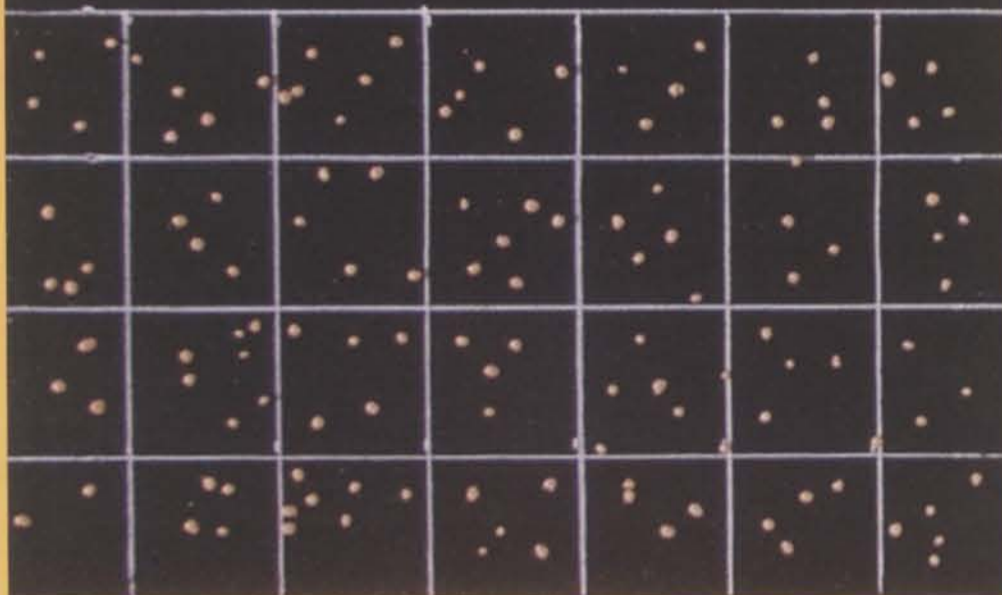
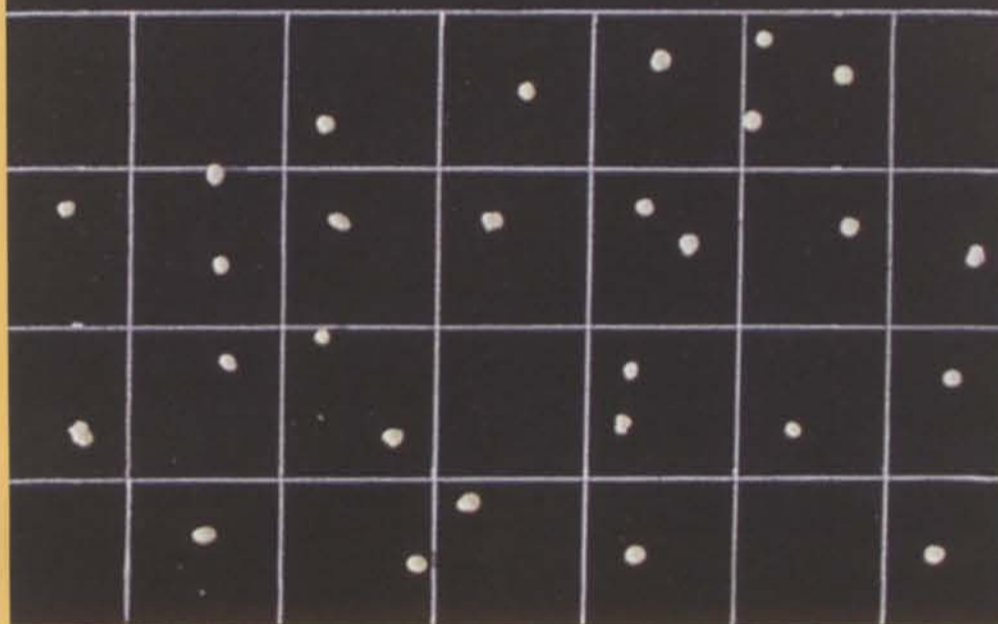


Andersons 150 SGN 37-0-0 Poly-S @ 200 Lbs. Per Acre



(Gridlines are marked in one inch increments)

Competitor's 240 SGN Product @ 200 Lbs. Per Acre



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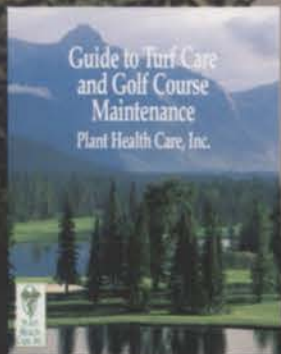
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for the period ending June 30, 2004. Net sales during the quarter increased 6 percent to \$182.2 million from \$172.6 million last year. Golf gross sales grew almost 1 percent to \$42.0 million from \$41.7 million last year. Service center sales increased 7 percent to \$126.7 million from \$118.0 million for the same period a year ago. Same-store service center sales increased 1 percent. The company also donated \$30,000 to Project EverGreen.

