

CHAMPION TURF FARMS

Our focus is Bermudagrass Greens...

- Over 40 Years of Planting Bermudagrass Greens
- Installing Greens on Over 500 Courses in 16 States
- Breeders of CHAMPION Dwarf Bermudagrass Released in 1995
- Breeders of EMERALD Dwarf Bermudagrass Released in 2007
- Creators of the No-Till Renovation Process Used to Convert Over 300 Courses to CHAMPION
- Developing Numerous Innovations in Production and Planting Techniques

Nobody does it better...

- Guaranteed Purity
- Guaranteed Establishment
- Refrigerated Transportation Of Planting Stock
- Sprigs Treated With Fungicides Before Shipping
- The Fastest Grow-In Possible
- No Contamination During Installation
- No Nematodes In The Planting Stock
- No Weeds In Planting Stock
- No Soil In Planting Stock
- No Heavy Equipment On Your Greens
- We Are Always There In Person To Install Your Greens

Follow-up support after installation...

Because we are the breeders of the grasses we install, we will be there to ensure your success for the life of your greens. We make follow-up visits, take soil tests, and make agronomic recommendations for every set of greens we install.

CHAMPION
DWARF BERMUDAGRASS

*Specializing In
Bermudagrass Greens
Since 1966*

EMERALD DWARF
BERMUDAGRASS FOR GREENS

UNVEILING THE NEW GCI Website

We've made some significant changes to the GCI Website that we think you're going to like.

As you'll soon see, many of the changes will allow you to more easily navigate all of the news, original content and multimedia options available to you. Check out some of the new features below, then log on and take the site for a test drive. Let us know (gci@gie.net) what you think, what you like about the new design and how we could improve your online experience in the future.

- The Editors

Easy-to-read typeface and layout that loads faster

Simplified navigation that makes it easy to find what you need

New video technology that's easier to watch and share

Find the best blogs in the industry on our Blogroll

More original content than any industry site

Pat blogs about the industry in Jonesy's World

NEW!

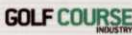
Fun stuff in our new Pop Culture section

Quick links to all of our great columnists

Searchable MSDS and Label database

The screenshot shows the GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEWS, PRODUCTS, BLOGS, and MULTIMEDIA. Below this is the site's logo and a date indicator: Friday, January 07, 2011. The main content area is divided into several columns. The left column contains a sidebar with categories like CURRENT ISSUE, ARTICLES, NEWS, and more. The middle column features a large article titled 'Jacobson marks milestone' with a sub-headline 'Landscapes Golf Group partners with Oak Hills Country Club'. To the right of this article is a smaller article 'Keeping the greens green'. Further right, there's a section titled 'THE PULSE' with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and RSS. Below that is a video player for 'Creative Visions Foundation' with the text 'ARE YOU A CREATIVE ACTIVIST?'. At the bottom of the page, there are several promotional banners, including one for 'GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY TECH LIBRARY SALE!' and another for 'SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER'.

E-Newsletter



Fast & Firm


News and Analysis from Golf Course Industry

CURRENT ISSUE
MULTIMEDIA
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January 20, 2011

TOP STORY

Jacobsen marks milestone

Charlotte, NC-based company celebrates 50th anniversary



MULTIMEDIA



DIY or send out to bid?

How do you know when to do a construction project by yourself or hire a professional builder? Pat Jones interviews the experts at the recent Golf Course Builders Association of America meeting to find out. [MORE MEDIA](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Landscapes Golf Group partners with Oak Hills Country Club
LGG will provide management services, including golf operations, accounting and finance, agronomy, marketing and food and beverage.

Keeping the greens, green
NMSU researchers find solution for yellow patches.

Group files legal challenge to EPA's Partial Ethanol waiver
EPO: Partial waiver sets a bad precedent for the introduction of new fuels in the marketplace.

Keeping the greens, green
NMSU researchers find solution for yellow patches.


PACE Turf explain frost delays to golfers
Free video available via YouTube.

Carolinas Golf Industry funds turfgrass research
Group gives close to \$100,000.

Turflogger.com interviews Pat Jones
With the tables turned, Pat Jones sits in the hot seat and answers some questions.

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SUPPLIER NEWS

Toro names recipients of James R. Watson scholarships
Winners plan to pursue career in sports turf industry

Dispatch receives Canadian patent, registration
Aquatrul's soil surfactant is now in full compliance with CFIA regulations.

