

Golfdom

02.16

Celebrating 5 Years of Golfdom Summit

An inside look at the
'15 event, from Annika's
inspiration to reflections
on the '15 US Open

PLUS

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FIRST LOOK AT BTME

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"Preliminary tests indicate increased

For years, rolling was just for greens. Today you could be in for a big surprise. Preliminary testing shows that rolling fairways suppresses dollar spot, reduces time spent cutting which in turn reduces wear and tear on machinery and cuts labor costs.

TEST SUMMARY TO DATE



Geunhwa Jung and **Jay Popko**, Stockbridge School of Agriculture

- Plots were unrolled
- Rolled 3 times/week
- Rolled 4 times/week (Double roll 2 days)
- Rolled 6 times/week (Double roll 3 days)

Initial Results: Increased rolling frequency reduced dollar spot (40-60% in 2015).

Clipping yields were reduced and positively correlated with increased rolling frequency.

Different fungicide spray schedules were also tested (Threshold vs Calendar at 21 days interval) and initial results indicate rolling can reduce fungicide applications if threshold based spray programs are used. This should be a major cost reduction if second year test plots confirm this.

We also observed less thatch depth where rolling was performed, again, directly correlated to frequency but wasn't quantified at this time. Soil penetrometer tests confirmed that rolled plots had higher resistance to penetration.

We presume ball roll will be increased, however further studies are needed to evaluate these affects. Additional studies will be performed next year.

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rolling frequency reduces dollar spot."

-University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge School of Agriculture

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"I'm thankful my friend Kyle Johnson has the same attitude. At the 2015 *Golfdom* Summit, he may have saved a man's life because he decided to take action."

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

If you see something

When I was a kid, we drove by a house that looked like it was on fire. Smoke was billowing from under the eaves. My dad turned off on the next street and went into military mode. He directed my mom to knock on the nearest door and have them call 911 (this was pre-cellphones) and noted the street and address. He ordered me to follow him; Our job was to pound on the door and see if anyone was inside.

As we ran toward the house we saw a chubby little man burst out of the front door with a confused look. My dad shouted, "Are you OK?" The man responded, "No! I'm grilling out, and I just heard my address over the police scanner — someone called in and said my house is on fire!"

Dad's sprint slowed to a jog, then a walk, then an about-face. He quietly instructed me to follow. A police car, lights flashing, drove past us. By the time we got back to the car, we could hear the fire truck's sirens in the distance.

My dad told me — as we quickly drove away — that while he regretted wasting

the police and fire department's time (not to mention spoiling the guy's barbecue), he couldn't have lived with himself if he just drove on by and didn't try to help out in what he thought was an emergency situation.

It's a lesson I've tried to remember (with the added lesson to look for a smoking grill before dialing 911). If you see something, say something, and if needed, do something. We're all in this together.

I'm thankful my friend Kyle Johnson, superintendent at Inverness CC in Birmingham, Ala., has the same attitude. At the 2015 *Golfdom* Summit, he may have saved a

man's life because he decided to take action.

Following 18 holes of golf, a large group of us converged on the Reunion Resort clubhouse bar. We had time before the evening's next event, so we were hanging out, enjoying a few beverages and each other's good company.

When Kyle broke off for a quick bathroom break, he saw something unusual. Under one of the stalls, he saw feet, but not sitting down... lying down.

Too many beers out on the golf course, maybe? Or maybe...

Kyle called out, "Hey man, you alright in there?" No re-

sponse. So he knocked loudly. "You OK in there?" Nothing. So Kyle kicked in the door.

What he found was one of the resort's employees, passed out on the ground, in the midst of a heart attack.

We were all glad Kyle was there and took action when his fellow man was in need. What if he had just "minded his business?" Kyle was able to wake the man, who told him he thought he just "ate something bad." Kyle said OK, then ran into the dining room and shouted out for someone to call 911.

This time, where there was smoke there actually was fire. At that evening's dinner, I did my best to retell Kyle's story. We all raised our glasses in honor of the evening's hero — not the man with the most birdies, but the man who may have saved a person's life by being a good citizen.

My dad loved retelling the story of the time we called 911 on the guy who was grilling while sitting inside his house, listening to the police scanner. Can you imagine hearing dispatch say your house is on fire when you're sitting right there in the living room?

While I'll never understand the man's choice of the police scanner as entertainment for the evening — was *Alf* a rerun? — I'll always remember the quick decisions my dad, and Kyle, made when they saw what they believed was someone in need.

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NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//TURN THE PAGE



President Obama's veto of a bill that would have eliminated expansion of WOTUS has set in motion efforts to block the rule's funding.

WOTUS KEPT AFLOAT BY OBAMA'S VETO

BY GRANT B. GANNON // Associate Editor

➔ President Barack Obama kept his promise to Congress on Jan. 19 and vetoed its S.J. Res. 22, which would have eliminated the expanded definition of the WOTUS rule.

"As I have noted before, too many of our waters have been left vulnerable," said Obama in his veto message to Congress. "Clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act helps to protect these resources and safeguard public health."

On Jan. 21, 52 members of the Senate voted to override Obama's veto, but the attempt fell eight votes short of the required 60. Despite the Senate's failure to collect enough votes, there are still opportunities left for opponents of the rule to try to end WOTUS.

"We're going to work with our

partners on the Hill to try and stop this rule," said Bob Helland, GCSAA director of Congressional and federal affairs.

The next chance to block WOTUS is after Obama submits his fiscal 2017 budget request to Congress on Feb. 9. The budget is Obama's suggestion on how federal funds should be used, but it is Congress that makes the final decision on how those funds are appropriated.

"Our focus is now on cutting off funding for (WOTUS)," Helland said.

Helland added that superintendents should pay attention this spring, because members of Congress opposing WOTUS will attempt to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from using any funds on the rule.

//SIGN ME UP

RIO OLYMPIC COURSE LOOKING FOR TEST EVENT PLAYERS

Superintendent Neil Cleverly and his staff at the Rio Olympic course have March 8 marked for a test event but PGA Tour officials are struggling to find participants.

"We've got a good list of players who are, quote, interested in coming," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said. "But we don't have a long list of players who are committed to coming."

Along with a chance to play the course before anyone else players are being offered chartered flights to and from Brazil. According to the Associated Press, Jordan Spieth, Rickie Fowler, Zach Johnson and Jimmy Walker have been extended invitations but will not be attending.

The event, mandated by the International Olympic Committee, is scheduled between the WGC-Cadillac Championship and the Valspar Championship. LPGA players will be competing in Singapore on March 6 for the HSBC Women's Championships, and the European and Asian Tours are co-hosting an event in Thailand.

Here's hoping they start asking for volunteers to fill out the field.

//GOLDEN TICKET

2016 GOLFDOM SUMMIT INVITE UP FOR GRABS

There is only one way to guarantee that an invitation to the 2016 *Golfdom Summit* will be hitting your mailbox this summer but you will need to open up your checkbook.

Golfdom has donated one 2016 Summit invitation to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) and it is item No. 160 as a part of the 2016 Golf Industry Show Silent Auction. The auction began on Feb. 1 but bids are being accepted until Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.

The package includes airfare, food, beverage, golf for one and attendee package for the 2016 *Golfdom Summit* in Orlando, Fla. The 2016 *Golfdom Summit* will be held December 6-9, 2016 at Reunion Resort.

Remember, proceeds benefit the EIFG. So don't be afraid to show how generous superintendents can be.

//FORGET ONLINE TEE TIMES

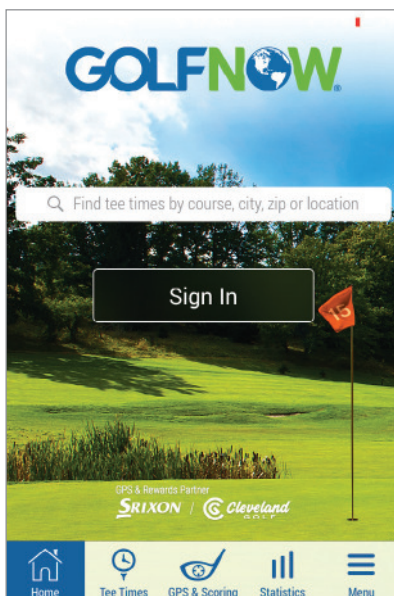
GolfNow to enter maintenance game?

➔ GolfNow, which specializes in selling online tee times, has taken notice of the maintenance side of the game.

Utilizing the buying power of its parent company, Comcast, one of the 50 largest companies in America, GolfNow has launched GolfNow Ride. Ride's beginnings were in the food and beverage side of the game, but now the company is investigating the potential of offering fertilizers, golf carts and other products superintendents purchase.

The concept obviously is not new, since other companies like VGM Club already offer a similar service.

