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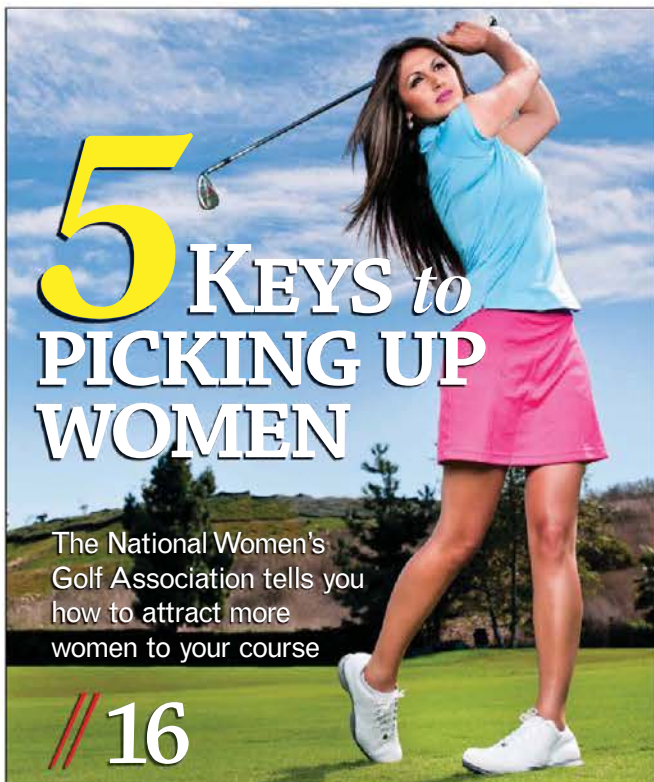


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5 KEYS to PICKING UP WOMEN

The National Women's Golf Association tells you how to attract more women to your course

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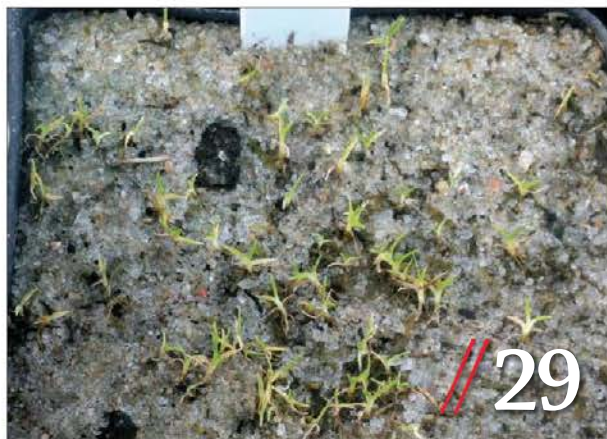
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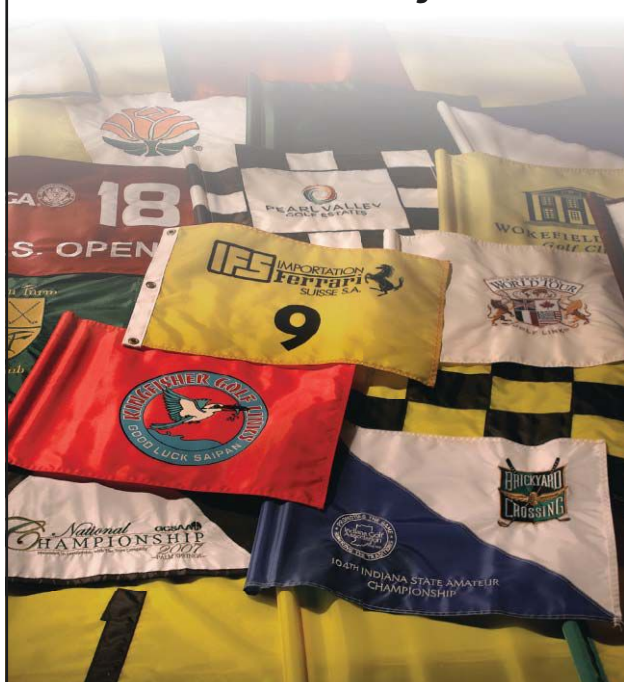
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Golfdom

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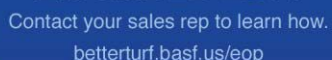
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“I was standing there with my dad when he turned the engine over. The next thing I knew I was cleaning out my black 1998 6-cylinder Camaro. I didn’t stand a chance.”

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

Ode to the Z

I should be buying a sports car about now, not selling one. Is this a reverse midlife crisis? ¶ For the last 20 years I’ve been driving a Camaro. My current Camaro is a 2002 Z28, (5.7 liter V8 with 310 hp at 5200 RPM) red with a black top. It’s the third Camaro I’ve owned since 1994. ¶ And soon, it will surely be the last one I ever owned.

I’ve got two young kids — one 7, the other 2. I can handle the hypocrisy of toting one small child in the back of a sports car, but two? How sad is a red Camaro with two child car seats in the back?

And yet the end of my Camaro days came unexpectedly. I was at my mom’s house a few weeks ago. In her driveway is my dad’s old truck. Dad died four years ago. Dad had a nice 1999 Dodge Ram V8 truck. It was sitting there in the driveway, just aging, dead battery, cobwebs in the door jambs. This was the truck that Dad and I always took fishing, you know?

“Mom, what are you going to do with Dad’s truck?” I asked her. “Nothing,” she said. “But I can’t get rid of it.”

So I opened my dumb mouth. “Why don’t you let me drive it for a few years?”

“I think your dad would love that,” she told me.

Great idea at first. It’s a nice truck. Just needed a little work (by “a little,” I mean “\$1,000.”)

But the problem? I already had two vehicles. The aforementioned Camaro, as well as my first car, a 1964 Chevy Impala (2-door, 327, baby blue with a white top and glass-packs.) There’s no way the missus would let me get away with keeping three cars.

So, goodbye, Camaro. You’ve been a fun ride. But practicality wins today. I can’t get both kids inside you, my wife can’t drive you and you’re worthless in the snow.

Sigh...

It’s highly unlikely I’ll ever own a car that fast again. The Z jumped off the line, screamed through turns and laughed at steep inclines. I recently enjoyed the highlight

of my Camaro years with this Z28 when I took it on a three-lap joyride around the turns of the Kansas Speedway. My adrenaline was pumping for that, let me tell you! I only got it up to 90 on the turns (they had a pace car and motorcycle cops monitoring drivers during the event) but it was still so cool.

I remember when I bought that red Z in 2002. I was in Mulvane, Kan., helping my dad build a new back deck at their house. Dad had the oldies channel on all day while we worked. Every commercial break, the same commercial came on — Rock Chevrolet in Mulvane begging people

to come take their last 2002 Z28s off their hands. They were offering 60 month zero-percent financing, which caught my ear.

As soon as we were done with the deck, my old man asked me what I wanted to do. “I want to go test drive one of those Zs,” I said. It couldn’t have been any easier; the dealership was less than two miles from their doorstep.

The one I went for was the one in the showroom. They pulled back the sliding windows to get my future Camaro out for a test drive. They let one of the sales guys pull it out. I was standing there with my dad when he turned the engine over. “Vroom!” The showroom echoed with the power of those 8 cylinders. They had me at “vroom!” The next thing I knew I was cleaning out my black 1998 6-cylinder Camaro. I didn’t stand a chance.

I held on for almost 20 years. That’s a good run. Now I’ll be like most of my readers: a truck man. I look forward to the advantages of having a truck at my convenience.

I’ll miss this Camaro. But for now, it’s time to get out of the fast lane.

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Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//SUMMIT



Steve Mona of the World Golf Foundation, Wayne Kappelman of Sharp Park Golf Course, and a third, mystery speaker soon to be announced — will headline the 2013 *Golfdom* Summit at Reunion Resort in Orlando.

GOLFDOM SUMMIT 2013 SPEAKERS UNVEILED

EVENT RETURNS TO REUNION RESORT IN ORLANDO;
OFFERS INTRIGUING LISTS OF SPEAKERS.

➔ Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation and a former CEO of GCSAA, leads the list of guest speakers at the 2013 *Golfdom* Summit, set to take place at the Reunion Resort in Orlando from December 3-6.

Other guest speakers include Wayne Kappelman, superintendent at Sharp Park Golf Course in San Francisco and winner of *Golfdom*'s 2013 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year Award; Mark Woodward, senior VP for OB Sports, principal of Damarco Golf, and a one-time host of the U.S. Open as well as a former CEO of the GCSAA; Clark Throssell, Ph.D., *Golfdom*'s research editor; and John Soetaert, superintendent at Annbriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill.

And to add a little mystery to the

event, one final guest speaker — perhaps the event's biggest celebrity yet — will be announced via Twitter in the upcoming weeks as well as in next month's issue.