International Club Suppliers announces promotion
Steve Troutman to serve as vice president of sales and marketing.

Primeraturf announces CEO's retirement
Frans Jager's departure from the company effective Sept. 30, 2011.

Bayer Environmental Science announces new sales rep
Jason Frank brings experiences as an assistant superintendent as


ONLINE POLL

What do you look forward to most at GIE+EXPO?

Click here to take our online poll.

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"Fast & Firm" means a quick read that gives you REAL news

Original, useful content in every issue – guaranteed

Less Google search junk, more analysis from our editors

Monthly edition devoted just to video and multimedia

Cleaner look that loads fast

Pop Culture = odd, fun or dumb diversions

Sneak previews and fresh ideas from our print edition

LINKS ACROSS AMERICA

Many of you might not know this, but in the fall of 2008, the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation launched its Links Across America (LAA) initiative to develop feeder short golf courses – three, six or nine-hole – across the country to provide affordable golf for youth, families, adult beginners and individuals with injuries and disabilities.

Last year, two LAA short course facilities were completed: The Dundee Park District west of Chicago, a five-hole par 3 short course & short game area; and The First Tee of Savannah, Georgia, a three-hole short course and driving range. Likewise, the list of corporate partners has grown to 46.

And during the last six months, interest in the LAA initiative has gained momentum. Early spring of 2011 construction will commence on a three-hole short course (two par 4's and a par 3), driving range, and short game area for The First Tee of NW Arkansas near Bentonville. Then in May, a unique six-hole par 3 short course located at the Rockwood 18-hole golf course owned by the City of Ft. Worth, Texas, will be underway. By late spring major re-grassing and irrigation will be completed enabling The First Tee

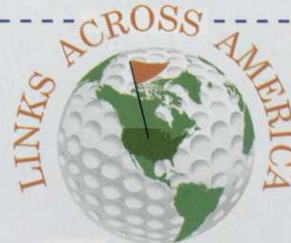
of Harrisonburg, Va., to reopen their three-hole par 3 short course.

With 13 other short course projects currently in the planning/design stage, the Wadsworth Foundation tells GCI the next two years will be very busy. In 2012, a minimum of six to seven LAA projects will be under construction followed in 2013 by about that same number.

Prior to launching the LAA initiative in the fall of 2008, the Wadsworth Foundation spent several years researching the reasons why the growth of the game is stagnant; what needs to change and whether there is a need for short course development. Here's what they found:

- "Affordable golf, especially for youth is a major problem throughout the country. According to the National Golf Foundation report, from 2006 thru 2008, we lost 900,000 young golfers from the ages of 6 thru 17."

- "Each year the industry is losing a significant number of the short 'value' courses where golfers learn to play. The NGF reported from 2004 – 2008 there were 530 golf course closures and of this total 200 were the short courses, the stand alone 9-hole, par 3's and executives."



- "New players to the game need the option and opportunity to play golf in less time because today individuals and families are faced with many time constraints. Three, six or nine-holes facilities provide that advantage."

- "Golf must become 'fun' again."
- "After the golf lessons there needs to be a Step #2. The lessons, clinics, junior programs, Play Golf America, etc., have been successful teaching beginners of all ages how to swing the club and hit the ball. Then the new golfer asks 'What is the next step so I can get out there and learn to actually play golf?' Around the country the majority of lesson programs do not provide this second step and therefore, there is minimal expansion of new golfers into the game."

- "In society today, there is not a better sport than golf that teaches the lessons by which to live life, but that can only happen, by having the opportunity to tee it up and play the game."

- "The short courses must be accessible for individuals with injuries and disabilities."

KANGAROO ROUNDUP

Here at GCI Galactic Headquarters we've documented some pretty strange invaders destroying golf course greens. We've chronicled everything from the norm – deer and geese – to the more unusual, such as wild hogs, skunks and the occasional drunk driver.

Heck, we've even reported an invasion of pirates (see October's Whiteboard) on one English course!

But according to the Australian newspaper, Joondalup Times, kangaroos have become a major irritant at the Joondalup Resort Golf Course. Apparently, Australian Department of Environment and Conservation officials were called in last year to cull kangaroos that were damaging the course. CRIKEY!!!

Originally, kangaroos were not suspected for leaving 60 to 70 holes per night on the course's greens. It was only after course staff staged an overnight sting operation to monitor the greens that the roos' ruse was revealed.