"(GolfNow Ride) is in its infancy. For us it hasn't been a focus, but it's becoming a focus, because this is the time of year when superintendents are buying," says Ride spokesperson Jeff Foster, senior vice president of new media for Golf Channel. "Because of the success of food and beverage, we've had agronomy and golf cart companies come to us and asking if they can par-



ticipate. We're testing it through the eastern seaboard."

Foster says that KemperSports courses have started saving from 6- to 22-percent on items like ketchup thanks to Ride. Could superintendents see the same savings for things like cup cutters?

THEY SAID IT

SEN. JONI ERNST

REPUBLICAN SENATOR FROM IOWA

In a press release about WOTUS after President Obama vetoed the legislation she sponsored, S.J. Res. 22.

"I remain committed to identifying new ways to push back against this complex, burdensome and overreaching rule."

//TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER

OGCSA NAMES WENKER NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Oregon Chapter (OGCSA) has hired Alexis Wenker as its executive director, replacing the retiring Linda Whitworth.



Alexis Wenker

Wenker has more than 16 years of experience in the golf and landscape management field. Much of that time was spent as the assistant superintendent at Oswego Lake Country Club. She was the chair of the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Committee of the OGCSA, and also served on the GCSAA Assistant Committee in 2008 and 2009. Wenker won the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent of the Year award in 2009, and became director of the Oregon Turfgrass Foundation in January 2015.

"After an extensive selection and interview process, the OGCSA Board of Directors is extremely pleased to have Alexis Wenker as our chapter's new executive director," said OGCSA President Richard Jensen. "Of the numerous candidates considered for the position, Alexis' experience and history with the OGCSA made her the best fit to help lead our chapter into the future."

GO FIGURE

77

The percentage of 18-hole golf facilities in the United States that have taken steps to conserve energy.

Source: World Golf Foundation

//GOLFDOM WISDOM

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail... as long as you fix your divots. #golfdomwisdom

// ENVIRONMENTAL ENLISTMENT

U.S. ARMY GOLF COURSES SEEK AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

All of the golf courses in the U.S. Army's Program for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (U.S. Army MWR) will pursue environmental certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf.

The Army's MWR program maintains and operates 45 separate golf courses within the U.S. and overseas locations such as Japan, Korea and Europe, that accommodate nearly 2 million rounds of golf each year.

"We are excited to work with the environmental organization Audubon International," said Michael McCoy, golf program manager for the U.S. Army, IMCOM, G9. "They help courses protect the natural assets that are part of the golf experience — nature, coastlines, rivers, grasses and trees."

In the ACSP for Golf program, each golf course will undergo a review process, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality management, with a goal of making voluntary improvements toward greater sustainability.

// HEAD GAMES

STUDY REVEALS PUTTER BRAND CAN CAUSE PLACEBO EFFECT

Next time a friend or member asks what type of putter they should buy, just tell them to get the brand they think is best.

According to a recent study from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business, telling someone that the putter they are using is a "performance" brand can cause a placebo effect.

In the study, Frank Germann, a Mendoza College of Business assistant professor, had participants complete putts from three predefined spots with a new putter. Half were told the putter's brand was Nike, and the other half were not told a brand.

Although all of the participants used the same putter, those who were told it was a Nike putter on average needed "significantly" fewer putts to sink the golf ball.

// LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

USGA NAMES JUDY BELL 2016 BOB JONES AWARD WINNER



The USGA will bestow its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, to Judy Bell at a June 14 award ceremony during the week of the 116th U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club.

Presented annually since 1955, the Bob Jones Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates the spirit, personal character and respect for the game exhibited by Jones.

"Judy is a towering presence in golf, and her contributions to shaping the USGA

can be seen to this day," said Tom O'Toole Jr., president of the USGA. "Her devotion to the game makes her a worthy recipient of our organization's most prestigious honor."

Bell, a native of Wichita, Kan., was named the USGA's first female president in 1995. Her two-year term was highlighted by the formation of the "For the Good of the Game" grants program, which raised more than \$65 million toward national and local projects devoted to improving the lives of communities through accessible golf.

"Tom O'Toole called me the other night and we chatted a while," Bell said. "Then he told me that I was going to get the Bob Jones Award. I was floored and in denial. Tom is a great friend and finally convinced me it was real. I'm honored beyond words."



Judy Bell

// THE DAY THE MEFLUIDIDE DIED

Where's the mefluidide?



Golfdom's Clark Throssell, Ph.D., recently had a discussion with superintendents in Montana concerning the availability of products containing mefluidide. Those gathered were unsure about the status of those products, so Throssell took it upon himself to reach out to PBI-Gordon.

A response came from Jim Goodrich, PBI-Gordon's product manager on fungicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators. Goodrich informed Throssell that the company formally announced in October 2014 that it would no longer supply Embark

and other products containing mefluidide. The change was forced by the company's inability to find a manufacturer of the chemical.

"Having been unable to find a partner to produce the product according to our high manufacturing standards... PBI-Gordon ceased production of the Embark line," Goodrich said.

This might be old news, but in checking the *Golfdom* archives we couldn't find an announcement concerning mefluidide, and we wanted to highlight this information again for those looking to apply mefluidide this spring.



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Golfdom Gallery

1 Not in Kansas anymore En route to the British Turfgrass Management Expo, *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones gets an eyeful of York Minster, one of the finest cathedrals in Europe.

2 Driver for show All of us at *Golfdom*, including Publisher Pat Roberts (R), wish Jacobsen's Peter Driver (L) a happy retirement. Next stop for Driver? A South African safari.

3 San Diego Amigos A friendship forged at the 2015 *Golfdom* Summit, (L) Corey Kimball, president of Nu-Green, joins *Golfdom*'s Jake Goodman at the Sports Turf Managers Association conference in San Diego.

4 A president, an editor and a CEO walk into a British turfgrass conference... It's not unusual for (L to R) GCSAA president John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, Jones and Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO, to run into each other on the road (and now, across the pond).

5 Hop on We enjoy rare beers here at *Golfdom*, so we had to taste Hop on Board, exclusively for the Virgin trains traveling from London.

6 How's the Withers over there? Roberts caught up with David Withers, president of Jacobsen, on his home turf at the BTME show.

7 Kuhns on tour Seth and Mark Kuhns, CGCS, Baltusrol, got reacquainted at the BTME show, where Mark insisted he had no 2016 PGA Championship updates. And for good reason: The last time these two hung out was only a few weeks ago.

8 Too many time zones Think Seth travels a lot? Well, we were impressed by Kevin Crowe, senior vice president and agronomist for SubAir Systems, when we saw him Tuesday at the BTME show (with Seth), and again on Thursday that same week at the STMA show (with Grant B. Gannon).



PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES (1, 2, 5, 6); GRANT B. GANNON (3); PAT ROBERTS (4, 7, 8); JAKE GOODMAN (8L)

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“When we started discussions with this resident group months ago, we honestly didn’t think it could pull this off. I think the developer also was less than confident...”

MARK WOODWARD, *Contributing Editor*

A true golf success story

As we shift into 2016, and moved by *Golfdom*’s January cover story about the prognosis for golf this year, I’ve been inspired by a true golf success story that, despite the sport’s struggles in recent years, shows me that the game is alive and well. I’ve been fortunate to be involved in a recent project demonstrating that although golf is a big business, it’s truly a small community for those of us in the industry.

On Jan. 1 of this year, we took over management of a 27-hole Mesa, Ariz., property whose story is inspirational and shows that if golfers put their collective minds to something, great things can happen.

The golf course was owned and operated by a developer in the business of selling homes. The neighborhood has 2,400-plus homes, and the developer was close to building out the community and wanted to sell the golf course.

What happened next is amazing.

Five residents who didn’t know each other got together and developed a plan to purchase the golf course from the developer. Their idea was simple: Convince 400 of the 2,400 residents to put up

\$5,000 each and raise \$2 million. The developer’s asking price was less than \$2 million, but this group of retired businessmen planned to place the remainder of the money in a reserve fund earmarked for emergencies and capital improvements.

When we started discussions with this resident group months ago, we honestly didn’t think it could pull this off. I think the developer also was less than confident, to the point where I believe he was entertaining other offers.

Most of you probably can read between the lines and are ahead of me. In two months this group raised the \$2 million. It also had a waiting list of many other residents who, although they didn’t play golf, wanted

to participate by donating money to keep the No. 1 community asset (the golf course itself) in great shape, thereby protecting their property values.

One of these board members is a longtime friend of mine and actually had been the owner/operator/concessionaire who operated the golf shops at a course I once managed. He called me and asked if we’d be interested in providing the group with a proposal to be its management company.

The board members (who were all successful in business) fully understood that they didn’t know how to operate a golf course — and more important — didn’t want to. They all are retired and want to play golf and not worry

about the day-to-day operations of a golf facility.

We were hired. Time and time again during negotiations they said, “That’s why we hired you. You’re the golf experts.”

Obviously, this is exactly how it should be from our perspective, and we were honored to come on board, partner with them and manage their facility.

