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Golfdom

04.13

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And they're no older than 30.

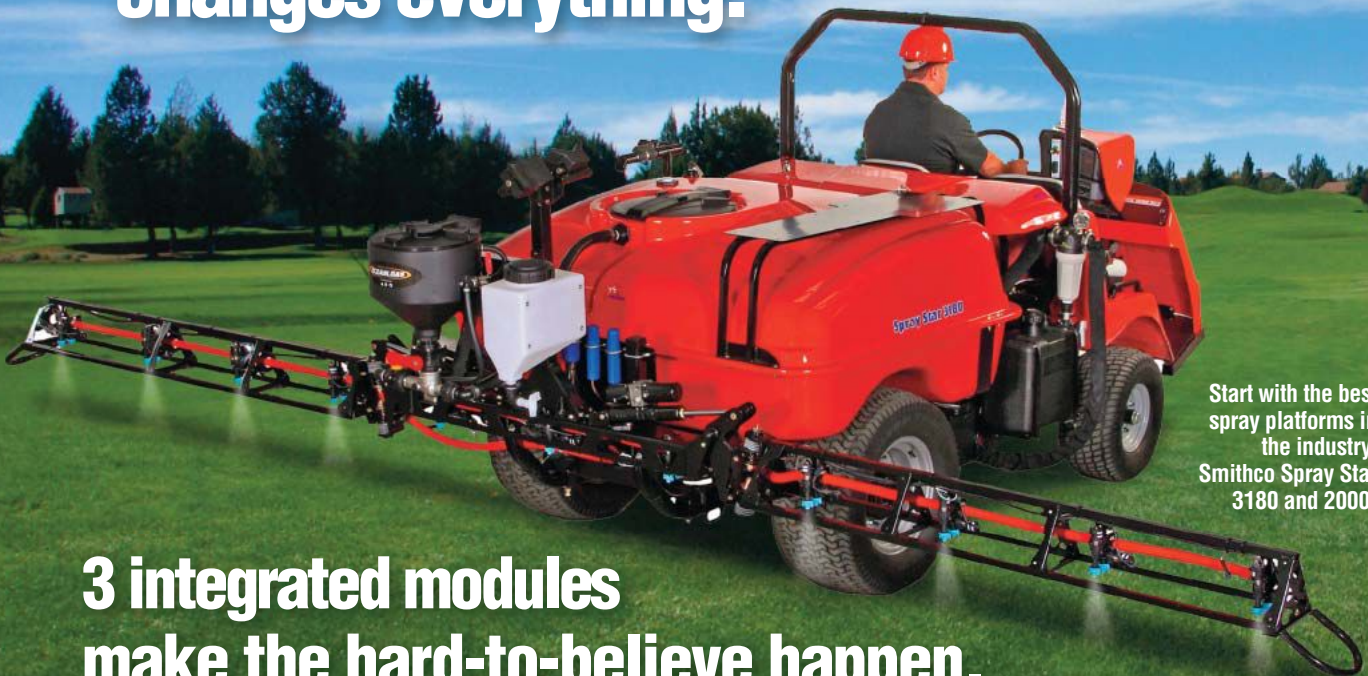
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INSIDE SETH'S GIS NOTEBOOK
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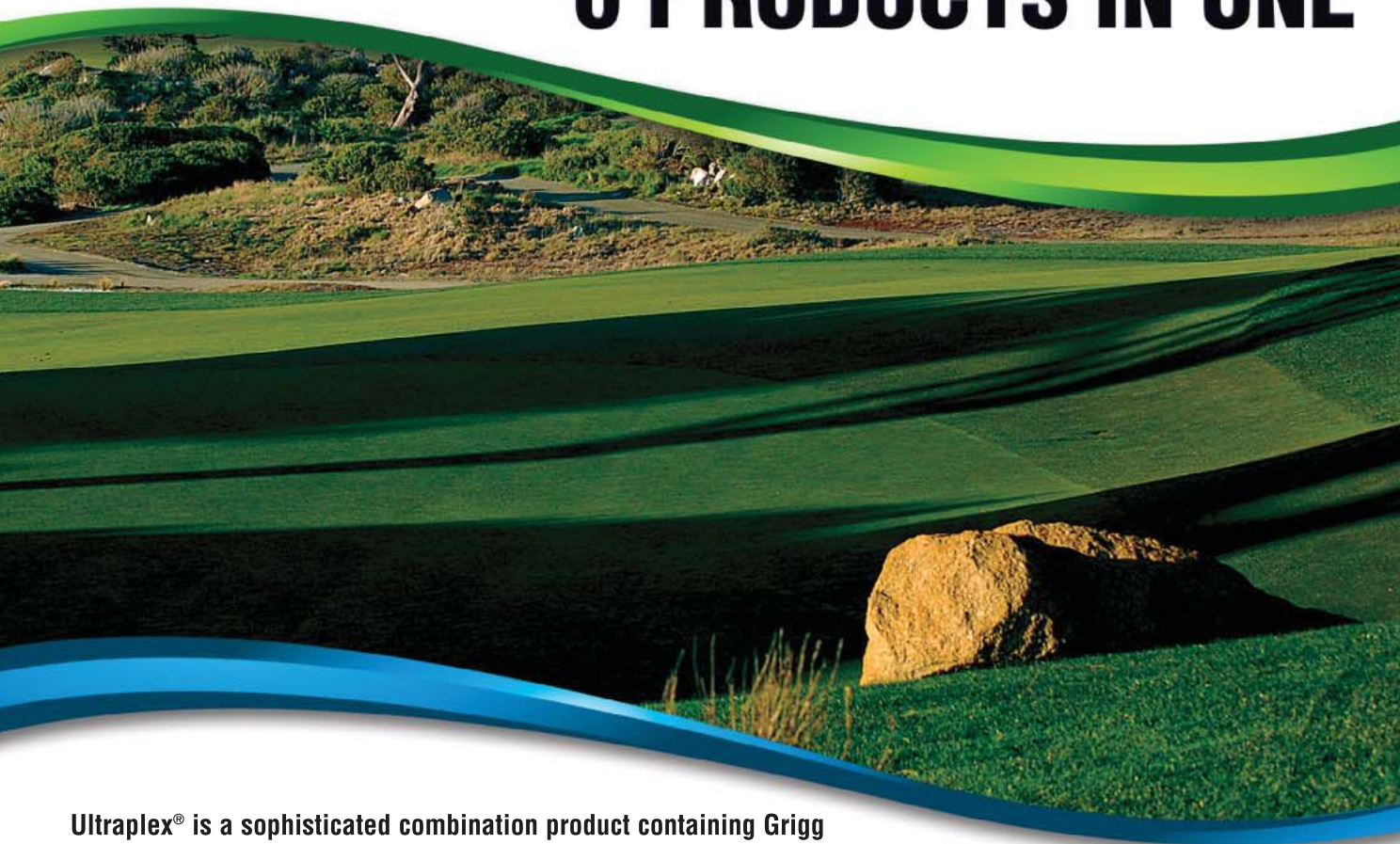
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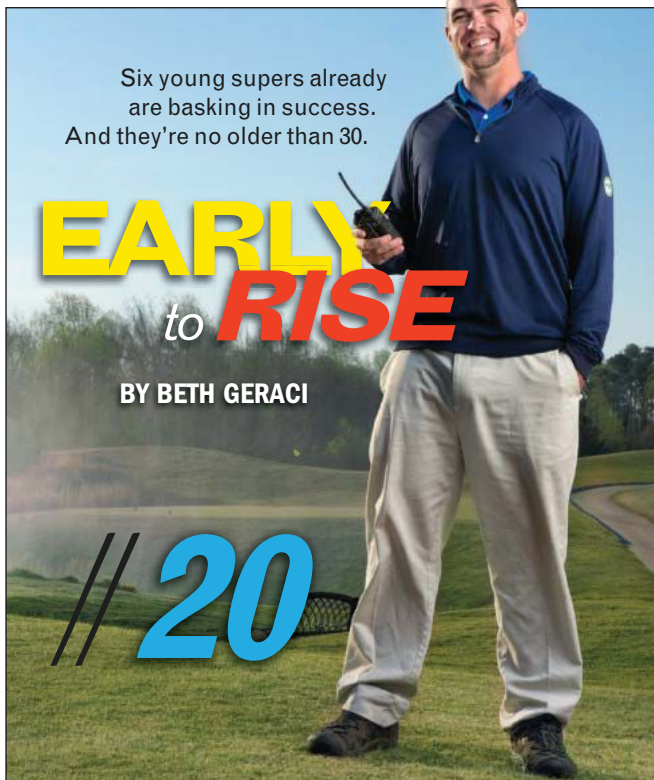
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Six young supers already
are basking in success.
And they're no older than 30.

EARLY to RISE

BY BETH GERACI

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Seth's 2013 gls Notebook

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We can't read his chicken scratches.
We're glad he can. BY SETH JONES

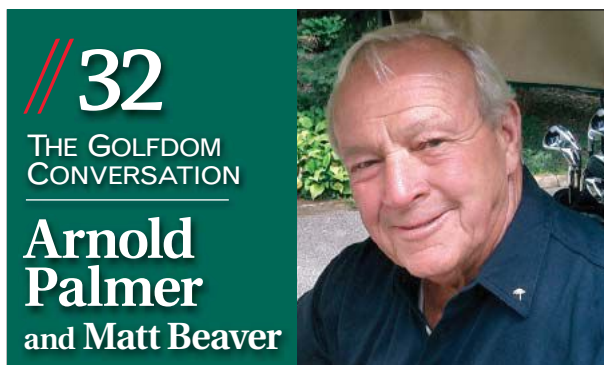
was cruising through an old issue of
Golfdom from the 1940s the other day.
I skinned a story written by Golfdom
founder Herb Glad fit. It went on for
pages, and it was all vertiginous if he was
one-on-one with the reader.



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THE GOLFDOM
CONVERSATION

Arnold Palmer and Matt Beaver



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“What Carrie does is art — it’s an art I don’t totally understand — but it’s an art that she’s clearly good at.”

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

How we make the sausage

It was several years ago, at my previous job, and I was interviewing then-ESPN sportscaster Dan Patrick. We were talking about the work of superintendents, and how they keep golf courses looking great.

Patrick told me that it was a total mystery to him how superintendents accomplish this. Then he dropped a saying on me about sausages... something about not wanting to see how they’re made, just enjoy the final product.

I’m sure he wasn’t the first to use the phrase, but it was apt, and it was the first time I’d ever heard that saying. I filed it away for future use.

And today would be a good time to dust off the phrase. Because today I want to tell you about someone whose work readers have been enjoying for years, but just like a superintendent, this person is behind-the-scenes.

Mrs. Carrie Parkhill Wallace has been the art director of *Golfdom* since I arrived here, and in all she’s been designing the magazine for 8 years. And it’s bitter-sweet to report that this will be the last issue of *Golfdom* that Carrie works on.

We have been talking about the look of the magazine a lot recently, more so than usual, with the recent redesign of the magazine. Carrie, or “C.P.” as I call her, was integral to the success of that redesign.

C.P.’s job, at its simplest, is putting words and corresponding art on paper. But putting it so simply gives it the same credit Bob Knight gave journalists when he told a reporter, “All of us learn to write in the second grade.

Most of us go on to better things.”

What C.P. does is art — it’s an art I don’t totally understand — but it’s an art that she’s clearly good at. She’s won numerous awards for her work. At the most recent Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association awards she won a cover photo design award for the April 2011 issue which featured Mark Woodward tearing a cover of *Golfdom* in half, as well as another award for the October 2011 layout of our “Turf on Trial” cover (I can recall both covers clearly in my mind. If you can too, that shows you how good she is at her job.) The next round of TOCA awards takes place next month — I fully expect her to

rake in some more hardware at that contest as well.

One of my favorite things about Carrie is she cares enough to thoroughly read the stories before she designs them. Even if it’s a story on a vague turf disease, she’ll read it from beginning to end in order to better understand how to display the story for readers graphically. This might sound like something all designers would do, but trust me, it’s rare.