Several alternatives were tried, such as using different fertilizers and other materials on the greens to deter the hoppers, but nothing worked. So, in August and September, licensed DEC officers shot 13 kangaroos that were seen damaging the course.

Shooting kangaroos on the Joondalup Resort golf course was the last option, according to course superintendent Ashley Watson. Since the cull, the damage has ceased.



ROLL CALL

WCI Communities named **Tom Skotzke** golf course superintendent at Pelican Preserve, Ft. Myers, Fla.

Mark Wilson, CGCS, joined The Hill Co. to serve as its lead agronomic advisor and as a member of its Midwest sales team.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. appointed **Patrick Karnick** as president. Former president, Tom Shapland, will focus on business development.

Sebring (Fla.) City Council hired **Mark A. Hopkins** to run the city's municipal golf course.

Bayer Environmental Science (BES) announced **Jason Frank** joined the company as a field sales representative for the southern region on the golf and lawncare sales market in southwest Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The GCSAA selected **P.J. McGuire**, director of golf course maintenance for Par 4 Golf Management Co., Las Vegas, to receive its 2011 Excellence in Government Relations Award.

PrimeraTurf Inc. CEO **Frans Jager** announced his retirement from the company effective Sept. 30, 2011.

The Mesquite Golf Club (**Travis Sales**, manager of parks services and golf course superintendent) was chosen by the Texas Turfgrass Association for Golf Course Renovation Project of the Year.

Aaron Thomas, a member of the original staff that unveiled The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Dove Mountain in 2009, has returned to the award-winning golf course as director of grounds.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) selected **Richard Pavlasek**, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance at Gainey Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., as the its field staff representative for the Southwest region of the country (California, Hawaii, Nevada and Arizona).



Get a *life*

GCI's quest to spotlight peoples' lives outside of turf

WHO: Carmen Magro, CGCS, vice president of agronomy for Advanced Sensor Technologies, a Philadelphia-based maker of wireless soil-monitoring systems.

HIS LIFE OUTSIDE OF TURF:

In his spare time, which he admits there is not enough of, Carmen is pursuing his passion for music. This piano man has self recorded a number of original works, and he's currently working with a producer on his first album. "For me, music is more than a hobby. It's really an extension of who I am."

SOUNDS LIKE: "I'd say my songs are piano-oriented upbeat rock tunes with a strong ballad feel. I've been told by some people that I remind them of a young Neil Diamond."

WHAT INSPIRES HIS MUSIC:

"I'm inspired by meaningful music, songs that have stories behind them. Springsteen is a master of the art of storytelling through his songs."

ARTIST HE'D LOVE TO OPEN FOR:

"Definitely U2. I think U2 is one of the best performing bands on the planet."

SAMPLE HIS MUSIC:

Check out Carmen's "America" on YouTube. Just enter "Carmen Magro-America" into the YouTube browser.

WHERE YOU CAN SEE HIM NEXT:

Don't be surprised to find Carmen in front of a mic at an Orlando piano bar or karaoke joint during GIS.

If you have a passion you'd like to share, email us at gci@gie.net.



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Stephen Tucker is the equipment manager at the Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club in Bradenton, Fla., and past president of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association. He can be reached at 941-309-2913 or stephen.tucker@ritzcarlton.com.

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS PREP FOR 2011 GIS

As we all prepare for the 2011 Golf Industry Show in Orlando there are a lot of new changes taking place. The biggest change affecting technicians this year is the fact that now The International Golf Course Equipment Manager's Association is a partner with the Golf Industry Show, and later in the year it will be launching their second annual Virtual Trade Show.

However, I received a few phone calls this year from superintendents saying they were planning to send their technicians to Orlando this year but they didn't see a lot of education that pertained to them. So they wanted my advice on what classes to put their technicians in. I have attended the Golf Industry Show since 1999 and have always approached it in the same way: Anything I can learn that creates value for my club and myself is worth taking.

Technicians not only need to attend classes that focus on changing oil, grinding reels and the latest EPA standards, they also need to take classes pertaining to turf, tournament prep, aerification, leadership, sprayer calibration, Spanish... I could go on and on.

Technicians need these classes so they can become another set of trained eyes on your team. With reduced staff numbers, lower budgets and the increasing demand to make pennies stretch into dollars, the more help you can get from well-rounded individuals the better. Technicians must have an appreciation for why things are done a certain way or why it's so important to have a good quality of cut or why you aerify? Most of the time I am told, "Well, if there aren't classes specific for techs, then I can't justify sending them."