As I mentioned earlier, we took over managing the golf course on Jan. 1, which is right in the peak golf season here in the desert Southwest, and things are going extremely well.

The board is willing to put some money into capital improvements in the golf shop, the food/beverage area, and for the maintenance staff (in the form of some new equipment). Following their success in purchasing the course, they now are raising donations from the other residents to add an incredible patio onto the side of the golf shop. In fact, the goal is to raise \$170,000 and start construction in the summer. I have no reason to believe they won’t accomplish this goal as well.

I’ve been in the business for 47 years, and this certainly is one of those true golf success stories that make you proud to work in the golf industry.

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*. He can be reached at mwoodward@obsports.com.

The Golfdom



FROM THE ARCHIVE

A handful of problems can touch superintendents, no matter the location. One frequently mentioned during 2015 was the difficulty of finding good crew members. The reasons for this issue vary from region to region, but we can be thankful it's not the labor shortage the golf industry faced during World War II. ¶ In the February 1945 *Golfdom*, Andy High wrote about golfer standards for a golf course during that time and how one Kansas course kept its greens in good condition. To read the full article visit golfdom.com/exclusive.

Lessons in wartime upkeep

BY ANDY HIGH

Two seasons of war-condition upkeep have taught that it is possible to bypass many of the operating difficulties resulting from shortages in course maintenance, labor, machinery and supplies.

The more alert greenkeepers have developed resourcefulness in licking most of the problems of wartime upkeep, and the lessons they have learned will stand them in good stead and benefit their clubs for years to come.

The greens are the great labor, machine and materials problems of these extraordinary times. Fairway maintenance problems have been solved for the time being with less frequent cutting, narrowing and shortening. Golfers, for their part, in many cases have offset lower standards of fairway maintenance by exercising winter fairway rules the year round. True, but on the other hand, many clubs have found it necessary to lower the height of their rough cutting to help meet the acute golf ball shortage. Shrubbery and trees have remained untrimmed, fences and bridges have been neglected as well as many other details that received constant attention during



normal times. Yet I have heard but little complaining in this direction.

But throughout, the golfer has retained his right to expect good greens and raise hell in general about poor greens.

For the past two seasons I have, through the gracious transient system of the Army, played courses in Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska and Kansas (and these the finer metropolitan courses), and in each found the common problem; the greens, the common complaint, the greens; and the common stock excuse,

shortages due to war conditions.

For the future benefit of courses that have been unable to meet this problem, I wish to cite the procedure of care of greens on the White Lakes GC, Topeka, Kansas. This club has had for the whole season greens equal to the average peacetime greens. The total labor force for the season has been one man, the owner, Mr. E. E. Brunkow, and the occasional help of two boys.

Most important, whereas many greens throughout this area have suffered, the greens of White Lakes were as lovely in late October as they were in June.

The first step, starting with the first mowing, was a systematic reduction of the size of the greens. This was not a great reduction, for the sum total reduction would not constitute the footage of one average-sized green. But for a whole season, just a lap or two less on each of the 18 holes is no small item in manpower and economy. This reduction served another purpose — that of transplanting. This procedure eliminated the need of a seedbed and eliminated transportation of mat from a seedbed to far corners of the course. This saved time and actually provided a seedbed at the edge of each green. For the golfers, it provided the finest type of fringe.

For the later part of March and through April the greens were cut high, and only every other cutting was caught. This permitted the development of an extensive mat and some retention of the minerals lost in clippings. From April on, the mowers were lowered just enough to clip the accumulated fringiness. The greens in late October were uniformly matted, without semblance of spottiness, and with a mat of from three-fourths to 1 inch in depth.



“Talent, luck and persistence certainly are characteristics of successful people, and I began to wonder if the golf biz is that much different than show biz.”

JOEL JACKSON, *Senior Contributing Editor*

There's no biz like show biz!

Every day that I read *The Los Angeles Times* I'm reminded of the old entertainment saying that is the headline of this column. We're deep into motion picture awards season, and not a single day passes without articles about all the nominations from all the motion picture guilds (Screen Actors, Screen Writers, etc.), the Golden Globes, and of course, the Academy Awards. The paper even has a separate weekly section called “The Envelope!”

Amid all this show biz publicity I came across articles warning eager Hollywood wannabes about disreputable talent agencies and some ads touting training programs promising insider knowledge and access to “the biz.”

According to *LA Times* reporter Daniel Miller, “There is a cottage industry of academies, workshops and conventions that promise actors insider knowledge... but industry experts caution that talent, luck and persistence are the key ingredients for making it in Hollywood.”

Talent, luck and persistence certainly are characteristics of successful people, and I began to wonder if the golf biz is that much different than show biz.

For example, each February we have our own awards show at GCSAA's Golf Industry Show.

Our golf courses, the

handiwork of superintendents and crew, are broadcast on television weekly around the world to cover the PGA Tour, and we have blockbusters like the Masters and the U.S. Open Championship.

Lights! Camera! Action! The actors are the superintendents, the crew and the golfers and green committee members. The general manager is the director, and the owners and/or equity members are the producers.

Technical support comes from equipment managers, suppliers, and vendors, who provide props like tractors, mowers, cup cutters, flagpoles, etc. The special effects team comprises the chemical and fertilizer suppliers who provide fertilizers, growth regulators, colorants and pesticides to maintain a good-looking set.

The writers include the superintendent, who drafts

his new year's budget and prepares committee reports, the assistant superintendent, who writes up the daily work assignments, and the admin assistant, who types invoices and attendance reports.

Working on location includes action at local chapter events and regional and national conferences. For instance, there was a cast of thousands on location for the production of February's much anticipated and projected blockbuster, “The 2016 GIS” at the San Diego Convention Center.

Publicity was handled by the GCSAA and coverage was provided by various golf publications.

Becoming a superintendent is the dream of many people in our industry. Folks enroll in turf schools and pursue a BS in Turf Management. Others sign up for programs at junior colleges to earn an

AA degree or turf certificate, and others pursue certification via online programs. Regardless of the academic path followed, the dreamers must have those three key attributes that Daniel Miller mentioned — talent, luck and persistence.

Having spent 24 years in the turf management field and 25 years writing about superintendents and their golf courses, I can tell you that the education pathway is a mulligan stew of all the above, plus the school of hard knocks on the job. Many in the industry have college degrees, just not in turf management per se.

Those blessed with a good — no, make that a great — work ethic, common sense, loyalty and a willingness to go the extra mile definitely have a leg up on the others.

You can display your talent and persistence at work every day, but how do you manage luck? There's no formal rule for luck, but you definitely improve your chances by being seen beyond your own golf course.

That means joining the GCSAA and your local chapter, and if you're already a member, going to meetings and volunteering for committees.

Finally, attend conferences like the GIS and make it a point to meet your peers from all areas in the industry. You never know when you might get that “lucky” break.

Joel Jackson, CGCS-RET., is senior contributing editor for *Golfdom*. Email him at flrjn@aol.com.



“There is so much great information at our fingertips now that it’s no wonder it can take all winter to catch up.”

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

These guys are good

If you live in the north and are anything like me, you’ve pretty much had enough of winter within a few weeks of it starting. The weather is awful, you end up spending way too much time inside, and if you’re really lucky, it snows every weekend you’re on snow duty.

On the plus side are the absolutely classic discussions that can occur when everyone is stuck in the shop for days at a time. Let’s face it, conversations can start going in very strange directions after the umpteenth consecutive hour of sanding and painting ballwashers and tee markers. But at least you usually end up with a few running jokes that will last through the season. (I guarantee there are more than a few guys in this business who have been saddled with unfortunate nicknames as a result of these cabin fever-induced conversations.)

Aside from the “team building,” winter is obviously a time to get things done that fell by the wayside during the past season and prepare for

the coming year. One of the things I find myself doing during winter — besides gaining weight — is catching up on trade magazines, research reports, webinars and podcasts. It’s just as important to prepare your mind for the season as it is to prepare the equipment.

I’ve been struck this winter by how important the research community is to this industry. I realize that’s one of those “keen sense of the obvious” statements, but it’s easy to take it for granted. When you consider the fact that all of the agronomic practices we routinely perform were likely once the subject of scientific investigation, their role in this industry comes more into focus.

Take something as common as the USGA green, for example. While there are certainly differing opinions regarding this method, it’s still true that it’s development and evolution is the result of decades of research. The same can be said of practices as fundamental to our agronomic programs as disease, weed, and insect management strategies. These recommendations aren’t random guesses. They are the result of years of rigorous, peer reviewed research. Maybe more important, these developments are sort of a “two way street.” The industry adopts the current best practices while the research community continues to refine these practices based on their own continued

research as well as feedback from the practitioners.