Little Beaver, a manufacturer of earth drills and augers, launched its new Web site, www.littlebeaver.com. The improved Web site features user-friendly navigation tools in a newly designed page format. Seven product videos are available.

PBI/Gordon Corp. added a Spanish version of the SpeedZone Southern label and material safety data sheets to the corporate Web site, www.pbigordon.com.

Players Turf International installed a synthetic turf project in the Fossum Practice Facility at the Rearick Golf Complex at Michigan State University. The project included the installation of a 1,100-square-foot practice putting green and 442 square feet of PerfectTee tee line at the indoor facility. The company also installed 2,760 square feet of synthetic tee line turf at Covered Bridge Golf Club in Sellersburg, Ind.

Redexim Charterhouse welcomed Autrusa and Lewis Equipment Co. to its Antonio Carraro dealer network. Autrusa is in Perkiomenville, Penn., and Lewis Equipment is in Winter Haven, Fla.

SePro Corp., an agrichemical company, negotiated to purchase the former Zeneca research facility in Whitakers, N.C. It has been renamed the SePro Research and Technology Campus and includes a six-building aquatic research and technology complex with laboratories and 11 acres of specialized aquatic research ponds and mesocosms.

Vermeer launched an interactive Web site, www.vermeer.com, which is the first phase of a multifaceted campaign to open communication channels with its customers.

West Coast Turf adopted the United

States Standard Bushel of 1.244 cubic feet as its unit of measure for selling turfgrass sprigs. Sod companies historically have used a factored or turf bushel based on the amount of sprigs harvested from one square yard of sod.

Personnel news

Stallion Management, a Scottsdale, Ariz.-based golf course and real-estate management company, appointment **Kevin Jamros** director of instruction for the Desert Mirage Golf Academy in Glendale, Ariz.

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program hired **Dr. Jeff Krans**, retired professor of turfgrass science at Mississippi State University, on a part-time basis. Krans conducts site visits at university trial sites on behalf of NTEP.

Kevin Buntrock and **Don Ward**, owners of the Golf Club at Red Rock in Rapid City, S.D., celebrated one year of having 18 holes open for play by having their second charity event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and South Dakota junior golf program.

Thomas R. Armitage is the vice president of the western region of the country for North Palm Beach, Fla.-based Advanced Aeration systems, and **Michael E. Gogel** is the director of field operations for the company.

BlueYellow added three employees: **John Martin**, an agronomist and former superintendent; **Jacqueline Wurtz**, a retail marketing and sales manager; and **Cindy Peeples**, a customer care manager.

Georgia-Pacific Resins appointed **James Wargo** technical service agronomist for Nitamin nitrogen fertilizer. Wargo coordinates the development of scientific communications detailing the benefits of Nitamin fertilizers.

Golf Ventures, a Lake-land, Fla.-based sup-

plier to the golf course maintenance industry, hired **Bill Schmidt** as equipment territory manager for the Fort Myers, Fla., area and **Randy Luther** as equipment territory manager for Northern Florida.



Wargo

GreenJacket Impermeable Turf Covers hired three outside sales representatives: **Pete Malcolm**, who will be responsible for New York, Connecticut and northern New Jersey; **Joe Lazaro** of Lazaro's Golf Course Supplies who will be responsible for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and southern Maine and New Hampshire; and **Tom Lovell** of Lovells Tribe who will be responsible for Montana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The company also hired **Paul Jones** and **Tom Kientzle** of TeeShot, which will be responsible for sales and factory communications for Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Northwest Wisconsin.

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source added **Matt Armbrister** as associate brand manager to its marketing team.



Armbrister

Peoria, Ill.-based **Players Turf** hired two project designer/installers, **Jeff Gross** and **Donnie Bailey**, who recently joined the company to increase its operational capability.

Igor Archipov joined **Rain Bird** as a senior manufacturing engineer for the golf division.

Geo Gatev is the new golf area manager for Japan and Korea for **Rain Bird International**.

Seed Research of Oregon presented **Frank Lopes** of **ProSource One** in Watkinville, Ga., its 2003 marketing excellence award, which is given for outstanding efforts to promote and establish the Seed Research brand, its products and services.

