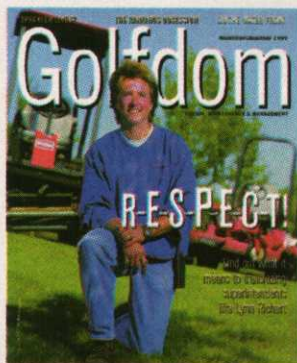


Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

More R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Great to see a long overdue article about those who are long overdue for some credit and respect ("Women superintendents are getting the respect they richly deserve," November/December).



I have long been an advocate of women in our profession, and it was a pleasure to see your magazine recognize a group that works twice as hard for half the respect.

Tim Moraghan
USGA Championship Agronomist

Bad Joke

I don't have the article in front of me, but the one by a superintendent beating up on golfers' intelligence was weak at best ("Dumb, Dumber ... Dumbest" by Jerry Coldiron, CGCS, October). I apologize for the lack of humor from my fellow grass grower. The humor should be left with *Golfdom* columnist Geoff Shackelford and the other paid professionals. I hope this source of stand-up comic relief doesn't snowball and turn your magazine into kindling like the others.

Jon L. Cuny
The Timbers GC
Frankenmuth, Mich.

Free Enterprise

William Shirley's response to the October articles on management companies (*Going Postal*, November/December) should have been titled, "I Don't Understand the Rules." Nowhere in the GCSAA's

Code of Ethics does it say anything close to what Shirley contends "is in direct contrast to the code of ethics." Providing a club president, course owner or any other individual at a golf operation with information on a service is not against any ethical code unless (per articles 12 and 13 of the Code of Ethics) it provides "false, misleading, slanderous, defamatory" information or makes "misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims."

To inform a course owner, general manager, president, greens chairman, etc., of a maintenance management service is absolutely ethical by any standard of measurement, including the GCSAA's. Shirley's interpretation of the "rules" is just that ... an interpretation. Welcome to the free-enterprise system.

Max B. Barrick
Vice President, ServiScape
Michigan City, Ind.

Another Perspective

Having recently read the pros and cons of management companies in your October issue, I'd like to offer the perspective of a general manager. When I took over the operation of the Admiral Lehigh Golf Resort and Spa more than a year ago, I found the golf maintenance was contracted with International Golf Maintenance. I was extremely skeptical of this arrangement and entered the relationship with my eyes wide open. What I found was that the arrangement has allowed me to concentrate on putting bodies in beds, butts on barstools and duffers in divots.

I'm not an agronomist, but I am a golfer. I inspect each course at least twice weekly and try to play at least one course each week. But with my ignorance of the finer points of turf management, I don't need to be making the daily decisions about the

health of my golf course. That's not good for the course quality and can also lead to misunderstandings between the superintendent and the general manager.

The frequency of communication between myself and the IGM's regional manager is as close, if not closer, than with my department heads. It allows me to get more input on the agronomic aspects of our two golf courses, as well as assistance in borrowing equipment.

This summer, we rebuilt 18 greens and installed a state-of-the-art irrigation system. Had it not for been the regional manager's supervision coordinating the construction, holding the hand of the pro shop staff, attending a members' question and answer session, and holding the contractors accountable for the quality of their work, I'd be in a world of hurt. And what did it cost me? Nothing!

Mark C. Duffy, CHA
General Manager
Admiral Lehigh Golf Resort and Spa
Lehigh Acres, Fla.

About That Tree . . .

As a landscape supervisor, I enjoy reading *Golfdom*. As a tree person, I was drawn to the article "The Tree Doctor Is In" (November/December).

Upon reading the article, I became dismayed at the treatment of the lovely oak tree at Firestone CC. I can understand the desire to do what's best for the tree, but it became apparent the people undertaking this project did not know enough about tree biology. I hope your magazine does not advocate this treatment for all trees with cavities or cavity problems. Alex L. Shigo's book, *Modern Arboriculture*, might be of some help. The book is a must for any budding arborist.

James S. Arnett
Landscape Supervisor
Secession GC, Beaufort, S.C.

Editor's note: *Golfdom* does not advocate any particular treatment for tree cavities. We reported this case study because it was successful.

Gordon Matthews, the certified arborist who treated the tree at Firestone, responds to Arnett's letter: "This treatment method was used not only because of the size of the cavity, but because it also had to be aesthetically appealing while serving its purpose. I read Shigo's book, and most of his research is used in our own teachings. I'm aware of the potential harm that can be caused by interfering with the compartmentalization of decay that occurs within the tree. I'm also aware of the need to provide a service that has arboricultural benefits and solves the customer's problems as well!"

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.

Invisible Ink

A sharp-eyed reader pointed out some missing words in our "Turf Tamers" story in January. As the story moves from pg. 56 to pg. 57, the white text on the previous page shifted for one line on to pg. 57. Unfortunately, white text doesn't show up on white paper (unless you can read invisible ink), so readers can't see it. Trust us, it's there.

Here's how the paragraph should read: "In general, turf leaves absorb Type I regulators, while Type II regulators percolate through the soil and move up through the roots."