How do I know she reads the stories in the magazine? Because she’s caught errors I’ve made before. Several times, actually. Yeah, C.P. has had my back.

As I write this, Carrie and her husband, Mike (a fellow Spider-Man fan, I might note) are expecting the arrival of a baby girl any day now. Carrie has decided to become a stay-at-home mom once the baby arrives.

We’ll be sad to see her go, but there’s no better reason to say goodbye. Because as good a designer as she is, she’ll be an even better mom.

So thank you, Carrie, for all your hard work over the years on both *Golfdom* and our sister publication, *Landscape Management*. Though I didn’t always understand how you did what you did, I just remembered what Dan Patrick told me: It’s not important to know how the butcher makes the sausage, just that you enjoy it when it’s done.

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A national non-profit service organization, Project EverGreen works to help spread the good word to consumers about well-maintained lawns and landscapes, sports fields, parks—anywhere that green exists. The more people believe in the environmental, economic and lifestyle benefits of green spaces, the better off we'll all be.



WORKING TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Together with key industry partners, Project EverGreen has established the following programs to help make a greater impact, sooner:

GreenCare for Troops SnowCare for Troops

- Project EverGreen connects military families with lawn and landscape companies, as well as snow removal companies to receive free services while their loved one is serving overseas.
- More than 3,500 contractor volunteers and 12,000 military families have signed up for GCFT, while 1,100 contractor volunteers and 1,500 military families signed up for SCFT.
- These popular programs have garnered attention on TV and in newspapers across the nation including Mike Rowe's *Dirty Jobs* and NBC's *Nightly News*.



Community Based Revitalization Projects

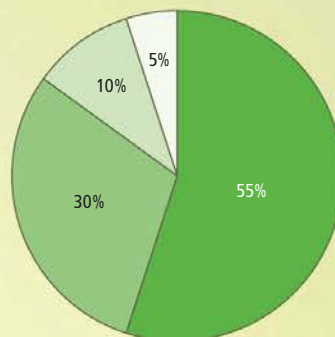
- Focused community revitalization and renovation projects across the United States encourage industry professionals, consumers and anyone who's passionate about healthy green spaces to work together to improve their city and surrounding areas.
- Over the last seven years, our message has made a positive impact in: Akron, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina; Ft. Myers, Florida; Toronto, Canada; and San Antonio, Texas.
- Maintained green spaces generated community engagement, involvement and communication among residents, city leaders and visitors.

GreenCare for Youth

- By reaching out to children of all ages, we can create a greener tomorrow.
- The Art of Green Spaces Competition, sponsored by Birds and Blooms, encourages students to use all forms of art to share how they feel about the green spaces in their lives.
- Golf bag tags, featuring messages on the benefits of green spaces, are given to participants of the GCBAAs Sticks for Kids program.
- Youth sports field renovations make playing surfaces better and safer.

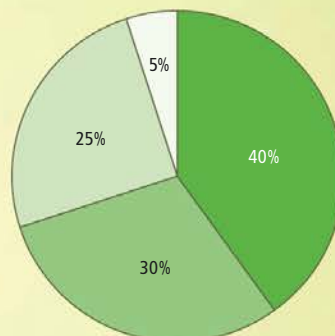
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Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// HOLED IT



When Annbriar CGCS John Soetaert peered into the sinkhole that swallowed golfer Mark Mihal on March 8, he said it resembled "a bell-shaped void."

REPAIRS MADE ON ANNBRIAR GC SINKHOLE

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ On Friday March 8, Mark Mihal of Creve Coeur, Mo., was enjoying a leisurely round of golf with friends at Annbriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill. Things were going great until, while standing on the 14th fairway, Mihal suddenly was swallowed by a sinkhole 10 feet wide. The accident left Mihal with a dislocated shoulder — and Annbriar CGCS John Soetaert with important repairs to make.

"I couldn't believe it. It was unbelievable," said Soetaert. At the barbershop with his kids when the accident happened, Soetaert rushed to the course and assessed the scene before launching an intensive response plan.

"I've been working on golf courses since 1986 and I've never seen anything like this," Soetaert said. "The guy just disappeared. He just fell through the earth."

In responding to the accident, Soetaert first fenced off the sinkhole, a bell-shaped void he likened to "a Hershey's Kiss under the ground." But onlookers kept knocking the fencing down to get a closer look, leaving Soetaert and his crew no choice but to collapse the entire hole.

The accident hits home for Soetaert, considering just two weeks earlier his crew was spraying on the very same fairway. "They went right over where

Continued on page 11

// SWEET RIDE

BUBBA'S HOVERCRAFT MAKES QUITE A SPLASH

Bubba Watson knows how to create buzz on the golf course even when he's not swinging a club. Case in point, the PGA Tour star lit up the Internet on April 1 when, via YouTube, he introduced the world to his new hovercraft prototype made by Oakley.

Combining hovercraft technology with golf cart elements like a roof, the BW1 hovercraft glides easily over water, sand, turf, even through woods. "And my ball likes to go in and out of the woods, so we gotta be able to get there in the best way and quickest way possible," Watson says in the video.

He adds: "People are 'just going to want to drive the hovercraft and not play golf. But that's how I got started, driving the golf cart then golf got in the way.'"



// NEW HIRE

KRUGER JOINS ARYSTA TEAM

Arysta LifeScience North America early this month announced the hiring of Jim Kruger as the Great Lakes territory sales manager for its Turf and Ornamental team.

Kruger previously held sales and technical positions at Cleary Chemical, Harrell's Fertilizer, Helena Chemical and Michigan State University. As Great Lakes sales manager, he will serve Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"We welcome Jim to our team and look forward to him sharing his expertise and knowledge with customers throughout the Great Lakes region," said Laurie Treu, business manager with Arysta LifeScience T&O. "He has a deep understanding of the T&O market and its customer base."

// REDESIGNED WEBSITE

GOLFDOM.COM UNDERGOES FACELIFT

We're four issues into the new look of the print magazine, so it should be no surprise that www.golfdom.com has now also undergone a transformation.

The revamped site was unveiled earlier this month. Visitors to Golfdom.com will find a scrolling screen showing the most current *Golfdom* TV interview, the latest industry news and that day's blog post from the *Golfdom* Daily, the magazine's blog, among other improvements.

"We want the page to reflect the improvements we've made to the magazine," said Pat Roberts, *Golfdom*'s publisher. "Visitors will be pleased to see the changes we've made. I think this will set apart Golfdom.com as one of the most visited destinations on the Internet for our industry."

Future improvements are still in the works, including moving *Golfdom*'s award-winning blog away from an independent site and incorporating it into the regular Golfdom.com.

This move, coupled with the redesign of the magazine and the introduction of the iPad app, shows the magazine is determined to have a big year in 2013, Roberts said.

// GOLFDOM WISDOM

Yes, she's cute, and yes, she always has beer. But after what happened last time, maybe you shouldn't date another beverage cart girl.

#golfdomwisdom

ESA AT PLAY

RISE SERVES UP THE LATEST ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND ITS IMPACT ON YOU.

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ At the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) breakfast meeting at this year's Golf Industry Show, federal legislative and regulatory issues took the spotlight. In his introduction, Steve Gullickson, RISE governing board chairman, said in 2013 RISE is setting its sights most on California, Florida and Northeastern states such as New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"Those are key states where legislative and regulatory challenges are moving at a relatively fast pace," he said.

Conversation at the breakfast was dominated by the Endangered Species Act. It's at the center of multiple federal lawsuits that could curtail the Green Industry's ability to apply pesticides on their current schedules, based on alleged risks to endangered species.

RISE is striving to ensure lawsuits fighting EPA on the issue

aren't successful. And by intervening in the lawsuit *Center for Biological Diversity v. EPA*, otherwise known as "the megasuit," RISE is taking on a proactive role, one on the side of EPA.

Filed in the northern district of California, the suit is called the megasuit "because about 380 registered pesticides (across the U.S.) potentially could be impacted under this litigation," said Dudley Hoskins, manager of regulatory policy at RISE.

Depending on the suit's outcome, provisions could delay new pesticides from coming to market or limit their use altogether.

Karen Reardon, RISE's vice president, public affairs, said RISE intervened in the megasuit so if there is a settlement, the organization could be part of any future discussions and give pesticide applicators and manufacturers a voice at the table.

"Our goal would be to ensure there would be collaboration going forward," she said.



READER JOKE

AS TOLD BY **P.J. McGuire, CGCS, former superintendent now comedian**
See McGuire (PJtheComic.com) this month in Colorado Springs, Vancouver or Louisville.

While setting up for a big golf tournament one year, we had just set out a group of Port-a-Pottys on the course. We were then approached by a very upset elderly female member. She was quite mad that the sinks in those restrooms had no water in them.

Sure, they were a relatively new item in the plastic outhouse game, but even then I knew the urinals weren't supposed to have water in them... and you certainly weren't supposed to be sticking your hands in there.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Blue	17324	–
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple	–	17424

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<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow/Black-250	60250	–
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	–	60510
<input type="checkbox"/> White	–	60520
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	–	60530
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	–	60540
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium Blue	–	60550
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(L) To stabilize the sinkhole, the Annbriar crew dug 16 feet down and filled the hole with 200 tons of riprap. (R) The hole after it was filled and before grading.

Continued from page 9

the hole developed,” he said. “It’s kind of freaky.”

In the sinkhole’s aftermath, the Annbriar grounds crew was so busy making repairs Soetaert had to call in reinforcements a few weeks early.

Ultimately, Soetaert and his crew dug down 16 feet, as far as the backhoe would go. Within one week of Mihal’s fall, the maintenance crew had dug out the hole, lined it, filled it with more

than 200 tons of riprap to stabilize it, and graded it. Soetaert had planned to sod the area but decided to wait until it rained a few times and the ground settled. The ground did settle, more than Soetaert would have liked, and repairs continue to be a work in progress.

“I’m afraid it’ll be an ongoing thing every year,” Soetaert lamented of the sinkhole’s maintenance. “You’re picking a fight with Mother Nature, and oftentimes that’s not one you win.”

THEY SAID IT

AUSTIN ALLISON, 26
SUPERINTENDENT, TIMBERLAKE GC

On achieving success so young
(see full story on page 20)

“I’ve been able to work for some good superintendents who didn’t accept mediocrity. I learned from them, and I took what they taught me and made it my own style.”

PHOTOS BY: JOHN SOETAERT

BY THE NUMBERS

51.4
PERCENT

The amount of the continental U.S. in moderate to exceptional drought as of March 26

// **ALMOST FAMOUS**

AP MEETING GETS AP MENTION

Well, that’s something that doesn’t happen every day.

Here at *Golfdom*, we were honored to get the chance to stop by Arnold Palmer’s office and meet the King in person. Sure, Arnold Palmer and the magazine go way back, but that doesn’t mean we take a meeting with Mr. Palmer lightly. So when he invited us to come down to the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando (see full story, page 32) we arrived with bells on.

And then, something awful happened. *Golfdom* editor-in-chief Seth Jones had a case of bad timing, and was brought into Palmer’s office while he was in the middle of a meeting with the Associated Press.

Pleasantries were exchanged, and the meeting was quickly over, leaving AP to his meeting with the AP.

Turns out our bad timing was actually good timing. That brief meeting between *Golfdom* and Palmer made the Associated Press’ story a few days later, and both *Golfdom* and Jones had their names in newspapers from Miami to Winnipeg.

Doug Ferguson of the Associated Press wrote, in part, “A staff member came into the room and mentioned two men were outside and wanted to say hello. One was Seth Jones, the editor of *Golfdom* magazine, who recently interviewed Palmer for a project. ‘Well, bring him in,’ Palmer said, rising from his desk with a broadening smile...”

