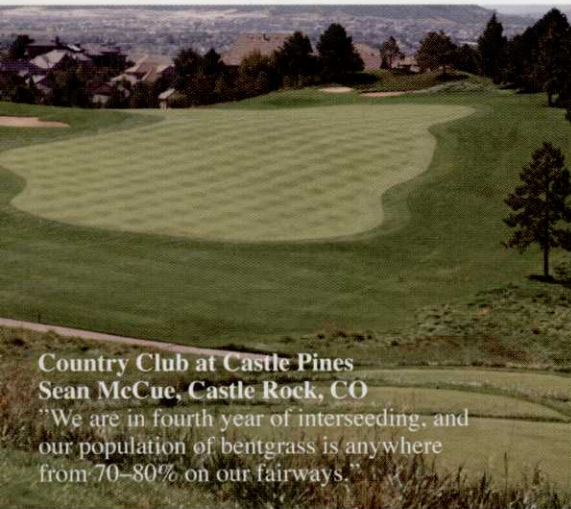


TEE 2 GREEN

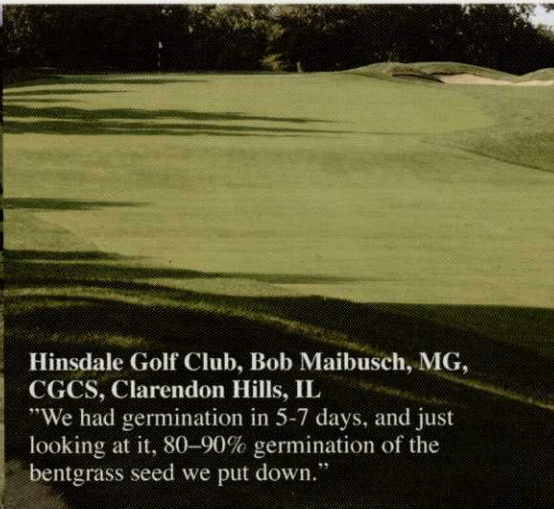
“Interseeding works for us”

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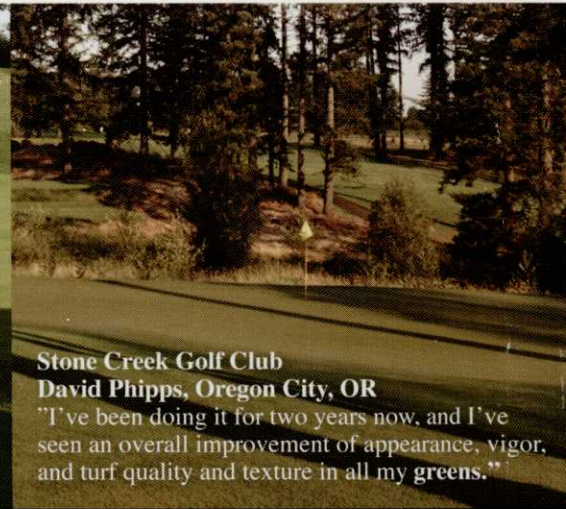
Country Club at Castle Pines
Sean McCue, Castle Rock, CO

“We are in fourth year of interseeding, and our population of bentgrass is anywhere from 70–80% on our fairways.”



Hinsdale Golf Club, Bob Maibusch, MG,
CGCS, Clarendon Hills, IL

“We had germination in 5-7 days, and just looking at it, 80–90% germination of the bentgrass seed we put down.”



Stone Creek Golf Club
David Phipps, Oregon City, OR

“I’ve been doing it for two years now, and I’ve seen an overall improvement of appearance, vigor, and turf quality and texture in all my greens.”

“I WILL CONTINUE TO **INTERSEED** TO KEEP GETTING ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS OF **BENTGRASS** OUT THERE AND TO HELP ME **COMPETE AGAINST THE POA ANNUA** POPULATIONS IN OUR FAIRWAYS”

Sean McCue, Country Club at Castle Pines, Castle Rock, CO

These superintendents, from both private clubs and public golf courses across the country, say that interseeding with the advanced bentgrasses from Tee-2-Green is a highly effective method for improving turf.

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“I’VE SEEN AN **OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF APPEARANCE**”

David Phipps, Stone Creek Golf Club, Oregon City, OR

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FEATURES

Superintendent profile

30 **SHAWN OF THE DESERT**

Arizona superintendent Shawn Emerson describes what makes him tick, what he thinks the future holds for golf in the West and how he balances work and family.

