

# Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

## Grumpy Old Man Defended

I hope letter writer Mitchell E. Trent (Going Postal, May), who sharply criticized Joel Jackson's



**Joel Jackson's smile. Grumpy? We think not!**

articles, is not correct in his statement that "people such as myself are the heart of this industry, and we've had it with all the politically correct banter." While I strongly empathize with Trent's repugnance of the politically correct, his aim is way off mark.

Jackson is the conscience of the industry for Florida superintendents, earning our trust and support through many years of selfless service and a long career at some of Florida's most prestigious golf facilities. If his constructive and insightful comments are regarded with such contempt by anything more than a handful of superintendents like Trent, then the future of our industry is in real trouble.

**Mark Jarrell, CGCS**

**Palm Beach National Golf & CC  
Palm Beach, Fla.**

## Managing Roundup Ready, Part II

We are frequently asked at Scotts Co. how turfgrass managers will control Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass ("To Tell the Truth," March). Traditional creeping bentgrass can establish itself in places it wasn't intended, such as the rough or even on green banks. In these situations, creeping bentgrass becomes a weed and can be treated as such. However, in most cases, superintendents haven't chosen to control it.

It needs to be made clear that Scotts is transforming creeping bentgrass with only one gene (CP4) that confers resistance to

Roundup. The creeping bentgrass with the CP4 gene will be resistant to only Roundup, and *not* other non-selective herbicides such as Finale, Fusilade, Envoy and Vantage. All other non-selective herbicides that are available today to control bentgrass will be able to kill Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass after it's established.

As we continue to do more research, we do learn more about Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass. The product we will bring to market will be like traditional creeping bentgrass, with the exception that bentgrass managers will now be able to eliminate — selectively and effectively — undesirable grasses, such as *Poa annua*, *Poa trivialis* and others from established Roundup Ready bentgrass.

**Wayne Horman**

**Director, Professional Seed Marketing  
Scotts Co.**

**Marysville, Ohio**

## Family-Style Golf

I just finished reading "Time for Owners to Don Thinking Caps" (Pin High, March). I agree that more has to be done to promote new golfers to the game.

Middlesex County New Jersey is constructing of a family-style golf course. Raritan Landing GC is a shorter course with 14 par 3s and four par 4s.

**Charles McMonagle, Superintendent  
Raritan Landing GC  
Piscataway, N.J.**

## Keep It Simple

I could not agree more with the sentiments expressed in Geoff Shackelford's column, "For the Love of Simplicity in Design" (Designs On Golf, May). I'm a designer located in the nation's heartland. I've seen and been associated with many different golf facilities throughout my career and have benefited tremendously

from working maintenance, construction and with other designers. The one issue that continually amazes me is the lack of vision that some designers and contractors have for the "natural."

I understand projects are a product of the site chosen. I also understand sites typically evolve from and are influenced by economic issues. Owners want to create products they can sell.

Unfortunately, technology is the driving force and limiting factor behind new development today. This is different than the parameters and attitudes that the Arts and Crafts movement architects faced. These men were prophets, and we should imitate them much more today than we ever did before. These men looked at the game of golf as just that — a game. Now, unfortunately, the game has taken a back seat to business.

The reason is the impact the game has on the economy. Business equates to money. The technological advancements we have witnessed are products of this money. Some of these advancements even create more business, so it's a vicious cycle. I suggest we break this cycle or at least promote a balance before it is too late.

Today's designers design to today's standards. Unfortunately, these standards are products of technological advancements more than of the natural. The true designer should be rewarded and recognized for the ability to display his or her talents in realizing and respecting the natural.

As an artist, I strive to deliver my talent to every client. I don't claim to be god-like because I'm far from that. I do, however, consider what has been created for us to work with.

**Chuck Ermisch  
Chuck Ermisch Golf Design  
Shawnee, Kan.**

## Save Szklinski

I find the photo that you published on page 32 of the June issue of *Golfdom* quite disturbing. In the same issue that also carries an article entitled, "Don't Scrimp on Safety," you have Szklinski standing on the rear fender of a vehicle that is applying what one has to assume is fertilizer.

Not only is the superintendent on a precarious perch, but neither he nor the operator is wearing any protective gear.

The caption of the photo states that [Szklinski is] "not afraid to get his hands dirty," but what you don't say is he's not



**A precarious perch? The photo in question.**

afraid to fall beneath the wheels of a very heavy machine.

He's also not afraid of coming in physical contact with whatever material is being applied.

Surely this is not what Szklinski had in mind when you chose him to be the subject of a feature article.

**John M. Baute, Certified Superintendent  
CC of Louisiana  
Baton Rouge, La.**

**Feel like going postal? We'd like to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@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.**