“I’ve always said I’d rather be lucky than good, and it turns out the timing of that meeting was lucky,” said Jones. “It’s never a bad thing to get the name of the magazine in a syndicated news story, especially a story about a meeting with such a legend of the game.”

Golfdom Gallery



WE CAME.
WE SAW.
WE TOOK PICTURES.

1 What in the Sandhill? We never thought this page would dip into the “cute” realm, but now it has. We couldn’t resist snapping a shot of this family of Sandhill Cranes when we spotted them at the Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Orlando.

2 Taylor Made Our old pal Vaughn Taylor was impressed with the look of the new *Golfdom*. We were impressed with the look of his game — he shot 2-under at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, netting him a tie for 21st and a cool \$60K.



3 Texas three-putt Prior to the Valero Texas Open at TPC San Antonio, North Coast Media president and CEO Kevin Stoltman (left) stopped by to visit Tom Lively, CGCS, an esteemed member of our editorial advisory board. Kevin’s report back? “Great course. Challenging course. It appears I’m not ready for the Tour yet...”



4 Rickey returns It seems everywhere we go, we have the pleasure of running into Shingle Creek Golf Club’s Rickey Craig (left), pictured here with Matt Beaver (center), superintendent at Bay Hill Club & Lodge, and Seth Jones, *Golfdom* editor-in-chief. This appearance makes for three in the last five issues of *Golfdom*. We’ll plan on seeing you next month, Rickey.



5 Lunch smells good The guys from Golf Ventures, Will McClelland (left) and Jim Blackwelder, cooked up an amazing pork loin lunch for the crew at Bay Hill during the Arnold Palmer Invitational.



6 Cool under pressure Joel Beason, assistant superintendent at Moore’s Mill Club in Auburn, Ala., looks pretty chill, especially considering he had no idea we’d even be showing up that morning.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: SETH JONES (1, 2, 5)
DINO VITANZA (3) ADAM SLICK (4) BETH GERACI (6)

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My Second Office

BECAUSE THE COURSE
IS YOUR FIRST

About our host

MIKE OSLEY, known as 'Oz' to some, has made stops at some of Aurora, Colo.'s seven golf courses throughout the past 15 years. With stints at Murphy Creek, Aurora Hills and Meadow Hills, he's now settled in at Saddle Rock GC as the Golf Operations superintendent for the city, overseeing all of the city's superintendents.

Osley received his turf degree from Lake City Community College (now Florida Gateway College). Before arriving in the Rockies, he worked at Riviera CC in Los Angeles and Hilaman Golf Course in Tallahassee, Fla.

With two of three kids in college, Osley hints that Florida might again be in his future — when he and his wife retire.



"I've grown grass in Florida, California and now Colorado. I like Colorado for what I do for a living; I don't miss the bugs and the 365 days a year in Florida growing grass."

1 THE OSLEYS That was 15 years ago. My youngest was about 8 months old when we moved here. My two older daughters are both in college now. So I have two in college and one in high school. The oldest is Mikaley, then Cayden, and my son is John Michael.

2 CREDENTIALS I had a great time at the Riviera Country Club. I spent 1987 to 1990 there when I was single and living the dream. A lot of celebrity sightings, and I was living in L.A., enjoying the beach.... The badges are from the different years that I spent at the club during the L.A. Open.

3 A GOOD CIGAR I've been known to enjoy a good cigar. It's probably the only vice I have nowadays. Although a good cigar and a good scotch on a beach is a nice way to spend an evening, I won't lie.

4 RAIDER HATERS That's a little Calvin cartoon peeing on the Oakland Raiders logo. I'm an Oakland Raiders fan living in Colorado — not a very good position! That was given to me by the crew here at Saddle Rock.

5 PLUGGED IN I haven't had an iPad that long, but it is nice to be able to take it out on the golf course. While I wouldn't call my-

self a techie, I don't mind using technology. I enjoy the iPad just from the simple fact of being able to grab it and take it with you. I use it for the irrigation, use it for weather, use it to take some notes drawn on the golf course as I go around instead of paper and pen. I also check emails and reply to anything important.

6 FAITH Being a man of faith, I try to just take a moment every morning and spend time in prayer, so that's what those books are — just a couple inspirational books, one of them being a leadership bible by John Maxwell. It probably doesn't typi-

cally help the grass grow, but it helps me help the grass grow.

7 SAVVY SUBSCRIPTIONS I enjoy all the publications, especially *Golfdom*. I do love the new look to your magazine and actually just downloaded the *Golfdom* iPad app yesterday. I stay up with all the latest and greatest, I read the different articles and I just get to stay up on some of the stuff happening in our industry.

BY KATY IBSEN //
PHOTO BY SETH JONES

Proud of your second office? Email us a photo of you in it at sjones@northcoastmedia.net, and we may feature you and your office in an upcoming issue of *Golfdom*.

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“Our golfers told us they didn’t know which golf course they were going to get — the one that was well maintained or the one that wasn’t.”

MARK WOODWARD, *Contributing Editor*

Survey says

We’ve all heard the survey results — golf course conditioning is the No. 1 reason golfers favor one course over another. The role of the superintendent therefore is even more important today than it was in the past, when greenkeepers had bigger budgets to work with. Tough times require superintendents to dig deep into their repertoire of knowledge and experience to create more from less.

Some of the best superintendents I know work at limited-budget facilities and are required to be as creative as they can be to get the most from their allocated resources.

I recently saw this firsthand on a consulting job I’m involved with. I was hired as a consultant for a golf course in the Phoenix area that was challenged at almost every level. Rounds were down, the condition of the golf course was not where it could be and for a variety of reasons (that would require more space than the magazine can allow me) the course was struggling. We immediately put a plan in place to get back to what I call “the basics of golf course management.”

We talked about implementing programs that would

focus on golf course conditioning, customer service and competitive rates. We wanted to provide customers with a great golf experience at a competitive price.

Treating our customers well was easy, because it came naturally to our staff. The part about the rates proved to be a little more difficult, because in our efforts to establish fees we had to take into account the condition of the golf course and determine what we thought would be a fair value-added fee for the product we were providing.

And then came the most important part, the condition of the course. One word kept popping up in all our discussions — “consistency.” The frequency of all maintenance tasks was sorely lacking, and our golfers told us they didn’t

know which golf course they were going to get when they played — the one that was well maintained or the one that wasn’t.

In response to that feedback, we got to work. Every day, we cut new hole locations, mowed greens and raked bunkers. We mowed fairways, roughs and tees at least three days a week and generally increased the frequency of each and every maintenance activity. That alone improved consistency.

And golfers noticed. They quickly realized they would get the same well-maintained golf course no matter which day of the week they played. As a result, in a little more than a year, rounds have nearly doubled and revenue has risen substantially.

In fact, for the first seven

months of this fiscal year (from July 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013) revenue is up 48 percent compared to the same time period last fiscal year. That rise has increased cash flow, allowing us to give our superintendent more money for materials and leasing new equipment.

The golf course continued to get better and better because of the momentum we created. Golfers are now saying we put the “soul” back into the golf course. They love playing it again.

Barring any unforeseen problems, emergencies or major weather issues, this golf course is on track to be self-sustaining for the first time in the past 10 years.

Like any service industry, golf relies heavily on repeat customers. When we ask ours why they like this golf course and continue to come back and play, by far the No. 1 reason is the course’s condition. Word of mouth is starting to spread, and the course is on track to have its best year in ages.

This simple “back to the basics” management approach has been a true team effort. Every one of our staff has bought into it. As for those survey results showing course conditioning is the No. 1 reason golfers prefer a course? In this case, they couldn’t be more accurate.

Mark Woodward is president of Mark Woodward and Associates, principal of DaMarCo Golf, CEO of MasterStep Golf Management Group and a contributing editor for *Golfdom*.



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“After a protracted and sometimes heated discussion among the members, the club finally realized the new generation of golfers wants easier and quicker golf options.”

JOEL JACKSON, *Contributing Editor*

New and improved Lake Omigosh GC

Warmer winter temperatures meant a nice bump in golf rounds and revenue up North at the end of 2012. But Mother Nature has a cruel way of saying, “Gotcha!” Just ask the folks in the Midwest and Northeast, as they had to dig out of blizzards that shut down highways and downed power lines as recently as last month.

Here at the Lake Omigosh Golf Club in Central Florida, trees are blooming. Also newsworthy is what the club is doing to grow the game and keep the club open and profitable. Two years ago the general manager, Alistair Caldwell, and club president Artemus Blodgett pushed through a Play It Forward initiative and got the funding to build an executive course set of tees for new golfers and senior members who have lost distance but not the desire to play.

Superintendent Duffy McDuffy and his crew did the work in-house, saving a lot of money, though the club did hire a golf course architect as a consultant to make sure shot values were preserved for the shorter layout.

One to two days a week are set aside to book tee times for Get Golf Ready playing lessons or junior golf outings. Those outings are only held after the kids and adults have gone through swing development and golf etiquette lessons.

This year, the club will be building a 6-hole course utilizing part of the practice range and some undeveloped property adjacent to the range. After a protracted and sometimes heated discussion among the members, the club finally realized the new generation of golfers wants easier and quicker golf options.

Call it the curse of the immediate gratification syndrome or time-crunched schedules. Whatever the reasons, the club realized it had to change some of its policies

and procedures if it was to survive.

That includes expanding the fitness center facilities and offering more casual dining options in the clubhouse.

To maintain the new turf areas and accommodate new activities after school and on weekends, McDuffy has instituted new flex schedules for his crew. They include variable start times and days off, including on weekends to alleviate babysitting needs.

Duffy also is fine-tuning his cultural practices to include more water conservation, experimenting with controlled but slight reductions in run times wherever possible on the course. Given that the short course has new turf acreage, saving those precious

gallons and run times is critical financially. On top of that, the Water Management District is promising to reduce its water permit allotments.

On the original 18 holes, Duffy and assistant Archie Clark are finding more out-of-play areas they'll propose to convert from maintained turf to naturalized areas. It's part of a trend in cost and input savings.

Thanks to previous “naturalizing projects” and the fact that Lake Omigosh has earned certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status, the course now hosts the local Audubon Club's Annual Christmas Bird Count and a 5th grade class eco-tour from the nearby elementary school.

From the practice tee to the clubhouse to the maintenance shop, Lake Omigosh has taken a practical look at how it operates. Slowly but surely it's adapting to the new normal. While Duffy keeps an eye on the regulations governing water use and quality on the course, he also knows he needs to embrace changes in the game that are needed to keep the revenue stream healthy.

So long from Lake Omigosh, where the superintendent is dedicated, the crew is hard working and the members are about par for the course.

Joel Jackson, CGCS-Ret., is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.



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EARLY to RISE

Six young supers already are basking in success. And they're no older than 30.

BY BETH GERACI

You hear about them often — aspiring young greenkeepers fresh out of turf school. They're hungry. They're talented. They're eager to prove themselves as assistants.

They know the turnover rate for superintendents is low, and they're prepared to wait. Only, some don't have to.

At a time when only 5.9 percent of superintendents are working at age 60 (see our July 2012 cover story), the crop of superintendents slowly is getting younger. Here are some age 30 and under who are proving you don't have to be an elder statesman to be a talented super.

Austin Allison

AGE: 26

COURSE: Timberlake Golf Club, Clinton, N.C.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 18

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 2 years

How did you get into your position at such a young age? I was at the Country Club of Virginia at the time. I was ready to propose to my girlfriend, and I wanted to get closer to home. I talked to my college professor, who put out some feelers.

Biggest accomplishment: When I first saw the course, I knew it'd be easy to make an immediate impact here, but I didn't realize how bad it was until my first day. I remember being on the 17 green thinking, "I hope my girlfriend's worth it."

They completely lost the greens in 2010, and the irrigation system didn't really work because it wasn't properly installed. The first thing I did was straighten it out. Also, when I got here they had no budget, so I created one. My golf course maintenance budget last year was \$175,000, not including gas or utilities. I'm proud of the product we provide for the amount of money we put into it.

