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## CARRY THE TORCH

Another day, another media event.

That's kind of what I was thinking as I drove through the sunny South Carolina morning to Greenville Country Club for Turf Science Live.

"He would have loved this more than anybody."

That's what Dr. Kimberly Erusha, national director of the Green Section, told me when I asked her what Stanley Zontek would think about the way things turned out at the U.S. Open at Merion.

Stan was there in spirit, all right. The week began with Matt Shaffer dedicating the turf team's work to his memory. The week ended with the American golfing public being reminded of the traditional values of the USGA that Stan loved so much.

As I looked around Merion's maintenance compound, I realized how many folks there had been close to Stan. His successor, Darrin Brevard, obviously, and the rest of the Green Section folks like Chris Hartwiger and Kim who were there. Penn State faculty like John Kaminski, Andy McNitt and Tom Watschke. Trailblazers like Latshaw, Zimmers, Roney and Jennings. Penn State alumni too numerous to name. And dozens of other supers and assistants who've gained wisdom – both about turf and about life – from him. It was a celebration of Stan even though there was no shrine or no big deal made other than Matt's comments early in the week.

I showed up at Merion on Tuesday with a plan to somehow announce the winner of GCI's first Stanley Zontek Scholarship Award during the event. I had been carrying the

entries around with me in my backpack for weeks, agonizing about who to choose and, on the plane out to Philly, I had finally made my decision.

Frankly, the entrants were all great. I mean great. Outstanding grades, amazing recommendations and essays about Stan and what he meant to our community that brought tears to my eyes. (Several of them ended with Stan's trademark "Go Golf!") I narrowed the list of finalists for the \$2,500 scholarship down to three and just couldn't decide. They all deserved the award.



**Pat Jones**  
Editorial director and publisher

Finally, sitting on the plane on the way to the Open, it occurred to me to ask, "Who would Stan pick?" Then I realized, all other factors being equal, he'd pick the Nittany Lion.

So, it is with great pleasure that I announce that Collin Harley, a second-year student in the Penn State two-year program, is the first recipient of the Stanley Zontek Schol-

arship. Collin is #1 in his class with a 3.89 GPA, a leader in the school's turf club and is currently interning at Aronimink GC. Prior to that, he worked for several years at Linfield National GC.

Mostly, what caught my attention in reviewing his essay that he really went out and learned about Stan. He talked to alums and folks around the school to capture the essence of the man: humor, common sense and a passion for the pure joy of golf.

I look forward to meeting Collin in person soon. I plan to tell him that the quid pro quo for accepting the scholarship is to do this one important thing:

Carry the torch. GCI

Finally, sitting on the plane on the way to the Open, it occurred to me to ask, "Who would Stan pick?" Then I realized, all other factors being equal, he'd pick the Nittany Lion.

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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

**Kyle Brown**

Associate Editor  
kbrown@gie.net

**Bruce Williams**

Senior contributing editor

**Katie Tuttle**

Assistant Editor  
ktuttle@gie.net

### SALES

**Russell Warner**

National account  
manager  
216-236-5802

**Martha Corfman**

Manager, books  
330-523-5366

**Ted Schuld**

Account manager  
216-236-5937

**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

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[ WATER MANAGEMENT ]

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



To curb its water woes, Pasatiempo Golf Club is negotiating with its water district to access unused, reclaimed water being sent to the Pacific Ocean. by Katie Tuttle

**W**ater is a big part of maintaining courses' pristine esthetics, especially in the stress of summer heat and drought. So what happens when water restrictions in your area prevent you from irrigating as often as you need?

A lot of California courses use recycled water as part of their irrigation regimen. In the past, this water was just piped out to the ocean. Now, it's being used to replace fresh water.

Pasatiempo Golf Club hopes to join the ranks or recycled water users in late 2014. Currently, the California course gets its water from the city of Santa Cruz, and is under a constant threat of a water shortage. Because of this, Pasatiempo is seeking an alternative that is both environmentally friendly, as well as the best choice for the course.

"If we have another drought year, we'll be in a fairly severe water restriction next year," says Scott Hoyt, Pasatiempo general manager. "It will definitely affect the condition of the course."

