

The Greenbrier
White Sulphur Springs, WV





There's cut quality.
Then there's E-Cut™ quality.

Discover the difference. Superior after-cut appearance.
Lower fuel costs. And more. Contact your John Deere Golf
rep or visit JohnDeere.com/Hybrid for all the details.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF



IN THIS ISSUE

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **Teeing off**
Pat Jones:
Baseball bats and bio
- 8 **Letters**
- 10 **The Whiteboard**
- 12 **Consumer research**
- 48 **Travels with Terry**
Equipment ideas
- 49 **Classifieds/Ad index**

COLUMNS

- 14 **Outside the ropes**
Tim Moraghan:
Balancing the game with the
business
- 22 **Design concepts**
Jeffrey D. Brauer:
Back to the (irrigation) future
- 30 **Irrigation**
Brian Vinchesi:
HDPE versus PVC
- 34 **The Monroe doctrine**
Monroe Miller:
How good are you at golf course
history?
- 50 **Parting shots**
Pat Jones:
Truth and consequences

24

COVER STORY

24 THE SOCIAL NETWORKER

Dr. John Kaminski is taking turf education in new directions with a digital frenzy of posts, tweets, blogs and whatever's coming down the social media pike next.

FEATURES

Summer 2010

16 SURVIVING THE SUMMER FROM HELL

The most brutal conditions in decades tested superintendents – and they passed with flying colors. Here are some ideas about how they did it.

Turf maintenance

31 POWER WATER

There are a number of reasons fertigation may just make sense for your course.

10



Tree care

35 TREE CARE ON THE GOLF COURSE

When it comes to golf courses, turfgrass is king. However, trees are an important component of the golf course landscape that are sometimes ignored or overlooked by superintendents and their crews.

Course conditions

38 ORGANIC SOLUTION

Challenged to improve fairway playability, The Club at Carlton Woods took a new approach toward dealing with organic matter.

World golf

42 GOLF IN MONGOLIA

Freelance agronomist Jim Connolly shares his adventures in getting golf off the ground in the land of Genghis Kahn.

Renovation

45 HIGH-FLYING RENOVATION

Even in tough economic times one U.S. Air Force course renovation soared with careful planning.



GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY (ISSN 1054-0644) is published monthly. Copyright 2010 GIE Media Inc., 4020 Kinross Lakes Parkway, #201, Richfield, OH 44286. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means without permission from the publisher. One-year subscription rate, \$33 in the United States, \$42 in Canada and Mexico, and \$88 in other foreign countries. One year foreign airmail rate: \$102. Two year subscription rate: \$65. Single issue rate, \$10. Subscriptions and classified advertising should be addressed to the Richfield office. Periodicals postage paid at Richfield, Ohio, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY 4020 Kinross Lakes Parkway, #201, Richfield, OH 44286. Canada Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608 Canada Returns to be sent to Bleuchip International, P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2

g*e*media
incorporated



YOU'LL HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OVER PYTHIUM. GOLFERS NOT SO MUCH.

WITH THE NEW CHEMISTRY OF FLUOPICOLIDE AND THE PROVEN POWER OF PROPAMOCARB COMBINED IN ONE PREMIX, STELLAR® FUNGICIDE PROTECTS YOUR COURSE WITH POWERFUL PYTHIUM CONTROL. AFTER ALL, YOUR TURF IS ALREADY UNDER ENOUGH ATTACK, ISN'T IT?

Stellar[®]
FUNGICIDE
PROTECT YOUR TURF.™



Products That Work, From People Who Care® | www.valentpro.com | 800-89-VALENT (898-2536)

Read and follow the label instructions before using.

Protect Your Turf. is a trademark and Stellar and Products That Work, From People Who Care are registered trademarks of Valent U.S.A. Corporation. ©2008 Valent U.S.A. Corporation. All rights reserved. 08P-1088

www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #11

BASEBALL BATS AND BIO

As I write this, I'm sitting in my palatial office in the penthouse suite of GCI's global headquarters looking at a baseball bat.

I love having a bat sitting prominently right next to my desk. It dramatically reduces employee whining. I'm thinking a TASER gun would be the ultimate deterrent, but it may be a wee bit over the top.