Career development

FROM PUBLIC TO PRIVATE

Golf course superintendents who work at private clubs value their public course experience.

Cover credit: John Etheridge Illustration

Turfgrass management

42 **THE SUPREME WEED**

Keeping *Poa annua* out of bentgrass remains a challenge.

36

Turfgrass management

50 **PGRS: THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MULTITOOL**

New uses for plant growth regulators seem to emerge daily.

Course construction

54 **PROJECT PARAMETERS**

Golf course builders discuss the differences between renovation and new construction, along with the importance of grow-ins.

Course construction

60 **HOW SWEET IT IS**

A Native American tribe differentiates its new course from others in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Product features

76 **A MUST HAVE**

A Colorado superintendent relies on growth regulators for dollars and sense.

78 **THE BIG THREE**

An Oregon superintendent benefits from PGRs in multiple ways.

42



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DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **Editorial**
Experience needed
- 8 **Calendar of events**
- 10 **News analysis**
The GCSAA's new task and water management recording in Georgia
- 28 **At the turn**
- 81 **Travels with Terry**
Equipment ideas
- 82 **Classifieds**
- 83 **Ad index**

COLUMNISTS

- 20 **Assistant's view**
Justin Wheeler: From bent to Bermuda
- 22 **Design concepts**
Jeffrey D. Brauer: Interfacing with contractors
- 24 **Advancing the game**
Jim McLoughlin: Written contracts
- 26 **Human resources**
Robert A. Milligan, Ph.D.: Interesting reading
- 80 **Tournament insider**
Tim Moraghan: From the front lines
- 84 **Parting shots**
Pat Jones: Pro-environment?

30

RESEARCH

- 64 **GETTING BETTER**
Investment yields high-quality Bermudagrass cultivars with improved cold hardiness.
- 72 **LOOKING AT LARGE PATCH IN SEASHORE PASPALUM**
Academics test fungicides on various paspalum cultivars to combat disease.

50



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THE DAY I KICKED NICK FALDO'S ASS

Jim Peacock, CGCS, at Meadow Lake Golf Resort describes a day he spent with the professional golfer and the Espinoza family at an event in Wyoming.

CATCHING A SHARK

Shark's Tooth Golf Club in Lake Powell, Fla., is the fourth and newest golf course acquired by the St. Joe Co.

ONLINE POLL: WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

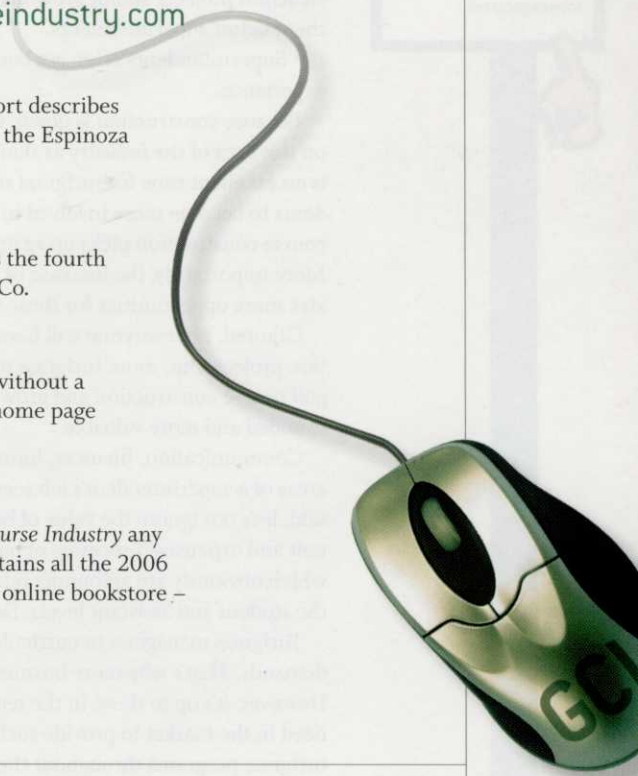
As a golf course superintendent, do you work without a written agreement or contract? Visit the GCI home page to vote in this online poll.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

You can view last year's digital issues of *Golf Course Industry* any time you want on DVD. The digital library contains all the 2006 issues on one disc. The DVD is available at the online bookstore – www.golfcourseindustry.com/store.

EDITORIAL MISSION STATEMENT:

Golf Course Industry reports on and analyzes the business of maintaining golf courses, as well as the broader business of golf course management. This includes three main areas: agronomy, business management and career development as it relates to golf course superintendents and those managers responsible for maintaining a golf course as an important asset. Golf Course Industry shows superintendents what's possible, helps them understand why it's important and tells them how to take the next step.