Scott Boutilier was promoted to vice president of **Wellmark International's** Zoëcon and Starbar Groups. Boutilier also has been named a member of **Wellmark's** executive committee. GCN



Martin



Wurtz



Peeples

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Jack Brennan founded Paladin Golf Marketing, Plant City, Fla., to assist golf course owners and managers with successful marketing. A former associate publisher for *Golf Week*, he can be reached at Jackbrennan@lj.net.

Grand openings

You get to be new only once, so the grand opening of a new or renovated course is a marketing opportunity that can't be passed up. A new course is an exciting event for area golfers, the community and the golf course employees. The excitement can be used to get a course off to a great start with plenty of media coverage and a lot of golfers playing on the new course.

My advice for a grand opening is to create activities that last most of a week. The critically important thing is to begin a grand opening with a media day. You want to generate enough excitement and media coverage to let area golfers know about the week's events. The second important goal is to finish the week by getting as many area golfers as possible to play your new course. With these two goals in mind, how you plan the week depends on your market, your course and your budget.

If your new course is in a major market, then you could start the grand opening on a Monday or Tuesday. If you're in a small market, then you can start on a Tuesday or Wednesday. You want to finish on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when you'll host a good turnout of golfers. Again, if you start the grand opening week with excitement, then serious golfers will want to play the new course on the opening weekend.

Making a grand opening a full week also provides you with a rain day. Except for the opening media day, usually you can work around a rain day by rescheduling and combining events scheduled for later in the week.

Here's how a typical grand opening could be planned for a golf course in a major market:

Monday is media day. Invite all print and broadcast journalists.

Tuesday is VIP day. Invite the mayor, city council, chamber of commerce crowd and area semipro and pro golfers. Also invite the course architect, builder and others involved in the design, permitting and construction.

Wednesday is hospitality day. Invite owners and managers of area hotels, conference centers, motels and even bed-and-breakfasts — anyone that could refer traveling guests to your golf course. On this day, consider announcing a trade-out partnership program to encourage hospitality sites to refer guests to your course. For their guests, this

could be a special rate or free use of clubs. For hospitality managers and employees, it could be special rates based on the number of referrals and golfers they provide.

Thursday is the day for major fun activities geared to create excitement and generate maximum media coverage.

The grand opening ends on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when you want to get the golfer participation needed to get your new or renovated course off to a great start. It's not necessary to have the course be in perfect playing condition — it's opening week, after all — but make sure conditions are good enough so that no major flaws are obvious. You don't want to generate complaints or negative coverage of the opening week. One thing that can help is to hire extra help before and after the week to keep the course looking good despite all the traffic and wear-and-tear.

If you're in a small market, condense the grand opening by starting on a Tuesday or Wednesday. For example, make Wednesday the media and VIP day. Then Thursday becomes a hospitality day in the morning and major fun activities in the afternoon. Again, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are golf days.

Generating excitement

The great part about a successful grand opening is all the fun you can generate. A popular approach is to offer a \$1-million hole in one prize. You cover this event by purchasing hole-in-one insurance. The rate depends on the distance and how many people will be taking the shot. This insurance typically costs between \$400 to \$500 per golfer/shot.

Here's an idea to hold your costs down and generate more excitement in the process: host a number of smaller contests that qualify the winners for a chance to take the hole-in-one shot. For example, you can put four flags on a green and hold a driving contest in which the winner or winners — depending on how many you want to qualify for the hole-in-one contest — hit one of the flags or come closest to one.

Another great qualifying contest is to hold a putting contest from 20 feet. Have everyone that tries pay \$1 per put. Then,

all that qualify at that distance get to try for free from 40 feet, and the winners qualify for the hole-in-one shot. Again, limit the number of winners based on the number you want to qualify for the hole-in-one contest. Other qualifying events can include a chipping contest and a longest drive contest.

To generate more interest, offer prizes for all the qualifying events. Trips can be a surprisingly inexpensive prize if bought from a wholesaler, but tangible prizes such as TVs and new golf clubs work great as well. If products by area manufacturers are possible prizes, invite them to participate by donating their products in return for the publicity. Add more excitement by locating tangible prizes at the site of the contest.

Make sure media are invited to watch the contests. Better yet, have one or more contests for media only.

Here are some other opening day events to create excitement:

- Have a contest to set the course record on opening weekend with a prize for the winners. The records can include the longest put, the lowest score and the longest drive (records can be set for seniors, juniors, women and men using the different tees). Individuals setting the initial course records on opening day are excellent subjects for media coverage.

- Fill a gas grille, a boat, a convertible or any other prize with golf tees and offer it to anyone who correctly guesses how many tees are in it.

- Auction off the first tee shot. Some golf courses get hundreds or even thousands of dollars for the honor of being the first golfer on the course.

- Offer a minitournament for local high school or college teams, or teams consisting of dignitaries, teams consisting of hospitality managers and employees or senior citizens, or teams of area superintendents.