In February, I was also promoted to GM. I'm pretty proud of that. As GM, I'm creating a budget for all the club's other departments; they don't have one either.

Did you have insecurities about being so young? It was a good situation to walk into here. There was nowhere to go but up.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? I'd still like to be in the industry. I'll never move away from this area. There's a lot to be said for being at a club like this. It's a little bit smaller, the employees are like a family here. The members know you, and they want to know you.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? Spend the money at your club like it's your own. Other than that, learn as much as you can as an assistant.

Continued on page 22



"I WAS ON THE 17 GREEN AND THOUGHT,
'I HOPE MY GIRLFRIEND'S WORTH IT.'"

Austin Allison

"I've been a superintendent for more than 20 years and we always seem to have dollar spot issues. I didn't have those issues this year while using Daconil Action, and I know others did. I'm definitely going to use Daconil Action again."

Kelly Kressler
Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Continued from page 20

Josh Lewis

AGE: 30

COURSE: Chambers Bay, University Place, Wash.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 18

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 1 year

How did you get the job at such a young age? There was a certain amount of good fortune involved, but also hard work and dedication, trying to continually learn, and being taught by some very good mentors, like Chris Gaughan, Ken Nice and Paul Chojnacky.

I was the first assistant at Chambers Bay. When the superintendent position became available, General Manager Matt Allen told me, "Feel free to make the changes you feel are necessary and the chips are going to fall where they may."

What's your biggest accomplishment? One of the first things that comes to mind is the progress we've made with the staff at Chambers Bay. We've got a very strong group of people. I've seen a lot of growth in individuals and as a team in the last year, and that's as much their accomplishment as it is mine.

Did you have insecurities about being so young? I don't think it was a youth thing. There are going to be things you're not perfectly comfortable with right off the bat, like budgeting, but you have teaching and mentoring to rely on. It helps to have a trusted person in your speed dial.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? I don't know for sure. It's yet to be determined if the U.S. Open (which



Chambers Bay is hosting in 2015) or other majors are things I can see myself being a part of perennially. I guess we'll know after June 2015. Right now we're super excited and enjoying the ride.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? It really does come back to networking and staying involved. Go to meetings, go to association events and get to know people regionally and nationally. You're only as good as the people you surround yourself with.

Brian Palmer

AGE: 29

COURSE: Shoreacres, Lake Bluff, Ill.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 18

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 3 months


How did you get your job at such a young age? From working at a big club like Merion Golf Club, where I was the assistant before coming here, and working for a

superintendent like Matt (Shaffer). I heard about this job from a colleague of mine. I went through the interview process, and one month later I had the job.

What is your biggest accomplishment? Overseeing construction of the practice green on Merion's West Course and having a part in Merion's practice facility and U.S. Open preparations were big. But getting this job is my biggest accomplishment. It's a dream job, really. When I got it, the first thing I did was call my father. He was a superintendent in central New York for 25 years. He couldn't wait to scope out the piece of property I have.

Did you have insecurities about being so young? I really don't have any. Fortunately, I saw quite a bit in my time at Merion, and I'm ready to go. I've been groomed for this for a while now.

Continued on page 24



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**"I'M READY TO GO.
I'VE BEEN GROOMED
FOR THIS FOR A WHILE NOW."**

Brian Palmer



Continued from page 22

Where do you see yourself in 15 years?

I'd love to be a superintendent still, whether it's here or somewhere else. But I'm fortunate to be where I am right now, and if I'm able to be here in 15 or 20 years, that'd be great.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? It's important to be well rounded. Get outside your comfort zone and you'll be better off for it. Keep learning, meet as many people as you can. Go work for the right people and set yourself up for the future.

Tyler Tang

AGE: 30

COURSE: Bermuda Dunes Country Club, Bermuda Dunes, Calif.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 27

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 2 years

How did you get your job at such a young age? By being an assistant at Eldorado Country Club for five years. My mentor, Eldorado Director of Agronomy Craig Ellis, is well known. The general manager at Bermuda Dunes asked Craig if he had a guy who would be interested in coming over. Being a hard worker, making a name for myself, that helped too.

What is your biggest accomplishment? By far it's bringing Bermuda Dunes back. I have members who have been here for 30 years who say the course has never looked better. I attribute that to my staff and teamwork and putting the right guys in the right jobs.

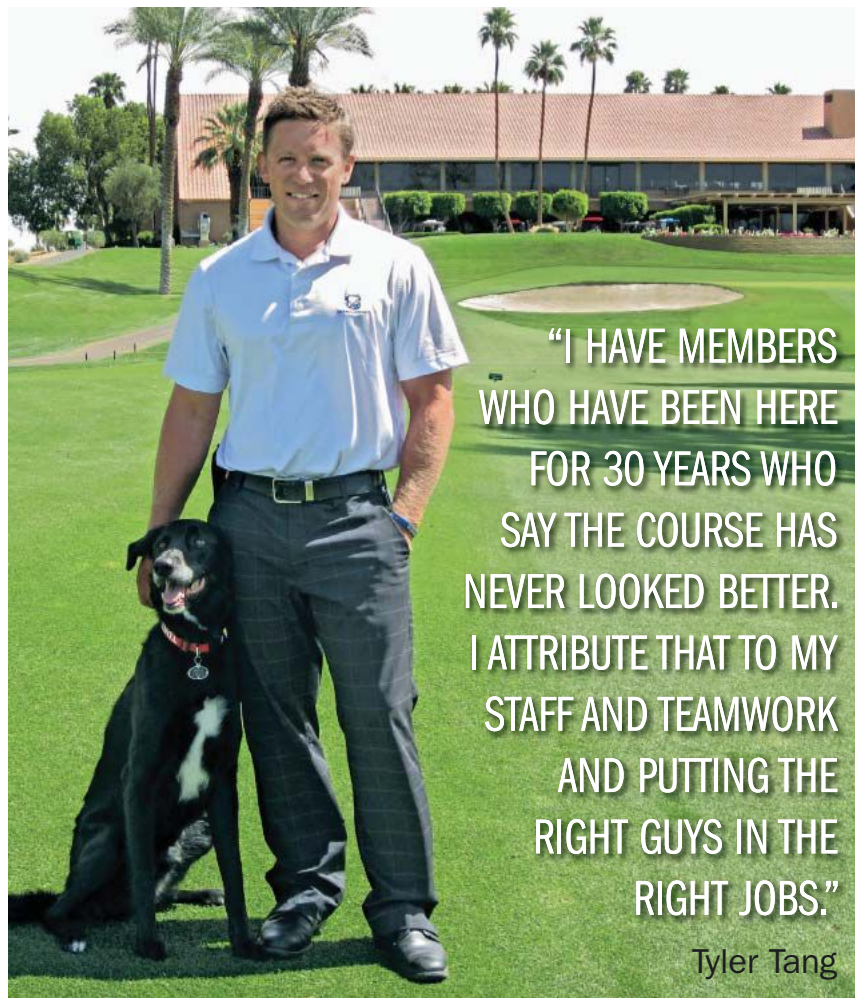
Bermuda Dunes had lost a little bit of its identity when I arrived here. The greens were let go. And my goal since I've been here is to bring back the identity of the club.

Did you have insecurities about being so young? I have no insecurities about

that, because I've always been the youngest in a leadership role. I've always been the youngest guy on the crew, and I've led guys who are old enough to be my father. I'm still the youngest here, except for the assistant I just brought on. He's 22 and knockin' it out of the park. I see myself in him — I've always had drive.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? I'd like to be established. I'd like to be at a club with my certification, either at Bermuda Dunes or at another club that takes care of you and you take care of them.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? It has a lot to do with your drive and listening to your membership, listening to your crew, listening to your surroundings. You don't know everything. Never be afraid to ask for help if you need it.



**"I HAVE MEMBERS
WHO HAVE BEEN HERE
FOR 30 YEARS WHO
SAY THE COURSE HAS
NEVER LOOKED BETTER.
I ATTRIBUTE THAT TO MY
STAFF AND TEAMWORK
AND PUTTING THE
RIGHT GUYS IN THE
RIGHT JOBS."**

Tyler Tang

PHOTOS COURTESY: BRIAN PALMER (TOP); TYLER TANG

Jason VanBuskirk

AGE: 29

COURSE: Stow Acres Country Club, Stow, Mass.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 36

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 6 years

How did you get your job at such a young age? The superintendent was a great mentor to me, and we kept in touch. When I was 22 and a year out of school, he hired me as his assistant. When he moved on in 2007, the GM and I had a Coke in the clubhouse. He stood up after an hour and said, "Congratulations, you just passed Round 1."

What is your biggest accomplishment? We played host to the Massachusetts Four Ball Championship last year. We had 288 of New England's best amateur golfers play our course. We had very few volunteers and had to have the course in shape a month earlier than usual — for a championship-caliber event. It was a fantastic event. We had a lot of high-caliber golfers that had great things to say about both courses.

Did you have insecurities about being so young? I did, and the general manager has told me to this day it was what sold him on me in this position — because I was honest. I told him that I would need to be coached on budgeting and people management. I asked him to give me time to figure it out, and he did.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years? I used to have my PGA tournament plan in place. Now that I have two kids, my life has changed pretty drastically. I work for a great owner. I work at a great club. So my goal is to be even more distinguished and accomplished than I am and give back to the local college kids.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? Do your job with passion, and make sure you're working with the natural environment and your own life plan in mind. My dad always said, "Make sure you work for the company, and the company will work for you."

Continued on page 26

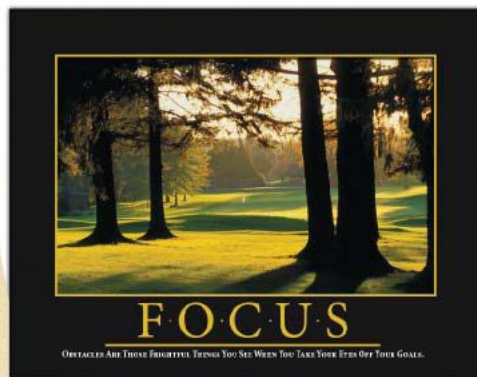
"DO YOUR JOB WITH
PASSION, AND MAKE
SURE YOU'RE WORKING
WITH YOUR OWN LIFE
PLAN IN MIND."

Jason VanBuskirk



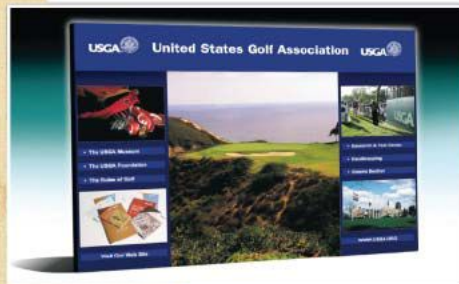
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Continued from page 25

Jason Baumeister

AGE: 30

COURSE: Craft Farms Golf Club, Gulf Shores, Ala.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 36

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 4 years

How did you get into your position at such a young age? I had worked here in years past as an assistant. Four years ago, I returned here to work as the assistant again. I just love this property. About the same time, management company Honours Golf came in, the superintendent left and the director of agronomy trusted me enough to let me move into the position.


What is your biggest accomplishment? Becoming a superintendent at such a young age. It put me in the spotlight, and I had to shine. It's set me apart from a lot of guys, and it helped me grow faster.

Did you have insecurities about being

so young? Never. That's one thing that's probably helped me — I'm confident. I also understand I'm young, and it's helped me in networking. Being familiar with the courses helped me, too.

Where do you see yourself in 15 years?

I would love to be a director of agronomy for several properties, to be working for a big enough management company where you still have enough properties to manage but not to where you lose the personal touch.

What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents? Don't be afraid to try something different, to try another process. Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo and ask, "Why do we do it this way?" 



WEB EXTRA BOX

To hear more from these rising stars, check out their words of wisdom at golfdom.com.

PHOTO COURTESY: JASON BAUMEISTER

"DON'T BE AFRAID TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO AND ASK, 'WHY DO WE DO IT THIS WAY?'"

