

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//PROMOTION

GREG HUNTER NAMED PRESIDENT OF HUNTER INDUSTRIES

The new president talked to *Golfdom* about his father's retirement and his plans for the company

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ After 19 years as Hunter Industries' president and CEO, Richard Hunter retired in February and his son Greg, 39, took over.

"I've been working for this for most of my life," said Greg Hunter, who first went to work for the company in his 20s, after graduating from Cornell University. "I feel very comfortable and very well prepared for it."

Hunter has served in several executive leadership roles at the company — in areas as varied as engineering, product management, information systems and marketing. He most recently served as Hunter Industries' COO. That diverse ex-

perience will help him as president, he said, because it has given him a broad understanding of the company.

While his father's expertise centered on finance, Hunter's marketing skills are among his strongest. He served as Hunter Industries' VP of marketing for three-and-a-half years. That experience, he said, "is going to help me leverage our strengths. Marketing is primarily what we are offering to our customers, and how we're going to deliver those products to them is something I'm very interested in."



Greg Hunter, president and CEO, Hunter Industries

Though Hunter is confident about serving as president, he allows that "filling my father's shoes is a whole different topic of conversation. I'm not my father. There are things I'll never be able to do as well as he does, but we have a very strong leadership team to help me with that."

Richard Hunter helped launch the company in the early 1980s together with his father, Edwin, brother Paul and sister Ann. Under his leadership, Hunter Industries grew into one of the world's most widely known irrigation equipment and landscape lighting manufacturers.

Though Richard still will serve as a company adviser, he has spent the last five years preparing the company for a leadership transition. Now, Greg Hunter feels primed to move the company forward.

"I'm most looking forward to watching what Hunter Industries does over the next 10 years," he said. "We have a lot of opportunities in the current marketplace. In the last five years we've invested more in R&D, and a lot of results of that are now coming to play."

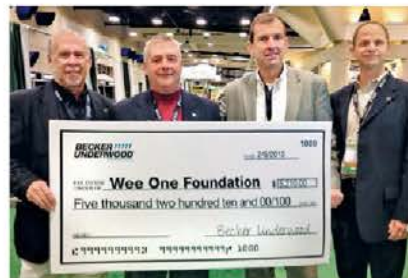
"Our ability to innovate and bring products to market in a timely manner," he added, "is stronger than it's ever been."

//CHECK, PLEASE

BECKER UNDERWOOD DONATES TO WEE ONE FOUNDATION

At the Golf Industry Show, Becker Underwood presented the Wee One Foundation with a check for \$5,210, further empowering the non-profit to assist superintendents and their loved ones overburdened with medical expenses.

In presenting the award, Becker Underwood Product Manager Joe Lara said the foundation works hard to help those who "have been through some pretty tough times." Since its founding in 2004, the foundation has gifted nearly \$600,000 to families in 17 states.



Left to right: Wee One Foundation's Chad Ball, Paul Bastron, Steve Cook and Luke Cella

PHOTO COURTESY: BECKER UNDERWOOD

//THE AWARD GOES TO...

MEREWITZ NAMED MUSSER WINNER

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation selected Dr. Emily Merewitz, Assistant Professor in Molecular Turfgrass



Biology at Michigan State University, as the 2013 Award of Excellence recipient. The award is given to outstanding Ph.D. candidates who, in the final phase of their graduate studies, demonstrate overall

excellence throughout their doctoral program in turfgrass research.

"It is quite an honor and it will motivate me even more to excel in the turfgrass industry," Merewitz said. "The industry has been extremely supportive of my research and this award is something that means a lot to me."