Good scientific research is a tremendous undertaking. Maybe the PGA Tour should change their “These guys are good” marketing campaign to “These guys are good because these guys are good” as video of Jordan Spieth winning the Masters cuts away to video of a greens crew doing course prep and some turf plots swarming with scientists. Bad idea? Absolutely, if for no other reason than it completely discounts the amount of practice and skill it takes to become a Tour player. But maybe it would illustrate the point that there is real science behind what we do.

Equally striking to me is how good people in this industry are at disseminating this information via social and conventional media, blogs, webinars and podcasts. There is so much great information at our fingertips now that it’s no wonder it can take all winter to catch up. The accessibility of this information makes it that much easier to stay informed and ultimately make more informed decisions based on solid science. And at the end of the day, the art of good greenkeeping will always be informed by the science.

It’s no small feat to deliver the playing conditions and surfaces that we do. But we would not be able to do it to the level that we are currently able without the work of the research community.

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





How I spent my ~~summer~~ winter vacation

BY SETH JONES AND GRANT B. GANNON

Six years ago I flew to Cleveland for the first time to meet with the *Golfdom* staff. I had just accepted the job of editor-in-chief and felt confident that I knew what I was getting into.

But there was one thing on that first meeting agenda that I did not know about: the *Golfdom* Summit. I had never heard of it, and for good reason — the first one was still a year away from happening.

I was informed of the concept of the Summit, and realized I had stumbled into something that potentially was extremely cool. Take 40 to 50 superintendents, pay all their costs to attend a three-day meeting at some fancy golf resort (that first year was at Pinehurst Resort, about as good as it gets.) Add a maximum of 15 sponsors, networking receptions, one-on-one meetings, short boardroom presentations, golf, a big-name keynote speaker (that year was Rees Jones), and see what you get.

What we've gotten, for five years now, has been an amazing success. A Midwestern superintendent sent me an email after the most recent Summit saying, "As I told several of the sponsors, this was one of the best organized and informative meetings that I have attended. The breaking up of the time with different sponsors and the chance to spend time with each one independently was great. The smaller numbers gave a person the chance to spend time with many of the superintendents that I have not had the opportunity to meet before."

There's only one problem with which the Summit has to endure: With a guest list limited

to a maximum of 50 superintendents, only 250 of our readers have had the opportunity so far to join us. At that rate, it will take us 300 years to host all our readers. Superintendents are a tough breed, but that's asking a little much.

So in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Summit, we hope you'll allow us to give you a written retelling of the 2015 edition. It isn't quite as good as being there in person at the Reunion Resort, but we hope it's close.

—S.J.

Lewis reflects on 2015 U.S. Open

The setting: an open-air, rooftop resort restaurant in Orlando. Early morning fog slowly burning off the driving range. A schedule conflict prevents *Golfdom* research editor Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., from attending, and leaves an open speaker spot.

Josh Lewis, half of the superintendent combo that played host at the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, kindly agrees to stepping into that open speaker slot.

"You guys can hear me OK, right?" he asks. "What do you want to know?"

In more of a talk among friends than a formal presentation — no microphone, no Power-Point — Lewis talked about the adventure of hosting the 2015 U.S. Open.

Continued on page 20

In honor of the fifth anniversary of the 2011 *Golfdom* Summit, we invite readers to join us on a written tour of the 2015 event.

Continued from page 19

The first question: If you could go back in time, what would you have done differently?

"We probably should have put down a little iron and nitrogen about three weeks out," Lewis said. "Our thought process was, let's get as good a stand of grass as possible, then wean it down and ride it through. We were too far removed. If we had gotten a little closer (to tournament time) and then weaned it down, we

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Josh Lewis, superintendent at Almaden G&CC, San Jose, Calif., was willing to step up and speak to the group about the '15 U.S. Open.

could have ridden through the stress better.

"We couldn't have forecast that in the Pacific Northwest in June, that it was going to be three weeks of 95 degrees," Lewis continued. "It's Seattle in June. Everyone figured it would be 55 and rainy! We got 95 and the wind blowing. It was a completely different weather scenario, something you wouldn't plan for."

Asked if he would do it all over again given the opportunity, without hesitation he said he would.

"Some of the experiences, I had to pinch myself," Lewis said. "Walking down a fairway with (USGA Executive Director) Mike Davis and Robert Trent Jones Jr.? I said very little, I just listened."

When asked how he handled criticism of the course from players, he said it was discouraging at first, but quickly chalked it up to human nature.

"(The players) are under pressure; I think it's easy for them to make comments they might regret later," he said. "It's just like members — if Mr. Smith is a 3-handicap and shoots an 85, when you ask him how his day was he's going to say, 'The greens were terrible.' It's human nature to deflect these things."

Annika: Course conditions "taken for granted"

For the second time in three years, Annika Sorenstam, "Ms. 59,"

was the *Golfdom* Summit keynote speaker. A friend of the magazine's and superintendents everywhere, Sorenstam again took the time for a meet and greet, as well as individual photos, with all attendees.

Sorenstam told the group about a summer she spent in her native Sweden working on the maintenance crew at her local golf course. She raked bunkers, emptied trash and "got to ride around on a Cushman."

On one ill-fated morning raking bunkers, she accidentally ripped the bunker liner out of the bunker. Panicked, she got on the radio and called for her co-workers, most of them fellow junior golfers, to help her repair the bunker. It was soon to be the end of her maintenance career.

"I realized I should stick to my skills (playing)," she laughed. "But I learned a lot. The guys I worked with were terrific. I loved being behind the scenes. Golfers take it for granted every morning, they get to the first tee and everything is mowed and perfect. I got to see it from behind."

She ended talking about why she retired when she did.

"I had achieved everything I wanted to achieve in golf," Sorenstam said. "When you reach the summit of a mountain, you look around and you see there are other mountains to climb. Winning another tournament wasn't going to change my life. I wanted a new challenge."

Continued on page 22



A friend of superintendents everywhere, Annika Sorenstam took time for a meet and greet, as well as photos, with all attendees.

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Greg Nathan gave attendees a positive outlook on the state of golf.

Continued from page 21

NGF speaker provides hope and advice for superintendents

Greg Nathan, senior vice president of the National Golf Foundation (NGF), presented information to attendees about the various studies the organization has completed that form a positive outlook for the game.

He noted that the national media doesn't mention that between 3 million to 4 million of the 25 million golfers every year are players returning or new to the game. This figure of 25 million golfers has stayed consistent for years, and Nathan said that is because a different 3 million to 4 million players end up leaving the game.

Despite this consistent departure, Nathan still calls the game "stable" and "competitive."

The NGF in 2011 started classifying people as more than just golfers and non-golfers. Three of the five categories are; "Nuts," for whom people golf is their favorite recreational activity; "Hooked," people who say golf is one of their favorite recreational activities; and "Casual," people that say golf is one of several ways they like to spend their recreational time.

These three groups of people make up 21 million golfers and represent the ones that will be playing the game for the foreseeable future.

That is the stable base golf needs to build from.

To increase participation, Nathan said that golf has to sell a positive experience to the group of people known as "latent golfers." Nathan mentioned a survey that asked people who haven't played golf in the last 12 months their interest in golf. The NGF found that 32 million non-golfers responded that they were "very interested" or "somewhat interested."

So how does the golf industry make the experience positive? Nathan had an answer for that, too.

He said that commitment to continue playing the game year-after-year all comes back to having fun. Having fun on a golf course comes down to two factors, confidence and comfort.

Confidence comes from people playing well enough in their mind to "get around" the course. Without that confidence, a new or returning golfer will not commit their time and money to the game.

Comfort is where the intimidation factor comes in. New or returning golfers need to feel more welcomed to the game by everyone, from the people working at the golf course all the way to the people in the group playing behind them.

What Nathan liked about the two factors tied to fun is that they are fixable and are slowly getting better, but he added one piece of advice for the attendees.

"Think about how any business grows. It's through innovation, sales and accountability," said Nathan. "Those are the things that can change the landscape of golf in the future."

Clark Talks Turf Live

Jumping from the pages of the magazine and into the spotlight of the *Golfdom* Summit, Clark Throssell, Ph.D., informed the attendees about two innovations he finds particularly exciting.

He began with fraze mowing, a cultivation technique originally from English sports fields, which skims off the surface of turf. Specifically, it takes off a little bit of the canopy, some thatch, and can go deep enough to take some soil. The range a superintendent can decide to remove is 1/15 inch to 4/10 inch.

Throssell said the reported benefits include leveling of the surface, thatch removal and

Continued on page 25

BEST JOKES AT THE SUMMIT

"THERE'S A BUNCH OF GUYS HERE. I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK AT THE COLONIAL."

