

# Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

## Business briefs

### PCNB on the Way Out?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that most uses of Pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), an organochlorine fungicide used to treat snow mold on turf, have been found ineligible for reregistration. This means that fungicides containing PCNB will no longer be available to treat turf if EPA's recommendation takes effect. The EPA's determination is part of its plan to re-evaluate existing pesticides to ensure they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. The EPA announced a public comment period for on its Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for PCNB. Comments had to be received on or before Oct. 2.

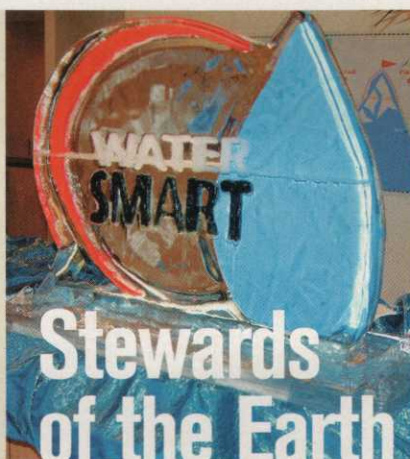
### Sifford Named Old Tom Morris Winner

Charles L. Sifford is the recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's most-prestigious honor — the Old Tom Morris — for helping to integrate golf beginning in the 1960s. The 2007 Old Tom Morris Award will be presented at the Feb. 27 opening session of the 2007 GCSAA Educational Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show at the Anaheim Convention Center in California. The GCSAA also selected Pinehurst Resort to receive its 2007 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

### Scott Coming "Home" to Nicklaus

After almost a decade of managing the PGA Tour's agronomic services, Jon Scott returns to Nicklaus Design to head its worldwide agronomy efforts.

"Coming back to Nicklaus Design is like returning home after an extended time  
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## TORO'S FIRST SYMPOSIUM RALLIES THE TROOPS FOR RESPONSIBLE IRRIGATION

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**P**hil Burkart opened his talk with the bad news about freshwater — that it's disappearing from the face of the Earth.

"The lack of freshwater will be mankind's most serious challenge in the 21st century," said Burkart, the vice president and general manager of Toro's Irrigation Division. "Accelerated population growth, pollution and climate change are likely to produce a drastic decline of fresh water in the coming decade."

Without ample water supplies to irrigate our green space and crops, most everyone stands to lose, Burkart said.

"Without water, our children and grandchildren can't run, play and wiggle their toes in the grass," he added. "Golf balls can't roll up and stop on lush fairways. And somehow it just doesn't seem

right to have to take your kids to a baseball game played on Astroturf."

Burkart, the opening speaker at Toro's first WaterSmart "Success Without Excess" Symposium held in July at Toro's Riverside, Calif., facility, wasn't trying to demoralize the almost 200 people in attendance with such negative statements. In fact, Burkart was trying to do the opposite. Toro organized the event for the leaders and stakeholders in water conservation to rally the troops to conserve water in light of its impending deficiency.

"We believe it's time to step up and meet the challenge and find a new way for watering techniques," Burkart said. "There are many irrigation stakeholders who are enjoying incredible success as a result of offering water-saving irrigation programs and strategies."

With that, Burkart turned over the program to a host of speakers, including Mary Ann Dickinson, executive director of the California Urban Water Conservation Council, a non-profit organization composed of urban water supply agencies, environmental groups and other entities interested in statewide water conservation in California.

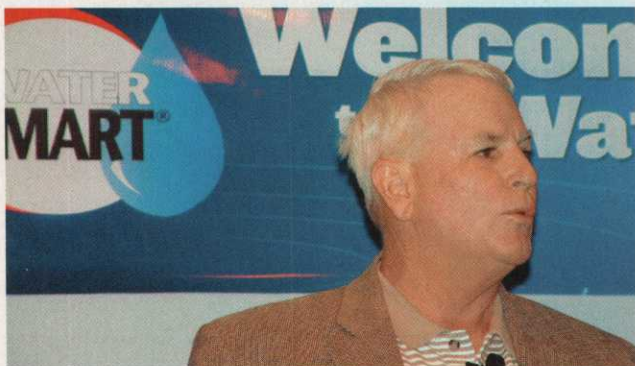
Dickinson recited more troubling statistics regarding water shortage and efficiency. "More than 1 billion people lack access to clean, drinkable water, and many children are dying from water-borne diseases as a result of a lack of water treatment," she said.