In steps Scotts Valley. The city produces more reclaimed water than it has customers for, so the access water is sent out to the Pacific Ocean. Pasatiempo is already in the position to have the water piped to the course for irrigation, but there is still one big step they have to take first.

"We have to put in an underground tank to store the water," says Hoyt. The underwater storage tank will have three separate chambers: one for the fresh water from Santa Cruz, one for the recycled water from Scotts Valley, and one for the well water from the well on the course. "To ensure our long term future, we want to use all three sources and mix them, depending on the exact quality of the water, and where it's being put: on the greens or

fairways or roughs. No matter what happens, meaning if one of our sources has a problem, we're still in good shape to keep the golf course in the type of condition we need to keep it in."

Another step the course needs to take is to negotiate a final price on the recycled water.

"We have not finalized any kind of negotiating with the [Scotts Valley Water District] relative with the price they want to charge us, or guarantee of supply," he says. "If we're going to spend all this money and go through all of this, obviously we want a fair price. We need them to guarantee supply for 50 years, meaning if they expand their system and decide they have other customers, they can't cut us off."

Money seems to be the only downside of the project. The club has currently invested five million dollars in the project, meaning they have had to cut back on money being spent elsewhere.

"[It] hinders us from making any further improvements and it slows down any other necessary improvements. We need to focus on this; we need to figure out how to pay for it," Hoyt says. "It's going to take us 10 to 12 years to pay it off, so it certainly hinders any future improvement."

Still, there's no reason for anyone to be against the project.

"There's no reason not to be supportive of the idea," says Hoyt. "There can't be one person that's not supportive of the idea. We want to take something that's currently being shipped out into the Pacific Ocean, that [Scotts Valley] is getting zero dollars for. We're going to save fresh water. We could save 40 million gallons a year of fresh water for the city of Santa Cruz."

*Katie Tuttle is GCI's assistant editor.*



# From THE FEED



**G**CI had the U.S. Open covered from every angle last month. Of course, Matt Shaffer got to show off Merion Golf Club from the cover of our June issue (and if you haven't gotten to see it in motion, now's the time to check out the GCI app!) but our own Pat Jones was also reporting live from the ground. Though superintendents had plenty of nice things to say about the course, not as many thought enough recognition was given to the crew's hard work.

### Jerry Coldiron@CaribeTurfman

Seriously, Johnny Miller & his grain comments are so ridiculous!! He made this marathon US Open nearly unbearable. Will be muted tomorrow!!



### ↑ Tim Walker@timwalkercgcs

I think it's funny everyone is killing miller - Matt shaffer has been bragging about the old bent grain



### ↑ Jerry Coldiron@CaribeTurfman

Matt knows his greens Just seems on TV more inconsistent grass types & soils leading to dry/wet areas, Not grain



### Pat Jones@GCIMagazine

"Superintendents make choices on a daily basis" affecting pace but "sometimes their hands are tied" - Rand Jerris of #USGA



### ↑ Sean Wilson@mseanw67

The superintendents' hands are always tied. They set the course up the way they are told.



### Mr. O'Mell@spartygrad95

OK. Berman IS WORSE than Miller.



### ↑ Pat Jones@GCIMagazine

Tough choice...equally awful?



### ↑ Mr. O'Mell@spartygrad95

I'd rather listen to stories of 63s. Anne grain than stupid nicknames



Join the conversation  
on Twitter @GCIMagazine!



## JUST ANOTHER TOOL

**T**he next time you're about to throw away an old set of blades, stop and ask yourself "could these still be useable?" If the answer is yes, you could be able to make some money off of them, while also helping out someone who needs them.

Back in May, Stephen Tucker started partschanger.com, a site similar to ebay, where superintendents can sell old parts, equipment, build a store, or put up wanted ads, among other things.

"I think we are all trying to find ways to not just save money but be more economical," Tucker says. "I am always trying to figure out better ways to do things, and so I figured maybe this could help some of us get rid of some clutter, put a few dollars back into the budget and in the end help another club who may need it."

