

FEEDBACK

We'd like to
hear from you.

E-mail us at
jwalsh@gie.net
with your thoughts
and opinions.

Lean thanks

"Lessons in Lean" (page 30 in the January issue) is an outstanding article. I was so impressed with the way Marisa Palmieri presented the concepts. It was simply fair and unbiased journalism. I've had several great e-mails and comments, and the team at Lexington was thrilled with how well the program was presented. Thanks again for Marisa's tremendous work and putting the Working Smarter Training Challenge out there as an option and a resource to help golf courses learn more about the potential of lean.

Jim Paluch
President
JP Horizons
Cleveland

Real world vs. ivory tower

John Stier's comments about research funding cutbacks vis-a-vis grant preparation time, energy and cost are what the real world often views as typical ivory-tower thinking (golfcourseindustry.com/news/news.asp?ID=4854).

First of all, a different economic world existed in September when calls for proposals went out. If you don't think that's true, check your retirement and investment portfolio values then and now.

Second, I'm sure Stier has applied for competitive grants in the past and been unsuccessful. Chalk it up to the cost of doing business. As a business person, I'd love to be in a position in which my downside potential was limited to my due diligence incurred costs.

Finally, recognizing the reality of the current funding climate, offering ideas to enhance it in troubled times and encouraging existing partnerships will probably go much further in the future than "poor me" complaining.

Dane Gamble
Head greenkeeper
Bridger Creek Golf Course
Bozeman, Mont.

Editor's note: We agree – offering ideas to improve the current funding climate is a step in the right direction. We encourage readers with thoughts about how individuals or associations can aid research funding efforts during these difficult economic times to com-

ment on our message board (golfcourseindustry.com/messageboard) or contact mpalmieri@gie.net.

On target

Pat Jones' column, "Plan C for the GCSAA" (page 90 in the January issue) was most enjoyable and hit the nail on the head. The GCSAA board is made up of superintendents with college degrees, and this is the best they could do? Also, the famous celebrities are overpaid. Good work.

John Wantz, CGCS
Retired
San Antonio

GIS success

I've attended every Golf Industry Show since Atlanta and have a much different take on the success of the show than just passing my superintendent in the airport as mentioned in the article "Team time" (golfcourseindustry.com/news/news.asp?ID=4888). Building a relationship with your fellow managers doesn't start at the GIS; it's just an extension of a successful partnership. Being at the Kansas City Country Club for just seven months has provided me another perspective into the superintendent/general manager relationship. Our superintendent, Loren Breedlove, has been at the club 30 years and has been a great support for me. The club is investing a lot of money in the two of us attending the GIS. As such, we scheduled how we were going to work together, spending time with certain vendors well before the show.

Mark A. Bado, CCM CCE
General manager
Kansas City Country Club
Mission Hills, Kan.

Correction

Since 1983, the USGA has funded more than 400 research projects at land grant universities, at a cost of about \$30 million, to improve playing conditions and enjoyment of the game. As the result of budget cuts implemented this year, the information appeared incorrectly in "Follow the money" (on page 56 of the January issue).

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