Anyway, the reason I have a baseball bat in my office is I recently attended an event hosted by our friends at Lebanon Turf that was held in Cooperstown, N.Y. Being no strangers to the business of fun public relations themes, the nice people at Lebanon gave attendees a baseball bat with our names and their company logo engraved on it.

The event put a spotlight on Lebanon's non-traditional plant nutrition lines. Over the past few years, the company acquired both the Roots/Novozymes and Emerald Isle/CPR products and, I think, discovered just how much confusion there is in this market segment. The event was an attempt to help a bunch of us dumb media types learn what these kinds of products do and therefore be able to write about them better. Now, getting a reporter to understand this kind of technical information is roughly equivalent to teaching Britney Spears to rewire the space shuttle, but they brought in my old fishing buddy Dr. Roch Gaussoin and several other really smart guys to try anyway. Here's what I think I learned.

Nobody is really quite sure what to even call this category of products. Are they biostimulants? Are they foliars? Liquids? Soil supplements? Microbes or bacteria? Are they based on amino acids or are they made from seaweed? The answer, of course, is "all of the above."

At least half of superintendents are using them in some fashion, ranging from the full ongoing program approach to greens-only applications to tossing a bit of something into a tank mix to prevent phytotoxicity. Nearly all use them in combination with a reduced granular program.

Of those superintendents using them, most use more than one in combination to get broad spectrum results. Creating a "witches brew" of

various bio components is pretty common.

Those who use them as part of a program generally love them and keep using them as long as they see a positive impact...and they can afford them.

Their acceptance – and use – continues to grow steadily.

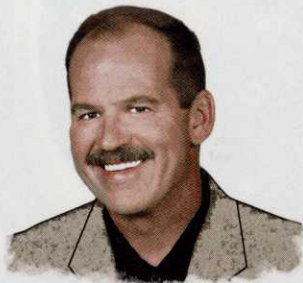
The last point seems to be the crux of the matter when it comes to these "supplemental plant nutrition products." Over the past decade or so, companies like Lebanon, Floratine, Grigg Brothers, Growth Products, Nutramax and others have stepped up to independently prove their claims about better rooting, vigor, improved nitrogen efficiency and stress resistance. The suppliers who have legitimized their products have moved beyond the realm of snake oil to become accepted parts of maintenance programs at thousands of courses. Sure, there are still some turf professors and consultants who continue to question their value, but superintendents believe in research and, more importantly, their eyes and their soil probes. That's where the rubber meets the road.

I'm hardly an agronomist, but it's clear to me that while there are still many of you who are perfectly happy with your tried-and-true granular

NPK programs, the demands of "fast and firm" and the resulting decreased reliance on nitrogen left a void that non-traditional bios have filled nicely.

And, as communities and states heighten scrutiny of phosphorus and nitrogen loading, traditional options may also go the way of the ten-cent ballpark hotdog. What was seen as an alternative will become more of a primary turf nutrition source when legislators and regulators decide that it's politically expedient to take tools away from us. Does anyone seriously think that's not going to happen?

Baseball is strongly rooted in traditions started more than a century ago, but the game has changed and evolved for the better – except for the DH rule, which is just communist. Golf course maintenance is evolving, too, and it's time we fully accept the fact that bionutrients are going to be a major-league part of our future. **GCI**



Pat Jones
Editorial director and publisher

GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

Serving the Business of Golf Course Management

Vol. 22 No. 9

GIE Media, Inc.
4020 Kinross Lakes Pkwy, 2nd floor
Richfield, OH 44286
Phone: 800-456-0707
Fax: 330-659-0823

EDITORIAL

Pat Jones
Publisher/Editorial director
pjones@gie.net

Mike Zawacki
Editor
mzawacki@gie.net

SALES

Kevin Gilbride
Group publisher
330-523-5368

Ameé Robbins
Account manager
310-546-6060

Martha Corfman
Manager, books
330-523-5366

Russell Warner
Account manager
330-523-5385

Maria Miller
Conferences manager
330-523-5373

Bonnie Velikonya
Classified sales
330-523-5322

Jodi Shipley
Marketing coordinator
330-523-5368

GRAPHICS / PRODUCTION

Andrea Vagas, Creative director
Helen Duerr, Production director
Samantha Gilbride, Production coordinator

CORPORATE STAFF

Richard Foster, Chairman and CEO
Chris Foster, President and COO
Dan Moreland, Executive vice president
Kelly Roop, Manager, accounting department
Melody Berendt, Circulation director

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG
Golf Agronomy International

Raymond Davies, CGCS
CourseCo

Tim Hiers, CGCS
The Old Collier Golf Club

Laurence Hirsh
Golf Property Analysts

Ted Horton, CGCS
Ted Horton Consulting

Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D.
Hurdzan/Fry Golf
Course Design

Mike Kriel
The Brick Cos.

