

**A**fter four years, Parker and I are on a first-name basis. Parker — a Jehovah's Witness — visits me about once a month, always on a Saturday. He's always in a black suit, Bible in hand. He always brings a different friend along with him.

My neighbors might think I'm weird for giving him the time to talk to me about his beliefs. But I like Parker, even though I'm not really into his message. I like that he's so passionate about his beliefs that he feels compelled to knock on a stranger's door.

I'm intrigued by passionate people — even when they interrupt my golf watching. (I think somehow Parker knows not to knock during any of golf's majors, thankfully.) It doesn't matter if the topic is religion, politics or bentgrass greens — when a person is passionate about a topic it draws me in.

When I first read this month's cover story, written by superintendent Chris Sorrell, I knew what I was reading was written with passion. In my mind, Sorrell was furiously pounding the keys to his computer as he wrote the piece. The first draft of his story was titled "Come Out Swinging," if that gives you an idea of the fury I'm talking about. By the end of the story, I was ready to fight someone... or at least angrily jaywalk.

I didn't necessarily agree with everything he was writing, but it's not about agreement. I was drawn in by his passion for defending his industry against the close-minded.

Sorrell argues that superintendents need to be proactive and aggressive when it comes to close-minded environmentalists. His piece — which I hope you enjoy, or at least agree is written with passion — begins on page 23.

I'm sure some *Golfdom* readers will disagree with a few of the ideas Chris is espousing. But that's good. That's also passion.

It's apathy that's the enemy.

Don't get me wrong, I understand that misplaced passion has caused wars, deaths and destruction. But properly directed passion is what changes the world for the better.

Chris is a hard-working superintendent at

## I'm Pro-Passion, Anti-Apathy

BY SETH JONES



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Eagles Ridge Golf Club in Curwensville, Pa. I've only met him in person once, at the 2011 GIS in Orlando. Since he sent me this story, I've also published a few of his writings on the *Golfdom Daily* blog at [www.golfdom.blogspot.com](http://www.golfdom.blogspot.com). One was titled "The Sharp Park Drama Makes My Head Want to Explode."

Yeah, Chris always seems to write with a little anger. I like that.

What are you passionate about?

I'm passionate most of all about my family. My wife and I are expecting our second child in October. I'm also passionate about Kansas basketball, live music and recently... this magazine.

When people have passion, it gives them zest. That makes me want to listen, like to my religious friend Parker.

If you are passionate about something in our industry and want to write about it, send me an email ([sjones@questex.com](mailto:sjones@questex.com)) and tell me your idea. It doesn't have to be a fully formed story yet. It might be something we could eventually publish in the pages of *Golfdom*. I want to promote a diverse audience of superintendents and their voices — although please keep in mind that pages are limited and we can't publish everything.

But no one knows the industry better than you, and I always enjoy hearing what a passionate superintendent has to say about his or her industry. I'm also interested in creative ways superintendents are solving problems. Odds are if it interests you, it interests me, and I want to hear about it.

And just like when my Jehovah's Witness pal Parker stops by, I'm all ears. Let's talk about your passion.

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