"I'm thrilled with the group of guest speakers we've assembled this year," says Patrick Roberts, *Golfdom*'s long-time publisher. "Those who are fortunate enough to be selected this year will see that the speakers are just one element of the overall first-class package that is the *Golfdom* Summit."

The *Golfdom* Summit offers approximately 50 superintendents an opportunity to listen to timely presentations, network with colleagues from around the country, play golf and learn about some of the most cutting-edge new technologies in the industry. This will be the third year for the event.

//GCSAA NEWS

SORENSTAM NAMED 2014 OTM AWARD WINNER

Annika Sorenstam, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and one of the most decorated golfers of all time, has been selected to receive the 2014 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The award will be presented during the 2014 GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, Feb. 5, at the Opening Session. Previous award winners include Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Nancy Lopez, Nick Price and Peter Jacobsen, among others. GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

"Annika thrilled us as a champion golfer and has inspired us through her compassion in giving back to others in a variety of charitable endeavors," GCSAA President Pat Finlen, CGCS, said. "We are honored that she will be joining us to accept the award and share her message with us."

//PEOPLE NEWS

WOODWARD NAMED OB SPORTS VP

Longtime superintendent Mark Woodward, a former CEO of the GCSAA, has been hired by Scottsdale, Ariz.-based management company OB Sports as a senior vice president. (Woodward is also a monthly columnist for *Golfdom*, penning the "At the Turn" column.)

Woodward will be called on for general business development and for his expertise in operating municipal courses.

"This will allow me to do what I do best, which is successfully managing major golf operations and making them viable again," Woodward says.

Woodward will continue to operate Woodward and Associates and Damarco Golf, but says his role with China's MasterStep Golf Group is slowing down.

Quali-Pro to expand Texas headquarters

➔ Control Solutions Inc. (CSI), parent company of Quali-Pro, is expanding its formulating, warehousing and distributing capabilities at its 14-acre campus in Pasadena, Texas. The expansion involves a \$5.5 million investment to construct and equip a 120,000-sq.-ft. facility earmarked primarily for finished-goods storage.

CSI broke ground on the facility in July, and expects to complete construction in February 2014. About 20,000 sq. ft. of the project is earmarked for distribution offices and a staging area for shipments. A new finished-goods storage center will enable CSI to centralize warehousing and distribution of most of the Quali-Pro turf care product line acquired in late 2011. CSI currently partners with 11 off-site contract warehouses, but will be able to shift two-thirds of this to Pasadena in spring 2014.

The company says the expansion will help CSI accommodate steady sales growth across all segments served,

including among others: turf and ornamentals, lawn and garden and pest management.

"This expansion is designed to help us

meet growing demand while better serving customers with enhanced warehousing and distribution control," said CSI President Mark Boyd.

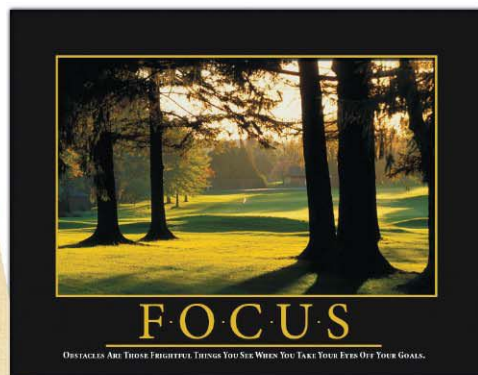
Curtis Clark showcases two of CSI's six 8,000-gallon solvent tanks.



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Golfdom Gallery

WE CAME.
WE SAW.
WE TOOK PICTURES.

1 Super Mario Bros. There was no way Kansas alumnus and *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones was going to turn down an invitation to Miami Heat guard (and former Jayhawk) Mario Chalmers' charity golf tournament and VIP mixer. The event benefitted Lawrence (Kan.) Memorial Hospital as well as Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas.



2 Driver's drive The R.J. National, profiled in this issue (see page 24,) may be a short three-hole par-9 course, but that doesn't mean it lacks bite. Just ask Ransomes Jacobsen's Peter Driver, who was forced to hit his second shot from this jungle.

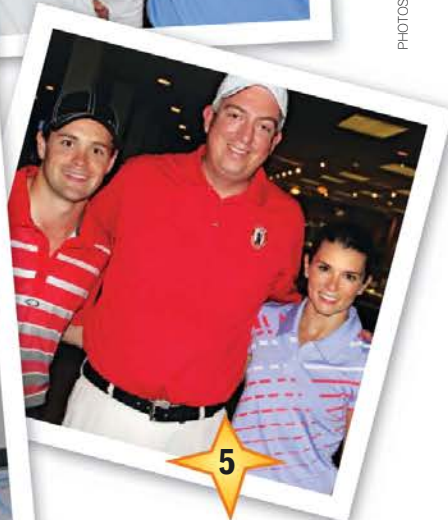
3 Golf in the fast lane *Golfdom* attended the BASF Innovations Summit at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina recently. Who did we see coming off No. 18 of Pinehurst No. 2? None other than racing royalty in Danica Patrick (second from left) and her boyfriend, fellow NASCAR driver Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (far left,) pictured along with Eileen Sarro, BASF's communications manager, specialty products and Brian Thompson, BASF strategic accounts manager.



4 Science fair champs Adam Rusciocelli, VP of product development for Spectrum Technologies, and Dave Stahulak, product development intern, stand next to the prototype of the new Tru-Firm. Remember the kids who always won the science fair? That was Adam and Dave.



5 Time for one more? If you know Seth, you know he always has 'time for one more.' Lucky for him, Danica and Ricky had time for one more photo before leaving Pinehurst. And in case you're wondering if Seth is that tall or if Danica is that short? Seth claims to be 6'3", but his ego is much taller.



PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES (2-4) / BRIAN THOMPSON (5)

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“If you want to figure out how to get more women into the game of golf and keep them there you should ask one particular group: women.”

MARK WOODWARD, *Contributing Editor*

Shouldn't ladies lead the way to golf growth?

Women have played a role in golf dating back to the 16th century when Mary, Queen of Scots, and one of the first recorded golfers commissioned the construction of the first golf course at St. Andrews, Scotland. According to some history books she was also one of the first to coin the word caddie. It then took a long, long time before the first recorded women's golf tournament happened and even longer for the first women's golf association to be formed. It seems rather odd to me that women played such a big role in the foundation of golf yet it isn't translating into a strong presence within the game today.

The cover story of this issue is on ways to get more women involved in the game today and therefore helping grow the game. I was talking to a female colleague in the golf industry and she caused me to look at the entire subject of women and golf a little differently in the matter of a few short minutes.

If you look at the history of the golf industry, in general, there are very few women in high-level positions. Granted there are a lot of women in our industry but they're not in positions of authority. Whether we want to admit it or not, the golf industry in the United States is still a “men's

club” in this regard. Sorry, but it's the truth.

My point is, if you want to figure out how to get more women into the game of golf and keep them there you should ask one particular group: WOMEN. You need to find out what they want out of the game, what makes them happy to come to the golf course on a regular basis, what you need to do to make them feel wanted, how to reduce the intimidation factor and most importantly how to make the game of golf fun for them — like the National Women's Golf Al-

liance is doing (see page 16.) And even more important, we need to encourage women to be in positions of authority and take a leading role in the decision making process about the future of our game. In my opinion women in power positions will bring more women into the game. And my colleague brought up a great point: “Where there are more women, there are more men!”

I remember several years ago I was involved in the National Institute for Golf Management, a golf management institute held in Wheeling, West Virginia at Oglebay Resort. When I first

got on the Board of Regents, it was all men. The best move we made in the 18 years I was part of the institute was to get women on the Board of Regents. They brought such a different perspective to our discussions and let's face it; in many cases they are just flat-out smarter than us guys. This move alone changed the dynamic of the board and we instantly got better at everything we did.

As mentioned, for hundreds of years there have been women in golf. In fact, all the way back to the very beginning of this great game, yet here we are today still trying to figure out the solution to a very important issue in our industry. After all, if you look at the past census for the U.S. there are more women in the U.S. than men. In some years there are as many as 6 million more women than men.

It makes sense that if we as an industry could capture just a small percentage of these women and turn them into golfers, the industry would grow substantially. After all, women are responsible for 80-percent of consumer buying decisions in the U.S., according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

So, there you go. Another article with a man writing about how to get more women into the game of golf. Excuse me while I go ask my wife why she doesn't play golf.

Mark Woodward is a senior vice president for OB Sports, principal of DaMarCo Golf, president of Mark Woodward and Associates and a contributing editor for *Golfdom*.

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MATT NEFF, assistant superintendent,
Wedgewood G&CC, Powell, Ohio

Speaking from experience

After receiving my turf degree, I was hired as the 2nd assistant at the club at which I had interned. Shortly after I was hired, the 1st assistant left for another job and I was promoted, a decision my boss undoubtedly questioned a few times during that first year. ¶ Despite my glaring lack of experience, I was sure I would immediately be awesome. I didn't do too bad that first year, but I assure you, I fell quite short of awesomeness. I was like the fourth outfielder on a baseball team who plays when a starter needs a day off — not going to kill you but probably not going to win you any games, either.

