

HENDO'S

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LIST

## Kansas City super Matt Hendren dishes on the best of the GIS.

BY MATT HENDREN

Over the past year and a half, I've had the opportunity to travel to some pretty awesome places, meet some great people and play some amazing courses. The most memorable experience I've had since writing for *Golfdom* has to be the 2012 edition of the Golf Industry Show.

I've worked in the golf industry for more than a decade yet this was my first time attending the show — simply because I haven't had the jack to attend, not to mention the clubs I've worked for weren't willing to foot the bill. Vegas changed that for me. The GIS was everything I thought it would be, and more.

Hopefully you made your way around to the *Golfdom* booth to catch up with the crew and learn the location of the 2012 Summit. If you didn't, you missed a rare sight. . . yours truly rocking a suit! It was Vegas, after all.

The first thing I saw when I hit the trade show floor was one of the latest and greatest spray rigs, complete with boom enclosure. I knew then and there I was going to have a great

week. Call me crazy, but I'm more comfortable sitting on a spray rig than on the softest Italian leather sofa.

The bottom line is, when I have a convention center filled with the newest innovations in golf course maintenance to peruse at my leisure, that's as good as it gets in my book. While I don't have enough time or magazine space to fill you in on everything I saw, I do want to share a few products that caught my eye for those of you who couldn't make the trip.

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**OK, so Hendo can't hold fire. But he sure can spit it.**

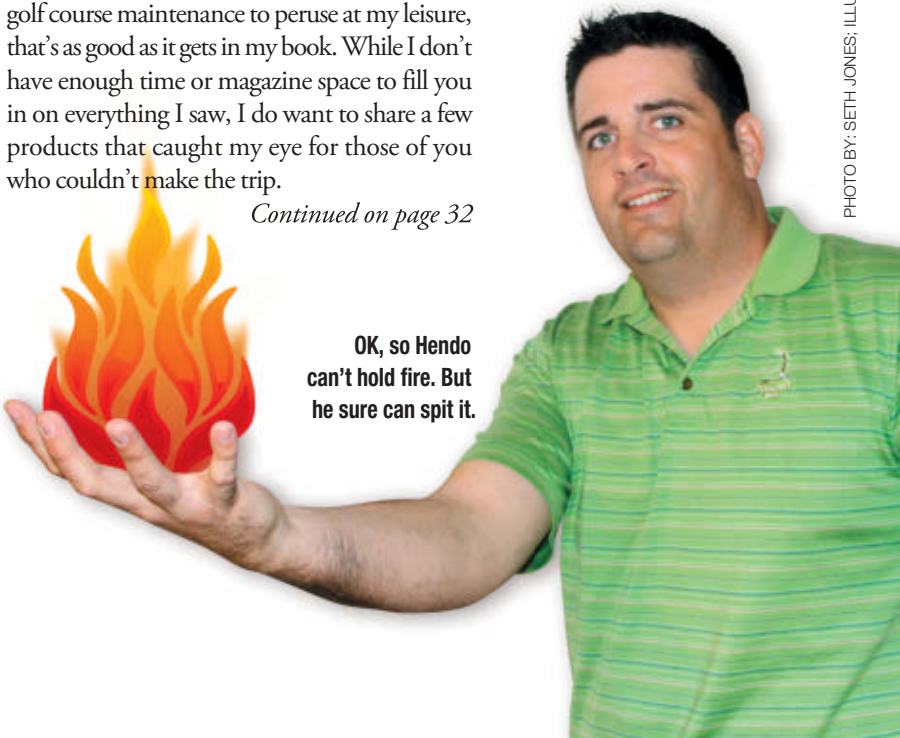
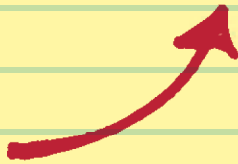


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### ezLocator

Superintendents owe it to themselves to check out this product. Basically, ezLocator ([goezlocator.com](http://goezlocator.com)) is a technology-based program that lets a superintendent choose his pin location in advance, ensuring that, regardless of who's changing cups, the pin is placed in an exact predetermined location. It's great technology to use if you have a maintenance issue on a green, want to isolate a problem area or have a special event and want to ensure that a portion of the green is avoided. ezLocator is a great tool to help improve your putting surface quality.



### E-Z-Go

My stop at the E-Z-Go booth was among my GIS highlights. I got to size up the new and improved Cushman golf course maintenance vehicles. They are a definite improvement over the old-school three-wheeled Truckster with a sweet three on the tree.

If you are too young to have had the privilege of driving a three-wheeled, three on the tree Truckster, hit me up some time. I still happen to have one! The new version of Cushman's maintenance vehicles are top notch and include options such as gas or electric drive train, 4WD, and even independent 4-wheel suspension. Cushman has definitely leapt into the 21st century with these new and improved vehicles.



