

We love listening to what others have to say. Here are some of the more notable things we heard from industry people and others in the past year.

Worth Repeating

"For a good golf course, you need drainage and common sense. If you're short on the latter, get more of the former."

— Paul Rieke, professor emeritus of crop and soil science at Michigan State University.

"I can call you farmers, is that correct?"

— Rulon Gardner, the two-time Olympic medalist heavyweight wrestler, addressing the crowd of superintendents at the outset of his keynote speech at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show last December.

"Believe me, I lose a lot of sleep thinking about the health of our show because it's our No. 1 asset and drives so much of what we do here."

— Steve Mona, CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, on the economic significance of the Golf Industry Show to the association.

"People think in terms of the instant mature look. We're in an era of instant gratification."

— Golf course architect Bill Coore on golfers wanting a great golf course NOW.

"It's always something new and challenging. It's never dull."

— Mark Langner, director of agronomy and applied research at FarmLinks Golf Club, the research and demonstration golf course owned by Pursell Technologies in Sylacauga, Ala. Langner's course is a guinea pig for new products.

"2005 was the toughest golf season I have experienced in 23 years as a superintendent. If 2006 resembles this season, I will consider a career change."

— Paul Diegnau, certified superintendent, Keller Golf Course, St. Paul, Minn., on what it takes to be a superintendent these days. We plan to check back with Paul to talk about 2006.

"Those who attempt the ridiculous can achieve the impossible."

— Col. John Blashford-Snell, the British adventurer and veteran expeditioner who was the keynote speaker at the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association's annual conference in January.

"It was one of the worst-kept secrets in the history of secrets."

— David Pursell, CEO of Pursell Technologies Inc., on the long-rumored sale of his family-owned company to Agrium Inc.

"I've seen the after pictures of Hiroshima. That's what this looks like."

— Peter Carew, long-time New Orleans golf course superintendent, while driving through the destroyed and desolated neighborhoods of his city seven months after Hurricane Katrina struck.

"We're going to lose our ash."

— Dave Shetlar, professor of entomology at The Ohio State University, on the threat posed by the Emerald Ash Borer, an exotic beetle that's killing ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

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“Worth Repeating

“I wish my gallery was this big when I was playing.”

— Ken Venturi, famed golfer and golf announcer, upon sizing up the crowd before his presentation at the Syngenta Professional Products Green Carpet Premiere during the Golf Industry Show.

“A lot of people might refer to us as gimps or cripples and ask what the hell we’re doing out there.”

— Bob Wilson, a below-knee amputee and executive director of the National Amputee Golf Association, on disabled people who play golf. Wilson sports a 13 handicap, by the way.

“You don’t need to trick up Winged Foot. It’s just a tough, tough golf course.”

— Eric Greytok, superintendent of Winged Foot Golf Club, who said this before his course hosted the 2006 U.S. Open, in which no golfer broke par.

“I haven’t checked yet, but it’s probably on eBay by now.”

— Chuck Calhoun, superintendent of John’s Island Club in Vero Beach, after witnessing a golf fan pick up John Daly’s discarded cigarette during a round at The Masters.

“Our products are vital to public health protection and property protection. And sometimes the American public tends to forget that.”

— Allen James, president of the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, on the importance of pesticides.

“I don’t want to discuss politics.”

— A clearly agitated Matthew Yount, superintendent of English Turn Golf & Country Club near New Orleans, when asked several months later how he thought President Bush handled the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina.

“Technically, money isn’t an issue here.”

— Joe Voss, construction manager for Liberty National Golf Course, the \$129-million track built by Reebok founder Paul Fireman in New York.

“It’s the culmination of everything I’ve ever wanted to do professionally.”

— Thomas Lively, the director of grounds for the Medinah (Ill.) Country Club, who hosted his first Major, the PGA Championship, in August.

“When someone mentioned that I looked like I was back in my ‘comfort zone,’ I asked him whether he meant my ‘buffet zone.’ ”

— David Duval, on his golf game and his weight. Duval has improved his game and regained some weight, about 25 pounds. (Golf Digest).

“Without them, we wouldn’t have good golf courses to play on. It’s a skillful job they do. It’s not just about cutting grass. You need to have a lot of knowledge about that grass.”

— Retief Goosen, pro golfer, on superintendents.

“Tiger would have kicked the hell out of us, too. This guy is the most amazing athlete in any sport, ever.”

— Lee Trevino on Tiger Woods’ game (Cleveland Plain Dealer).

“We don’t think it’s the sexiest topic in the world, but we think it’s pretty darn important.”

— Chad Ritterbusch, executive director of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, on growing the game.