

The Darndest Things That People Say



'Quotables' is a popular feature in *Golfdom*.
Here are our favorites from over the years

"During Open week, I guarantee there wasn't a single green out there that didn't get mowed 28 times."

— Paul Jett, certified superintendent of Pinehurst No. 2, on greens maintenance during the 1999 U.S. Open

"I've seen more golf courses improved by hurricanes than by green committees."

— Golf course architect John LaFoy

"I don't like the Stimpmeter. I've been known to throw one or two into the woods."

— Matt Shaffer, the then-superintendent of The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Ohio, on his disdain for measuring green speed.

"How are you going to get your members to repair ball marks? No way in hell you're going to do it."

— Joseph Duich, professor emeritus at Penn State University

"I'm willing to have a sex change operation and be referred to as Patricia O'Brien."

— Pat O'Brien, director of the USGA Green Section's Southeast Region, who said he would volunteer to help Augusta National overcome the problem of not having a woman member.

"I feel like an endangered species."

— Peter Salinetti, the then-certified superintendent at Schuyler Meadows Club in Loudonville,

N.Y., before offering strategies for success to superintendents ages 50 and over.

"One time, a representative from a lawn company came to our door. My wife answered and the man said he wanted to know if he could take care of our lawn. My wife told him, 'No my husband is in the business.' The man looked around the yard and said, 'He is?'"

— Gregg Guyman, superintendent of O'Bannon Creek Golf Club in Loveland, Ohio, on why it's so difficult to take care of his yard in the summer, especially when he's working so many hours at the course.

"You'd like to think you could be somewhere forever in this business, but I think it's almost next to impossible."

— Mark Kubns, director of grounds at Baltrusol Golf Club, on jumping from job to job.

"We lost part of the roof on the maintenance building. I now have a 'skylight' in my office."

— Joe Boe, the then-superintendent of Coral Oaks Golf Course in Cape Coral, Fla., after his course took a hit from Hurricane Charley in 2004.

"I have what they call parrot knowledge. I repeat a lot of things I've been told."

— Shawn Emerson, director of agronomy for the Golf Club at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz., on learning.

"It looks like somebody who works — and not at golf."

— Jon Jennings, certified superintendent at the Chicago Golf Club, describing what his golf game looks like.

"In this business you will be humbled. I don't care how good you are or how good you think you are. Mother Nature can take it away from you at any time."

— Jimmy Ellison, vice president of agronomy and golf course maintenance for Arnold Palmer Golf, on golf course maintenance in the real world.

"I do like disease. If that makes me strange, so be it."

— Bruce Clarke, director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and a turf disease aficionado.

"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.

"To quote an old superintendent, 'I should have been a brick mason. Bricks don't wilt.'"

— Mike Beall, superintendent of the University of Georgia Golf Course in Athens, Ga., on his chosen profession.

"We used to run an alternate-shot couples tournament. We started calling it the divorce open."

— Frank Jemsek, owner of Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, Ill., on an "ex" tournament.

"We have moved beyond Carl and 'Caddyshack.'"

— Tommy Witt, director of golf course operations at Northmoor Country Club, on image in the golf course maintenance profession.

"Turf equipment gets treated worse than any other equipment I've seen. And I've seen it all. I've worked on everything from tanks, hand-mowers and 18-wheel tractor-trailers. Turf equipment gets abused the most."

— Jay Rebr, president of Turf Equipment Consulting and a well-known golf industry mechanic.