

## Off The Fringe

# Petersan's Protégés

VETERAN SUPERINTENDENT'S PUPILS

FORM SOCIETY TO HONOR HIM

**N**ot every superintendent gets his own society. But Doug Petersan, superintendent of the Austin (Texas) GC, is *not* every superintendent.

That's why two of Petersan's former protégés, certified superintendents Tom Athy and Chris Ayers, organized the Doug Petersan Society.

The group consists of nearly 30 former Petersan assistant superintendents and interns who have moved on to bigger and better things. For the past three years, they've met at the GCSAA Conference and Show to drink a few beers,



Chris Ayers (left) and Tom Athy (right) organized the Doug Petersan Society to honor their mentor (center).

share Petersan stories (some they can't talk about in public) and talk turf. They met in a small room at a local hotel during this year's show.

Athy, director of grounds at Omaha (Neb.) CC, worked for Petersan in the mid-1970s at Fremont (Neb.) GC. Ayers worked for Petersan in the '80s at Baltimore CC. They both praise Petersan.

"Doug doesn't know the meaning of the word 'ego'," Ayers says. "He's a teacher and mentor to everyone in this room."

"Have you ever worked for someone who was very knowledgeable about what he did, but had a way of conveying that knowledge to you without making you feel like a dummy?" Athy asked. "We're just a bunch of guys who share a common respect and admiration for Doug."

The modest Peterson, who recently turned 60, says he's not sure he deserves the attention, but he appreciates it.

"I'm proud of all the people who worked for me," he said, scanning his eyes around the room. "If I leave a legacy, this is it."

— Larry Aylward, Editor

## Awful News That Will Make You Scream

We've got bad news, terrible news and absolutely awful news.

The bad news: There's a new slasher movie coming out.

The terrible news: It's called *The Greenskeeper*.

The absolutely awful news: The film stars embattled Texas Rangers pitcher and gay/minority basher John Rocker.

It's bad enough they made a horror movie with a murderer dressed up as a superintendent. It's worse they picked the obnoxious Rocker to star in the role. (But even in a terrible movie, he's probably a better actor than he is a closer.)

There is good news, though. There's a strong chance (99.999 percent, we guess) that the movie will go straight to video. Translation: It stinks.

The filmmakers say they're looking for national distributors. Sorry, but anybody willing to put up the jack to distribute this film is off his rocker (pun intended).

We love what Ken Rudolph of Fox Sports Net had to say about the film:

"Rocker had such a good time making the movie, he plans to star in another horror film this summer entitled, 'The Texas Rangers Pitching Staff.'"

Can you say, "Blown save?"

## Don't Forget to Sign Up for Major Challenge

John Deere and *Golfdom* have joined forces to present the Major Challenge, an online fantasy golf competition for superintendents and other turfheads who want to test their luck against colleagues around the world.

You can register online now by visiting [www.majorchallenge.com](http://www.majorchallenge.com) or by clicking on the Major Challenge link at [www.golfdom.com](http://www.golfdom.com). Contest information, complete rules, eligibility, standings, stats and player information are also available on the site.

