

We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Standout Superintendents

In response to *Golfdom's* request to point out veteran superintendents who have made a difference in someone's life ("Standing the Test of Time," February 2005, page 42), I have a person I wish to single out.

I had been out of the golf business for 14 years after turf school graduation. After some health problems, I decided (with prodding from my wife) to rededicate myself and pursue my childhood ambition of becoming a superintendent.

After years of non-contact (my fault, not his), I randomly called long-time friend John Yakubisin, certified superintendent at the Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, Pa. As busy as he is and as high stress a position it is with very high expectations, he unselfishly spent almost a whole day with me.

I learned a valuable lesson in humility and graciousness. He treated me like we were never apart. He gave me an opportunity to come back and get my feet wet, to see if I was really serious about making a career change in mid-life.

I worked three different jobs at different hours and he accommodated my schedule to make it happen. He soon had me involved with chemical applications and the construction of the club's new nine holes and the subsequent grow-in. John spoon-

fed me information that I tried to gather like a huge sponge.

Within two years of my "comeback," I was working as an assistant superintendent; within six months of that, I was appointed superintendent. I have

am frequently seeking his advice on a vast array of subjects.

Terry Bonar: Terry, the superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland, personifies what every single one of us as superintendents should hope to be some

day. Terry is always the first one to welcome a new superintendent to the area and he is always available for any problem or question you might have. He is a person who loves what he does and I can't imagine him doing anything else. About three years ago I asked Terry if he was going to retire soon? He had the little twinkle in his eye and chuckle in his throat when he answered, "I don't think so."

Then I would have to buy a truck and pay to play golf."

Terry Bonar is one of my all-time favorite superintendents.

Matthew G. Shaffer
Director of Golf Course Operations
Merion Golf Club
Ardmore, Pa.

Greg Hansen, the superintendent at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., had a tremendous impact on me when I had the good fortune to be his assistant at Dornick Hills Country Club in Ardmore, Okla., which was the first golf course built by the late Perry Maxwell.

Greg was always seeking methods to enable him to reap the most benefit from his resources. The most profound remark he ever made to me was, "Pleasing the members is easy, but pleasing myself is most difficult." Greg was always attending to the details, and his dogged determination to be the very best superintendent he could has

been a model for my own career.

Rich D. Cope
Superintendent
The University of Texas Golf Club
Austin, Texas

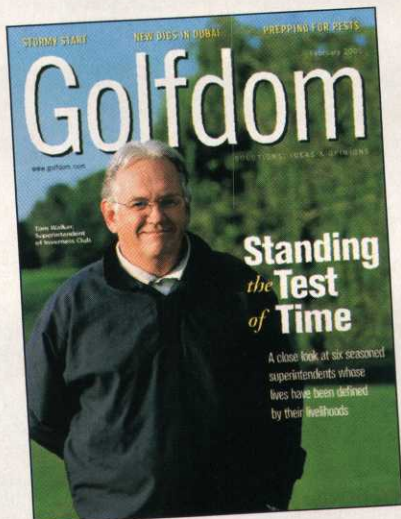
Green Chairman in the Know

After reading *Golfdom's* article on Country Club of Orlando green chairman David Shaw ("Green Chairman Is the Real Deal," February 2005, page 8), I wanted to write to you about my own green chairman, who also happens to be a fellow superintendent.

I am the superintendent at Plymouth Country Club in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., and last year David Harbaugh (superintendent at Wood's Golf Center) was elected to the board of governors and appointed green chairman. Talk about a superintendent's dream! Not only does Dave have more than 30 years experience in the profession, he also knows the difference between our two golf courses (private vs. public) and the expectations I must face from golfers.

Our working relationship has been great this past year in that I have someone on my side who knows the difference between *Poa* and a mower because of his working experience. Dave appreciates the work of myself and staff because he has been through it.

John Connor, Superintendent
Plymouth Country Club
Plymouth Meeting, Pa.



come full circle, and just last week I completed the certified superintendent exam.

I can never repay this man for taking a chance on me. The lessons I learned about turf and life will stick with me always.

Mike Salvio, Superintendent
Montclair Country Club
Montclair, Va.

I just finished reading the profiles of the six superintendents that stood the test of time. At the end I saw that you were asking your readers if we knew any other superintendents who fell into this category. Two come to mind.

Paul R. Latshaw: While Paul isn't currently a superintendent, he is very much active in the business as a consultant all over the world. He has mentored many superintendents and worked in some very high-pressure environments. Paul continues to be a valuable source of information for me as I

CORRECTION

The March 2005 article, "From Something Old, Something New," on page 78 of the *Turfgrass Trends* section includes an incorrect reference to the acronym "RCBD." The correct phrase is "randomized complete block design."

We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to *Golfdom* managing editor Thomas Skernivitz at tskernivitz@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 and relevance.