An array of speakers participated in the event from different facets of the vast irrigation industry, including Sandy Clark, the certified golf course superintendent of Barona Creek Golf Club in



Lakeside, Calif. Clark would make a solid ambassador for responsible water use in golf course maintenance industry.

At the top of his speech, Clark said: "The golf industry is kind of a good news-bad news story when it comes to water. The good news is that we're very efficient water managers. The bad news is we haven't done a very good job of spreading the word beyond our own industry. We've done a great job of preaching to the choir. But it's too often that we hear someone interviewed on some program and they say golf courses use a lot of water, like a million gallons a night."



**Sandy Clark says the golf industry has done a great job of preaching to the choir about its water use.**

Clark told attendees that golf courses are "very conscious" about how much water they use. Not only that, Clark emphasized that most superintendents know how much water to use and don't waste it. "We try not to waste a drop," he added.

Clark told attendees that modern technology, from irrigation central control systems to palm pilots to weather stations to moisture sensors, have enabled superintendents to monitor their water use closely.

"We record our information religiously [at Barona]," Clark said. "We look at every single agronomic issue we can deal with in making good water-use decisions. ... Because what we use today, we have to make sure we've left ourselves enough to use tomorrow."

Eric Anderson, president of Valley Soil Landscape Services and Valley Soil, a water conservation consulting firm, titled his speech, "Change: It Ain't Easy (But It's Necessary and Worth It)." His talk focused on educating people to change their watering ways to amplify conservation.

Anderson said he understands that some superintendents are under tremendous pressure to "over-irrigate" their courses to supply golfers with thick, green turf.

"Superintendents have one of the toughest jobs in the world because they have all these inspectors every day," he said.

Anderson said superintendents in this situation should reduce irrigation incrementally, first in areas outside of the greens and fairways, and monitor the response from golfers. Then they can explore reducing water use in heavily main-

## Quotable

**"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)*

**"No one here in the United States knows what is 'low budget' on a golf course. In Argentina, the courses I worked on were really low budget."**

— *Alejandro Canegallo, former superintendent in Buenos Aires, now a Clemson graduate student*

**"There are too many courses. The lenders should have stopped lending six or seven years ago. I don't know what they were thinking."**

— *Dan Lejeune, CEO of RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve in Oaks, Pa.*

tained areas. Superintendents also might want to consider planting turf varieties that require less water and upgrading their courses' irrigation control to save water.

Other speakers touched on myriad topics. Speaker Ed Torres, president of Pro-Active Green Technology Land Development, discussed the benefits of a subterranean irrigation system.

"It's a phenomenal attribute to water conservation," Torres said. "It's the way to go."

Brian Vinchesi, president of Irrigation Consulting, discussed the Smart Water Application Technology (SWAT), a project that's focused on developing a nationally accepted conservation testing protocol for sensor/controller products and transforming the market for wider acceptance of it.

Vinchesi, who's based in Massachusetts, also spoke about the impact of recycled water use. "But using recycled water is illegal where I come from," Vinchesi said with sarcasm in his voice. "We're real progressive [in Massachusetts]." ■