The excitement you build into the grand opening is up to you, but make it fun for everyone. Golf should be fun, and the opening of a new or renovated course can leave everyone involved with a good feeling. One final thought: You can't host a grand opening every year, but one course I worked with had so much fun that they repeated the concept every year and called it the annual Golf Day. GCN

THE OPENING OF A NEW OR RENOVATED COURSE CAN LEAVE EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH A GOOD FEELING.

Drainage demystified

Don't dread drainage design. Instead, simplify the process. Here are some formulas I use to make golf course drainage design easier.

First, here are some basics. Take care of surface drainage problems with surface drainage and subsurface problems with subsurface drainage. Spring correction requires at least four-inch, perforated, gravel-embedded tile drains at the seepage location. However, many superintendents use tile drains to correct surface problems when grading surface pitch of 2 or 3 percent to inlets.

Typically, golf course drainage systems differ from ones used on residential properties. These drainage systems don't need the large pipes used in subdivisions because engineers size those drains for property protection and the health, safety and welfare of the people who live there. Golf courses usually don't face such critical safety issues, but an engineer should develop drainage plans where these issues might arise.

Additionally on golf courses, immediate drainage of large storms isn't necessary or cost effective. Instead, size pipe consistently so the entire course is ready for play. Protect turf conditions from the effects of nuisance drainage and storms by disposing of incidental drainage immediately.

Occasional play delays are acceptable during larger storms while pipe capacity removes storm water. Temporary ponding also helps filter inputs, making smaller pipes and inlets environmentally sound and cost effective.

This is not to diminish the importance of quick drainage, however. Submerged turf suffers from oxygen depletion after only a few hours and dies in as little as two days if submerged during summer temperatures. Drainage systems should handle typical storms in about 90 minutes and drain larger storms in a few days. Draining a storm in 90 minutes is adequate for most golf course installations.

Ensure efficient drainage with a careful plan. After laying out a pipe scheme, use the rational method to size drain pipe. The formula is $Q = CIA$ where:

- Q = runoff (cubic feet per second);
- C = coefficient (percentage of runoff expressed as a decimal);
- I = rainfall intensity rate (inches per hour); and
- A = acres of watershed draining to an inlet.

The mathematically astute will recognize the formula estimates acre-inches per hour. Coincidentally, that's the same value as cubic feet per second, which is the unit used to size pipe.

To use the rational method, estimate the runoff percentage from a rainfall based on site factors. Some typical coefficient values are: urban/industrial – 70 to 90 percent; residential – 50 to 70 percent; golf course – 30 to 50 percent; and rural – 10 to 30 percent. If parts of the watershed area are urbanized, blend coefficient values based on the portion of drainage area in each land use. Use the higher percentages for clay soils, steep slopes and light turf cover. Use average values for loam soils, moderate slopes and vegetative cover and minimum values for sandy soils, flat slopes and heavy tree cover.

Keep in mind, though, these values are estimates. Some rains will fall on dry soil that will absorb it readily, but other storms will occur when soil is at field capacity from irrigation or earlier rains. Use higher values where possible.

" I " is the amount of water per hour that wants to be drained, which is usually in 90 minutes. In Houston, that's two inches an hour; in Kansas City, it's 1.5 inches an hour; and in St. Paul, it's about one inch an hour. These areas are in the I-35 corridor, which tends to have intense storms. Use these values if at a similar latitude and there's a safety factor. Assuming 50-percent runoff, the typical Houston

drainage acre produces 1 cfs of runoff, Kansas City acres produce 0.75 cfs, and St. Paul acres produce 0.5 cfs.

When sizing catch basins, measure the acreage draining into each inlet and consult the chart below, which is based on typical light-duty golf course basins with a safety factor. Even though smaller inlets might look better, oversize the basins.

Size pipes similarly, starting at the top of the line where the pipe needs the same capacity as the first basin. At subsequent basins, the outlet section of pipe must accommodate that inlet and the water flowing through the pipe.

Overall, pipe size is a function of flow and grade. For example, if the top basin contributes 1 cfs, a 10-inch basin and a six-inch pipe at about 3 percent, or an eight-inch pipe at 0.5 percent is needed. Although smaller pipe costs less, some situations might require larger pipe at a flatter grade. If the next basin adds 4 cfs, that pipe must carry 5 cfs, requiring 10-inch pipe at a 3-percent grade or a 12-inch pipe at a 1-percent grade.

The minimum slopes shown below are those required for self-cleansing velocity. Ignore this and your drainage system will require constant cleaning. The maximum slope limits scoured pipes and exit-area erosion problems from high-flow velocity. The middle range requires some mental gymnastics to arrive at correct pipe size for in-between situations. GCN



Jeffrey D. Brauer is a licensed golf course architect and president of GolfScapes, a golf course design firm in Arlington, Texas. Brauer, a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, can be reached at jeff@jeffreybrauer.com.