Jason Baumeister

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Seth's 2013 GIS Notebook

We can't read his chicken scratches.
We're glad he can. **BY SETH JONES**

I was cruising through an old issue of *Golfdom* from the 1940s the other day. I skimmed a story written by *Golfdom* founder Herb Graffis. It went on for pages, and it was all written as if he was talking one-on-one with the reader.

We don't do that often in modern day journalism. Why? I don't know. As I read through this article, it made me feel like Graffis was talking to me, and I thought that was pretty cool.

So I decided to borrow Mr. Graffis' 1940s style for my report on the 2013 GIS.

Now, if you're saying, "Seth, didn't you guys already do a report on the GIS last issue?" I'd say, "Thanks for closely reading, and yes! But..."

That story was all about shaking hands and kissing babies, if you know what I mean. We wrote about large donations made to awesome benevolent funds, about the "mood" at the show, about who won the turf bowl. Which is all fine and good, but does any of that help you grow grass? You could make an argument, but...

So let's just say this "notebook" feature is more of the things I heard from industry people when discussing growing grass, or at least maintaining a golf course. And away we go...

Par Aide

I was walking by the Par Aide booth when I saw my pal Dan Brown, vice president of the company. I've had the pleasure of playing some golf with Dan (read: he kicked my butt) so it was

good to catch up with him a safe distance from the golf course.

As I'm standing there chatting with Dan, walking toward me is Jeff Plotts, head honcho at TPC Scottsdale, host site of the Phoenix Waste Management Open.

After introducing the two, I had to ask Plotts about the Phil Mickelson lip-out that occurred on No. 18 during the first round of the tournament. Had that putt dropped, Mickelson would have joined the 59 club.

"That was one of the Ever-White Par Aide cups, and it was cut perfectly," Plotts said proudly. "We love them. Had that putt been down the middle, he would have had the 59!"

Continued on page 28



Southern Grasses Need Southern Weed Control

When it comes to weed control, customization is key. Southern grasses, for example, have unique challenges due to the nearly year-round growing season and other factors such as sensitivity to select herbicides and low shade and traffic tolerance. Herbicide producers have increased their use of field research and chemistry to develop formulations that target weeds in a specific region such as the South.

According to Jim Goodrich, product specialist for Kansas City, Missouri-based PBI-Gordon Corporation, carfentrazone is an ingredient that, when formulated with 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba, provides proven broadleaf weed control in southern grasses. Carfentrazone works in this combination to inhibit a key enzyme in chlorophyll production, causing cell membranes to rupture and quickly disintegrate.

Also important in the South, is an effective herbicide that is highly selective in most established warm- and cool-season turfgrasses including: bermuda, zoysia, bahiagrass, common St. Augustine, buffalograss, centipedegrass, seashore paspalum and tall fescue.

One product that meets these criteria is SpeedZone® Southern from PBI-Gordon. The product is proven in university and cooperator tests to produce fast-acting response and visible activity within hours. Important in the often-moist South, it is rain-fast in just three hours and causes weed death in 7-14 days.



As shown in these before and after photos, clover was eliminated from this lawn in 1 week.

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Taking Note

Continued from page 27

Club Car

I cruised over to the Club Car booth, where I met with Dave Hodgson, Club Car's Visage sales manager for Canada. We talked about the Visage Mobile Golf Information System, which is basically a touch-screen mounted inside the cart, where a rearview mirror might be.

I've seen this system evolve over the last couple years. Each year it seems they find an added benefit or two. This year, what caught my ear were two things: One, that courses that have bought into the system have been able to remove golf course signage directing players where they can and can't drive, because the GPS system already dictates where golfers can and can't drive. And two, that some superintendents are using the system as a way to communicate directly with golfers.

"Superintendents who are progressive are using it to produce videos," Hodgson told me. "It can be something as simple as, 'Hey, we're going to aerify next week.' They're educating golfers in a fun way."

That's right — videos of you, the superintendent, speaking directly to the golfer as he makes the drive from the practice putting green to No. 1 tee. That's crazy enough it just might work...

Toro

I always schedule about an hour to visit with the folks at Toro because they have so much going on. This year was no different. Among other things we talked about their Tier-4-compliant machines, their new partnership with GreensPerfection brushes (mentioned last issue), the Reelmaster 3550-D, the Rounds4Research program and the Multi Pro 1750 and WM sprayers.

These new sprayers made an impression. The tanks have been reconfigured to achieve 99 percent spray-out. There are no nooks or crannies in there for expensive chemicals to get left behind. A six-diaphragm pump is powerful enough to agitate and pump everything out. The 1750 has a tank capacity of 175 gallons while the MW has a 200-gallon capacity. I'm told they'll be available early next year.

I also met up with David Angier, senior marketing manager for irrigation, and he showed me the Toro Twilight golf lighting



PHOTO COURTESY: TORO

system they acquired two years ago. This system allows golfers to work on their putting at night by illuminating golf holes and the surrounding putting area.

I know what you're thinking; you don't want golfers on the putting greens at night, you've got enough work during the day. But Angiers tells me the system is low-tech so anyone working food and bev can run out and set these up in the evening. Even more important, he tells me some clubs are including this as an add-on to a wedding reception, and they're netting \$500 for an hour of nighttime putting. That might make the GMs sit up and listen...



Jacobsen

Ready for more equipment? I was. I headed over to my next appointment at the Jacobsen booth and got the grand tour of the LF510.

The phrase that best summed it up was, "Jacobsen quality of cut with surprising affordability." They've removed the bells and whistles from the 550 to bring the price point down. As Rachel Luken, product manager, told me, "This is what the market needs — budgets are still tight."

You might remember the marketing campaign for the LF510. They had the sheet covering the mower, asking people to guess what the machine was. I guessed it was something high tech. Instead Jacobsen went the opposite direction, keeping it simple.

An example of how this machine got simple is in how you control speed on the machine. Out goes an electric speed regulator, in comes a simple mechanical speed control.

Quali-Pro

One of my more interesting meetings came with Jerry Corbett, product management and development manager for Quali-Pro. They have a couple big products out right now, but Corbett really wanted to talk about who Quali-Pro is and what they do.

Corbett said he wants the company to shed the image of being a post-patent chemical company.

Continued on page 30

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Taking Note

Continued from page 29

"I promise you Quali-Pro can make it as good as anyone in the world. All we do is agro-chemicals," he told me. "We don't make pharmaceuticals, we don't make plastics. We'll be in this to the bitter end."

Another interesting thing Corbett told me is that the company will have a nematicide in 2014. He said it has a very green profile, that the EPA found it "boring."

Back to Quali-Pro's two noteworthy products this year: Negate and Enclave. Negate is a dual-powered post-emergent herbicide that controls grassy and broadleaf weeds in warm-season grasses. Enclave is a broad-spectrum fungicide using "quad-control technology" and controls snow mold, brown patch, anthracnose and other diseases.

John Deere

The two products I spent the most time looking at this year were Deere's V40 and AV40 PrecisionCore aerators. Mark Barnes, product marketing manager, gave me the VIP tour of this equipment.

Barnes explained how the edge of some greens holds more



water than the rest of the green. In order to deal with this, the V40 and AV40 can be adjusted on the fly, without stopping. So an operator could go from a 2-inch hole spacing to a 1-inch spacing and then right back to the 2-inch.

I liked this: it comes with a refuel warning to prevent guys getting ditched on the furthest hole from the shop. There's a light that comes on, yes, but if it gets really low, the machine won't even drop the coring head. Also cool, the machine has an articulating frame so coring depth remains consistent, even over greens with a lot of undulation in them.

Arysta

Ran into Doug Houseworth, Ph.D., at Arysta Lifescience. We talked about how Xonerate for *Poa* control was doing. He said some users were shocked at what the product did right off the bat — eradicate *Poa* mercilessly down to the dirt — and were surprised by the drastic results.

"It's a little like plastic surgery," Houseworth said, "You look awful for a short period, then you look great."

Houseworth then got into a popular topic — plant health. He said some of his competitors were owning that phrase, but that Arysta would be making a push as well. "Our strobilurin is equal to or better than anything they've got," he said.

Ostara

We go from Arysta to Ostara.

I wasn't familiar with Ostara, or their Crystal Green fertilizer. When I got to their booth, they asked me to run my hands through a tray of white granules, which of course I did. I'm very trusting at trade shows, apparently.

But there was a point to what the folks at Ostara had me do — they wanted to show me that these granules are very clean, hard and dust free... which makes for easy blending.



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I was running my hands through a slow-release form of phosphorous, nitrogen and magnesium. It's also a sustainable product, as it's produced by recovering phosphorous from renewable resources. Crystal Green is citrate-soluble with low water solubility, making the granules release slowly over the growing season. The nutrients are slowly distributed in response to plant demand, the company says. So when the roots are satisfied, Crystal Green stops releasing until the next growth period.

Clearly, it's all over my head — I'm the guy who runs his hands through random stuff at conventions, after all — but lucky for me, more can be learned at crystalgreen.com.

Turfco

I stopped by the Turfco booth to visit with Scott Kinkead, executive vice president. He told me that the Widespin 1550 underwent some improvements. Among them, it has 20 percent more capacity, a wider hopper opening and a better system for knowing what your application is. They've gone to what they call the "app culture" and made an easier-to-use home screen so it's not up to the superintendent (or the most mathematically gifted guy on the crew) to set the rate. Now you can just plug in the "greens" rate and it automatically goes to what the superintendent has pre-programmed. Push the "fairways" button, and... you get it.



The TriWave 40 also got some work done. It used to be this was a reactive piece... guys only took it out when there was a problem. Now it can be backed up to a Gator and on the course faster, making it easier to use for preventative maintenance. "For the first time ever, a guy can go out every two weeks and just touch up problem spots," Kinkead said.

...

OK, that's all the space I have for this issue, but I promise you there's more in my notebook. I'll share it as the year goes on in our regular "Golfdom Gadgets" feature. **G**



THE GOLFDOM CONVERSATION

Arnold Palmer and Matt Beaver

BY SETH JONES

Sure, it's called the Arnold Palmer Invitational. But we never thought that Mr. Palmer would actually invite us.

If the King invites you to his tournament, you go. And we did.

Over the course of the tournament we got a lot accomplished. (For a complete rundown of the action, visit www.golfdom.blogspot.) We talked to Tour players, we talked to superintendent



Matt Beaver, we got a lot of great photos and we even saw a few old friends.

But the singular most exciting moment was getting to meet Palmer in person. In a strange bit of coincidence, that meeting between *Golfdom* and Mr. Palmer somehow got a brief mention in an Associated Press story that ran around the country (see page 11 for more on that bit of trivia.)

While we had the ears of Mr. Palmer and Mr. Beaver, we asked a few questions of both men. Here are our conversations...

Golfdom: Mr. Palmer, thanks so much for your time, it's truly an honor.

Arnold Palmer: My pleasure, thank you.

G: My first question is in regards to the founder of this magazine, Mr. Herb Graffis. I have the good fortune of sitting in his chair today, but I never had the opportunity to meet the man. Can you tell me a little about him?

AP: Herb was a good friend. We spent a lot of time together, mostly just kibitzing and talking about golf and what (*Golfdom*) does and the things that were important for people to read about in the game of golf... and how superintendents react to the various situations that arise in the process of being a superintendent.

G: I hear he was quite a character...?

AP: Oh, he was a character — he always had a good joke!

G: I was speaking with an architect recently and he told me that 'golf isn't as down as the media is trying to lead everyone to believe.' What's your take on that statement?

AP: I've been reading a little bit about the economy and what is happening to golf. The only place I've seen an appreciable downturn is the construction of new golf courses. (New course constructions) are starting to rev up a little. I think we'll be building some courses, and redoing some courses. (And) rounds played are increasing and will increase in 2013.

G: Good, good. I think we're both in the right business.

AP: Ha! Good. Me too.