The best justification for sending them is to teach them skills – such as how to better communicate or be better organized – that help you avoid having to hire another staff member. "Well, my technician barely has time to get his/her own work done. How will this help with what I need done?" Techni-

cians who are properly trained to organize themselves and their equipment will provide you with better results. And guess what, there is a class on it this year. So sign them up.

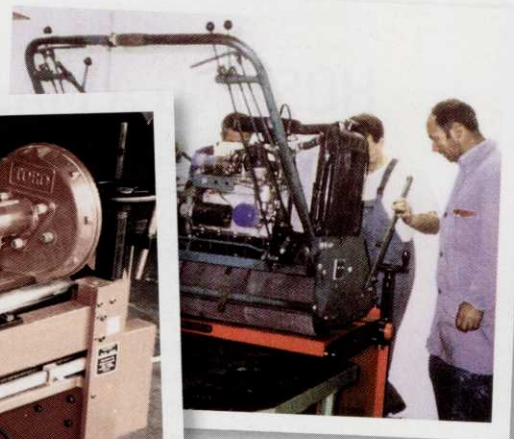
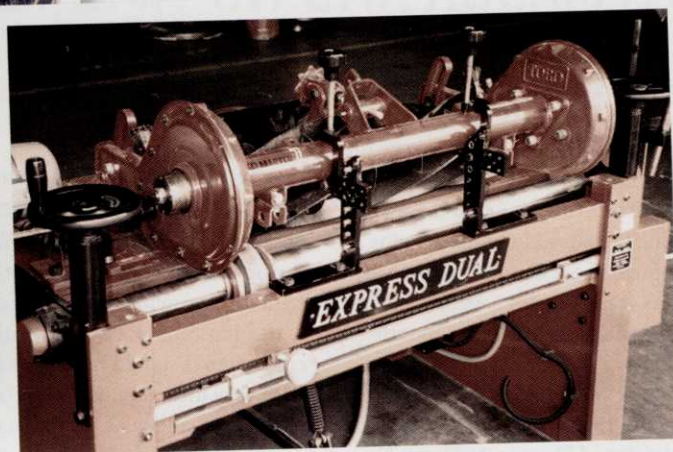
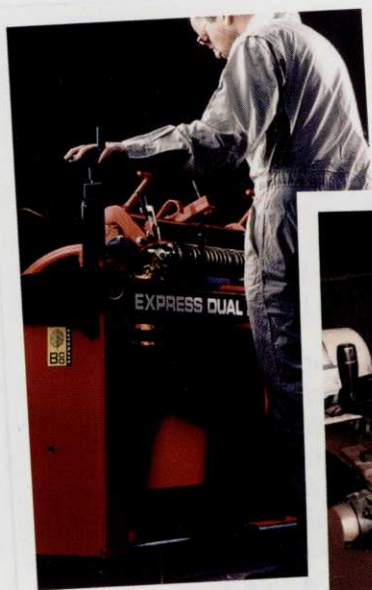
Show preparation, from a technician's point of view, consists of first mapping out what the club's needs are over the next year or two. Technicians who have the ability to speak to engineers on the show floor are going to make sure that, in the event you do purchase a piece of equipment, he/she is completely comfortable and has asked all the pertinent questions to the people who can answer them.

"I have attended the Golf Industry Show since 1999 and have always approached it in the same way: **Anything that I can learn** that creates value for my club and myself is worth taking."

The second thing a technician will do is map out what is new. What are the things we have not seen before? What are the new innovations? This is the best way to take a look at what training they need to obtain over the next few years to prepare. Lastly, they need to socialize. Technicians talking with engineers, other technicians and superintendents are important not only to the growth of the profession, but it helps get us focused and to the point of all working together for the good of the game.

We need to be more educated, more professional and better communicators so we can get through this tough time. And for right now, the best we can do is take those small steps to improve ourselves in preparation for when everything eventually begins to turn around for this industry. **GCI**

BERNHARD USERS CLUB



Bernhard users — your chance to win a new Express Dual grinder!

For over 30 years now Express Dual and Anglemaster has been appreciated by many thousands of happy users.

To celebrate, we're giving our users the opportunity to win a new Express Dual!