No one wants to hear a preachy assistant dispensing career tips so hopefully this doesn't sound that way. But I've made plenty of mistakes, had many successes and have worked with and for several great people. As a result, I've learned a few things that might be beneficial to you newer guys. If you're interested, here's my unsolicited advice:

Communication is key. Effective communication with your boss and the crew is essential. You need to have a firm understanding of your boss's expectations and preferences in order to effectively manage the crew. Furthermore, providing ac-

curate information to your boss regarding course conditions, crew performance, daily plans, etc. is crucial in not only efficiently managing the course but also in gaining your boss's trust.

Get to know the crew. You can't manage what you don't know. Taking the time to get to know the staff not only lets them know that you value them but will also help you to learn their strengths and weaknesses and, ultimately, how to get the best out of them.

Don't get tunnel vision. When you were on the crew, your main responsibility was completing your assigned job and moving on to the next

thing. Now, you have to not only focus on the tasks you are personally trying to accomplish in a given day, you also need to be keeping an eye on the crew and planning what everybody's doing next and what they need to do tomorrow, the next day and next week.

Listen to the crew. If you're new to the course, don't be afraid to ask them what the standard procedure is for a certain task. Even if you've been there a while, listen to their ideas. Asking for their input shows that you respect them and will give them a sense of ownership, which often leads to happier, more productive employees.

Know when not to listen to the crew. Sometimes the crew can be more concerned with minimizing effort than satisfactory results. Working smarter not harder, as the saying goes, is fine as long as the smart way yields the same or better results as the hard way.

No job is beneath you. Bathrooms need cleaned and there's no one to do it? Grab a toilet brush, my friend. Just because you're a manager doesn't mean you're above doing dirty work. Plus you didn't take Theory and Practice of Porcelain Stain Removal in turf school just to delegate that task to the hungover kid who was an hour late that day, did you?

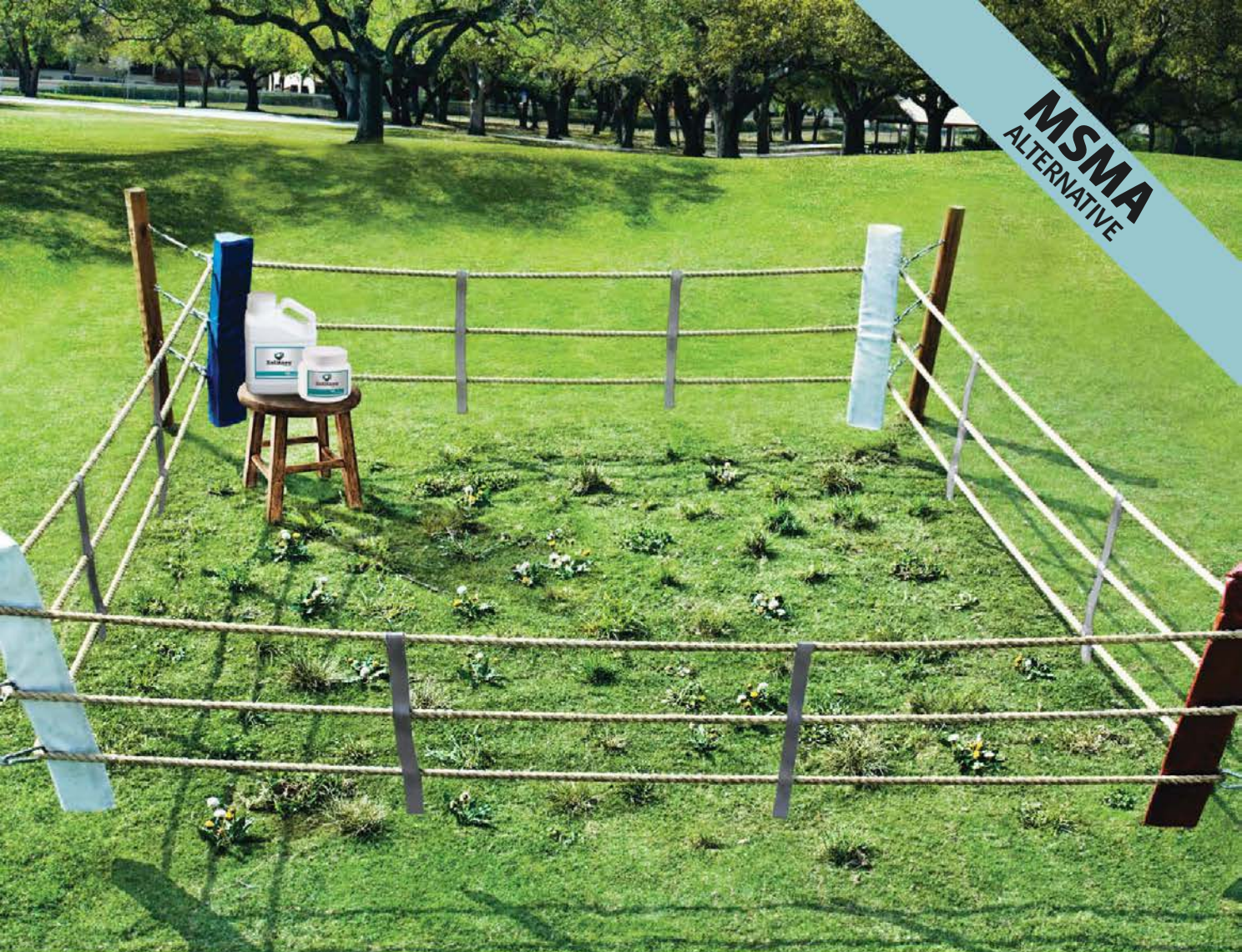
Make a decision. Develop the knowledge and confidence to make decisions on your own without calling the boss on the radio every 10 minutes. There are still times when you should consult with him first, but you need to be able to differentiate those situations from those you can handle on your own.

You'll probably feel overwhelmed at times when you're first starting out, but once you establish a routine and start getting a better feel for your boss's expectations, the crew and the course things will get easier. In the meantime, there's going to be days when you just need to grind it out.

Just remember, there are plenty of fourth outfielders who went on to become All-Stars.

Matt Neff (mneff4@yahoo.com) is assistant superintendent at Wedgewood G&CC in Powell, Ohio.

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5 KEYS to PICKING UP WOMEN

By
STACIE ZINN ROBERTS

Want to score with the ladies?
These 5 tips from the NWGA are a must.
(We're talking about rounds played, by the way.)




Two years ago, while attending the International Network of Golf conference at Innisbrook resort in Palm Harbor, Fla., Debbie Waitkus, president of Golf For Cause, was sitting through a presentation on the USGA's then brand new Tee It Forward campaign. ¶ As the speaker rolled out the program that touted the benefits of moving forward in the tee box complex as golfers age, she looked through the materials, studying page by page, and noticed a glaring omission: Women had been entirely left out.

"So here we were at the ING conference. Jan Bel Jan (ASGCA, Jan Bel Jan Golf Course Design), Pam Swensen (CEO, Executive Women's Golf Association) and I are kicking each other under the table," Waitkus says. The group turned to one another and agreed, "We need to come together."

A movement was born. A year later, the National Women's Golf Alliance was a reality.

Continued on page 18



According to the NWGA,
new women golfers spend, on
average, \$2,000 per year at golf
facilities on greens fees, lessons
and food and beverage.

NWGA
National Women's Golf Alliance



ATTRACTING WOMEN

Continued from page 16

The organization was formed to offer club managers, pros and superintendents strategies on how to make their courses more attractive to women who



Debbie Waitkus

may be daily fee players or potential club members. The group's mission is to increase the overall health and economic viability of the game by increasing the number of women playing golf and to improve engagement levels of existing women golfers.

NWGA's process

The NWGA visits golf courses and facilities and rates them for women-friendliness. The association developed a base of standards and best practices to help make golf facilities more welcoming and acces-

sible to women in an effort to enhance golf's overall appeal to women.

A team of secret shoppers visits a course and plays a round of golf, spends time in the clubhouse and takes note of the experience. To date, more than two-dozen golf courses and facilities have been evaluated on the NWGA's five core criteria: playability, customer service, golf course amenities, facility amenities and golf programs.

The playability criteria focuses on the needs of the average female golfer. "If there are multiple sets of tees, at least one set must be under 5,000 yards, and the forward tees should all be maintained to the same standard as all the other tees," Bel Jan says. "We look for carries, sharp dog



Jan Bel Jan

legs, just a number of things architecturally that would help make a golf course strategically appealing but not penal to a variety of women players.

"The idea is to make the game accessible, not easy," Bel Jan says.