Sizing drainage systems

Design intensity in CFS per acre	CFS actual	Acres drained by				
		0.25 CFS acre	0.375 CFS acre	0.5 CFS acre	0.75 CFS acre	1.0 CFS acre
8-inch round grate	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3
10-inch round grate	0.6	2.4	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.6
12-inch round grate	1.2	4.8	3.2	2.4	1.6	1.2
15-inch round grate	1.7	6.8	4.5	3.4	2.25	1.7
18-inch round grate	1.8	7.2	4.8	3.6	2.4	1.8
24-inch round grate	2.8	11.2	7.4	5.6	3.7	2.8

Pipe size (in.)	Min. slope (%)	CFS	Mid slope (%)	CFS	Max. slope (%)	CFS
4	1.25	0.2	4.5	0.4	10	0.8
6	0.7	0.6	3.0	1.33	6	1.8
8	0.5	1.0	2.0	2	4	3.2
10	0.33	1.75	1.5	3.3	3	5.0
12	0.25	2.5	1.0	5	2.5	7.0
15	0.20	3.7	0.8	6	1.75	11.0
18	0.15	5.25	0.6	10	1.5	16.0
24	0.12	9.5	0.4	20	1.0	30.0

Real job security

I'm surprised and disappointed when I read that the majority of golf course superintendents feel insecure about maintaining their jobs. A recent 2004 *Golf Course News* survey indicated only 41 percent of superintendents feel completely secure with their jobs, 51 percent feel less than secure, and 7 percent express uncertainty about the subject, which is tantamount to acknowledging job insecurity.

Reasons to support the premise of job insecurity are: The national economy is putting additional budget pressure on golf course operations; the dot-com era brought more inexperienced, quicker-to-act personalities into positions of authority within the superintendent's chain of command; and club and course officials generally don't understand the increasing complexity of the superintendent's work world.

My definition of job security is when superintendents are guaranteed the right to work, or otherwise, upon notice, have the right to be paid for the coming 12 months with full benefits.

My disappointment isn't with the industry or its people for failing to appreciate the work of golf course superintendents. Rather, it's directed at the golf course superintendents for not being sensitive to the many job-security opportunities available to them in many different ways. Examples follow.

Season-ending evaluation meetings. More superintendents should request or require season-ending evaluation meetings in which discussion would focus on what went well that season, what didn't and what needs to be done better next season. While this procedure won't guarantee job security, it will defuse issues that regularly lead to job dismissal.

Job descriptions. More superintendents should require that annually reviewed job descriptions be incorporated in their employment agreements. If necessary, superintendents should draft a job description and submit it to the employer for mutual approval.

The benefit of a job description is it holds both parties accountable to each other in writing, while at the same time ensuring the scope of the superintendent's job won't change unknowingly with green committee turnover. Job se-

curity is put at risk any time superintendents and their employers have different understandings of the scope of the job.

Big brother programs. A little recognized fact of life is that when assistants assume their first superintendent positions, all supervision of their work ends. Employers will judge their final work product, but there's no qualified supervision of the quality and flow of their everyday work, unless superintendents work for contract firms.

To correct this oversight, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America chapters should match rookie superintendents with veteran superintendents who will counsel the newcomers through their learning-curve period. This should include regular mandatory visits (with and without notice) to the rookie superintendent's course to provide quality supervision all first-time managers require in any profession.

Written agreements. Several key points must be made regarding employment agreements. Accordingly, superintendents should:

- Insist on written agreements or contracts because they guarantee the right to work (or to be paid) for the life of the agreement.
- Avoid fixed, multi-year agreements that will be worth less after the final contractual year to zero job security; at a time when the superintendent's salary will be at its highest; where presumably there will have been administration turnover from the time when the agreement was signed; and when less costly superintendents will be available. At no other time will a superintendent's job be at greater risk.
- Negotiate for multi-year rollover agreements that will extend one year whenever there are 12 months remaining in the life of the agreement.

If the superintendent's seniority doesn't allow for 12-month compensation upon notice, the superintendent can settle for fewer months initially, provided the employer will add two or three months (which is negotiable) of job security for each succeeding year of satisfactory work, up to a maximum of 12 months.

Playing golf. In due course and within the following sequence, golf course superintendents should: (1) play golf regularly, visibly and comfortably, (2) earn a USGA official handicap, (3) take and pass the PGA/USGA rules test, (4) serve on their club/course rules committee, and (5) vol-

unteer to serve on the local state or regional golf association's junior tournament/rules committee.