G: Can you tell me how things are going for your design company right now?

AP: Mostly right now, (we're doing) repairs or upgrading courses. We have some potentials in Mexico, South America, China and a couple of very likely prospects in the United States. The business is not that bad.

G: You have a long history with superintendents, since your father was one...

AP: My father was a golf course greenkeeper, a superintendent. He started digging ditches when they were building the course (Latrobe CC, Latrobe, Pa.) So he learned the job from the bottom up, and he was there all his life. That was over 50 years of work on the course. And he did



everything from changing cups to cutting fairways to waxing skis so people could ski on the golf course — things that probably people don't hear about much today.

G: How do you think that job has changed over the years?

AP: Well, I suppose it's more of a supervision job now. Some supers get out in the dirt, and do the job physically, a lot are more signal callers, I suppose you could say — they direct and supervise more than they do the work itself. There's a combination of types. Some like to drive the mowers, some use the shovels, and then others would rather be supervisors and study the new techniques for greenkeeping.

G: What do you look for when you're hiring a superintendent?

AP: Details. A lot of what I look for in a super is if he's paying attention to the details of maintaining a golf course. That is very important to me and something I watch constantly. Simple little things like where they turn the mowers, and how they turn the mowers, whether it be a greens mower or a fringe or a tractor-trailer mower, whatever. How careful they are — there's a lot of damage that can be done just by maintaining a golf course.

G: Is there any equipment or new products in the maintenance shop that have caught your eye lately?

AP: It's amazing to watch golf course maintenance equipment evolve over the years. Our Jacobsen mowers have become so flexible that even one machine can be used on many different parts of the golf course. This helps our superintendent, Matt Beaver, and his crew to get more done in less time. Overall, I think Jacobsen is doing very well with the various types of new equipment that they're integrating into our industry.

G: What can you tell me about Matt Beaver, the superintendent at Bay Hill Lodge & Club?

AP: He has been here about 10 years and is doing an excellent job. He's a great young man and someone I'm particularly interested in... helping him and keeping him doing the things that he's doing so



Wayne Flannagan (left) and Craig Shelton, the two assistants at Bay Hill. "It's good to have someone around who has your back," Beaver says of the duo.

"A lot of what I look for in a super is if he's paying attention to the details. That is very important to me."

ARNOLD PALMER

well now. And he will continue to do well. I think — well, I know — the course is about as good as it's ever been.

G: Those are my questions, thanks so much for your time Mr. Palmer, and especially for the kind words about Mr. Graffis.

AP: Of course, my pleasure.

Matt Beaver, superintendent at Bay Hill Club & Lodge, started out as an intern at the course 12 seasons ago. After

graduating from Iowa State University he moved to Orlando to work on the crew. After working his way up, he became the head superintendent when the position opened up three years ago.

Golfdom: Matt, we've talked to a few of the Tour players, and they're raving about the course. Brandt Snedeker said, "It's as primo as I've ever seen it," and Charley Hoffman called it "the best I've ever seen it." What do you attribute this success to?

Matt Beaver: The weather's been helpful. Any time you get the weather in your favor, it sure helps. And I think that since 2009, when we did the renovation, when you do a renovation you always have a few issues here and there, and as you tie those up, you learn a few things, you get better and better.

G: You've had several international guys helping out this week, how did that come about?

MB: Yes, we've got Stuart from Ireland, and two kids that came down just for the tournament as part of the Ohio State program; Ping from China and Ty from Viet-

Continued on page 34



// A NICE CHAT



After the conclusion of the 2013 Palmer Invitational, Palmer (center, in blue) headed to the maintenance shop to thank the crew.

Continued from page 33

nam. They've been great for us. Those guys work their tails off and they're really interested in this business. It'd be hard to do it and do a good job without them.

G: Tell us about your assistant superintendents, Craig Shelton and Wayne Flannagan.

MB: Craig's been around the business a long time and came back into it, and has been working for us for about eight years. Craig's a great sounding board for me. For me, it's good to have someone around like that who you can trust, who you know has your back, and has seen a lot of things. His experience is very important. I like to pick people's brains, because you don't know everything.

Wayne started out on the crew, he had

never worked out on a golf course before. Wayne's 62, maybe 63 this year, and that guy just is a hell of a worker. You know you can always count on him. Sometimes, one of the most important things is to have somebody you know will be there for you, no matter what. He's willing to do whatever you ask him to do and take on new things. And at that age, that's pretty unique.

G: What kind of equipment are you guys running?

MB: We've got the (Jacobsen) 1880s in the fairways, the Eclipse 22-inch and 18-inch running on our greens. They provide us with a lot of flexibility, a lot of good options, so maybe we can reduce the amount of times we have to mow over the greens by changing our frequency of clip. Not only now, during tournament, but during the rest of the year, member events, those

kinds of things, it's been a welcomed addition to what we're doing — really effective.

G: What's your favorite thing about tournament week, and the tournament in general?

MB: Mr. Palmer, and seeing it on TV. It's unique, it's his golf course, everything is associated with his name... proceeds go to the hospital with his wife's name on it. (My wife and I have) had two kids. We were fortunate enough to have both kids at the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. It's a special place, they take care of you.


G: What's it like working for Mr. Palmer?

MB: It's just like everybody thinks it is — he's very good to work for, very honest. If he sees something, he's going to talk to you about it. But he understands from our aspect, what it's like to try to do this. As far as a person to work for, I don't think there could be any better.

G: Got any good Palmer stories to share?

MB: One just happened — following the tournament, he came down to the shop to thank all the crew for their hard work. Everyone got time to say hi and even take a few photos with him. He appreciates that these guys like seeing him and being around him.

G: That's great, Matt. Thanks to you and your staff this week, and a big thanks for setting time aside for us on what we know is a busy week for you and your team. Nice work!

MB: Thanks Seth, we sure appreciate it. 



Beaver addresses the crew before they head out for an afternoon shift during the week of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

PHOTO COURTESY: MATT BEAVER (TOP) BY SETH JONES (BOTTOM)



Super Science

// FUNGICIDES

IMPACT OF STROBILURIN APPLICATIONS ON SEASON-LONG TURFGRASS HEALTH

By Brandon Horvath, Ph.D.

Four summer fungicide programs consisting of five applications on a 14-day interval were applied to a creeping bentgrass putting green in the transition zone. Strobilurin fungicides, pyraclostrobin, azoxystrobin, fluoxastrobin and trifloxystrobin were applied at the second and fifth spray interval while all other applications were held constant across treatments. Measurements of visual quality, spectral reflectance, percent cover, turfgrass rooting and disease severity were collected.



Despite extensive root zone sampling, season-long applications of strobilurin fungicides result in differences that remain elusive.

showed reduced brown patch severity compared to the very active disease present in non-treated control plots. There were few significant differences among the strobilurin programs, and the differences that were present were related to the various products' abilities to control disease.

No other season-long differences were observed for any of the other parameters measured other than those influenced by a product's ability to control disease. This research indicates that the plant health effects that are possible with this class of fungicides are transient and potentially short-lived.

Contact Brandon Horvath, Ph.D., assistant professor of turfgrass pathology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, at bhorvath@utk.edu for more information.

GAMES GRASS

OLYMPICS CHOOSES ZEON ZOYSIA FOR GOLF AT THE 2016 GAMES

When golfers tee off in Rio de Janeiro at the 2016 Summer Olympics, they'll be doing it on Zeon zoysiagrass, Frank Rossi, Ph.D., confirmed at this year's Golf Industry Show.

Rossi, an associate professor of horticulture at Cornell University, is a consulting agronomist on the Olympics project. "Everything approaching the greens, 88 percent of the grassed area, will be Zeon zoysia," he stated in a press release from Bladerunner Farms, which bred the grass.

That means approximately 88 acres of the Olympics course will be Zeon zoysiagrass, including tees, fairways and roughs. By choosing Zeon zoysiagrass, which requires little maintenance and few inputs, those involved say the selection committee showed its desire to have a sustainable golf course at these games — the first to feature golf in more than 100 years.

"It will be an example of sustainability and preservation of an environmentally protected area," said the president of Rio 2016, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, in the release.

Bladerunner Farms President David Doguet added, "The grass will create a world-class playing surface for the Olympics, and for many years to come."

No treatments were statistically different in the first year, and significant differences were not observed in the second year until 42 and 56 days after initial treatment, when fungicide programs exhibited greater visual quality, turfgrass cover and spectral reflectance than non-treated control plots.

During the same time period, fungicide-treated plots also

SUSTAINED HIGH

TEMPERATURES, COUPLED WITH OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS, OVERCOME THE PLANT'S DEFENSES, AND DECLINE BEGINS."

Erik H. Ervin, Ph.D.

(see full story on page 36)

// PUTTING GREENS

Cytokinins and seaweed extracts for summer putting green health

By Erik H. Ervin, Ph.D.

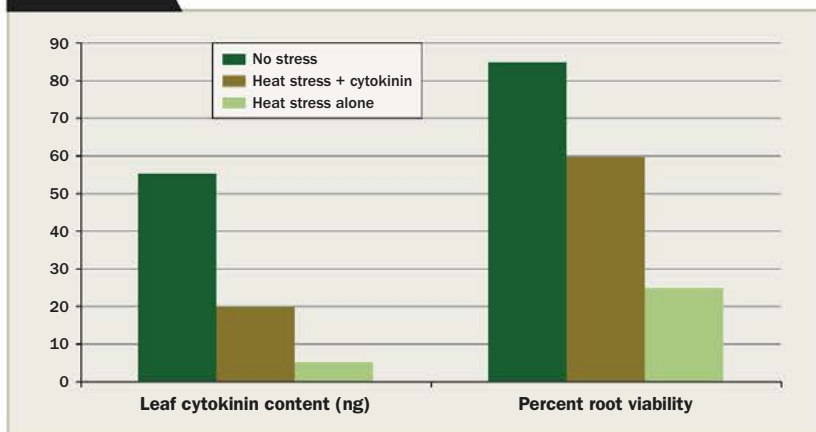
Summer decline of creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* putting greens is becoming so prevalent in the upper South and transition zone that many courses have converted to ultra-dwarf bermudagrass. However, for those keeping their cool-season greens, the issue of summer decline remains, indicating that we must understand it and implement best practices for prevention.

Summer decline begins when upper root zone temperatures reach above 85 degrees F consistently. Sustained high temperatures, coupled with low mowing heights, mechanical stresses and disease pressure begin to overcome the plant's physiological defenses, and decline begins.

The speed of decline is influenced by a number of factors, some more manageable than others. Bruce Martin, Ph.D., of Clemson University contends that "fans are the best new fungicide that have come on the market in years." And he's right. You can prevent summer decline by improving the physical environment. And you can do that by increasing air movement and decreasing the extent and duration of high root zone temperatures, whether through fans, tree removal, precision irrigation or venting.

The next pieces of the prevention

FIGURE 1



High natural leaf cytokinin content under no stress correlates closely with high root viability. Under 95°F heat stress, root zone injection of a synthetic cytokinin translates into greater subsequent leaf cytokinin content and root viability when compared to not applying cytokinin. Data adapted from Liu and Huang. 2002. *Crop Science*. 42:457.

puzzle include spray inputs, such as fungicides, fertilizers, colorants, PGRs, wetting agents and cytokinin-based biostimulants.

WHY CYTOKININ-BASED BIOSTIMULANTS?

Cytokinins are a type of phyto-hormone that direct a number of growth and stress-response processes. For growth, they signal cells to divide at the crown, so new roots, shoots and stems begin to develop. For stress response, they act to inhibit the action of senescence-inducing enzymes, slowing

the degradation of chlorophyll and maintaining photosynthetic rates and root viability. In short, cytokinins are known as the "stay green" hormone. Cytokinin levels must remain elevated in leaf tissues to slow the summer decline process. They're produced in healthy root tips and translocated to shoots via the transpiration stream. Consequently, as summer root decline proceeds, leaf tissue cytokinin levels drop.