"Women don't slow down the game because they're out looking for golf balls. They're generally in the fairway, just not hitting it as far. That's why this criteria is so important. It's about playability, not for the superb player, but for the bogey player or the bogey-plus player to engage in the game," she adds. "If you can get on in regulation then you could have a terrific handicap, just playing from the proper yardage. And that's what we're looking for, to give women the chance to throw their hands up and make a birdie or eagle with regularity, not just five times a season."

Service and amenities

For the customer service criteria, NWGA evaluators pay attention to how women are treated at the facility, such as if they are welcomed and thanked for their patronage, if tee times are readily available to women and if there are any women in key staff positions.

"At one course we did an evaluation, one of the gals who does outside service handed me a card that gave me a free drink at the bar," Waitkus says. "I could have had a bad round but they said, 'We're so glad you came out today.' That was my last touch point and I walked away with a good feeling."

According to the criteria, on-course amenities such as ball washers and drinking water stations should be conveniently located to the forward tees and placed in areas that are safe to access. Clean restrooms on the course are considered important, as well.

Facility amenities should also be appealing to women. Offering healthful food, not just burgers and brats, and a selection of women's apparel and equipment in the pro shop, reflects positively toward certification. Women-specific golf

Continued on page 20

THE 5 KEY CRITERIA EVALUATED FOR NWGA CERTIFICATION

Golf Course Playability Multiple sets of tees for women that are all maintained to the same standards as all other tees, including a minimum of one set rated for women under 5,000 yards for par 72 courses.

Customer Service Women welcomed as valued customers as shown by fair access to tee times, staff is welcoming to guests, and women in key staff positions

Golf Course Amenities On course amenities (drinking water, ball washers) are safely and conveniently located at all possible teeing areas along with clean restrooms available at appropriate intervals on the course and in the facility.

Facility Amenities Measurable selection of women's merchandise in the Golf Shop and healthful food and beverage choices.

Golf Programs Women-specific learning and playing experiences available and fairly priced 9-hole and/or other play options.

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ATTRACTING WOMEN

Continued from page 18

programs, such as ladies-only events and instruction, are a big plus as well.

Scorecard

After the NWGA visit, a detailed report is delivered to club management. The report doesn't just point out flaws and areas that need improvement, Bel Jan says, it also "sees all of the things they are doing right and applauds the good news."

Two to six months after the initial site visit, the NWGA visits again, playing a round of golf and completing a follow-up report. It records any changes based on the prior report's recommendations or improvements according to the established criteria.

Golf facilities must achieve an 80 per cent score in at least three of the core

criteria to be deemed certified by the NWGA. Facilities are certified for three years. Courses can enter the certification program for a fee of \$500 per year and two rounds of golf for a foursome to conduct the evaluation, Bel Jan says.

Moreover, some of the recommended changes don't cost a thing. "Teaching staff to say thank you doesn't cost a cent," Waitkus says. Other changes, such as constructing additional tee boxes, may take more time and require some expenditures, Bel Jan adds.

Rounds played

The overall goal is to help golf facilities increase their numbers of women golfers. For facilities needing additional help, the NWGA offers consulting, staff training and course design, among other services.

Innisbrook, (the place where the seed for the NWGA was planted), has undergone the process and displays the NWGA Rolling Out the Green Carpet certification logo on its website.

"We are very impressed with the wealth of information and depth of the NWGA's course evaluations. The report was ex-



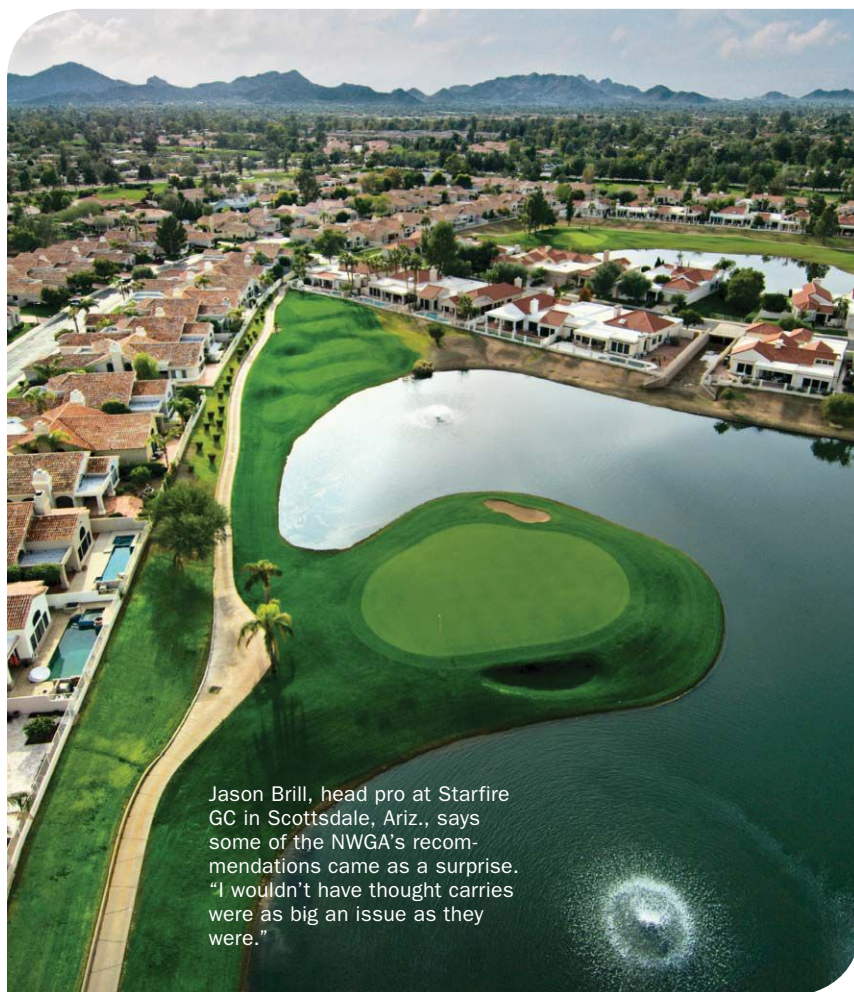
Rodney Green

tremely comprehensive and provided valuable insight on how we can better serve women golfers, especially in addressing how to improve golf course playability," says Rodney Green, Innisbrook's director of golf. "The female golfer has always been an important market for us. It's an honor to receive this certification and we enjoy striving to be a leader in golf in this regard and others."

Starfire Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., was the first golf facility to go through the NWGA certification process. Head Golf Professional Jason Brill says Starfire valued its first report from the NWGA and implemented the recommended changes immediately. The clubhouse's Scottsdale Grill tweaked its menu to add more salads and light granola bars. In the golf shop, rental clubs for ladies—right-handed and left-handed sets—were added. As for the on-course bathrooms, fans were changed out and mirrors were framed in as part of making the overall appearance of the restrooms cleaner and more presentable. Plans also are in the works to convert a par 3 hole to a par 4 for the addition of drop areas for ladies and for the construction of two new tee boxes.

"The ladies rental clubs, that really surprised me. It's something I wouldn't think of, and how important the outside bathrooms are on the course. I also wouldn't have thought the carries were as big an issue as they were," Brill says. Since working with the NWGA evaluators, Brill says, the needs of the woman player are now

Continued on page 22



Jason Brill, head pro at Starfire GC in Scottsdale, Ariz., says some of the NWGA's recommendations came as a surprise. "I wouldn't have thought carries were as big an issue as they were."

PHOTO COURTESY: STARFIRE GC

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ATTRACTING WOMEN



Continued from page 20

“one more factor that we look into when we make decisions.”

Once entirely implemented, the changes to the facility will cost about \$5,000, Brill estimates, and says the club plans to measure how many women players come through the facility on a daily basis versus before the changes were made. Already, the club's Ladies League has been “very receptive to the changes,” he says.

Sandy Cross is the Director of Women's and New Market Initiatives for the PGA of America. The organization's four courses and learning center at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla., are in the midst of evaluations under the NWGA program.

“As the PGA of America, representing 27,000 PGA Pro-



Sandy Cross

fessionals managing 10,000 golf facilities around America, we know it's important for us to set this example at our owned and operated properties,” Cross says. “We all know the economic purchasing power of women. If we are going to legitimately attract and retain women players in our sport, we have to have the facilities and the course setups that respond to her value set.”

Deep pockets

Statistics provided by the Executive Women's Golf Association show just under 6 million women are golfers. New women golfers spend, on average, \$2,000 per year at golf facilities on greens fees, lessons and food and beverage. More experienced women golfers will spend more than \$4,000 on golf and golf travel. Swensen says EWGA members contribute \$70 million in revenue to the US golf industry, with the average local EWGA chapter (there are 125 chapters around the country) spending about \$500,000 per year on golf-related purchases in their community.



Pam Swensen

In an industry that has experienced a decrease in golf rounds and revenue, it makes sense to court the female golf customer. The NWGA certification program offers a methodology to do just that.