Some superintendents might want to commit to the complete scenario. But by acquiring an official handicap and passing the PGA/USGA rules test, superintendents will place themselves in an exclusive peer group (99th percentile) in the national community of golfers.

Historically, golf employers have always given the benefit of the doubt to and have hesitated dismissing individuals they look at as peers or part of their immediate family in golf as opposed to superintendents who turn their backs on playing the game. Statistics show that more than 70 percent of recently dismissed superintendents didn't play golf regularly.

Budget efficiency. Because economics drive every business, superintendents that consistently manage budgets tightly and cost efficiently will always be respected and in demand. The sooner superintendents recognize the ego-building practice of growing budgets that's so prevalent early in careers becomes a liability later in careers, the more secure their jobs will be.

Cost-efficient budget management is a veteran superintendent's best and sometimes only friend when it comes to job security late in career. Tight fiscal management will always allow veteran superintendents to justify their high-end salaries, thereby reducing the likelihood of being replaced by younger, less-experienced, higher-risk-performing superintendents.

Job performance. Solid job performance will always significantly minimize the risk of job insecurity like no other factor – not withstanding the omnipresent political environment that generally permeates golf course operations.

While any one of the above readily available techniques will significantly enhance superintendents' (and golf professionals' and managers') job security, the collective application of these measures will provide better job security than can be found any place within the working world, short of owning a business.

Superintendents will negotiate more secure jobs only when they're comfortably secure within themselves, with the value of their work product and negotiating with employers as one secure party talking to another. GCN



Jim McLoughlin is the founder of TMG Golf, a golf course development and consulting firm (www.TMGgolfcounsel.com) and is a former executive director of GCSAA. He can be reached at golfguide@adelphia.net.

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Getting ready

PLANNING AHEAD AND GETTING ASSISTANCE FROM VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPLIERS HELPS PREPARE A COURSE TO HOST A MAJOR TOURNAMENT

by
JOHN
WALSH

Q Why was the course selected to host the PGA Championship?

More than anything else, the PGA of America was intrigued with the mystique of the venue. There's nothing else like it in America. From a logistics standpoint, we held the 1999 Club Professional Championship, which went over quite well, and the PGA of America was excited with the record setting attendance at the CPC. The course seemed to fit well with the galleries, so that is another reason why it looked at Whistling Straits.

GOLF COURSE NEWS
INTERVIEWS DAVID
SWIFT, SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE STRAITS
COURSE AT WHISTLING
STRAITS GOLF COURSE
IN KOHLER, WIS.

Q How does the selection of the course differ from other tournaments?

The scope of the event. There were millions of people viewing the Championship and as many as 50,000 to 60,000 people a day on the golf course. Being able to move the people around safely was the No. 1 thing we planned for. We built a lot of roads and spectator viewing areas to make it more accessible for people to watch golf.

Q How far in advance were you notified that you were hosting the PGA Championship? Was it enough time to prepare?

We found out in January of 2000, and preparation started that day. We had just enough time for such a young course.

Q How old is the course?

We opened in July of 1998, so it's six years old.

Q What is the first and last thing you did to prepare for the tournament?

The first thing we did was move a lot of roads around so we could move spectators

through, and get equipment, personnel and vehicles safely on the golf course. Secondly, from the golf course maintenance end of it, we built a few extra tees and bunkers. Then I paid attention to the agronomics and made sure our maintenance programs were in place so we were going to be ready turfwise. We started aerifying the greens aggressively in 2001, 2002 and 2003, so this year, we were prepared. Same with the fairways. With the fine fescue fairways, they thrive in sandy soil, so we started a topdressing program so we could maintain championship conditions.

Q Did you change your overseeding practices?

We started overseeding fescues. We've done it twice in the past 12 months with great success, with a few newer varieties, and they've been good so far.

Q What restrictions were put on golfers during tournament preparation?

There weren't any restrictions on everyday golfers. We stopped having excessive associate play a year ago to give the golf course a bit of a break, but we didn't have any special requests of our guests. The last day for public was July 31, so we had nine days to heal up the course from traffic, ball marks and divots. It was just enough time. I know other superintendents that have hosted other championships that don't get that long – members play right up until tournament starts.

Q Does it depend on whether it's a public or private course?

It may have a lot to do with it. We got lucky. Mr. Kohler (president of Kohler Co. and owner of Whistling Straits) and Steve Friedlander, the general manager and director of golf, felt it was important to give

the golf course a break and let it heal to be prepared for championship conditions.

Q What course-design changes did you implement before the tournament?

We narrowed the fairways. We used to have 37 acres of fairways, and we narrowed them down to 21 acres. We changed a lot of fairway contours, the widths, the landing areas. The overall acreage was drastically reduced, almost 60 percent of what we used to have in play.