Tucker doesn't just see the site as a resource for superintendents. He also sees people such as technicians, dealers and sports turf managers using it as a place to sell and buy cheaper products.

"With parts prices going up, equipment prices going up, etc, I think any way we can save money we should do it. It's just another tool for the tool box."



## U.S. Open Photo Recap

**G**CI's Pat Jones and John Kaminski were on the ground at Merion CC and behind the scenes during last month's U.S. Open. Check out the iPad or iPhone app version of the July issue for a candid look at the big event.





**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

## H<sub>2</sub>O, NO...NOT AGAIN

**W**hat more is there to say about water? We know that we need it, that there's not enough of it, that our profession depends on it, and that we get charged for it so it has tremendous impact on owners, members, and golfers.

Why don't I like water? Because as important as it is to what we do, it is fickle.

When there's too much water, a golf course becomes too wet, creating a fertile breeding environment for insects and diseases.

Ask Matt Schaffer, the superintendent at Merion, if he's a fan of water. After seven inches of rain fell during the week of the U.S. Open, probably not. I'm fairly sure Matt and his crew didn't sleep much that week, working non-stop to save the course.

When there's not enough water, turf won't grow, bare patches of dirt are unsightly and hard to play from, and golfers complain that they want Augusta – not Arizona desert. Those of us in charge of keeping courses playable prefer to keep golf courses a little dry, so they are healthier while actually aiding golfers who benefit from a playing field that is "firm and fast." I don't think we've done a very good job explaining that truth to golfers. But even if we did, it takes just one freak storm (a more and more common occurrence these days) to wash that philosophy down the drain.

No matter what we do, no matter how much planning and preparation, ultimately we are all victims of water. Watch the news and you're guaranteed to see back-to-back stories about floods in one part of the country while other areas parch. The recent rash of tornadoes doesn't help, nor do the ongoing battles with farmers, environmentalists, government agencies, and amateur gardeners.

There is only one thing we can all

agree upon regarding water: There's not enough of it to go around. As natural resources go, it is most important. And most in trouble.

I also don't like water hazards, especially when they're on the right side of a course because I occasionally fade the ball. Okay, that's a little

### Why don't I like water? Because as important as it is to what we do, it is fickle.

personal, but most golfers regularly fade – make that slice – the ball, and seeing water down the right side of a hole is frightening.

But you know what I really don't like about water? How much we talk about it. I'm tired of the conversation, of the hand wringing, of having to explain to those same owners, members, and golfers that water is mostly out of our control.

And yet we have to keep telling them, again and again, just how important water is. Educating the golf audience about water's uses and abuses is one of our most critical tasks. Just because you and I know that water is our most valuable resource does not mean everyone does. So keep saying it. Keep talking about water. And keep educating yourself on better ways to live with water where you are, whether it's in short supply or overabundance.

Here are a few ideas for superintendents everywhere to better manage the water they have.

Take the guesswork out of your water use. As management consultant Peter Drucker said about the business world, "If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it." Those words are especially relevant to water. Measure what you use, factoring in ET and rainfall. Keep a record of use in inches

per acre, including a calculation of the actual annual percentage of ET replacement.

Keeping accurate records may save you someday when asked to prove if your course is as efficient as our industry claims. In my travels around the country working with courses

and superintendents in different climate zones, I'm amazed how many courses irrigating with groundwater and surface water don't keep accurate measurements of their water use or only meter at their water source. That's just not good enough, and at the risk of trying to be funny, someday that lack of evidence will leave you high and dry.

When you do keep records, remember to account for lake, pond, or water feature evaporation. Water features generally evaporate at almost the same rate as turf covering the same area (factors affecting evaporation include climate, wind, temperature, and lake depth). If you're not sure about evaporation rates, hire an expert to help.

If you're drawing water from an aquifer large or small, you need to be concerned with groundwater overdraft and subsidence. Once settling from subsidence occurs, that storage space is gone forever.

I know you probably don't want to attend any more conferences, but I've been to a number of irrigation and water-management meetings lately and a prime topic is long-term groundwater management. I guarantee the golf industry will be in the middle of this discussion very soon.

(MORAGHAN continues on page 79)