Joe Livingston, CGCS
River Crest Country Club

Matt Rostal
Interlachen Country Club

AGRONOMIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D.
Department of Horticulture
Oregon State University

David Kopec, Ph.D.
Department of Plant Science
University of Arizona

Dara Park, Ph.D.
Pee Dee Research
and Education Center
Clemson University

John Stier, Ph.D.
Department of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nathan Walker, Ph.D.
Department of Entomology
and Plant Pathology
Oklahoma State University

Fred Yelverton, Ph.D.
Department of Crop Science
North Carolina State University

Golf Course Industry is a member of:
Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America
National Golf Foundation
Golf Course Builders Association of America
The Irrigation Association
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment



EcoLogic™

From The Liquid Fence® Company

Better roots. Better turf. Naturally.

New EcoLogic SG's organic Ecklonia maxima Kelp formula naturally increases root volume and root tips.

- Increases turf's natural ability to uptake moisture and nutrients
- Improves turf's natural resistance to the stresses of drought, nutrient deficiency and salinity
- Can reduce the amount of traditional fertilizer applied
- **Saves time and money:** No extra application steps necessary – in most cases SG can be co-applied with existing fertigation programs



LIQUID FENCE®
PRO
DIVISION

Environmentally Responsible Professional Turf, Agricultural & Landscape Products
All-natural, Guaranteed-effective Animal & Insect Repellents

(800) 923-3623 www.liquidfencepro.com pro@liquidfence.com

We'd like to hear from you.

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

More feedback to "Catharsis"

Editor's Note: *The following responses to Pat Jones' column on his experiences as an alcoholic ("Catharsis" August 2010, page 4) have been excerpted and anonymous because they often included personal comments.*

"I just read ("Catharsis") and wanted to say how much I admire your courage to openly discuss your issue. I hope and pray your article helps others get on the road to recovery."

"I just want to congratulate you on a brilliantly written piece, and in a larger sense, for realizing you had a problem and dealing with it. Many people never take that brave move and just continue to disintegrate in mind, body and spirit. As

Jerry Lee Lewis once said, and I'm paraphrasing, "The devil keeps running through my door and I have to keep grabbing him by the scruff of the neck and running his ass back out."

"Thanks for sharing your story. My wife is now in the same place as you were. I pray for the same end of story with her."

"I just finished reading your alcoholic diatribe in the August issue after digging it out from under the pile of trade mags I've been carefully stacking on the corner of my desk. I don't mind saying that there was a tear in my eye as I finished reading your piece of catharsis. Kudos to you for having the guts to put that in print for all to see. I would agree that our industry has more than it's fair share

of 'alcoholics' who come to depend on a buzz to get them through the twists and turns of this highly stressful career path. Just as we would share what growth regulators work best on what turf at what time of year with each other, so also should we allow ourselves the vulnerability to lay out more personal issues and to seek help, love and support from our trusted peers. After all, who else can come closer to knowing and understanding within the length of a gnats eyelash what all we struggle with professionally than our very own peer-set? And who better to help make sense of the madness that is balancing life and work as a golf course superintendent?"

"I applaud your honesty and courage to bare all of this to your readers and sincerely hope that it will serve as a wake-up call to those who are only fooling themselves with even the slightest addiction to alcohol, or any

EXPERIENCE THE NEXT WAVE IN OVERSEEDING.