“It's been a great experience. I found the NWGA evaluators to be professional, to provide very thorough results. It's a really authentic, legitimate process to go through. It's been very insightful and it leaves you with results in hand that provide a road map for going forward, a list of things you can do to improve your score and take it to the next level,” Cross says. “I'm confident every golf facility would benefit from going through the process.” **G**

Stacie Zinn Roberts is a winner of multiple TOCA awards and is a frequent contributor to *Golfdom*. She lives in Mount Vernon, Wash.

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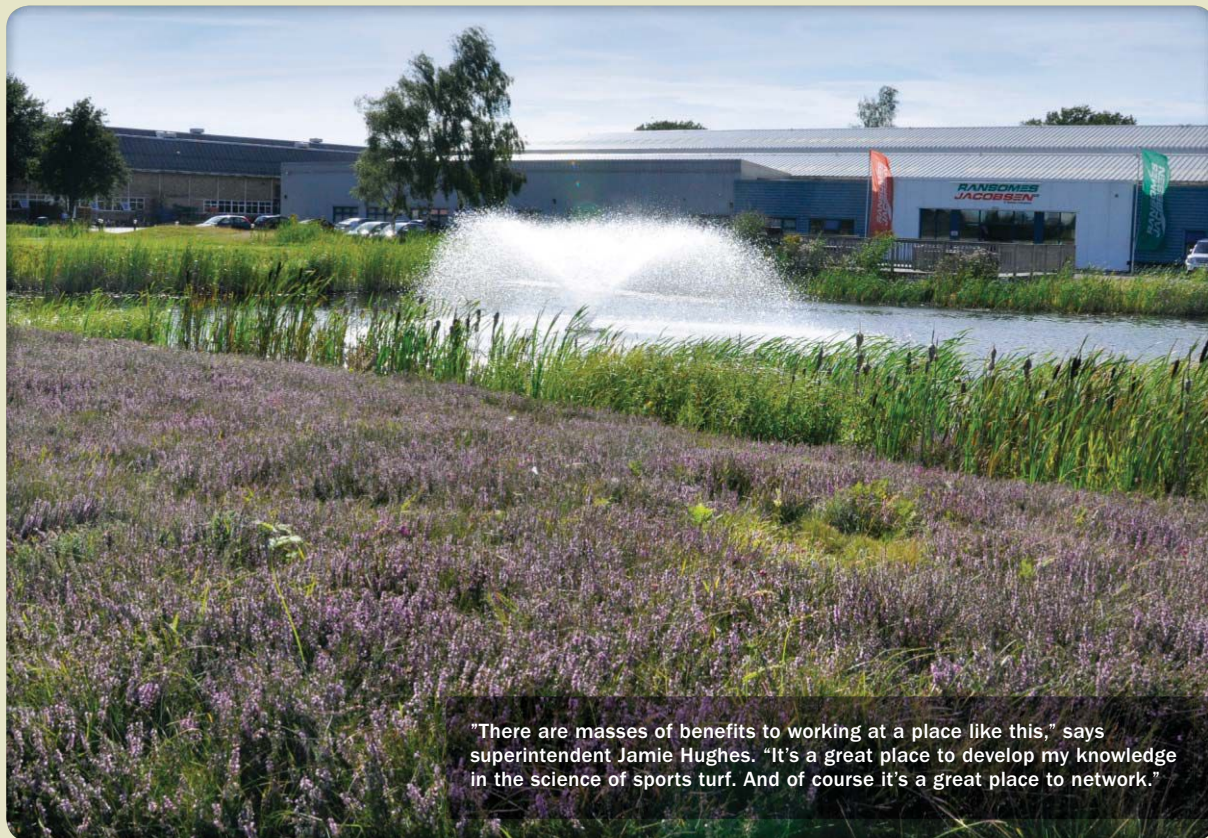
A DAY AT THE R.J.

By taking a wasteland and turning it into a three-hole golf course, equipment manufacturer Ransomes Jacobsen spreads the word about golf's environmental benefits.

BY SETH JONES

Ransomes Jacobsen — or simply Jacobsen as it's known in the U.S. — welcomes about 1,000 visitors to its manufacturing headquarters in Ipswich, England, every year. In the last six years, those visitors have also had the pleasure of being invited to play the first GEO certified golf course in Europe — the three-hole R.J. National.

Continued on page 26



"There are masses of benefits to working at a place like this," says superintendent Jamie Hughes. "It's a great place to develop my knowledge in the science of sports turf. And of course it's a great place to network."

PHOTO COURTESY: JACOBSEN / ISTOCKPHOTO



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Ransomes Jacobsen product trainer Ian “Mitch” Mitchell (left) and R.J. National superintendent Jamie Hughes, pictured this summer. Hughes says his Eclipse 1 walking greensmower is his favorite piece of equipment. “I’m a fan of hand-cutting greens, and when it’s quiet and peaceful out, it’s brilliant.”

Continued from page 24

In the 1970s the area outside the main office at Ransomes Jacobsen was a driving range. That driving range eventually closed, leading the land to become a simple wasteland in an industrial area. David Withers, president of Jacobsen, wanted to see it turned back into something beautiful. So in 2007, architect Howard Swan was called in to create a three-hole, par nine golf course.

We wanted to show people in this area who aren’t familiar with golf that some of their preconceived notions are incorrect.”

For young superintendent Jamie Hughes, the environmental aspect of the course is what he finds most compelling about his new job.

“We’re a very environmentally aware company, as our GEO certification and our ISO 14001 accreditation shows,” he says. “This means I get to manage the heather

for what’s next,” Hughes says. “I dream of courses like Wentworth and St. George’s, but if an opportunity arose with Jacobsen, I’d find it hard to resist.”

Hughes is also responsible for maintaining the soccer field that adjoins the golf course. The field is used for sound and vibration tests, but it also sees regular action as the host field for Jacobsen’s intracompany soccer matches. “The blue collar guys in the factory actually get to kick management in the shins,” laughs Ian Mitchell, product trainer for Jacobsen.

The course is short but tough. Withers says he once shot a 7, then turned right around to play it again and shot a 14. Only one hole-in-one has happened at the course, and it was on No. 3, a tricky 60-yard carry to an island green.

But the difficulty of the course isn’t important to Withers. What is important is the positive reactions hosting customers on the course has brought the company.

“I know a lot of people visit us and they also visit our competitors. They all get a tour of the factory, and that’s nice. But let’s be honest, you see one factory, you’ve seen them all,” Withers says. “When they come here and see the R.J. National, that’s something that sets us apart. That’s something they’re going to remember.” **G**

**“WHEN THEY COME HERE
AND SEE THE R.J. NATIONAL,
THAT’S SOMETHING THAT
SETS US APART. THAT’S
SOMETHING THEY’RE GOING
TO REMEMBER.”**

Withers is proud of the fact that the course was the first in Europe to be GEO (Golf Environment Organization — www.golfenvironment.org) certified.

“We decided from day one, even before we knew we were going to make it a golf course, we knew we wanted to make it sustainable,” Withers says. “When we decided it would be a golf course, we wanted to market that golf isn’t a green desert.

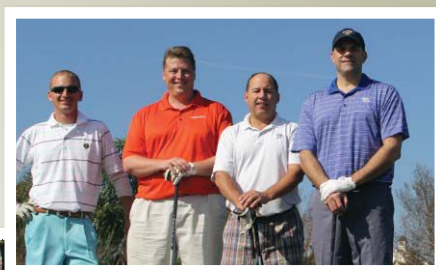
areas, the bug piles and the lake. I’m also adding wildflowers to the course, and those areas need to be maintained as well.”

Jacobsen hires young up-and-comers to a two-year contract to be the superintendent at R.J. National. Hughes, 25, has experience working on golf courses, but this is his first time calling the shots.

“I want to learn as much as possible in all aspects of the industry to prepare me

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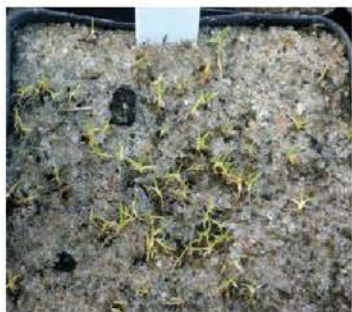
// HERBICIDE RESISTANCE

CONTROLLING DINITROANILINE RESISTANT GOOSEGRASS IN TURF

Patrick McCullough, Ph.D.

Prodimine is a dinitroaniline (DNA) herbicide that is widely used in turfgrass management for preemergence weed control. However, overuse of prodimine has increased the spread and establishment of weeds resistant to DNA herbicides. Goosegrass is a particularly problematic weed that has developed resistance to prodimine and other DNA herbicides in the southern U. S., and turf managers may need to rotate herbicides with different modes of action in order to control these DNA-resistant biotypes.