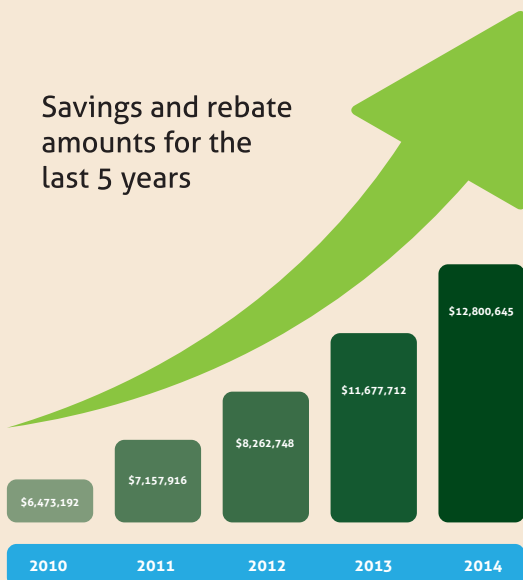
Annika, about her first impression of the Summit



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"I wonder if superintendents don't really understand the benefit of VGM like club managers do. The membership is a benefit to superintendents when purchasing everything from turf equipment to smaller items like flags and cups."

Owen Coulson, Superintendent
Vestavia Country Club, Birmingham, AL

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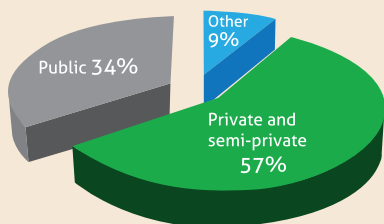
Don Hurter, Golf Professional
Castle Pines Golf Club, Castle Rock, CO

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Marcus King, PGA, CCM, CCE, General Manager
Overlake Golf & Country Club, Medina, WA

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Jared Bumpus recently met with VGM Club's Troy Hoffman to discuss the savings and other benefits Key Golf has experienced through the Stens program. Key Golf's Jeremie Smith and George Folopoulos brought some recent purchases along while the group met on the practice green at Red Rock Country Club in Las Vegas.

THE KEY TO ENHANCING SAVINGS SOLUTIONS IN ULTRA-COMPETITIVE MARKET

“Here in Vegas, your bottom line can get scorched if you’re not careful of who you work with and the products you use,” said Jared Bumpus, regional agronomy director for Key Golf Management Company.

Survival in the desert and in the competitive golf course industry can be similar in that the unwary, uninformed can succumb to the environment. That’s where Key Golf Management Company comes in to assist golf courses throughout the Southwest.

“We bring a unique culture into the workplace with both the crews and agronomic programs,” said Bumpus. “Communication with our superintendents is crucial. I meet with our superintendents weekly and also have bi-monthly reporting on current conditions of the course and updates on upcoming projects.”

Through this communication, Bumpus found a new way to save his courses’ money, thus benefitting the bottom line. “VGM Club introduced us to the Stens program and how it could affect not only our bottom line but help streamline our turf maintenance equipment parts ordering process.”

After the initial introduction to Stens,

Bumpus recognized that Key Golf would benefit from membership pricing, shipping costs and product availability.

“Jared saw the significant savings opportunities for golf course turf equipment maintenance and wanted to get each of their courses set up with our program,” commented Amy Kippenbrock, territory manager for Stens.

From there the rest, as they say, is history. A meeting, coordinated by VGM

Club, took place with Bumpus, his superintendents and Kippenbrock at the 2015 Golf Industry Show, and the relationship grew from there.

“Once the connection was made, Stens knew precisely what products and parts my superintendents could utilize,” said Bumpus. “They sent me their catalog, samples of parts specific to my equipment and a flyer detailing the

savings with my VGM Club discount.”

“Starting the relationship as we did sets us both up for success, and we understand expectations on both sides.” Kippenbrock added, “Effective communication to the mechanics and superintendents is crucial in making this relationship work. They know how to reach me with questions, and knowing that Jared and I maintain contact with the superintendents ensures that Key Golf Management will take full advantage of the Stens program.”

They say you don’t need to be a full-blown survival expert to survive in the desert. You just need to be aware of your surroundings

and seek out sources to keep you alive. Communication and relationship building with key vendors ensures that golf courses can save money and survive the competitive environment – especially around “Sin City.”



The Stens Engine Maintenance Kits are one of many products Key Golf’s superintendents use to keep their turf maintenance equipment operating in the tough Vegas terrain.

This success story
brought to you by





Clark Throssell, Ph.D., talked about current and future research he finds valuable.

Continued from page 22

weed seed removal. He said it works better on warm-season grasses like bermudagrass because those grasses recover quickly, while cool-season grasses like bluegrass and creeping bentgrass take more time to recover.

For superintendents worried about spring dead spot in bermudagrass or large patch in zoysia, Throssell said to look for future research with fraze mowing from Lee Miller, turf pathologist at the University of Missouri. Miller is using the technique while applying fungicides to get the product down to the soil and achieve better control.

"Will it work?" Throssell asked. "I don't know. It's probably too early in the process but it's something that's out there and you will read about it."

Next Throssell brought up research by Glen Obear, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nebraska, and Doug Soldat, Ph.D., turfgrass scientist at the University of Wisconsin, on how sodium affects infiltration and drainage in high sand-content root zones. The pair wondered if dispersal problems seen in high-content clay soil also apply to sand-based root zones.

To test this, they took sand-based root zone mixes in a lab and packed them in columns. They created clay contents that ranged from .5 percent to 4.8 percent and exposed them to

water that contained a sodium absorption ratio (SAR) ranging from 0 to 35.

"They found that if you have a sand-based root zone clay content less than 3 percent you don't need soil amendments," Throssell said. "Superintendents can use that water with an SAR that might be undesirable in situations with high clay content."

For more about fraze mowing, see "Chop the Top" in the September 2015 *Golfdom*. To read the full Obear and Soldat research article, "Sand greens and sodium," check out the November 2015 *Golfdom*.

Magic carpet ride

Along with the speakers, the golf and the networking, a major component of the Summit is the one-on-one meetings with sponsors. These pre-arranged meetings last 15 minutes and allow sponsors an opportunity to discuss challenges and solutions with superintendents they might not otherwise get a chance to meet with.

Some of these meetings happen inside the resort. Others happen in a demo area on the driving range. And this year, the practice putting green at Reunion Resort was a center of attention.

That's because two sponsors — Air2G2 and Pogo — were giving demonstrations.

The Air2G2 aerator injects a probe into the green and then shoots out a blast of air to relieve compaction. The machine leaves behind no surface disruption, allowing golfers to con-

Continued on page 26

BEST JOKES AT THE SUMMIT

"WHEN ASKED HIS DREAM FOURSOME, HE JUST WROTE DOWN 'CAITLYN JENNER.' WHAT'S THAT EVEN MEAN?"

Seth Jones, playfully roasting an attendee who was inadvertently left out of the program

TIPS TO GET INVITED TO THE GOLFDOM SUMMIT

How do you get on the guest list of the most exclusive event in golf maintenance? It's not easy. But below are some tips that might help.

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3. Invite *Golfdom* to your local chapter meeting, or better yet, to play your course
4. Help us score our next keynote speaker (anyone have Jack Nicklaus on speed dial?)
5. Win the EIFG auction (for details, see page 8)
6. Good old-fashioned bribery



BEST JOKES AT THE SUMMIT

“THERE ARE SOME GOOD SCORES ON THE BOARD. SOMEONE SAID THEY EVEN BEAT MY 59. WELL, IT TOOK FOUR OF YOU, BUT WELL DONE.”

Annika, on the results of the four-man scramble



Woody Moriarty, superintendent at Blue Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo. (left) and Bill Irving, superintendent at Lawrence (Kan.) CC, get up close with the Pogo soil monitoring tool. (Editor's note: Irving will be the new superintendent at Wolf Creek GC in Olathe, Kan., starting March 1.)

Continued from page 25

tinue playing immediately after aeration. The Pogo is a soil moisture meter that also charts salinity and temperature, is GPS enabled and captures data for easy recordkeeping. (Further information on both products is available at Golfdom.com.)

What was supposed to be one-on-one meetings on the practice putting green often became group demonstrations.

“The first thing the guys would do is apolo-

gize for crashing someone else's meeting, and then they'd ask if they could sit in on the demonstration,” laughs Corey Kimball, president of NuGreen by Corey, an Air2G2 distributor. “Some guys already had their demo, but they'd want to see it again. One of the other vendors came over and said to me, ‘What is going on over here? You've got a constant crowd!’”

Representing Pogo was Dario Pascua-Ponce, superintendent at the Polo Club of Boca Raton, Fla. He also enjoyed getting to talk to so many superintendents in a short time.

“Sometimes we had one guy, sometimes we had two guys, and you have to explain everything in 15 minutes,” Pascua-Ponce says. “Other guys would want to come in and say, ‘I'm not supposed to meet with you right now, but can I also see it?’”

Pascua-Ponce says the main point of his demonstration was to show fellow superintendents how easy the tool is to use, for both iPhones and Android phones.

“I enjoyed (the Summit), it was fun. Any time I can help a fellow superintendent, I want to do it,” he says. “I invited every (attendee) to come see my course. I've been lucky enough to get a lot from this tool. I'm happy I got to share some of my knowledge.”