The award-winning **TriWave** 60-Inch Overseeder


Learn more at www.turfco.com or order your FREE catalog at 800-679-8201.



www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #13

Design, GPS, Evaluation and Audit Services



*Independent Golf Course Design Services
Experience on more than 300 Golf Courses*

Corporate Office: (978)433-8972
Providing innovative design solutions worldwide.
www.irrigationconsulting.com

www.golfcourseindustry.com/readerservice - #14

other drug. As you so eloquently put it... 'Life's too short and too beautiful to be viewed through the bottom of a bottle.'"

"I wanted to drop you a note to congratulate you on your new found life style. I have a sister who has gone through a similar situation and has been in AA – and sober – for 13 years. Best of luck in taking it 'one day at a time.' I've been using that mantra a lot this summer."

"I just read your heart-emptying story from the land of light and sobriety. Bravo my friend... bravo. The best and most touching thing you have written to date."

"Thanks for 'wasting' several perfectly good trade-journal pages to tell us your story. Very good. Hope you reach your full potential."



Clarification

Stan Burton had no involvement in the origination of Wolf Run Golf Club ("He bleeds red, tartan & blue," August 2010, page 14). All credit for the great vision that evolved into Wolf Run came from Dr. Jack Leer.

John Westermeier, CGCS
Twin Lakes Golf Club
Carmel, Ind.

Editor's Note: We followed up with Steven and you're correct. Jack Leer was the founder and visionary of Wolf Run. Stan was one of the first pros and later put together an investor group and they took over the club.

CFO feedback

I really enjoyed the article about Gary Grigg ("CFO" July 2010, page 54). I have known Gary for many years, but I learned more in your article than I ever knew about him. He is a good and humble man who has been a great influence for the golf industry. Many thanks to Gary for his contributions.



Dale Walters, CGCS
Moorings Country Club
Naples, Fla.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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



When it has to be right, it has to be **Green Lawngr®.**

Superintendents are using Green Lawngr® turf colorant with ColorLock™ technology, replacing expensive overseeding programs while extending play on their course, and promoting better turf growth the following season. Extended play and stronger turf next spring equals added revenue. Trust your course to the proven leader in turf colorant.



**BECKER
UNDERWOOD®**

Green Lawngr® is a registered trademark and ColorLock™ is a trademark of Becker Underwood, Inc., Ames, IA.

800-232-5907 www.beckerunderwood.com 801 DAYTON AVE., AMES, IA 50010

Strange invaders

Spend any amount of time on a golf course and you're bound to see some odd stuff.

However, our intrepid field agents are reporting back that real strange invaders are being reported on golf courses here and abroad.

Take, for example, reports that **wild hogs** ripped up a large chunk of the 14th green at Sebastian Municipal Golf Course in Sebastian, Fla.

Sunshine State wildlife experts report wild hogs, which can weigh as much as 750 pounds, are running roughshod in rural Florida areas, suburbs and even a few cities, digging up cemeteries, gardens and now golf courses.

That aint all folks. There were also reports of **PIRATES!**

That's right: Pirates. Apparently the staff at Royal North Devon Golf Club – touted as England's oldest golf course – recently found two passed-out pirates asleep in the back of a Land Rover that had run aground in a sand trap. How does that pirate tune go? “Yo, ho, ho and a (empty) bottle of rum?”

We wonder if, prior to their removal, the pirates and their vehicle constituted as a natural hazard?

Arrrrrr, matey.

Finally, GCI field agents report Dellwood Hills Golf Club Superintendent Eric H. Peterson has been plagued by some Pepe Le Pews tearing up his course.

According to Peterson, the furry black and white interlopers are sneaking onto his course at night and tearing up the turf to get at succulent Japanese beetle larvae. While the beetle problem is easy to treat, Peterson says the skunk situation, errr, is more of a stinker and will have to be dealt with more delicately.

So we asked Peterson, which invader would he rather have to deal with — **skunks**, wild hogs or pirates?

A good sport, Peterson responded: “At least you can serve the hog to your membership... what a great way to cut expenses.”



SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Dr. Leah Brilman, dressed as host Jamie Hyneman of the television show MythBusters, debunked popular myths often heard by turf managers when they are considering the right seed for their project.

According to GCI agents, Brilman surprised even her co-workers when she gave her MythBusters presentation at Seed Research of Oregon's 2010 Seed Technology Camp.

Spirits and cameras were raised by Brilman's humorous impersonation.



*Editor's note: item does not smell.