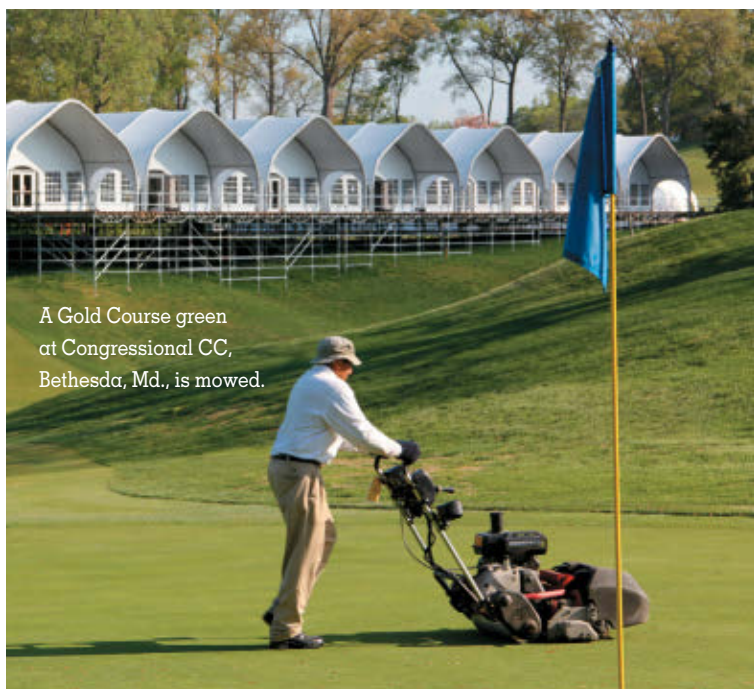


# The Joys of Raising Greens

BY SETH JONES, EDITOR IN CHIEF



A Gold Course green at Congressional CC, Bethesda, Md., is mowed.

In a game that is all about the playing surface, no playing surface is as vital to the game as the putting green. Players are, in theory, taking two shots on every green. When they get back to the clubhouse, they're talking about the greens. How they were rolling, how they held shots, how they compared to the course they played last week.

As the saying goes, you drive for show, putt for dough.

So much effort goes into maintaining greens, especially in these upcoming hot summer months. It's an art form, one that the keenest of golfers is fully aware of. The not-so-keen golfer? He was in such a rush to line up his putt that he ignored his ballmark.

I remember walking with a superintendent once — if memory serves correctly it was Fred Klauk before he retired from TPC Sawgrass, but I'm sure other superinten-

dents say the same thing — that maintaining his 19 greens was like raising 19 kids, all with different personalities.

Just like raising kids today, taking care of greens has never been harder, while at the same time, never been easier. There is more technology than ever to help superintendents better maintain their putting greens. Meanwhile, there are more expectations than ever. Mowers can be changed from greens mowers to thatching units and then back again in seconds. At the same time, there's so much equipment out there, how do you choose what's best?

This special supplement to *Golfdom*, sponsored by The Toro Co., is all about putting greens. We talk to superintendents about the pain — and pleasure — they take to maintain the greens at their courses. We check in with "The Open Doctor," golf course architect Rees

Jones, to pick his brain about putting greens. Finally, we let Anthony Williams, CGCS, CGM at Stone Mountain (Ga.) Golf Club, take his putt with an essay about the fondest putting green he's ever maintained.

This section won't tell you the secret to maintaining your greens. You already have and know your own secrets. We're not going to tell you how to raise your own kids, after all.

This is more of a celebration of maintaining putting greens. It's what every superintendent does best. No superintendent brags to his colleagues about his tee boxes, right?

So good luck with your greens this year. We trust that you'll raise them right.

Isn't parenthood great?

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