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NO
MOBILE

PLEASE

Alex Stuedemann returns to his desk at TPC Deere Run, Moline, Ill., to find a collection of cellphones neatly lined up along his desk. One by one crew members step into the superintendent's office to claim their respective property and explain how the phones got there.



Of course, each employee has come because they were caught breaking the cellphone policy. They have a conversation about the policy and Stuedemann returns the phone to its owner.

Superintendents everywhere are facing similar situations with their employees, and some are forced to create their own policies. According to a survey from the Pew Research Center, 92 percent of adults in the United

Continued on page 30

In the everlasting battle to keep course conditions ideal, a new enemy appears: the smartphone.

Phoning it in

By Grant B. Gannon  

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13

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Nancy Flynn, executive director of the ePolicy Institute, Columbus, Ohio, authored the book *The e-Policy Handbook: Rules and Best Practices to Safely Manage Your Company's E-Mail, Blogs, Social Networking, and Other Electronic Communication Tools*. In it, she makes some of the following suggestions regarding cellphones.

Who to consult when crafting a unique policy

In crafting a policy that works specifically for your company, make sure you have the right entities involved in piecing the policy together. Managers and human resource representatives should be leading the effort, of course, but since mobile devices grow more and more technically complicated — especially if wired to your company's email server — don't forget to include your IT staff.

How to create a cellphone policy: Enforcing the policy

Any workplace policy is useless if not properly enforced. After you've solidified your guidelines, here's how you can make sure they're followed:

KEEP IT UPDATED. You should review your cellphone policy at least once a year and alter accordingly. "Electronic technology evolves so rapidly," Flynn says. "Not too long ago, all we had to worry about was email and instant messaging."

HAVE TRAINING SESSIONS. It might seem a little frivolous at first, but a few training exercises, or even well-enacted demonstrations, could be quite effective in illustrating the type of behavior you expect.

EXPLICITLY EXPLAIN DISCIPLINARY ACTION. What will be the consequences of violating the rules in your policy? Disciplinary action will vary depending on the level of offense, of course, but be sure to clearly describe it.

HAVE EVERY EMPLOYEE REVIEW AND SIGN IT. Allow employees time to internalize the policy. Include an acknowledgment form that should be signed and returned to you. "It's just like with any other kind of policy," says Flynn. "They should agree that they understand the policy and will adhere to it, or follow consequences up to termination."

Continued from page 28

States own a cellphone, and 68 percent own a smartphone. That means almost every crew member on every golf course in America owns one of these devices.

The cellphone has become a double-edged sword in society. It is capable of connecting users with family and friends, it provides easy access to the news and checks of the weather, and it occupies time when people are bored, all from a device in the palm of a hand. At the same time, such easy access to entertainment has been known to hurt productivity. It's not uncommon for a superintendent to check on an employee who is supposed to be raking a bunker, rolling a green or mowing a fairway, and instead find them on their phone.

Superintendents may be responsible enough to put down the phone and get to work, but their employees might not share that restraint. Have we reached a point where cellphones are becoming too much of a distraction to crews and assistants?

No-phone-zone

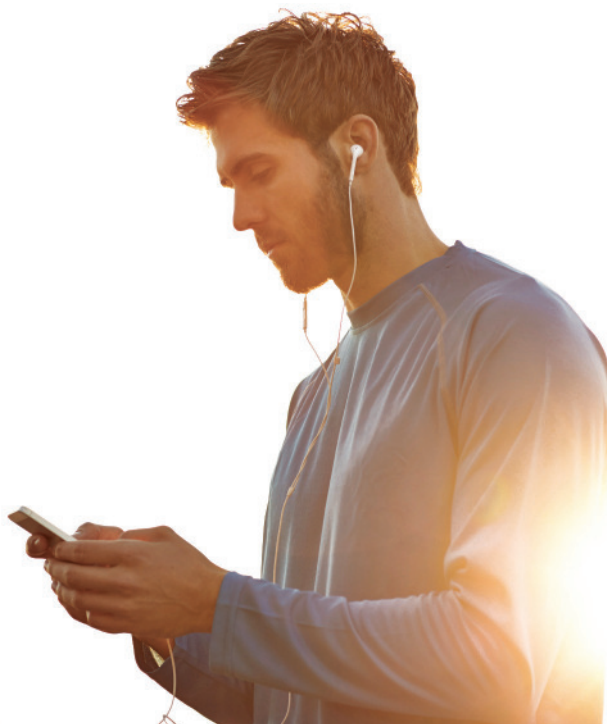
Given the choice, Stuedemann says he would own 15 radios to give out at the start of the day to stay in touch with assistants and crew members, but he has a limited supply. So he's forced to allow cellphones on the course. His current policy is that crew members can use a cellphone only if there is a family emergency or if they need to contact Stuedemann or one of his assistants about an issue.



Alex Stuedemann

"My assistants are being asked to do more hands-on work versus managing, and we don't have the time to keep cycling across the crew six to seven times a day," says Stuedemann. "If a crew member has a problem or a flat tire, it's much easier for them to call me with a cellphone versus them having to walk to find someone."

Stuedemann acknowledges that allowing the phones is not a perfect solution because he knows the crew still sends texts among



“They need to be listening to their equipment, and I think it looks unprofessional for a crew member to be working with earbuds in.”

themselves when they have a chance. That doesn’t stop Stuedemann from banning the crew from using cellphones to listen to music while working.

“They need to be listening to their equipment, and I think it looks unprofessional for a crew member to be working with earbuds in,” he says.

Jeff Johnson, superintendent at Minneapolis’ Minikahda Club, dealt with an employee who loved his cellphone more than his job. He hired a new assistant who abused the freedom that comes with working on the golf course without a boss monitoring his phone usage.



Jeff Johnson

When Johnson says *all* the time, he means it, including when the former assistant would start his day at 5:30 a.m. “Who are

Continued on page 32

98

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Continued from page 31

you even texting at that time?" laughs Johnson. It was so bad that after a couple of months he had to part ways with the assistant.

Even after that experience, Johnson has no cellphone policy and trusts his employees to use their phones responsibly on the course. He added that trying to implement a policy would be "ridiculous."

"Everybody is going to look at their phone, and they're going to do it when you're not around," says Johnson. "It's pretty much a part of life now to have a phone, and you need to communicate with your wife, girlfriend and friends. If you catch somebody all the time, you just have to talk to them."

Smart about smart phones

Down at Bentwater Yacht & Country Club in Montgomery, Texas, Superintendent Johnny Walker agrees with Johnson that

it's impossible to prevent crew members and assistants from using cellphones

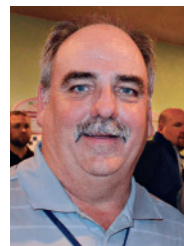
while at work. However, it once was a hot topic among Bentwater's leadership.

"We've had discussions at my facility about banning them or telling the staff they have to give me their cellphone before they go to work," says Walker. "A cellphone is a part of our daily lives. To take it away from them would be infringing on their rights in today's society, but we want employees to be smart about using them."

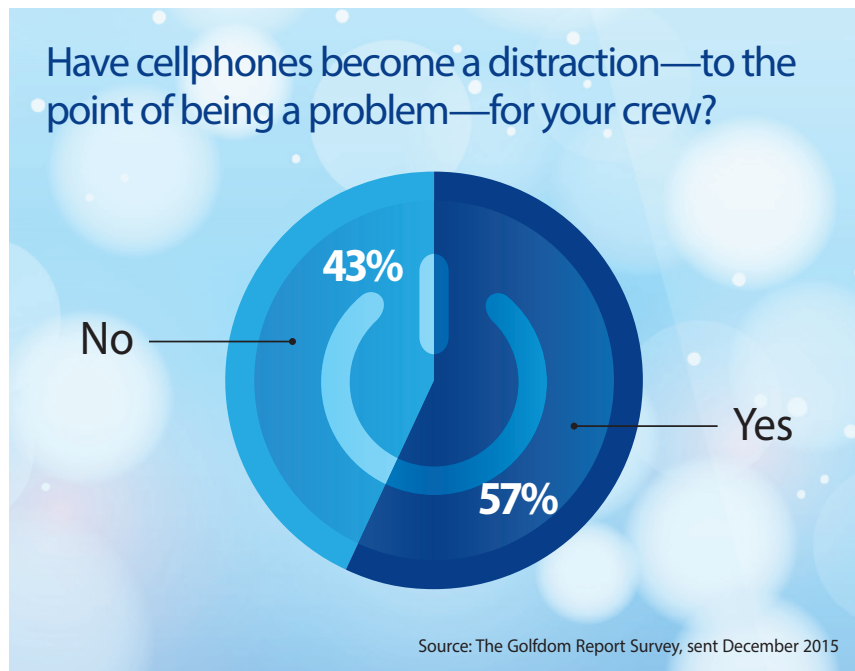
Despite adopting a looser policy, Walker admits that about 20 percent of the staff probably abuse the rule. But instead of attacking the entire crew, he deals with it individually.