Q Did you lengthen the course?

We built three different tees and lengthened the course by about 100 yards, but the weather dictated what tees were used championship week. We simply provided the PGA of America with additional options.

Q What parts of the course needed to be improved?

Definitely the fairways. The quality of the fairways was slowly improving every year, and we felt we had to be aggressive and stay on the topdressing program. That was probably the slowest part of the improvement. We had to do an awful lot to prepare them, along with the aerification of the greens. The greens hadn't been neglected, but they hadn't had the extra attention because of the long construction process, so we wanted to go in there and aggressively tend to the greens to make sure that we could reach championship speeds and have healthy turf going into the championship. I'm really glad we started early on our preparations after hearing some of the players' compliments that week.

Q Is there anything you regret doing?

Looking back, no. We gave it 100 percent the whole time. Because with the time

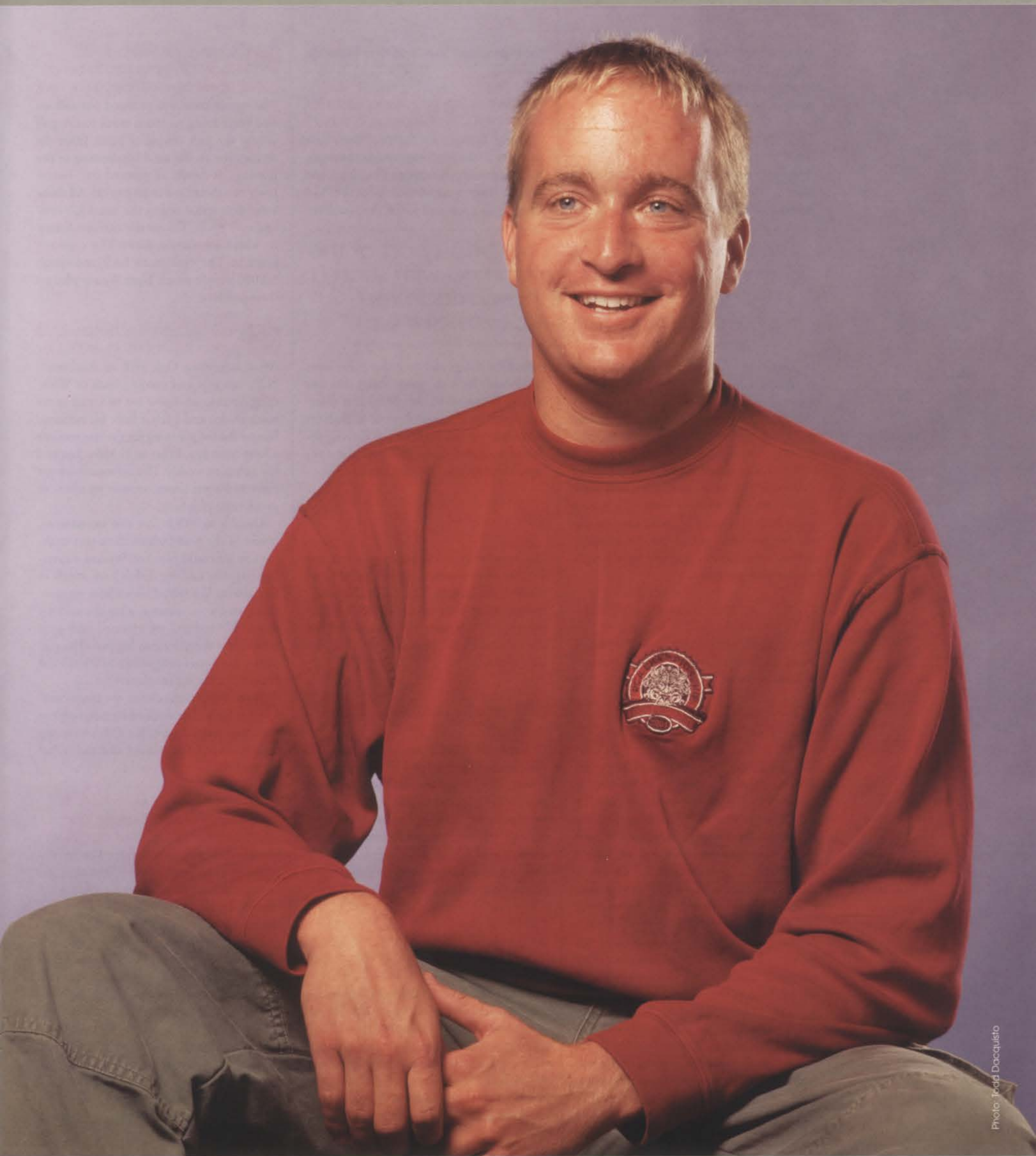


Photo: Todd Dacquist

frame we had, we did as much as we possibly could. But there's still more to do. We have the Senior Open in 2007, so we're going to get back out there.