### Club Car

Club Car had one of my favorite products at the GIS, the Guardian SVC option for your golf cart fleet. It allows you to tailor your golf carts to your course and needs. You can even program a speed limit so carts automatically slow down in certain areas of the course. You can manage the speed of your entire fleet or just a few carts. The Guardian SVC also can power down carts when they enter restricted areas or limit them to cart paths after a storm.

The "lockdown" mode feature caught my attention most. Lockdown mode will prevent break-ins and the damage they cause to your course and your fleet. I personally have had my golf carts driven off a cliff, into a pond in the middle of the night. So, I absolutely see the benefit of this product.



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### **BASF**

Most everyone knows BASF's fungicide, Insignia SC, and its great broad-spectrum control of turf diseases. What not everyone knows, at least I didn't, is Insignia also offers plant health benefits in the form of stress management. Benefits include drought/moisture, temperature extremes and mechanical stress such as aerification.

Research shows turf treated with Insignia has increased root length and density and primes the immune systems of plants before a stress event. In today's economy a product that has positive bi-product jumps to the top of my list of essential products. I'm going to experiment with it this fall before aerification.

*(Editor's note: For more on this topic, check out "Plant Health Success Stories" on page 20.)*



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## You Win Some, You Lose Some



**H**endren wasn't the only one who had major fun at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

We're excited that *Golfdom* senior editor Beth Geraci had the fastest time in Direct Solutions' NASCAR race simulator competition for turf media. She was 4 seconds faster than her nearest competitor, *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones. We now know who is driving the next time we carpool...

We're less excited that Jones and *Golfdom* VP of sales Pat Roberts teamed up to be the worst "Superintendent Pyramid" team at the BASF booth (top picture, with Tom Hill of BASF.) After a fast start, the train derailed when Jones tried to get Roberts to guess the word "depression." The clue he should have given? "It's the feeling I'll have immediately after this game!" But the two were still big winners, thanks to BASF generously making a donation of \$1,200 to brain cancer research despite their brain-dead performance.

And lastly, we nabbed this pic of Herb Graffis Business Person of the Year award winner Paul Chojnacky at the *Golfdom* booth. Chojnacky proudly accepted the award during a presentation caught by *Golfdom* TV cameras. We're looking forward to doing the whole thing again this year — be on the lookout for an announcement soon on the call for nominations for the 2013 edition.



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### John Deere

John Deere featured the new 2020A ProGator. It's a bad mamba jamba featuring the only 4-cylinder EFI gas engine in its category. Did you catch that? A 4-cylinder engine in a ProGator. That's 34 hp of raw power, making climbing hills and completing the most difficult tasks a breeze.

The 2020A also has a fully synchronized manual transmission, so operators don't have to stop to change ranges and hydraulic disk brakes. Therefore, even the heaviest loads are easily slowed. Once you're done hauling, the 2020A can be converted to a sprayer. Maintenance is a snap, because the 2WD version has no grease points and the 4WD version only has three. I'm ready to take one of these monsters out and give it the Hendren challenge.

### Jacobsen

Jacobsen has a sweet new walk-behind greens mower, the Eclipse 2. It's state-of-the-art, featuring your choice of a hybrid or electric motor. It also has an optional 15-blade reel that provides a cut superior to that of the traditional 11-blade reel.

The 15-blade reel is nice. So is the choice of a hybrid or electric motor. But what really caught my eye is the state-of-the-art LCD menu.

The LCD menu is password protected, allowing superintendents to digitally set the frequency of clip, mow speed and other settings to customize the mower to course conditions. This is a great addition for any superintendent, considering your crew is only as strong as its weakest link and you can't be everywhere at once.

It's nice to be able to control your greens mowers even when you're not the one operating them.



### Toro

The most exciting product innovation I saw at the GIS? It has to be the latest version of the Lynx Central Control System 2.0. The system offers improved remote access and control via any smartphone or tablet. The 2.0 update also has screens designed for smaller devices. Imagine it, being on your course with the ability to



pop up any irrigation head you need to just by using your phone. Sure beats the hell out of carrying around a radio and having to punch in an intricate pattern of numbers to sy-

ringe fairways or tee boxes.

And it absolutely beats having to go to the control box to turn on heads. In my opinion, the Lynx is one of the top 10 most needed advances in golf course technology.

### In closing

That's going to do it for this year's edition of Hendo's Hot List. Blame Jones for the photo of me holding fake fire. That was all his idea! But do check out these products if you haven't already. I have a hard time wrapping my head around how far technology and product advancement have come during the past decade, not to mention the impact they are having on the golf course maintenance industry. And I can't wait to see the new products and technological advances that the 2013 GIS will bring. ■

*Matt Hendren is a superintendent with the city of Kansas City, Kan. In his spare time, he blogs for Golfdom and raises hell.*