Johnson says it's simple. He looks at his crew and points to their home lives as the top reason to let them have and use their phones while working.

"These guys are all married and have kids. They need to text their wives to find out who is going to pick up the kids," says Johnson. "I'm not going to say you can't talk to her until 3 p.m. — that's not the reality of life." **G**



Johnny Walker



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A first look via BTME

We travel across the pond not just for the cask ales, but because we want to see the new stuff now.

BY SETH JONES

It was my second trip to the British Turfgrass Management Expo in Harrogate, England, so while I wasn't as wide-eyed as I was my first time attending the show, I still was impressed to see equipment that hasn't yet been out in the open in the United States.

"Productivity" was the word of the day, with the quest for increased productivity the reoccurring theme in three of the booth visits we made. All three experts interviewed in this story were also onhand in San Diego to give Golf Industry Show attendees an in-person tour of the equipment.



If you didn't make it to the GIS in person to see this equipment up close, don't worry. Along with the interviews below, we also took video of each item for an exclusive *Golfdom* TV video tour available at Golfdom.com.

Jacobsen LF577

The new Jacobsen LF577 is simple: add two more mowing units — from five to seven — and it's better, right? Like in *This is Spinal Tap*, this new mower now goes to 11.

Not so simple, says Lee Kristensen, product manager. "Some good thought has gone into this," he says. "It's not as straightforward as putting on extra mowers. We've gone in and reworked areas of the chassis to make it easy to maintain, and it's reinforced to carry the extra weight."

The additional mowers have given the fairway mower a 38-percent wider cutting width. It's Tier 4 Final with a 139-inch cutting width and offers the same benefits as other mowers in the LM line, Kristensen says, like steel piping and a hood that allows mechanics easy access to the engine.

"Out in the field, everyone is talking about more productiv-



Jacobsen LF577

ity," Kristensen says. "Courses are losing staff. This mower gives them back productivity by allowing them to cut more grass."

John Deere 9009A Terrain Cut

Productivity was the buzzword over at the John Deere booth as well, where Tracy Lanier, product manager, was showing off the 9009A Terrain Cut mower for the first time. The rough mower has five 27-inch decks, cuts a 9-foot wide swath and specializes in following contours and clipping dispersal.

"A lot of new design went into the 27-inch decks as far as air flow coming out the back of the deck to help with clipping dispersal," Lanier says. "It's a big thing to be able to disperse the clippings properly, so a lot of air flow measurements were done in development to get a nice, even metering. A lot of our customers have keyed in on that as being a good benefit."

The mower is in production now, and the first ones were avail-

Continued on page 34



John Deere 9009A

Continued from page 33

able right before the Golf Industry Show. The 9009A has all the features of the A models of mowers that Deere first released in 2014, like internal wet-disc brakes, 4-wheel drive, easy maneuverability and contour following.

“It’s a ground-up design for us, so it’s brand new but it is similar to our A models, so it has familiar controls,” Lanier says.

Turfco Widespin 1550

We got a productivity bingo before leaving the BTME show. The third reference came from Scott Kincaid, executive vice president of Turfco.

“A lot of what we focus on is how to make superintendents and course managers more productive,” Kincaid said. “Being able to save their preferred settings, you save them once and you don’t have to do it again. For the first time ever, you can make a green application, drive off and do a completely different application on your approach without having to get off the truck.”

The Widespin 1550 features a larger hopper, making it easier



Turfco Widespin 1550

to load while spilling less material. It also has a rate calculator that is useful for budgeting. Kincaid says the Widespin fits on all common maintenance vehicles — Toro, John Deere and the new Jacobsen Trucksters.

Not quite ready: the new Syngenta App

One item you probably didn’t see at the GIS is the new Syngenta Greencast Turf App. At the Syngenta booth, Golf Market Manager Austen Sutton gave us a preview of the app and what it can do.

Sutton says the app still is a few months away from being formally introduced to the U.S. market, and for now is exclusive to Europe. American users can look forward to a useful app that simplifies spray application recordkeeping and improves the



Syngenta’s Austen Sutton takes the new Greencast Turf App for a spin with *Golfdom* Publisher Pat Roberts.

efficiency of spray applications. The app can be customized to the individual course, with information like turf areas, sprayer details and operator, and saved to the course’s records. To learn more about the app and see a demo, visit www.greencast.co.uk.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE BTME VIDEO TOUR

If the equipment in this story piqued your interest, check out our video tour of each item, hosted by the respective product managers, visit Golfdom.com/exclusive.



Super Science

// SMOOTH (CRIMINAL) BROMEGRASS

CONTROLLING SMOOTH BROMEGRASS IN COOL-SEASON TURF

By Matthew D. Sousek, Luqi Li and Zachary J. Reicher, Ph.D.

Smooth bromegrass (*Bromus inermis*) is a difficult-to-control perennial grass in cool-season turf. There currently are no ways to selectively control smooth bromegrass, so superintendents often use non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate.

In this study, we explored potential options to selectively control smooth bromegrass in cool-season turfs. We evaluated mesotrione (Tenacity, Syngenta), topramezone (Pylex, BASF) and glyphosate (Glyphomate 41, PBI Gordon) for controlling smooth bromegrass when applied at various timings.

Field studies were conducted in 2014 and 2015 at the University of Nebraska's John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility near Mead, Neb. We applied treatments using a CO₂-powered backpack sprayer in 88 gal water/acre at 30 psi, with a three-nozzle TeeJet 8002VS flat-fan spray boom. Treatments consisted of Tenacity at 8 fl. oz./acre applied twice 10 days apart, Tenacity at 5.3 fl. oz./acre applied three times 10 days apart, Pylex at 1.5 fl. oz./acre applied twice 10 days apart, or Glyphomate 41 at 48 fl. oz./acre as a single application with an untreated control for comparison.

We included a non-ionic surfactant with Tenacity, and a crop oil concentration with Pylex. We applied each herbicide at three initial application timings on May 1, June 1 and July 1. We applied treatments to a smooth bromegrass stand established the prior fall of each year and mowed at 3.5 inches weekly. We took cover ratings



Smooth bromegrass control on Sept. 15, 50 days after final treatment from a July application of Tenacity at 5.3 fl. oz./acre applied three times 10 days apart.

of bromegrass on a 0-100 percent range.

Treatments applied in May produced the least control (greater than 60 percent cover by Sept. 15), likely due to rapid spring top growth limiting translocation to rhizomes, and then recovery from surviving rhizomes. Tenacity at 5.3 fl. oz./acre three times 10 days apart or 8 fl. oz./acre applied two times 10 days apart applied in July resulted in about 15 percent bromegrass cover by Sept. 15. Topramezone had little activity on bromegrass, resulting in no control. In terms of non-selective control, Glyphomate 41 applied in June produced 20 percent cover versus more than 70 percent cover when applied in May or July. Our preliminary data suggest that Tenacity has good potential for selectively controlling smooth bromegrass in cool-season turf when applied near July 1 in Nebraska.

Matt Sousek, research manager, and Luqi Li, Ph.D. candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Zac Reicher, Ph.D., technical service specialist, Bayer Environmental Sciences. Matt can be reached at msousek2@unl.edu for more information.

Acknowledgement: This research was made possible by funding from the Nebraska Turfgrass Association.

NEWS UPDATES

AMVAC INTRODUCES OREON FUNGICIDE

Amvac Chemical Corp. has launched Oreon fungicide, a combination fungicide that provides both contact and systemic activity against common turf diseases such as anthracnose, dollar spot and brown patch.

Oreon has two active ingredients, PCNB and tebuconazole fungicides. The water-based formulation offers improved turf safety compared to existing PCNB products, the company says in a news release.

The combination of two contact and systemic active ingredients, PCNB and tebuconazole, allows for broad-spectrum disease control. Amvac says it is the only premix product on the market that contains a FRAC Group 14 fungicide.

"Research trials have proven Oreon provides excellent control of anthracnose, dollar spot and brown patch," says Chuck Silcox, Ph.D., product development manager, Amvac Environmental Products. "Golf course superintendents are facing increasing resistance issues with anthracnose and dollar spot. Oreon provides a new tool to help control these challenging diseases."

Oreon should be applied to turfgrass that is well established, actively growing and not under excessive heat, moisture or drought stress, Amvac says.

"The addition of Oreon to our portfolio gives us an attractive offering for golf course superintendents," says Jeff Alvis, business manager, Amvac Environmental Products.

A DOG'S SENSE OF SMELL IS ESTIMATED TO BE 10,000 TO 100,000 TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF HUMANS..."

Ben McGraw, Ph.D.

(see story on page 36)

// A WHIFF OF WEEVILS

Sniffing out ABWs

By Ben McGraw, Ph.D.