Q What additions were made to the maintenance crew?

This year, we brought in 10 associates more than normal. A lot of it had to do with bunker maintenance. The bunkers needed a lot

of attention. We have more than 1,000 bunkers on the golf course, so we definitely wanted to make sure we kept up with them this year in case we had any weather and washouts. We also wanted to make sure the drainage was right.

"I'm awfully proud to have been part of the championship, to have worked with such a good crew and to have made the championship the success that it was."

We also recruited a bunch of guys that can work well on a team. That was most important – building a team. We have a great team. I wanted to make sure during the last few years going into this championship we definitely had the right people working on our team.

Q How many superintendents did you bring in?
Of the 45 volunteers that we had, many of them were superintendents and assistant superintendents.

Q Explain the brotherhood of other superintendents coming to help you out?

The good thing about the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is that everyone is willing to help each other out. And the best thing about golf course superintendents is they're not afraid to share information, share ideas and help each other out along the way. I feel fortunate that I have a lot of superintendent friends in the business that were willing to come and help for a week – giving up a full week of their time to come and help; and not only do whatever is asked of them, but share ideas and input. Hopefully, I get as much out of them as they get out of me.

Everyone was supportive. It was a lot of fun. I had 20 guys who are in the business helping me, and they all knew what to do. We mentioned what we're going to do each day, and then they went out and did them like they've been working here for years. It was great. I trusted them because they knew

Q What are you responsible for outside of the actual course?

Nothing. Fortunately, for me, I don't have to worry about anything outside the ropes. So tees, greens, fairways and bunkers, and that's it. It keeps me focused. With the PGA village going up and all of the construc-

tion of the village and everything that went on, I didn't have to worry about that one bit. I'm fortunate to have Mike Lee, director of golf course maintenance at Kohler's four area courses, because he's directly involved with everything going on in the village. He is able to delegate work.

Q How often does Whistling Straits host tournaments throughout the year?

Not very often. We have resort guests every day of our season, so we haven't had many tournaments. The only other tournament we've hosted is the 1999 Club Professional Championship – that and the championship this year and the 2007 Senior Open.

Q Do you like it that way or would you like to see more tournaments?

I'd like to see more tournaments, but with the Straits Course, it's a different atmosphere. Blackwolf Run has the state open every other year, and it has a few other tournaments every now and again. I like how it is right now, preparing for one big tournament and setting a high goal. A week before the tournament, I felt the greatest satisfaction reaching that goal.

Q Did you receive any feedback from the golfers about the condition of the course throughout the tournament?

Tiger Woods came up the week before the tournament and played the course and he said it was in immaculate condition. Players commented on the greens – the greens were some of the best greens they played on all year. They played true and rolled perfect. Everybody liked it. A lot of them liked the design, which was great.

Q Hosting the PGA Championship has to be a great boost of confidence for you.

The whole crew was pumped because we had been doing so much work to the golf course the past couple of years, from the aerification to the sand topdressing of the fairways. It finally all panned out. Everybody saw their hard work pay off. All those long days spent doing the same job over and over again. We got the turf conditions to where we wanted them. The crew enjoyed it. They got to sit back and watch 50,000 people watch Tiger Woods play on their product.

Q How did you feel before and during the tournament?

After attending Oak Hill in Rochester, N.Y., last year and coming back to Whistling Straits, we knew we still had some work to do, and I felt a little bit nervous. But we started planning for the tournament a long time ago. I met with Mike Lee and my assistants weekly. The nervousness went away as we got closer because we spent so much time planning.

About a month before the tournament, it was to the point where there was nothing else we could plan for. We had a meeting one day, and we didn't have much to talk about. We talked about how we were going to go on vacation after the tournament. We realized we planned and were waiting for everything to happen. The golf course has been brought to a new level and peaked for the tournament.

As the event came closer, the more comfortable I felt. The week of the tournament was quiet around here. We didn't have one little hiccup. I felt relaxed and didn't feel stressed out.

Q Is hosting a tournament like this a resume builder, and what does it do to your ego?

It's definitely a resume builder. I'm awfully proud to have been a part of the championship, to have worked with such a good crew and to have made the championship the success that it was.

As far as ego, I got a lot of compliments, and every compliment I got I passed on to the crew because I'm only as good as they are. I hope the last thing that gets bigger is my ego. I try to be modest about it because I'm just one of many who prepared this golf course to get it where it is. I'm not talking about just the maintenance staff, I'm talking about the guys who built it. When I first came here six year ago, the guys that built the course were still here,