Knowing the potential stress-protective effects of cytokinins from the plant physiology literature, in the early 2000s Bingru Huang, Ph.D., of Rutgers University investigated whether root injection of synthetic cytokinin would alleviate heat stress decline of creeping bentgrass (Figure 1).

The results were quite positive, showing that greater maintenance of chlorophyll and photosynthesis was related to increased leaf tissue cytokinin

Bruce Martin, Ph.D., of Clemson University contends that "fans are the best new fungicide that have come on the market in years." And he's right.

content. This, in turn, resulted in 35 percent less root loss.

Concurrent with Dr. Huang's research on root-injected cytokinins, my research group developed the hypothesis that the relatively high background levels of natural cytokinins in seaweed extracts (SWE) would most likely also boost creeping bentgrass tissue cytokinin levels and have similar positive stress-protective effects.

My published results with SWE-based cytokinins are in Figure 2. These data show that repeated (14-day) foliar applications of SWE over 42 days of heat stress resulted in leaf cytokinin contents that were just below that of non-heat stressed creeping bentgrass and 42 percent higher than heat-stressed creeping bentgrass that had not received SWE applications.

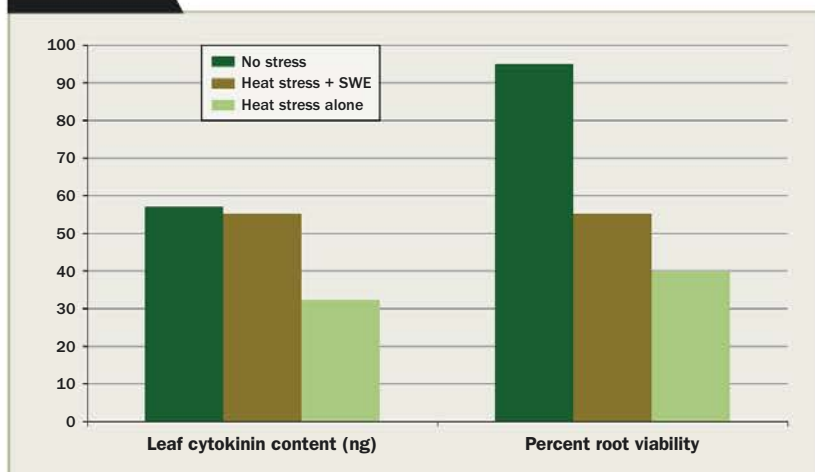
Boosted leaf tissue cytokinins due to SWE foliar application translated into 15 percent less root decline over the 42-day heat stress trial.

These SWE positive results have been repeatable. My group has published research showing similar effects for cool-season turfgrasses subjected to drought, salinity and UV-light stress. Dr. Huang's subsequent research has shown that creeping bentgrass can be genetically modified to "turn on" more cytokinin production in the early stages of stress detection, resulting in transformed lines that retained 50 percent or more root mass under drought stress than the comparable commercial cultivar. For the immediate future, superintendents will not have access to "cytokinin-overproducing" genetically modified varieties, so let's turn our attention back to the more natural approach of supplementing with SWE.

DOES SOURCE AND PROCESSING MATTER?

Where do the SWEs used most commonly in commercial biostimulant formulations come from and how are they processed? They most commonly come from *Ascophyllum nodosum* or north Atlantic rockweed, harvested

FIGURE 2



High natural leaf cytokinin content under no stress correlates closely with high root viability. Under 95°F heat stress, foliar application of a SWE translates into greater subsequent leaf cytokinin content and root viability when compared to not applying cytokinin. Data adapted from Zhang and Ervin. 2008. *Crop Science*. 48:364.

off the coasts of Maine, Nova Scotia, the United Kingdom and Scandinavia (see photo, page 38). The information on processing below was provided by Ocean Organics Corporation of Maine.

Different intended uses require different processing. Moving from least refined to most specialized, we start with **dehydrated whole plants**. Called "seaweed" or "kelp" meal, they are used as soil amendments. The terms seaweeds, seaplants and kelp plants are used interchangeably.

These products are sometimes dried in the sun, in oil (or wood-fired) commercial dryers or in both. The proposed benefits to incorporating kelp meal into the soil are to increase the cation exchange capacity, add micronutrients, provide natural complexed sugars that may promote microbial health and increase water-holding capacity. The whole plants contain plant hormones and other plant active compounds, but the fate of those molecules is unclear due to the variables associated with the product's decomposition in the soil.

The next step along the processing continuum would be the liquefaction of the plants. **Liquefied kelp** are basically whole seaplants reduced mechanically

to small enough particles so that they can be sprayed — basically applying the whole seaplant as a liquid. This is effectively a liquid version of dried seaweed. Proportionally, there is much more organic matter in this type product, but it degrades faster in the soil. It's likely that some of the water-soluble hormones and other plant active compounds remain intact for foliar or soil uptake.

Cold process extracts. There are several companies using this approach. It is the breaking down of the plant cells through mechanical (not chemical) means, but it doesn't include the whole plant in the way liquefied products usually do. I haven't worked with any companies that use cold processing to produce SWE.

The next step would be chemical extraction or leaching of the plant active compounds. These are the classic extracts that have been the focus of the research results I am presenting in this article.

Alkaline extracts. Kelp is chemically digested at high pH. This method most likely began when farmers added wood ashes to seaweed to make a tea. This is the largest category with

Continued on page 38



A. nodosum on the coast of Maine.

Continued from page 37

respect to the number of variations on the concept, and probably the gallons produced.

Alkaline SWEs are the compounds used exclusively so far in my research trials. They're the filtered mixtures of suspensions of the soluble and insoluble parts of the kelp. Heat is typically part of the process, and the temperatures used vary with the processor. Some processors use temperatures well above the boiling point of water. The end product of an alkaline extraction is often dehydrated to a black powder or flaked product to be remixed with water.

Processors planning to produce a powder aim to chemically and mechanically digest the kelp to maximize the yield of the soluble and suspendable solids. Settling out of the suspended solids in these products is sometimes a problem.

Cytokinin levels must remain elevated in leaf tissues to slow the summer decline process. As summer root decline proceeds, leaf tissue cytokinin levels drop.

DOES RATE MATTER?

It's a valid question since we are dealing with hormones-compounds that cause plant growth changes at very low concentrations (nanograms or 10^{-9}) in plant tissues. If these compounds are over-applied will we see abnormal or injurious growth responses? Or, since it only takes nano-changes in concentrations to have positive growth effects, can standard spray rates be reduced? The cytokinin levels in the undiluted SWEs that we tested have ranged from 5 to 125 parts per million (ppm or 10^{-6}). At normal dilution rates, we have compared two SWE sources applied

at 3.5 ppm each or what amounted to about 3 to 4 oz. SWE per 1000 ft². Under heat stress we compared this 1x rate (3 oz.) to 0.1x and 10x rates for effects on creeping bentgrass.

Our results showed that rate mattered in terms of applying enough. The 0.1x rate did not supply enough cytokinins to match the improvements seen with turf quality, chlorophyll levels and nitrate uptake provided by the 1x rate. However, these positive heat stress tolerance effects were matched by the 10x rate, with no negative consequences. The 10x rate did not provide any measures of improved stress

tolerance over the 1x rate, so save your money and stick with the label.

DOES PLACEMENT MATTER?

I don't think so. Standard practice in our trials is to foliar apply then lightly overhead irrigate the next day. In one study, however, we foliar applied and sub-irrigated. Both methods demonstrated similar results in the trials. As far as root absorption is concerned, Huang's research showed positive results when the cytokinin was syringe-injected to the root zone. So go ahead and stick with the standard practice of foliar application, with the only worry of activity loss being if application is followed by a large rainfall or irrigation event.

DOES TIMING MATTER?

Our research indicates that cytokinin levels are optimized under optimal temperature and moisture conditions (such as conditions that can occur in the spring and fall) and cannot be boosted to an extent that makes a plant health difference. However, as temperatures increase in late spring, and the chances for stretches of 7 to 14 days of unseasonable heating or drying increase, our recommendation is to begin applications.

Our research has shown that a 30-day interval between applications can suffice at first, but as heat and plant metabolism rates increase, we recommend shortening the interval to 14 days. The shorter interval in the hottest summer weather is due to the fact that cytokinins and other ingredients in SWEs are organic and break down faster in the environment and in the plant as temperatures increase.

DOES MIXING WITH A PGR MATTER?

There are small amounts of other hormones, such as auxin and gibberellic acid (GA), in SWEs. So will a tank mix of SWE with an anti-GA PGR cancel each other out? We have looked at this question over a summer season

on a putting green in Virginia with an alkaline SWE, mixed or not with Primo.

There were never any clipping yield differences between Primo by itself or mixed with the SWE. However, in comparison to a fertilizer control or Primo + fertilizer, the Primo + SWE plots consistently displayed the highest summer quality.

Are there other biostimulant products on the market that contain higher levels of GA that could be a cause for concern in terms of negating PGR effects? Yes. Always pay attention to labels and question product reps closely about such issues before tank-mixing.

Summer stress will most likely continue to be relentless in the coming years. SWE-based biostimulants can help, but they must be part of a larger cultural management program that revolves around creating and maintaining a physical environment that promotes air movement and temperature moderation.

Erik Ervin is a professor of turfgrass culture and physiology at Virginia Tech. He can be contacted at eervin@vt.edu.

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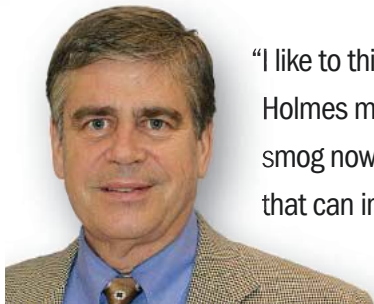
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"I like to think the fog in those early Sherlock Holmes movies was actually smog. For the record, smog now refers to any decrease in air quality that can impact visibility and human health."

KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D., *Science Editor*

Trying to see through the smog

I could not remember the last time I thought about smog. Until, that is, I ran into a few superintendents from China at the 2013 Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

From what I was told (and later confirmed through my own research), for the last few months the smog levels in Beijing and other Chinese cities have been so horrific that hospitals have been overrun with people suffering respiratory problems, stores are running out of face masks and the government is ordering people to stay inside.

Having traveled to Beijing several times myself, it came as quite a shock to hear that the metropolis's streets were quiet and nearly deserted due to high smog levels.

It also came as a surprise to hear that the Chinese government this year finally acknowledged the severity of the smog problem. In the past, officials routinely downplayed it, calling the smog "fog."

"Smog" originally described the combination of smoke and fog that often reduced visibility in European cities during the early 1800s. I like to think the London fog in those early Sherlock Holmes movies was actually smog. For the record, smog now refers

to any decrease in air quality that can impact visibility and human health.

Smog occurs when gas and particle emissions derived from industrial causes and compound-producing internal combustion engines are trapped by local weather conditions that enhance the chemical reactions and increase their concentration in the atmosphere.

In the United States, vehicles are the No. 1 smog producer. In places like Beijing, where little environmental consideration is given to rapid growth, both industrial and vehicular pollution are major culprits.

Smog levels are quantified by several different measurements, but the single most important one is called PM 2.5. It stands for Particulate Matter (PM) suspended in air of a size less than 2.5 micrometers. These fine particles suspended like an aerosol are associated with heart disease, strokes, respiratory problems and premature death.

Although we still have a long ways to go to improve our air quality here in the United States, it's not as bad as

it was 50 years ago, and it's not as bad as what's occurring now in other cities globally, which started me thinking about the impact of smog on turfgrass.

Most research exploring the impact of smog on turfgrass and plants was done during the 1950s, no doubt reflective of the time when smog and air quality were major concerns in the United States (and they still are).

The best summarization of the impact of smog or air pollution on turfgrass still is James B. Beard's book "Turfgrass: Science and Culture," published in 1973.