## Off The Fringe

# His Superintendent's Cup Runneth Over

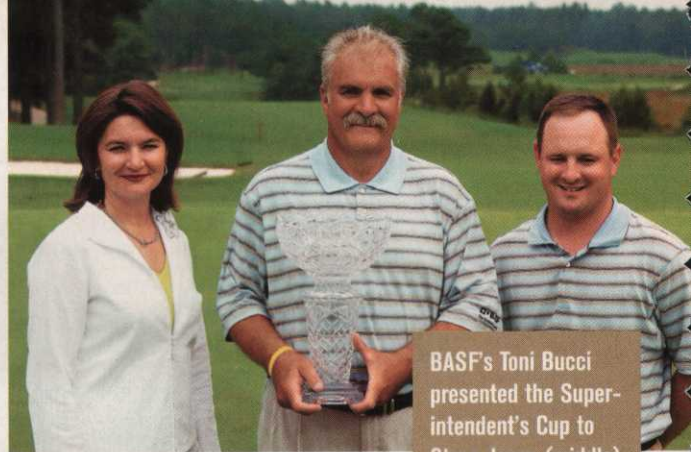
GREENVILLE COUNTRY CLUB'S STEVE JONES WINS MATCH AND MONEY AT BASF PEOPLE VS. THE PROS

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**A**nybody else might have considered it a bad omen. But not Steve Jones, the laid-back superintendent of Greenville (S.C.) Country Club.

What would you think if someone stole your golf clubs — a set of feel-good Titleists you had owned for 14 years — a few days before the golf tournament of your life at one of the world's great golf resorts? You might think the golf gods were trying to tell you something — something very discouraging.

But Jones, who sports a bushy mustache similar to Craig Stadler's soupstrainer, wasn't unnerved. He just secured a new set of Titleists (so new that the 3-wood wasn't even on the



BASF's Toni Bucci presented the Superintendent's Cup to Steve Jones (middle). Ron Dobosz (right) was runner-up.

market yet) and went out and won the BASF Superintendent's Cup Match on Pinehurst No. 8 during the 2006 People vs. the Pros tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., held Aug. 18 though Aug. 22. Jones defeated Ron Dobosz, the superintendent of Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow, Mass., in match play. To the victor went \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 worth of BASF products for Jones' home course. To Dobosz went the spoils, in the form of \$5,000.

The 54-year-old Jones and the 35-year-old Dobosz topped the three-day tournament's two respective age groups (18 to 49 and 50 and over) and earned the right to square off in the Superintendent's Cup on a hot, humid, breezeless and buggy late-summer day. The top two low-net winners in each age di-

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vision faced PGA Tour star Retief Goosen (18 to 49) and Champions Tour player Gary McCord (50 and over) in the Pro-Am Matches. Goosen and McCord triumphed.

Twenty-two superintendents participated in People vs. the Pros, courtesy of BASF, which held qualifying tournaments and flew the winners of those tournaments and their spouses to North Carolina and put them up at Pinehurst for several days.

Jones, who oversees the Riverside course at Greenville, arrived at Pinehurst two days after his clubs were stolen from his golf course's storage room. Karl Stefka, the course's head pro, called a Titleist representative at the company's headquarters and told the person of Jones' dilemma.

"They shipped the new clubs [the day after they were stolen]," the left-handed Jones said after closing out Dobosz on the 17th hole of their match, 2-and-1. "The first four rounds I play with them, and I win a tournament. That's pretty cool."

Jones received nine strokes from Dobosz, a scratch golfer, on the toughest nine holes of the course. He took advantage of that early and went 4-up on Dobosz after 11 holes.

The gallery was impressed with Jones' play, especially his monster drives. Jones was using the new Titleist 905R driver.

"I probably hit my driver 20 yards farther than I hit my



Steve Jones shows off his winning form.

old one," says Jones, who has been a superintendent for 19 years and has spent 35 years at Greenville.

Dobosz noticed Jones' crushing drives, which pushed 300 yards at times. "He hits the driver a mile, doesn't he?" remarked Dobosz, who played a stellar round but missed some shorts putts early in the match that hurt his chances.

Needless to say, Jones doesn't miss his old clubs very much. He says he'd like to thank the person who stole them.


What will the golfers/prize winners do with the loot? Dobosz joked that he and his wife, who attended the event with him, will pay off their shopping bills from their stay at quaint Pinehurst.


"I think we'll break even," Dobosz said with a chuckle.

Jones revealed matter-of-factly that his wife Sarah wants to remodel the bathroom at home. That's OK with Jones, but ... "I may give her half of the money and keep half of it," Jones said on a second thought.

