ROLL CALL

Peter Dernoeden, Ph.D., turfgrass science professor at the University of Maryland, has been selected to receive the 2012 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

Doug Lowe, Greensboro Country Club, Greensboro, N.C., is the new president of the Carolinas GCSA.

Mark Anzlovar was named the superintendent of Hollydot Golf Course at the Colorado City, Colo.

Syngenta named **John Spaulding** territory manager for the turf and landscape sales team.

Direct Solutions announced addition of **Bryan Gooch** as North American Marketing Manager with the Direct Solutions team.

Gilkes received his first drum kit when he was just nine years old. He plays the drums each morning to prepare for taking care of turf that day.

GREENKEEPER MOVES TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

At 5 a.m., while most of us are still deep in slumber, Bill Gilkes has already been pounding the drums for half an hour.

"It's my getaway," says the seasoned superintendent of his daily morning ritual.

What helps Gilkes keep such a positive outlook is that he always keeps things in perspective. The superintendent at Scarboro G&CC, the private club east of Toronto that celebrates its centennial this year, also owns a 1967 Mustang and loves tinkering with this antique car.

Gilkes first started playing drums back in 1964 when his dad gave the then-9-year-old his first kit (Broadway). "My dad was a plumber," recalls the greenkeeper. "He was doing a job for Henry & Company, a pawn shop that later became Henry's Camera, and my dad made a deal with the owner to get a drum kit in exchange for his plumbing work."

At 12, Gilkes had another memorable musical moment. At the time, he was taking drum lessons at the house of jazz musician Lou Williamson. One Saturday morning, he arrived at his teacher's house to find Buddy Rich had stayed the night. Rich, who in his time played with many of the jazz greats, was nursing a hangover. As Gilkes recalls, the drummer came out of the bedroom in a bathrobe, with an ice pack on his head, hollering at his host for some aspirin.

"He then walked over to me, took one of my drumsticks in his left hand and told me I needed to do more with my left hand," laughs Gilkes. "Then he did a roll on my kit ... it was unbelievable."

Gilkes went to his first rock concert at 11; the show was Jimi Hendrix at The Coliseum at the Canadian National Exhibition and his older sister was his chaperone. Memories of this first brush with rock 'n roll greatness are ever-present as the wall behind his Ludwig John Bonham classic drum kit — his instrument of choice these days — is adorned with a Hendrix banner. And the 11,104 songs that fill his iPod are an eclectic mix: everything from The Carpenters to Hendrix.
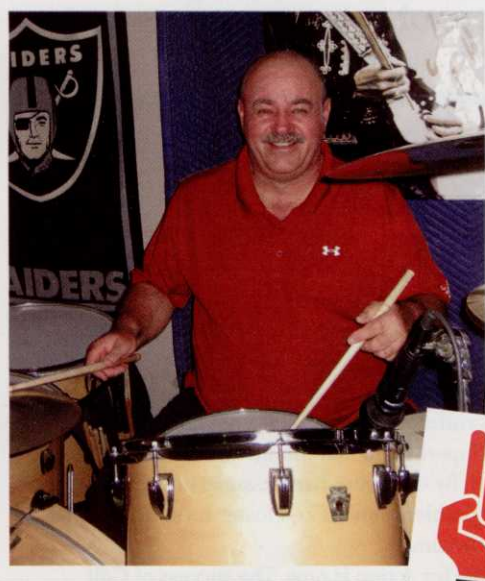
Flash back to 1970 and Gilkes drummed in a band called Fat Moon. He says they played all over Toronto and developed into one of those 'what if' stories.

"We were a bit ahead of our time," he explains. "We were writing our own material at a time when all people wanted to hear local bands play was covers. We rehearsed in a space near the former National Hotel in downtown Toronto and two floors down rehearsed Rush, who at the time was a Led Zeppelin tribute band."

You never know, rather than cutting grass for a leaving, Gilkes could have been travelling the world as a rock 'n roller. Then again, the 56-year-old says he wouldn't change a thing. He still enjoys drumming as a hobby and besides banging the skins in his basement office at Scarboro every morning, he also plays once in a while at the open jam sessions in downtown Toronto.

Gilkes loves his job as a superintendent at the only remaining A.J. Tillinghast course in Canada.

"I went from making $23/hour to $8.50 per hour, but it was the best decision I ever made," he says. "I've loved every day I've been in the business. I have a lot of freedom and I am surrounded by great people. If I want, my office can be any hole on the golf course. It's something I wish I could bottle up and sell."