

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//TURF ON TV



TV actor Lorenzo Lamas (left) and agronomist Chase Rogan share a laugh on the set of Spike TV's "The Joe Schmo Show." "(Agronomy) was something they'd never heard of before, but they thought it was pretty cool and different," Rogan says of the cast.

JOE SCHMO IS A TURFIE

BY SETH JONES // Editor-in-Chief

➔ The van rolls up to a house where a fugitive lives, and Chase Rogan sighs. "They could use some turf consulting," he deadpans.

Rogan, star of the Spike Network reality series *The Joe Schmo Show* (airing Tuesdays at 10/9 p.m. CST), is the owner and head agronomist for Pittsburgh-based Pure Turf Consulting and a regional expert for ePar USA. Having received his masters in agronomy in 2011, his company is just starting out, just like his fame as a reality TV star.

"I was out having drinks with my in-laws a couple weeks ago, and a guy asked me, 'Are you Joe Schmo?'" Rogan says. "My Twitter following has definitely increased."

The premise of the show is unique: It's a reality show that's fake. Well, more fake than the others. On this show, only one person is participating with the belief that the show is

legit (known as the "Joe," in this case, Rogan). All the other participants are actors in on the set-up. The pretense is that the winner of this show will win \$100,000 and a chance to become a professional bounty hunter.

So did Rogan win the \$100,000 on the fake show?

"Sorry, I can't comment on that," he says.

But does he still want to be a bounty hunter?

"...No. I'm not sure how much I'm allowed to say," he says. "But I was there to win \$100,000."

Though we'll have to wait to see how the show ends, Rogan does hope the show can help his turf business.

"I hope it has a big impact on my career. I'm hoping people will see it and at least want to talk to me so I can continue to broaden my network," he says. "I'm all about meeting new people and I hope this opens some doors."

//GROWING THE FAMILY

NUFARM ACQUIRES CLEARY CHEMICAL

Nufarm last month acquired Dayton, N.J.-based Cleary Chemical Corp., a marketer of fungicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators for the turf and ornamental horticulture industries.

Nufarm stated its acquisition of Cleary, an \$11 million company, will further strengthen its product offering as the third-largest plant protection provider in the T&O market.

"We are excited about the synergy and opportunity this move will bring," stated Darryl Matthews, general manager for Nufarm in North America.

According to Nufarm, "Cleary's extensive portfolio of fungicide brands will boost Nufarm's market presence and make it an even more attractive supplier for golf and greenhouse/nursery customers."

Under the agreement, Nufarm will continue to offer the Cleary line of products under the Cleary name, and customers seeking Cleary merchandise or information should continue to contact their Cleary representatives.

//WHAT A DEAL

FMC LAUNCHES WINTER HERBICIDE PROMOTION

Superintendents can save when they stock up on select herbicides from FMC Professional Solutions from now until March 15.

Purchase one of seven herbicide products and earn sizable rebates, plus bonuses, based on purchasing levels. Eligible products include Quicksilver, SquareOne, Dismiss, Blindside and more. Rebates vary depending on product and container size.

FMC also has just launched a special Talstar Professional promotion, aptly called "Buy 3 Get the 4th Free." The promotion runs now through Nov. 30 and applies to 1-gallon and three-fourths-gallon jugs of the liquid insecticide.

For full details on both of these promotions, visit fmcprosolutions.com.

// AWARD GOES TO..

GCSAA AND GOLF DIGEST BESTOW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Steven Tierney, superintendent at Golfpark Nuolen in Wangen, Switzerland, and his course, are the big winners of the GCSAA/ Golf Digest 2012 Environmental Leader in Golf Awards.

According to the GCSAA, Tierney earned accolades for overseeing a water-farming project that "featured seven miles of drains to divert runoff into irrigation ponds." Consequently, the course has saved \$20,000 in annual electricity costs.

Those in the United States who earned environmental honors include Matt Shaffer, superintendent at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa; John Anderes III of Queenstown Harbor (Md.); and Joshua Kelley of the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando.

// GREAT GRANTS

WATSON FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

The GCSAA has chosen three doctoral students as the newest recipients of its Watson Fellowship Program.

The \$5,000 post-graduate grants went to Diane Silcox of North Carolina State; James McCurdy of Auburn University; and Joshua Friell of the University of Minnesota. The fellowships are funded through a partnership between the Toro Co. and the EIFG.

// GOLFDOM WISDOM

It's OK if the course dog is your best friend. It's not OK if the course dog is your only friend.
#Golfdomwisdom



The Goosinator

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor



Chris Habeger, assistant superintendent at Alvamar CC, Lawrence, Kan., was talking with coworkers about how hard it is to control geese at the club. Cosmically, 15 minutes later, Randy Claussen was driving through the neighborhood looking to demonstrate a goose control tool called the Goosinator, a remote-controlled device that chases off geese.

"I couldn't believe he was in the neighborhood right after we were talking about our geese problem," Habeger marveled.

Alvamar, a 36-hole facility, has six ponds. Habeger long has battled the influx of geese that often migrate from ponds to greens.

"Geese land on the pond next to the No. 3 green and come up and destroy it," he said. "All it takes is a few little pieces of feces to interrupt a guest's round of golf."

Habeger said that after testing the Goosinator (www.goosinator.com) for just a few minutes, he was sold.

"I was really impressed that it got around so well on the ice, the water and the turf. To have one device work on different terrain, I can't think of anything else outside an animal that could get around like that."

Claussen said the Goosinator has gotten similar reviews from many courses. "Once you have it, you don't have to clean up after geese anymore," he said.

Habeger knows now is not the time for Alvamar to buy new equipment, but when that time comes, the Goosinator will be top of his list, he says.



PHOTO BY: SETH JONES

READER JOKE

AS TOLD BY **Damon Di Giorgio, Fieldstone GC, Wilmington, Del.**

Got a good golf joke? Send it to golfjokes@northcoastmedia.net. If we publish yours, we'll send you a \$50 gift card!

One day a golfer accidentally overturns his cart. Elizabeth, a very attractive former LPGA golfer who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise. She called out, "Are you okay? What's your name?" "It's Jack, and I'm OK," he replied. "Jack, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest a while, and I'll help you get the cart up later." "That's mighty nice of you," he answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it." "Oh, come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty and persuasive. "Well, okay," he finally agreed, and added, "but my wife won't like it." After a restorative brandy, and some driving and putting lessons, Jack thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset." "Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said. "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?" "Under the cart!"