Research was conducted at the University of Georgia to evaluate resistance levels to prodimine for a susceptible goosegrass compared to a suspected resistant biotype from Griffin, Ga. Field experiments were also conducted to evaluate efficacy of preemergence herbicides with different modes of action for control. In greenhouse experiments, prodimine rates required for 50% control of DNA-resistant goosegrass was >32x greater than susceptible biotypes.



Initial germination of DNA-resistant and susceptible goosegrass biotypes following an application of Barricade (prodimine) at 1.5 lbs. a.i./acre in a greenhouse experiment at the University of Georgia.

while Ronstar (oxadiazon) provided >85% control. Single and sequential Dismiss (sulfentrazone) applications controlled goosegrass <60% in 2011, but averaged 94% control in 2012.

If resistance to DNA herbicides is suspected in goosegrass populations, indaziflam and Ronstar may be good choices to consider for preemergence control. Dimethenamid and sulfentrazone may also control DNA resistant goosegrass, but efficacy may be inconsistent.

Patrick McCullough, Ph.D., is a turfgrass weed specialist at the University of Georgia and Diego Gómez de Barreda, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain; and Jialin Yu is a graduate assistant at the University of Georgia. Patrick McCullough can be reached at pmccull@uga.edu for more information.

NEWS UPDATES

CIVITAS ONE GETS OMRI LISTING

Civitas One, the latest advancement from the makers of Civitas, is now listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) for organic golf course maintenance practices. New OMRI listed Civitas One provides an effective solution for today's progressive superintendents, the company says.

"We all have a social responsibility to work towards innovative solutions that will provide



product efficacy and help build a sustainable future," explains Oriana Persechini, Lawncare Category Portfolio Manager, Petro-Canada Lubricants Inc., a Suncor Energy business. "Acquiring OMRI listing for Civitas One is just one more way that we're going beyond today's standards to transform plant protection for more

resourceful growth and continuing to help superintendents do more with less."

Civitas One is a premix of the Civitas mineral oil — synthetic Isoparaffin and Civitas Harmonizer in one 2.5-gallon jug, which superintendents can expect to protect about 18,800 to 37,600 square feet of turf when used at label rates.

“**ADDING 2 TO 6 OZ/ACRE (OF DIMISS) AS A SPRAY TANK ADDITIVE PROVIDES QUICKER HERBICIDE ACTIVITY, BUT ALSO 'HEATS UP' THE TANK-MIXTURES IN TERMS OF WIDER AND MORE COMPLETE WEED CONTROL.**”

Bert McCarty, Ph.D.

(see full story on page 30)

// SPRAY MIX

Heat up the tank

Looking for a spray addition for broader weed control and faster action? Dr. McCarty has the answer.

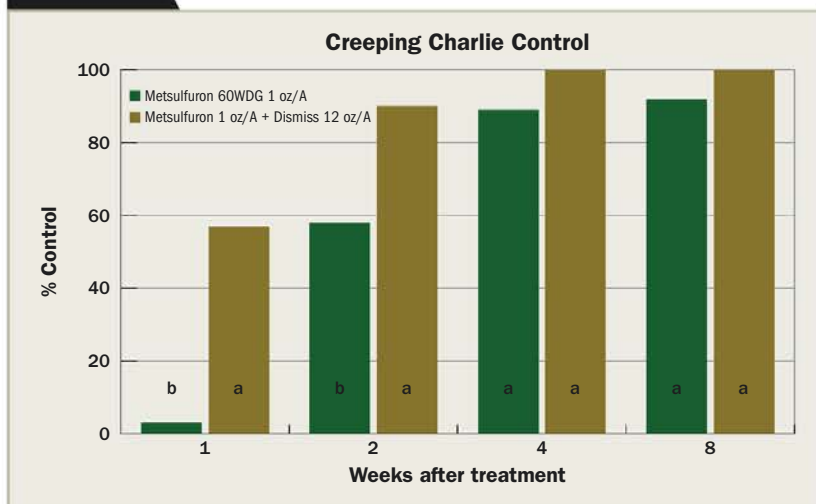
By Bert McCarty, Ph.D.

As a university researcher and one who frequently makes agronomic recommendations, I'm often asked, "Dr. McCarty, what can I add to my spray mix to heat things up?" This can be translated to mean, "What can I add to my tank-mixture to provide quicker and better weed control?"

Over the years, many products have been promoted to provide this added control, including various wetting agents, adjuvants, stickers, emulsifiers, soaps, seed oils, vegetable oils, humectants, humic acids, ammonium sulfate/nitrate, urea and others. Although these products do sometimes improve the performance by being synergistic or additive, they can also become antagonistic and/or cause the spray formulation to be incompatible, meaning the spray tank components separate out (will not stay in suspension) or worse, cause turf burn.

However, one potentially positive additive to most postemergence herbicide spray mixtures is Dismiss 4L from the FMC Corporation. Dismiss contains sulfentrazone, a member of the aryl triazinone herbicide family. It has both pre- and post-emergence activity. The majority of preemergence activity is on small seeded broadleaf weeds plus some grass and sedge weeds while postemergence activity is greatest on sedges and kyllinga. When used as a preemergence herbicide, Dismiss is absorbed by roots of germinating weeds. Postemergence activity is by

FIGURE 1



Creeping Charlie (also known as ground ivy) control is hastened when Dismiss 4L (12 oz/acre) is added to metsulfuron (1 oz/acre). Dissimilar letters at a particular rating date indicate statistical difference at the 0.05 level of probability as determined by Fisher's protected LSD.

foliar absorption, which causes rapid desiccation and necrosis of treated tissue. Dismiss controls plants by inhibiting an enzyme (called protox or PPO) of chlorophyll biosynthesis in chloroplasts, eventually causing cell membrane disruption.

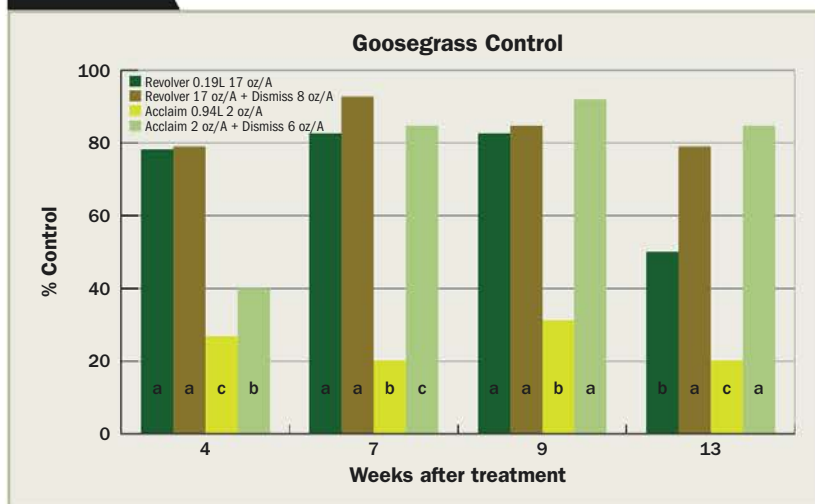
Since its introduction to the turfgrass market, Dismiss has carved out a niche, especially for postemergence yellow nutsedge and kyllinga control. However, from my research and experiences, it can be added to just about any postemergence weed control application. Some reasons for adding Dismiss would be to provide more rapid weed control, improve

weed control at lower air temperatures and increase the range of weed species that are controlled. In our what-have-you-done-for-me-lately society, people become impatient when they hire someone to control weeds or use herbicides and don't see almost immediate results. How many times have you heard the accusation that only water was applied since results are not almost instantaneous?

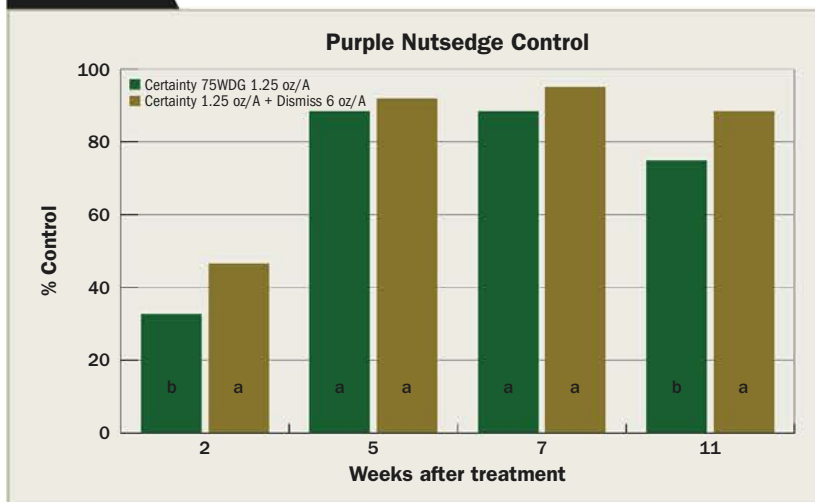
Though numerous wonderful herbicides exist in the turfgrass market, many of these are slow acting. Some herbicides may take two to four weeks to show activity, as these often disrupt normal food production/accumulation in

plants, basically starving treated weeds to death. This slow-to-work characteristic is manifested when temperatures are cool (<50 F). Dismiss, being more of a contact herbicide, is influenced more by available sunlight vs. warmer temperatures, offers activity within hours of application. Treated plants start to turn off-color, leaf margins are damaged, and plants start to wilt and eventually lead to shoot burndown. Figure 1 demonstrates hastened control of creeping Charlie (also known as ground ivy) when Dismiss is added to metsulfuron (several trade names). For example, one week after treatment, weed control was less than 5% without Dismiss, while it was almost 60% when Dismiss was added to metsulfuron. This trend was also evident two weeks after treatment where metsulfuron alone provided almost 60% control but when tank-mixed with Dismiss, 90% control was achieved.