Smog symptoms do appear on turfgrasses in the form of an oily glazed appearance due in part to the degradation of chloroplast. Of the turfgrasses, *Poa annua* was found to be sensitive to air pollution and was used as a bioassay indicator in past studies.

Santa Ana, a hybrid bermudagrass released by the California Agricultural Experiment Station in 1966 (initial selection in 1956 at UCLA), in part was released because of its tolerance to smog.

Compared to Tifway and Tifgreen, Santa Ana exhibits a high tolerance to smog. Santa Ana is not widely used in the United States. However, in Australia it is still widely used on golf course fairways — not for its smog tolerance so much as for its salt tolerance and ability to retain color through late fall into winter.

On golf courses and other landscapes where smog is present, turfgrass suffers. And when we look more closely at the situation, it's clear to see that smog and the problems associated with it are overlooked contributors to the decline of turf.

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., *Golfdom's* science editor and a professor at The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.

Good greens in early spring

Aaron Patton, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of turfgrass science at Purdue University and devotes a portion of his research to improving golf course playing conditions. He can be reached at ajpatton@purdue.edu.

Q What can superintendents do to provide greens that play well early in the spring?

I suggest doing five things. First, inspect all the greens and repair damaged areas. There is always some damage that occurs over winter from rodents, cross-country skiers, winter golfers or limbs falling on greens. Plug out damaged spots, hand topdress small areas with blemishes and blow off all the debris before rolling.

Second, roll to start the season. Greens in spring are usually uneven and a little soft. Rolling will smooth out uneven spots from frost heaving, help firm the surface up and to the delight of golfers, increase green speed.

Third, before you set the mowing height, stop to consider that spring is when creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass will grow the root system they will need to last the entire summer. Are you sure you want to start stressing the grass right off the bat by using a low mowing height? Ease into mowing and low mowing heights, if at all possible. Alternate mowing and rolling.

Fourth, send out the mowers. Start mowing at a higher height and ease the height down over several weeks. Mow only as the grass grows. Rely on rolling to get the greens firm, smooth and fast. Or at least fast by spring standards.

Lastly, don't force leaf growth by over-fertilizing with nitrogen. Apply minimal nitrogen in early spring, no more than 0.25 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. The turfgrass will green up and

recover on its own using stored energy from last fall's fertilization.

Q What are your thoughts on annual bluegrass management or control in early spring?

For those who choose to suppress annual bluegrass seedheads, timing of application of Proxy (ethephon) or Embark (mefluidide) is everything.

“Are you sure you want to start stressing the grass right off the bat by using a low mowing height? Ease into mowing and low mowing heights, if at all possible.”

AARON PATTON, PH.D.

An effective approach to determine ideal application timing is to monitor growing degree days (GDD), and once GDD accumulation has reached a defined range, apply your favorite seed-head suppressing PGR. This approach is used in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, where GDD accumulation is reported daily on a website starting March 1. The website can be found at

<http://www.gddtracker.net/>. It's helpful in determining the timing of Proxy and Embark applications.

If you choose to control annual bluegrass, don't forget to keep your focus on creeping bentgrass health in early spring and don't be overly aggressive with your annual bluegrass control program.

Q What can be done in the fall to set up greens that perform well in early spring?

Fertilize with 1.0 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in fall (one or more applications depending on your nitrogen source) so the plants can store energy for the spring. If you are so inclined, raise the mowing height slightly so there is more leaf area to photosynthesize and produce carbohydrates.

And consider topdressing late in fall once you have stopped mowing. The topdressing will help protect the crown, reduce desiccation injury and get the turfgrass off to a good start in spring.

Q What are your thoughts on pigments and paints applied in early spring for color and to help warm up the soil?

So far, I haven't seen much use of pigments or paints in Indiana in early spring. Superintendents are interested, but few have tried them yet. I understand the theory behind their use at certain timings but I have not seen any research that leads me to believe that there is a significant benefit to their use in spring on cool-season turf.

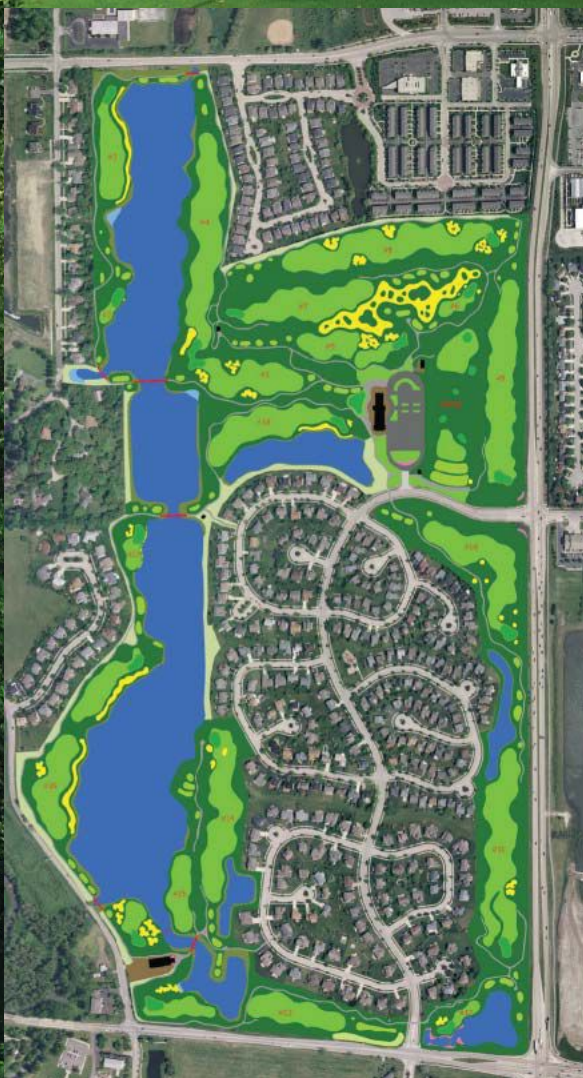


Clark Throssell, Ph.D., loves to talk turf. Contact him at clarkthrossell@bresnan.net.



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Weevil Defense

Superintendents have a valuable resource when it comes to fighting annual bluegrass weevils — Weevil Trak 2013, now from **SYNGENTA**. Making proper decisions on the timing of treatments early in the season is key to having a successful annual bluegrass weevil control program. WeevilTrak alerts users on the optimum time to control weevils. Syngenta is working with 39 superintendents and seven independent university researchers, including Weevil Trak Managing Consultant Dr. Daniel Peck, who is making treatment recommendations.

Greencastonline.com/weeviltrak/home.aspx

Nematode control

AGRIGUARD COMPANY announced that MultiGuard Protect, a natural contact nematode known for its nematode control in established turf, now has an expanded-use label approved for outdoor non-food use to control harmful nematodes on plants and ornamentals. MultiGuard Protect controls root-infesting, plant-parasitic nematodes and suppresses fungal plant diseases, such as species of *Pythium*, *Phytophthora*, *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia*, stimulating overall aesthetic improvement and increasing root depth by up to four inches on the affected turf without harming it.

MultiGuardProtect.com

Battery technology

TROJAN BATTERY COMPANY has two new batteries that feature the longest life and longest range in the industry, the company says. Trojan has engineered the Traveler 8V to provide more than 40 percent longer life, and the Ranger 160 to deliver 35 percent more travel distance between recharges than today's current 8-volt golf batteries. The battery's internal elements include Trojan's new Internal Battery Protection System, which features thicker grids, membrane-wrapped plates, and Trojan's exclusive T2 Technology with Maxguard T2 multi-rib separators.

Trojanbattery.com



Seeding

TURFCO introduces the new TriWave 40 Tow-Behind Overseeder. The towable model offers the most speed and versatility and the easiest operation of any overseeder on the market, the company says. The TriWave 40 quickly attaches to most turf vehicles, making it convenient and efficient to use. In minutes the seeder can be hooked up, eliminating the typical hassle associated with setting up a seeder. Once ready, the TriWave 40 can overseed and spot-seed a variety of turf areas, including greens, fairways, roughs, tee boxes and driving ranges, with any seed and no gear or mechanical changes. The versatility of the towable TriWave 40 enables crews to seed more often and tackle any area on the golf course. Additionally, the TriWave can be quickly adjusted without any tools to get the right depth for any turf conditions.

Turfco.com

Irrigation

HUNTER INDUSTRIES says its G885 golf rotor has the highest torque output of any golf rotor on the market, with a patented

gear drive capable of pushing away most obstructions. The G885 comes with convenient serviceability and Decoder-In Head technology, making it a powerful and intelligent rotor. A ratcheting stainless steel riser, water-lubricated gear drive, QuickSet-360 arc mechanism and QuickCheck arc mechanism are all added strengths of the rotor. The G885 is recommended for new constructions, retrofits and system upgrades.

Hunterindustries.com



Sun protection

TURF MAX introduces two new products to the Turf Screen enhanced solar protection line. They are Turf Screen Pure Green advanced green pigment for turf and Turf Screen Crew outdoor professional sunscreen for staff. Turf Screen Pure Green is a blend of dark green pigment for turf that is formulated specifically to improve turf quality and provide long-lasting color during the spring and summer months. Turf Screen Crew is a broad spectrum SPF 30 professional-grade sunscreen specifically designed to protect golf course employees from the harmful effects of excessive exposure to UVB and solar radiation. It is water-resistant, greaseless and fragrance-free.

Turfscreen.com



The 19th Hole



Troy Flanagan

SUPERINTENDENT // Anthem CC, Henderson, Nev.



What can I get you? A Sailor Jerry and Coke.

Troy, it's on me, I'll spring for the Captain... My boss laughs because he buys alcohol for everyone for Christmas. He says he feels bad because he buys me this big jug of Sailor Jerry and it's only \$18. It's just different, I like it.

Tell me about your family. My wife, Mary, we've been married 16 years. She's always understood the industry. If it's July 4th, she knows I'm gone and she's OK with that. She's really the glue that holds the family together. My son Ryan (14) is going to be a video game tester someday. My daughter Erin (12) is an amazing dancer, she dances competitively.

Do you play video games with Ryan? The last couple years he's gotten too good, so I've stopped. He loves Call of Duty: Black Ops. We'd play online, I'd get slaughtered, and I just knew there's some snot-nosed 9-year-old on the other side. So I told him, "I'm done."

Everyone gripes about golfers, but let me ask you this: What do golfers get right? Golfers are doing a better job understanding that something needs to be done about the length of the golf courses and how long it takes to play. I think "Play it Forward" has been a good push, and it's going to be good for our industry. I hope that push keeps going.

What do you look forward to in the summer? The arrival of fall. I've grown to not like summers. I'm in the desert, it's really hot. The toughest thing about Anthem is our soils are horrible, we've got some of the worst water in the country, and I have pretty much all ryegrass here. I'm keeping ryegrass alive in 110-, 112-degree weather. From May through August, every Saturday and Sunday, there are two of us here cooling the ryegrass every afternoon. I've got two great assistants, Miles Carlson and Kenton Gamache. Between the three of us we get it done.

Is it a lot of fun living in Las Vegas, or does it get old? You know, everyone thinks we all live down at the strip. Vegas has gotten bigger, but it's still not a big town. We live in a really nice community away from all the strip activity. It's definitely different. Las Vegas is more homey than where I used to live in Northern California.

Who is your team? I've been a Vikings fan forever. It seems they're always above average. There's always a great chance they'll make the playoffs. ...But there's an even greater chance they'll lose in the first round of the wildcard.

Do you ever put money down on your Vikings at the sports book? I'm not a sports book guy. I don't bet on sports. Honestly, I like my money. Vegas wasn't built on winners.

As interviewed by Seth Jones on March 26th, 2013.

"I'VE WORKED FOR SIX DIFFERENT SUPERINTENDENTS, ALL PENN STATERS. EVERY ONE OF THEM WERE AMAZING SUPERINTENDENTS. THEY WERE THE ONES WHO MADE ME THE SUPERINTENDENT I AM TODAY."





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