John Walsh
Editor

EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Grass janitor. I'd never heard that one before, but I thought it was an interesting term on which I should shed some light.

Recently, I discussed construction projects with those in the building realm. I heard part of an off-the-record comment about grow-ins: "... it's the difference between a golf course superintendent and a grass janitor," one person said. "Ooooh," I thought. "That sounds pretty harsh." But the point was clear: Growing in a golf course requires different knowledge, skills and methods compared to maintaining existing turf. And, typically, it's more difficult.

I pondered the concept and what others told me throughout the year during interviews for various articles. A reoccurring theme was articulated by consulting agronomists and golf course superintendents, builders and suppliers. They said:

- A minority of golf course superintendents has grow-in experience.
- University turfgrass programs need to include more education about construction and irrigation.
- There are relatively few golf course superintendents who are really good grow-in specialists.
- Too many inexperienced superintendents call builders back to help with grow-ins, and course conditions sometimes worsen.
- More interns and assistant superintendents need to spend time working on construction projects and/or grow-ins because the experience is invaluable and will make them better superintendents.
- Superintendents often get better jobs because of their construction and/or grow-in experience.

Because construction is down, it's understandable to think there isn't as much focus on this area of the industry as there should be. Yet, the truth is just the opposite: This is an excellent time for turfgrass students, assistant superintendents and superintendents to become more involved in construction projects, when realistic. When new golf course construction picks up again, they'll be better prepared to work on these projects. More importantly, the increase of the number of renovations and reconstructions creates more opportunities for those with construction experience.

Granted, not everyone will have the opportunity to be involved with a new construction project. But, more turfgrass management students should become involved with golf course construction and grow-ins because it will help them become more well-rounded and more valuable.

Communication, finances, human resources, management and other nonagronomic areas of a superintendent's job seem to be the focus of improvement for many. That said, let's not ignore the value of being able to effectively manage the incredibly important and expensive processes of building and rebuilding. Construction and grow-ins, which obviously are agronomy related, are critical areas of improvement – especially at the student and assistant levels. Do you agree?

Turfgrass management curriculums change based on real-world pressures and demands. That's why more business-related courses are being added to these programs. However, it's up to those in the real world, including manufacturers, who see a specific need in the market to provide such feedback to professors and those in charge of the turfgrass programs throughout the country to help make that change more quickly and effectively. And because of such change, maybe terms like "grass janitor" will fade from the lexicon. **GCI**

We would like to hear from you. Please post any comments you have about this column on our message board, which is at www.golfcourseindustry.com/messageboard.



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Steve Mona is leaving the GCSAA to work at the World Golf Foundation.

The GCSAA's new task

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's board of directors began a task it hasn't had to face in 14 years. It started the process to replace c.e.o. Steve Mona, who announced he has taken the newly created position of c.e.o. of the World Golf Foundation.

Mona, 50, says he was approached in January by PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem about an executive position with the WGF but nothing was firm because the WGF's board didn't



determine anything at that time. "Nothing was solid," he says. "I needed to learn more about the job and the challenges and issues I would face. I eventually got a better insight and understanding of the job and a better feel for what I would do. It's a great opportunity to work in the game in a different way."

Mona elected to keep the job opportunity to himself until it was official. It wasn't agreed to until late last month, and he didn't want to bring up anything speculative. Also, he wanted to

honor the process the WGF board was going through.

"My wife was the only person who knew until I flew down to Texas and told (GCSAA president) Ricky Heine on (Sept. 23)," he says.

There seems to be a shared feeling of surprise about his move, some calling it bittersweet.

"I was surprised, but not shocked, because it was a matter of time before someone was going to recognize his abilities and give him one of those job offers he couldn't refuse," says Chuck Borman, staff member of the

Carolinas GCSA who worked with Mona when Borman was director of the CGCSA.

Current and former association board members say the new position is a testament to Mona's leadership and the strength of the association.

"Just as the GCSAA prospered under his leadership, so too will the World Golf Foundation achieve even greater accomplishments with Steve at the helm," Heine says.

Bruce Williams, CGCS, director of golf courses and grounds at the Los Angeles Country Club, says

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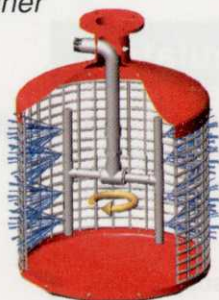
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