Dismiss 4L also offers additive control to many problematic weeds in turf, including many broadleaves, grasses and sedges/kyllingas. Adding 2 to 6 oz/acre as a spray tank additive provides quicker herbicide activity as previously discussed, but also “heats up” the tank-mixtures in terms of wider and more complete weed control. This is especially true for tough-to-control weeds such as perennial broadleaf weeds, grasses such as goosegrass and many sedges and kyllingas. For example, when controlling goosegrass (Figure 2), adding Dismiss to either Acclaim Extra (fenoxaprop-p-ethyl) or Revolver (foramsulfuron) again hastened control and also helped provide better long-term results. When tank-mixed with Dismiss, Revolver provided better goosegrass control after 13 weeks than without it (Figure 2). With Acclaim, adding Dismiss provided quicker and better short- and long-term goosegrass control. Figure 3 demonstrates quicker and longer term purple nutsedge control when Dismiss was tank-mixed with Certainty (sulfosulfuron).

FIGURE 2

Adding Dismiss to postemergence grass control products helps accelerate control and better extended control compared to not adding it. Shown are Acclaim Extra 0.94L at 2 oz/acre and Revolver 0.19L at 17 oz/acre with and without Dismiss 4L at 8 oz/acre for quicker and better long-term goosegrass control. Dissimilar letters at a particular rating date indicate statistical difference at the 0.05 level of probability as determined by Fisher's protected LSD.

FIGURE 3

Purple nutsedge control is hastened and longer-lasting when Dismiss 4L is added at 6 oz/acre to Certainty 75WDG at 1.25 oz/acre. Dissimilar letters at a particular rating date indicate statistical difference at the 0.05 level of probability as determined by Fisher's protected LSD.

So, if you are looking for a spray addition to “heat things up,” Dismiss often not only provides a wider spectrum of weed control, but is also less temperature dependent than other products. Mixtures with Dismiss often work much quicker, providing

an increased sense of security that the applicator is indeed treating the problem and dismissing the idea that only water has been applied.

Bert McCarty, Ph.D., is a professor of turfgrass science at Clemson University and can be contacted at bmccarty@clemson.edu.



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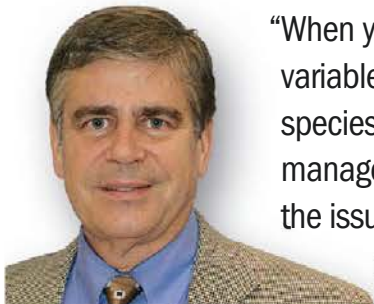
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KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D., *Science Editor*

"When you look at yellow turf and the variables associated like type of soil, grass species, organic matter accumulation and management practices, the complexity of the issue becomes evident."

Color by numbers? Not in turf

Summer's closure always brings a time for agronomic reflection. Like past summers, predicting what the weather will do is difficult. Across the United States some areas were too hot, dry, or wet. Weather's impact on turf is difficult to predict, as is the turf's response to the stress.

This year several golf courses experienced periods of high temperatures, along with excessive rainfall resulting in highly stressed turf. Explaining the impact of the environmental conditions and the plant's response to a member or club official often is complicated. As a club member recently said to me, "It's not like 2 + 2 equals 4." I found that response to be enlightening.

Whether you are in the United States, China or on the moon, if you are on Mount Everest or in the Brazilian rainforest, 2 + 2 always equals 4. However, when dealing with living things like plants, the stresses that occur do not always add up to the same response.

For example, to visually compare an inanimate object with a living object, I often use a dead and a living sparrow. If I were to take a dead sparrow and throw it up in the air I could probably calculate its flight path (as well as my path to di-

rectly go wash my hands). However, in the case of the living sparrow, if I threw it up in the air I would not have a clue to where it was going or its flight pattern. Life is complex.

When golf course turf turns yellow or declines we often look for the single cause. And if that cause is identified it must be the same problem on all the courses in the region that have similar symptoms, right?

From my experience this is often not the case. When you look at yellow turf and the variables associated like type of soil, grass species, organic matter accumulation and management practices (just to name a few) the complexity of the issue becomes evident. Now you add the variability that occurs from golf course to golf course and the solution to the "yellowing" becomes even more complex.

Given that golf courses are unique biological entities we need to pay atten-

tion to the specific course conditions present. A good comparison would be how cancer research and treatment has evolved over the last 10 to 15 years. Physicians using molecular techniques can identify individually genetic changes in a cancer tumor, and how the surrounding tissue, or as it is sometimes referred to, the "microclimate," influences tumor behavior. I find it fascinating that tumor cells are continually communicating with the surrounding "microclimate."

By knowing the genetic alterations in the cancer tumor, and the responses due to the "microenvironment," targeted therapies and bio markers will become available to treat cancer in an individual. It is truly personal treatment.

We do not quite have that level of "personalized plant treatment" in turf, but I think being aware of the unique biological characteristics of one's golf course allows for targeting treatment.

Returning to my yellow turf there are many reasons for the yellowing, including environmental extremes like a lack of light, anaerobic soil conditions, a phytotoxic response to a chemical(s), or from a disease. Diagnosing the exact cause of the yellowing, as most of us know, is not that easy. Given that, if I were to visit two golf courses that had identical yellowing, sent samples from both that confirmed the presence of the bacterial disease *Acidovorax*, would that be a good enough diagnosis? What if I told you on one of the golf courses turf decline was occurring while the second golf course the turf quality was fine? What would your recommendation be?

It just goes to show, when dealing with living things, there is no such thing as simple math.

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

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10 keys to enhancing turf survival this winter

Brian Horgan, Ph.D., is a professor of turfgrass science at the University of Minnesota. Winter survival of turf is one of Brian's research interests and he can be contacted at bphorgan@umn.edu.

Q What is the most common cause of winter injury on putting greens in Minnesota?

There is no single consistent cause of winter injury from year to year, or golf course to golf course or even within a single golf course. Turfgrass dies because of ice cover (anoxia), crown hydration, desiccation and direct low temperature kill or more often two or more of these factors in combination. It can be very difficult to identify the specific cause of winter injury.

Q What can be done in the fall to minimize winter injury?

1 Interseed with creeping bentgrass in early September If you have thin turf due to summer stress or a large population of annual bluegrass, interseed in late August or early September in conjunction with aeration. Creeping bentgrass is more winter hardy than annual bluegrass.

2 Aerify in early September Aerify and topdress in early September to create good growing conditions the remainder of fall and to reduce thatch accumulation.

3 Monitor soil moisture in the greens Provide sufficient water all fall to encourage healthy, actively growing turf. Be sure the soil is at field capacity before you blow out the irrigation system. If fall is warm and dry, delay blowing out of the irrigation system in order to keep irrigating.

Correct any drainage problems on greens. Make sure the collar does not block the flow of water off the front of the green.

4 Fall nitrogen fertilization Our thoughts on fall nitrogen (N) fertilizer for northern climates like Minnesota have changed greatly in the last few years. Maximum fertilizer uptake efficiency occurs in September compared to October or November. Therefore, fertilize once or twice in September with 0.5 to 0.75 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. at each application with a predominantly soluble N source to maximize carbohydrate storage.

Continue spoon-feeding throughout the fall and late fall with 0.1 to 0.2 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. every 7 to 14 days.

5 Covers Before buying covers, ask what winter injury problem(s) you are trying to minimize? Do all the greens need the same type of cover? No single type of cover protects from all winter injury problems. It is possible that more than one type of cover will be needed to protect all 19 greens at the golf course.

Topdressing heavily late in fall is a good strategy to help minimize winter injury.

6 Fungicides Snow mold protection is a necessity on greens on most northern golf courses. Consult your local turfgrass pathologist for fungicide recommendations. You can also check the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Diagnostic Laboratory (www.tdl.wisc.edu) for results of their snow mold fungicide trials.

7 Measuring tools Use your soil moisture meter to precisely measure moisture in soil this fall to make sure the greens have received sufficient irrigation to prepare for winter. Keep a record of the moisture level and compare it with winter injury in the spring to start to build a site history.

