

Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

Pretty Damn Important

Congratulations on your recent article on PDI (February). It was both informative and neutral — not easily attained with such a controversial subject.

PDI could be a wonderful program as long as it's available to all members. When I reflect back on my own career, I have ridden the roller coaster of career highs and lows. I was a superintendent at two separate golf courses for 13 years after graduating from the Penn State University turf program. I desperately wanted to move up into bigger jobs, but I just wasn't postured for those positions. Then Paul Latshaw (the superintendent at Augusta National at the time) threw me a rope, and I became his assistant. My career path has changed ever since. With all I learned from Paul and working at Augusta, I was able to explore and reach plateaus that I had only dreamed of.

Not many people are as fortunate as me. I would like to think that PDI could be the rope that helps good superintendents at obscure, low-budget clubs reach their dreams and high plateaus. If I could be convinced that this is in fact the case for PDI, then count me in, and I'll put every ounce of my energy behind it.

Matthew G. Shaffer
Superintendent, The Country Club
Pepper Pike, Ohio

I'm a 30-year-old superintendent at a mid-level private club in central New York. I'm not living in the national limelight of a Major, a PGA Tour stop or an LPGA event. I'm the average Joe of our profession.

Even with PDI looming on our horizon, if your course does not meet the reasonable playing expectations of your membership, then there's nothing any organiza-

tion can do to promote any public perception of you to your membership. I realize I have not covered the entire point of the issue, but for many of us just keeping our courses in top shape demands most of our energy and focus.

Thad Thompson
Superintendent, Seneca Falls CC
Seneca Falls, N.Y.

Use This Rag

I, being quite the unconventional superintendent, find your rag to be very refreshing, to say the least. There are just far too many stuffed shirts in this business that play everything by the book, not to mention the butt kissing. Just thought you needed to hear that some of us superintendents are loving your stuff. Keep up the good work.

Jerry Whiteaker
Superintendent, Myrtle Creek GC
Myrtle Creek, Ore.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at patrick.jones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

We Messed Up

Ted Cox Jr., superintendent at Running Fox GC, was misidentified as a certified superintendent in Golfdom's February issue, which he is not. Also, Paul Illgen is the superintendent at Rolling Oaks GC at World Woods in Brooksville, Fla. We mistakenly identified Quinn Kuite as the superintendent in the March issue. While Kuite was superintendent when the story, "Practice Facility Makes Near Perfect," was written, he left World Woods soon after.

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pat Jones EDITOR/PUBLISHER 440-891-3126	pjones@advanstar.com
Larry Aylward MANAGING EDITOR 440-891-2770	laylward@advanstar.com
Frank H. Andorka Jr. ASSOCIATE EDITOR 440-891-2708	fanorka@advanstar.com
Geoff Shackelford CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877	geoffshac@aol.com
Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971	flgrn@aol.com
Dr. Karl Danneberger CHIEF SCIENCE EDITOR	danneberger.1@osu.edu
Lisa Lehman ART DIRECTOR 440-891-2785	llehman@advanstar.com
Lisa Bodnar SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER 440-891-3101	lbodnar@advanstar.com
Mike Klemme CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284	golfoto@ionet.net
Sue Gibson EXECUTIVE EDITOR 440-891-2729	sgibson@advanstar.com
Vernon Henry GROUP EDITOR 440-826-2829	vhenry@advanstar.com

GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

Joe Baidy , CGCS, TURNING STONE GC
Jan Beljan , ASGCA, FAZIO DESIGN
Jerry Coldiron , CGCS, LASSING POINTE GC
Darren Davis , OLDE FLORIDA GC
Kevin DeRoo , BARTLETT HILLS GC
George Frye Jr. , OCEAN COURSE AT KIAWAH
Bob Graunke , CGCS, TIDEWATER GC & PLANTATION
Steve Hammon , TRAVERSE CITY G&CC
Alan Hess , CGCS, GOLF PARTNERS MANAGEMENT LTD.
Sean Hoolehan , CGCS, WILDHORSE RESORT
Jim Husting , CGCS, WOODBRIDGE G&CC
Rod Johnson , CGCS, PINE HILLS CC
Tom Kastler , CLUB AT RUNAWAY BAY
Bob Lohmann , ASGCA, LOHMANN GOLF DESIGN
Bob Maibusch , CGCS, HINSDALE GC
Walter Mattison , CGCS, WIDGICREEK GC
Bill Montague , CGCS, MG, OAKWOOD CLUB
Jim Nicol , CGCS, HAZELTINE NATIONAL GC
Doug Petersan , CGCS, CC OF AUSTIN
Mike Rothenberg , CGCS, SHARON HEIGHTS G&CC
Ken Sakai , GOLF PACIFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP
Dave Wilber , AGRONOMIST, SACRAMENTO, CALIF
Randy Zidik , CGCS, E.H. GRIFFITH INC.

ASSOCIATIONS



American Society of Golf Course Architects 221 N. LASALLE ST., CHICAGO 60601; 312-372-7090; WWW.GOLFDESIGN.ORG



Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 1421 RESEARCH PARK DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3859; 800-472-7878; WWW.GCSAA.ORG



Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors Association 25250 SEELEY ROAD, NOVI, MI 48375; 248-476-5457



National Golf Course Owners Association 1470 BEN SAWYER BLVD., STE. 18, MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464; 843-881-9956; WWW.NGCOA.ORG



National Golf Foundation 1150 SOUTH U.S. HIGHWAY ONE, SUITE 401, JUPITER, FL 33477



Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment 1156 15TH ST. NW, SUITE 400, WASHINGTON, DC; 202-872-3860; WWW.PESTFACTS.ORG



United States Golf Association P.O. BOX 708, FAR HILLS, NJ 07931; 908-234-2300; WWW.USGA.ORG