on an invention from even before my time - the hose. I know many superintendents who basically shut-off their high tech irrigation system during the summer stress months, and use the fundamental practice of hand-watering to manage their turfgrass. Imagine that, high tech computers and all those fancy heads, and the greatest invention, the hose, is relied upon the most.

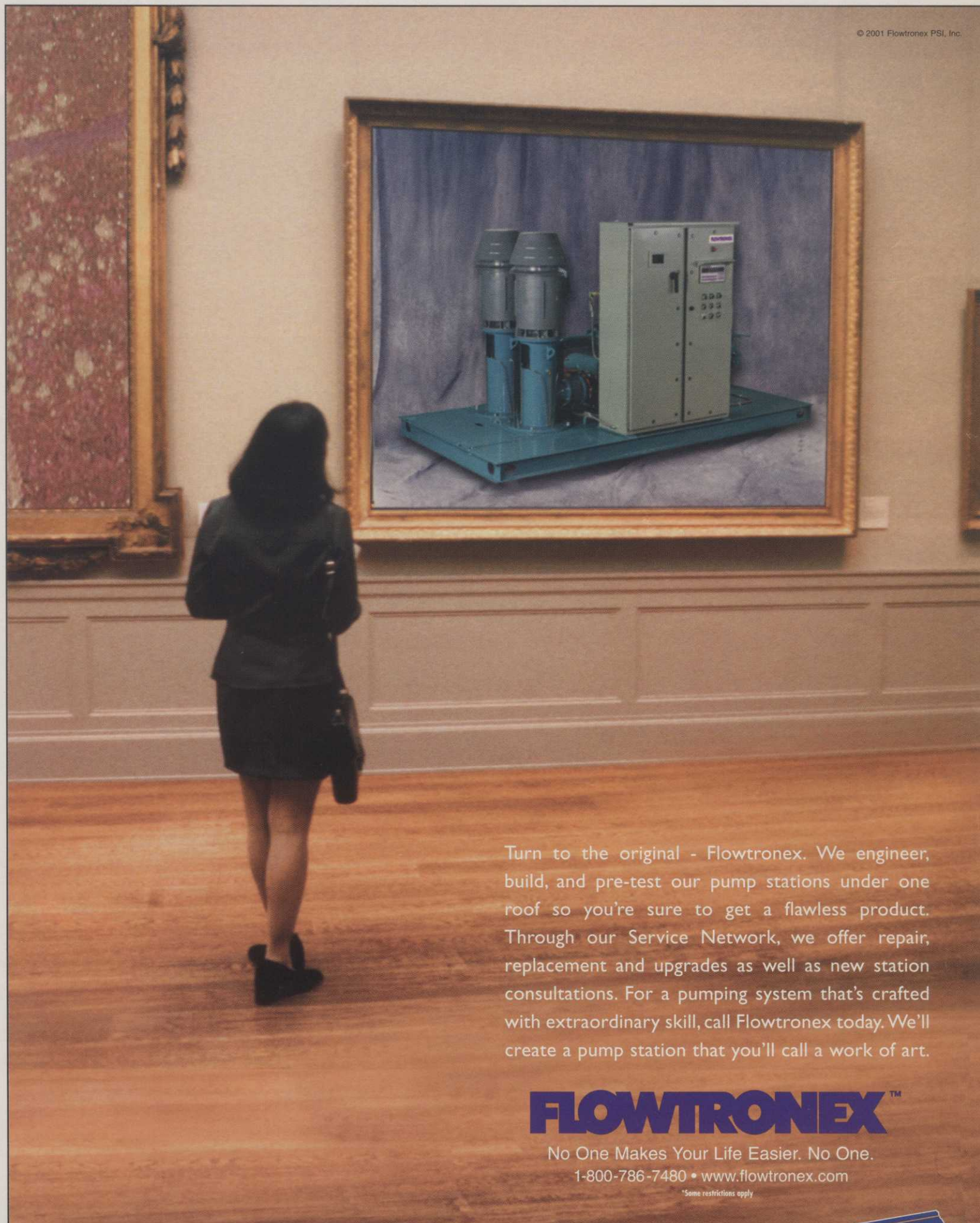
No matter how high-tech mowers may get with robotics and lasers on the horizon, the basics of mowing will still be an important fundamental. Mowing frequency, height of cut, equipment selection, and mowing technique all contribute to proper turfgrass fundamentals.

Using good sound fundamentals gives you the benefit of growing quality turf without injecting practices that could kill turf. Sure we all want to look on the chemical shelf for the magical bottle of *Poa be Gone*, *Crabgrass Destroyer*, or *Disease-Not*, but it's the fundamentals that are the building blocks for healthy turfgrass. Let's welcome turfgrass technology with open arms, but let's not lose sight of coaching our turf through good sound fundamentals. ■

CORRECTION

An article on new irrigation products (GCN, November 2001) incorrectly identified Signature Control Systems' president Brian Smith as Bruce Smith. We regret the error.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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