"IN THEORY, BOTH WETTING AGENTS AND PGRs APPLIED IN FALL MAY BE BENEFICIAL IN MINIMIZING WINTER INJURY."

8 Wetting agents and plant growth regulators (PGRs) In theory, both wetting agents and PGRs applied in fall may be beneficial in minimizing winter injury, but there are no data yet to support their use in this fashion. The Minnesota GCSA has increased their dues to fund research at the University of Minnesota to minimize winter injury including the benefit of fall applications of wetting agents and PGRs.

9 Winter traffic Prevent winter traffic to the greatest extent possible.

10 Communication Let the golfers know about the steps being taken this fall to minimize winter injury. Emphasize the steps being taken now are to provide good playing conditions next spring.



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



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BY CURT HARLER AND SETH JONES

1. ProCore SR

The **TORO** ProCore SR Series of deep-tine aerators works to alleviate subsurface soil compaction on greens, fairways and other areas. The eight models in the ProCore SR Series are available in widths from 48 to 75 inches wide and depths up to 16 inches. They have hydraulic remote depth adjustment, which allows the operator to change depths without getting off the tractor. A wide range of solid and coring tines are available for specific aeration applications. Models 864 and 1298 have precision-balanced coring heads to eliminate hopping, rocking and unnecessary vibration. With its 64-inch coring width, the 864 can aerate 1.5 acres per hour. The 1298 can do 2.3 acres per hour with its 98-inch coring width. Available in three-point mount and PTO drive. toro.com

2. Aercore 2000

The Aercore 2000 has a full 80-inch coring swath. Designed to produce good quality coring holes up to four inches deep, this **JOHN DEERE** unit can cover 100,066 square feet per hour. Its heavy-duty frame, tine rams and adjustable hole spacing makes this aerator durable and versatile. Operators have a choice of two coring patterns — a 2.4-inch pattern or a 3.2-inch pattern, depending on the speed of movement. Flexi-link supporting arm keeps tines perpendicular to the ground longer for producing up to 1,200,800 high-quality holes per hour. There are six tine options to choose from. Johndeere.com

3. Greensaire 24

JACOBSEN says its Greensaire 24 walk-behind aerator gives superintendents "unparalleled core hole quality"

RELIEVING COMPACTION, removing thatch and getting the root zone some much-needed oxygen are just a few reasons crews are out there running aerators across the country. It takes long hours and hard work, but admit it: the sound of an aerator pounding the ground is the sound of progress.

which promotes faster turf healing — allowing play to resume earlier. The unit's maneuverability allows for tight turns on undulated turf without causing undue damage. Its narrow platform creates clean and consistent aeration hole depths even on undulations and varying terrains. The core head follows contours of the surface, ensuring tines are in position to create clean, quality holes every time. Jacobsen.com

4. PL72

The **WOODS** core aerator line comes in 48-, 60- and 72-inch models. The PL 60 has 12 plugger wheels and 96 spoons. It penetrates to 4.5-inch depth. The PL72 professional grade aerator is 78.15 inches wide and has a 4.5-inch penetration. Each comes with 96 one-eighth inch thick, three-quarter-inch case hardened steel spoons. It requires a Cat 1 hitch and has an operating weight of 561 pounds. Woodsequipment.com/landscapeEquipment.aspx

5. Coring Shaft

FIRST PRODUCT'S Coring Shaft is a non-PTO powered, 3-point hitch pull-behind. It features a three-quarter inch core diameter and pulls five holes per square foot.

Widths of 40, 60 and 80 inches are available. It fits into all First Products UA models. With five optional shafts and seed box option, the Universal Shaft System Frame can be used in a wide range of applications. Changing shafts takes an hour, so the machine can be used for renovation projects in the morning and seeding in the afternoon. 1stproducts.com

6. GS-48 T.I.P. Spiker/Seeder

Plant, seed and aerate on one pass with the **T.I.P.** Spiker/Seeder. This unit assures good seed-to-soil contact while opening the soil up for better drainage, solving dry spots and loosening the soil. The GS-48 is available both in a pull-type and 3-point hitch models, with a manually operated or electric actuated seed box, and with standard hydraulics or an optional 12-volt electric pump available on the pull-behind model. Either unit comes with 1200 replaceable spikes. Optional rear brush also is available. Tipinc.net

TIPS FROM GEORGE STARK

MECHANIC // *Country Club of Orlando*

- Use the carbide-tipped tines, they last longer!
- It all comes down to preparation. Make sure everything is greased and oiled and everything is gone over with a fine-toothed comb before you send that aerator out. It'll save you time in the long run.



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1



2



3

1. JRM 4JPB22

JRM INC. Turf Technology's newest offering is its super-thin line of bedknives for Toro, John Deere, Jacobsen and Baroness bedknives, including the 4JPB22 for Jacobsen 22-inch mowers, pictured. JRM's Duranium-801 greensmower and fairway bedknives are designed to cut as low as .050-inch. They are great alternatives when hosting a big tournament, or for superintendents who need that extra pop going into a big weekend. JRM knives are used at roughly 60 percent of all golf courses hosting PGA Tour events, the company says. Constantly improved, there is a new and shinier look to these bedknives which feature a straighter and more consistent cutting edge.

jrmonline.com

2. Turf Pride Premium

TURF PRIDE Premium bedknives will ensure a true golf ball roll on all putting surfaces. With Turf Pride premium knives, the overall thickness from end to end is guaranteed not to vary more than .001-inch. In low-cut settings even the slightest difference in thickness will result in a deviation in cutting heights and will be more amplified the lower the cut. Knives with a "smile" shape cut at the ends and not the middle; frown shapes cut the middles and not at the ends. Premium bed knives are made of spring-type steel with high carbon content and chrome/nickel alloys. They are 3mm thick and rate a 48-49 on the Rockwell C hardness scale.

Turfprideusa.com

3. Legendary Bedknives

JACOBSEN'S line of Legendary Bedknives provides top quality-of-cut. Made of alloy or hardened carbon steel, Legendary Bedknives provide longer wear and more strength than after-market alternatives. A patented austempered heat treating process provides a tougher bedknife with minimum distortion. Jacobsen's Legendary Bedknives are also 100-percent straight with closer tolerances between the reel and bedknife, giving a great cut every time. They come in seven different thicknesses and are guaranteed for quality, fit and function.

Jacobsen.com



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Grinder. The grinders provide precise reel and bedknife maintenance. The BG1000 is a simple, economical system for maintaining bedknives with precision. A fixed grinding stone and rigid mounting system allow for a precise grind. The RG5000 is another simple, economical system that can maintain reels to a true cylindrical shape on a

consistent basis. A rigid mounting system and grinding carriage, paired with a positive rail alignment system, assist in eliminating cone shaped reels. BG1500 is a premium bedknife grinder, featuring an integrated traverse sensor system for semi-automatic grinding.

Johndeere.com



1



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2. Power Edge II

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Turfprideusa.com



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What can I get you? A draft beer.... Bass, if they have it.

So did you catch the finale of Breaking Bad? I did watch it. That show wasn't a ritual for me until the last season. They wrapped everything up, but it was a bit oversold. You know, that show is kind of like working for the City of San



Diego... every time you think you've got it all figured out, they throw a twist at you!

Tell me about your golf highlight.

Lauren Thompson from GolfNow came out to do a show. I was on camera and came three inches away from making a hole-in-one on No. 3 at Torrey Pines South. They showed it on TV a couple times.

That's the time to hit a nice shot, when the camera is rolling. Yeah, you don't want to shank one off the hotel right then.

Have you ever wanted to try out the hang gliding that goes on by the cliffs at Torrey Pines? You know, I'm built to stay on the ground. It sure is interesting looking, but it's not on the forefront of my to-do list.

You do woodworking, right? How did you get into that? I got into it primarily because I'm cheap. When the kids were a younger age and needed something — say, a bookcase — that's when I was into it. I haven't been doing much lately. But I

made some stuff, like some Mission style furniture, that was acceptable.

The U.S. Federal Government is shut down right now. Does that have any impact on you, working for the city? And what do you think of the whole mess?

It hasn't had a direct effect on us, no. The biggest bummer is that it validates the belief that the government is screwed up. I think it may get worse as you go up, from city to state to national.



What was your favorite car you ever owned? I had a 1971 Volkswagen Bus I really

liked. I was in my early 20s, it was a fun car. It worked fine until I had to put car seats in it...

Exactly! I just wrote my column this month (see page 6) about selling my Z28 Camaro. So let me ask you... am I making a huge mistake, or is it just a part of life? It all de-

pends, but when you think about it, a Z28 is a huge pain when you have kids. What I think you should do is go buy one later in life when you're rich and famous, and get one that's fully restored — so you don't have to worry about the little things that are probably wrong with it by now.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, October 7th, 2013.



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