One thing's for certain: Jones doesn't need the money to buy new clubs. He has a pretty good set now. ■

PHOTO COURTESY: BASF

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### Business briefs

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on the road," Scott said in a statement. Scott, who was vice president of agronomy for the Tour, led nine agronomists. He worked for Nicklaus for 10 years prior to joining the PGA and rejoins the company at a time when it has more than 50 projects under construction and at least 50 more in the planning stages.

#### PGA Picks Jake

Charlotte, N.C.-based Jacobsen signed an agreement to be "The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to The PGA of America" and "The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties." The 10-year agreement comes as The PGA of America begins major renovation efforts on two of its championship facilities: the PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. ■

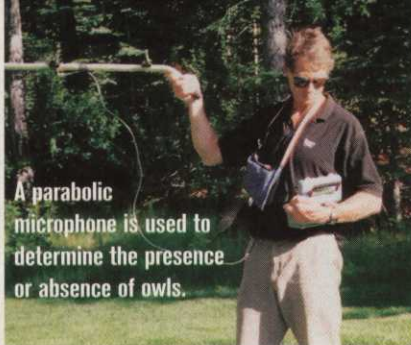
## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

By Ron Dodson

**Editor's Note:** *Dodson, CEO of Audubon International, can be reached at [rdodson@audubon-international.org](mailto:rdodson@audubon-international.org). His column will appear intermittently in *Golfdom*.*

**G**olfers at Stewart Creek Golf & Country Club have a hard time keeping their heads down and their eyes on their golf balls. But they have some extraordinary excuses for doing so. They might be distracted by hooting owls, passing grizzly bears, elk

A parabolic microphone is used to determine the presence or absence of owls.



and other critters of the Rocky Mountains — or perhaps just the stunning views on the golf course.

Stewart Creek, located in Canmore, Alberta, Canada, was completed in 1999. Stewart Creek joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses in 2000, and became a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2004. The superintendent of this golf and environmental paradise, Sean Kjemhus, is an International Environmental Leaders in Golf Award winner.

Stewart Creek is a semi-private, 18-hole, seasonal golf course and is part of the 2,300-acre Three Sisters Resort in the Canadian Rocky Moun-

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tains. Within the resort, the golf course sits amid 245 acres, of which more than 62 acres are in-play turf and 150 acres of forest. It has three ponds equalling about 2.5 acres and one seasonal stream, all of which are surrounded with natural vegetation. Stewart Creek is located in a recognized "wildlife corridor," which connects the course to Wind Valley, an area recognized by government and conservation groups as having significant biological importance.

One form of wildlife, the grizzly bear, seems to hold special significance to the course and the region. But managing a golf course for people and minimizing bear-human interaction is of key importance.

Buffaloberry is a staple of the grizzly bear's diet from late July to mid-August. To minimize bear-human encounters, hand pruning and thinning of female Buffaloberry shrubs reduce the possibility that conservation officers will need to remove or destroy any large mammals that might get too close for comfort. Stewart Creek also created Xeric gardens to reduce human impact on the natural movements and behaviors of deer, elk and bears on the property.

A radio transmitter collects data on grizzly bear movement with the use of radio collars. This data is relayed to the provincial Fish and Wildlife division and the Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Research Project, a private organization. It affords Stewart Creek the ability to inform golfers if a bear is in the area and to take appropriate actions to avoid confrontations. Officials also track cougars and elk with the instrument.

Three 35-millimeter remote monitoring cameras also have been mounted. The data is provided to provincial agencies and private conservation organizations, such as the Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Research Project and the Central Canadian Rockies Wolf Research Project. Sand track pads also help track movement on game trails.

A variety of research and monitoring has been implemented on the course property. A master's thesis was written on the long-toed salamander and included ponds found within the Stewart Creek property. Ponds that are used for breeding all have no-spray zones and vegetative buffers, with portions connected to woodlands com-

prised of differing successional stages of habitat. A parabolic microphone is used to determine the presence or absence of owls in the spring.

At Stewart Creek, the course management believes golf is truly a game played in nature. So one can take a walk on the wild side and enjoy the beauty and challenges of the nature of the game. ■

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