The User of the oldest Express Dual will win a Brand New Express Dual.

To enter, you will need the serial number of your Express Dual.

All other entries will be entered into a drawing for three more exciting prizes, including:

- A brand new Anglemaster
- A trip for two to The Open
- A trip to England to visit the Bernhard Grinders factory

There are 3 simple ways to register:

1. Stop by **Booth 1018** at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando to register your Express Dual for a chance to win a BRAND NEW Express Dual.
2. Call 1-888-GRIND IT to register your machine now.
3. Visit: www.bernhard.co.uk/OldestExpressDual

*Terms and conditions apply, call 1-888- GRIND-IT or see online for more information.



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Tim Moraghan, Principal, ASPIRE Golf (tmoraghan@aspire-golf.com). Follow Tim's blog, Golf Course Confidential at <http://www.aspire-golf.com/buzz.html> or on Twitter @TimMoraghan

HOSTING A MAJOR AND NO TIME TO SPARE

“It came as a little bit of a surprise,” says Tom Alex of the December 2010 LPGA Tour Championship contested at Grand Cypress Golf Club in Orlando, Fla., where he has been director of golf maintenance for 25 years.

I wondered how it could be disruptive to someone who has prepared for nine previous LPGA events plus a World Cup until Tom informed me Grand Cypress was “awarded” the prestigious season-ending event in early September of this year – giving him just three months to prepare.

As a destination golf resort, Grand Cypress features 45 holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature golf, plus three teaching holes within the Grand Cypress Academy of Golf and two huge practice ranges.

The playing features are all hybrid Bermudagrass and – with the exception of The New Course – are overseeded with perennial ryegrass each fall.

Sitting with Tom in the grandstand behind the 17th green he outlined his concerns with readying a golf course for major event on such short notice.

Q: WHERE DO YOU START WITH ONLY 90 DAYS TO PREPARE?

A: After the meetings with the LPGA, sponsors and ownership we established a master list of things to do and which items would pose the biggest hurdles.

Like most golf courses over the past few years the sluggish economy has necessitated budget cutbacks. Labor reductions caused numerous key tasks to be tabled or not conducted as regularly as we would have liked.

So, in preparation for the LPGA Tour Championship, we needed to organize and prioritize a master list, increase staff hours, and review equipment and supplies to reach the preparation goals.

This included:

- Reviewing the needs for each playing feature to meet LPGA set-up standards. Our biggest concern was bunker preparation. Many bunkers needed sand, bank work and drainage;
- Re-budgeting to allow an increase in work hours and special projects both on and off the golf course;
- Sub-surface cultivation practices had to be rescheduled so as not to impact event play, especially work on the putting greens;
- Re-scheduling herbicide applications; and
- Organizing all off-course, set-up operations.

Most important, we had to properly time ryegrass overseeding to provide proper playing conditions on

short notice.

Previously, we hosted events between January and March, so the overseeding was fully established.

Q: HOW DID YOU RE-ORGANIZE THE OVER SEEDING AND WHAT PLANNING WENT INTO THIS PROCESS?

A: This was the toughest part. We had to move over seeding up a month, which meant the ryegrass competes with fully growing Bermudagrass.

In addition, the Florida weather was unpredictable – cold when it should have been hot; warm recently and with very little rain. Early overseeding meant ryegrass had to compete with Bermudagrass. Our ryegrass density was not there initially so we reseeded. This presented the problem of saturated fairways and roughs from excessive irrigation to germinate seed, leading to soggy and muddy conditions.

“These big events are a wonderful challenge and re-energize your career and attitudes. Even a short-notice project like this one gets the juices flowing again.”

– Tom Alex, Grand Cypress Golf Club, Orlando, Fla.

Course conditions were worsened by daily traffic from member/guest play, as we had to constantly repair damage.

Weed control for both pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicide applications were affected by the early over seed timing. We fought broad leaves, goose and crab grass, sedges and *Poa annua*.

Putting green overseeding was another challenge due to the Mini Verde Bermudagrass growing at rapid rates and impacting the *Poa trivialis* used for the putting green seed.

We increased our Primo use and closed the timing of the applications to slow the Bermudagrass growth. Much of our *Poa trivialis* either didn't catch quickly or was removed by mowing as we worked on height-of-cut, green speed and firmness issues.

A sparse overseeding affects ball roll and if the weather turned cold the Bermudagrass enters dormancy