Over the span of nearly half a century, the annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) or “Hyarodes weevil” (*Listronotus maculicollis*), has become the most important insect pest of golf course turfgrass in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada.

The last decade has brought drastic changes in how the pest is managed, as well as its dispersal into new regions. The challenges superintendents face in managing ABW differ by region and/or the years spent battling the pest. It’s not unusual for superintendents in the epicenter of the weevil’s distribution (the metropolitan New York City area) to have intensely managed their populations with chemical insecticides for more than three decades. Turfgrass managers in these areas are most concerned with ABW populations developing resistance to insecticides.

Conversely, superintendents in the southern range of the insect’s distribution, who have more recently become acquainted with the pest, may be more concerned with determining when and where the pest will strike. Both situations demonstrate an urgent need to develop novel monitoring technologies capable of accurately and reliably detecting ABW in different stages, population densities and times of the year. Without such a technology the frequency of blanket applications of preventive insecticides likely will increase, and in turn lead to more widespread insecticide resistance issues.

MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES

ABW management is difficult because the insect is relatively small (0.2 inch),

has cryptic stages (e.g. early-instar larvae are stem borers) and is nocturnal. These factors make detection of damaging densities in established populations difficult, they make assessing chemical control on large scales impractical, and make detection of the pest in new regions nearly impossible.

Superintendents managing ABW often choose to make preventive insecticide applications to avoid larval feeding damage to high-valued turf areas, targeting the adults as they move onto playing surfaces in the spring. It’s not uncommon for turfgrass managers to make between six and 10 insecticide applications throughout the year with broad-spectrum, short-residual insecticides. Consequently, ABW on many

courses have developed resistance to the pyrethroids, an efficacious and economical class of insecticides in ABW management.

Making matters worse, it appears that several ABW populations with high levels of resistance also are insensitive to applications of unrelated insecticides (called “multiple resistance”). Superintendents managing multiple-resistant populations have few effective control options and often resort to making more frequent chemical insecticide applications in hopes of achieving even moderate reductions in densities.

Each year, courses without a previous history of ABW damage experience substantial turf loss without warning. The ability to detect ABW populations early in the invasion into new regions is critical in slowing the spread of this insect, and is vital in determining the value of taking action when population densities are low.

To do so requires an accurate and reliable means of detecting a small, mobile and nocturnal adult insect and/or its minute, hidden immature stages. We have many ways to sample insect populations and have made great strides in using available techniques to predict outbreaks.

However, the use of traditional sampling techniques (e.g. soil coring, salt flushes, vacuuming) is not a practical approach to detecting ABW populations that are patchily distributed in low densities across a golf course or a region.

To overcome this challenge, our laboratory at Penn State University has been working with canine handlers to determine if working dogs can

FIGURE 1



A conical tube, or “hide,” used in field trials to assess canine ability to detect annual bluegrass weevils (ABW). Each tube contained a scent treatment (ABW, a non-target insect control [Japanese beetle], or a blank [*P. annua* alone]).

effectively and reliably locate ABW populations in different habitats around the golf course.

If that last line makes you raise an eyebrow, you are not alone. I was rather skeptical of using dogs in this fashion when it first came to my attention, though I was aware of the concept of using dogs to detect insects. Canines have been used to locate specific odors, dating back more than a hundred years. Today, one cannot walk through an airport or well-attended sporting event without seeing a law enforcement official accompanied by a working dog.

Most people associate these scent-detecting canines with locating missing persons or cadavers, detecting explosives or searching for illegal drugs. However, there has been a proliferation of studies over the last decade examining the use of canines to detect a diverse array of odors, including locating invasive reptiles, endangered species, toxic gases and even cancerous cells in humans.

A dog's sense of smell is estimated to be 10,000 to 100,000 times greater than that of humans, and is capable of detecting extremely low (1 to 2 parts per trillion) odorant concentration levels. Their olfactory powers make canines ideal candidates to detect pests that otherwise could be missed by visual identification, especially in instances where the pest occurs in low densities, has hidden stages or is located in hard-to-access places. These attributes have allowed canines to become hallmarks in monitoring for bedbugs and termites in residential and commercial properties.

PROOF OF CONCEPT: CONTROLLED FIELD TRIALS STUDIES

My first day in my new position at Penn State coincided with the 2014 Penn State Turf Field Day. It was here that I met Jason Webeck of Good Night, Sleep Tight, and Bun Montgomery of the J.K. Canine Academy and Scentworx in

Alachua, Fla. Webeck operates a canine scent-detection company in western Pennsylvania and was in attendance to determine the turf industry's interest in canines for pest monitoring. He performed a demonstration with one of their bedbug-detecting dogs, using "hides" or bedbugs in vials randomly distributed throughout a field. I found the concept to be interesting and agreed to supply Webeck with ABW throughout 2015 in exchange for the chance to test the dog(s) in a controlled, scientifically designed experiment.

We vacuum-collected ABW from tees and fairways weekly throughout the spring and early summer to assist in training a four-year old male beagle named Carl.

By August 2015 the handlers believed Carl had enough training and was ready for evaluation. We didn't share the trial's experimental design with the handlers until the day of the evaluation. It was important to us that the dog would be able to detect live ABW, discriminate the scent from that of other turfgrass insects and be able to detect the scent in turf with different heights of cut.

ABW adults were placed into 50-mL conical tubes containing *P. annua* and randomly sunk in the ground, flush with the soil surface in fairway-height *P. annua* or rough-height Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). The container was fitted with a mesh top to allow odors — but not weevils — to escape (Figure 1). We interspersed negative controls (Japanese beetles on *P. annua*,

FIGURE 2



Carl is led by his handler (Bun Montgomery) through rough-height turf in search of ABW in controlled field trials.

P. annua alone) among the tubes containing ABW to ensure that the dog was not alerting to other insects, the presence of the tube or the turfgrass.

Carl was led by the handler through different sections of turf and observed by the evaluator (our lab) for a signal (scent detection, Figure 2). Carl alerted to an odor by sitting on the turf. Once a signal was given, the handler checked with the evaluator to determine whether ABW were present. If ABW were present in the vial (as noted by code dots), we recorded the indication as positive. We recorded a false positive if a signal was given and the conical contained either the Japanese beetle or the *Poa annua* blank.

Carl was capable of detecting a high percentage of the ABW hides in our first trial (76 percent positive indication, 24 percent false positives). Neither the individual replicate size (search area per sample) nor turfgrass

Continued on page 38

FIGURE 3



Carl investigates a potential ABW overwintering site at Sinking Valley Country Club in Altoona, Penn. Using canines to identify ABW overwintering sites may lead to greater precision management in spring.

Continued from page 37

height had any effect on the dog's ability to detect ABW.

The first trial was a learning experience for both parties, and slight adjustments were made both in Carl's training and our experimental design before a second controlled field trial in September. Some changes were made to increase Carl's stamina to work longer on a trail and to avoid non-target insect scents. The results were dramatic.

Not only did Carl's positive indication rate soar to 88 percent (12 percent false positives), but he was capable of finding the hides more quickly than before. The results are encouraging and demonstrate that canines can discriminate ABW odors from other insects or plants in turfgrass settings, and that their performance can be substantially improved through training.

THE SEARCH FOR OVERWINTERING SITES

In addition to the controlled field trials, we evaluated Carl's ability to detect natural, overwintering ABW populations on golf courses in late October and November. Understanding where

overwintering sites are located could allow superintendents to make spot treatments, thus reducing unnecessary applications and saving potentially thousands of dollars annually.

Carl was led through different areas of the golf course, from fairways and greens to roughs and tree lines. ABW were detected in all of the environments that we have come to regard as traditional overwintering sites, such as leaf litter, bases of trees and under shrubs along wood lines (Figure 3). Carl made several detections deep in the woods, including many that were more than 50 yards away from fairways. Surprisingly, he also made positive indications in roughs and fairways, areas not typically believed to be potential overwintering sites.

The results from these experiments will not be complete until we are able to perform pitfall trapping in the spring to assess population sizes and spatial distributions. We will then have a better understanding of how effective Carl was in locating overwintering sites, if the density of weevils within a site had an effect on detection, and whether or not overwintering "hotspots" were overlooked.

THE FUTURE OF SCENT-DETECTING CANINE RESEARCH

These initial studies have reduced my skepticism about the use of canines in insect detection, but more work is needed before canines become a regular fixture in ABW monitoring and management.

Our work with Good Night, Sleep Tight and Scentworx is an encouraging start, but we need more controlled field trials and real-world assessments to ascertain the reliability of the technology. Additionally, should the concept prove to be effective, the industry will need more dogs to meet demand. Over the next several years we will continue our trials and evaluate new canines as they become available. I look forward to reporting on that research, which we hope will benefit superintendents and improve our understanding of ABW behavior and population dynamics.

Ben McGraw, Ph.D., is a turfgrass entomologist at Penn State University and can be reached at bam53@psu.edu for more information.

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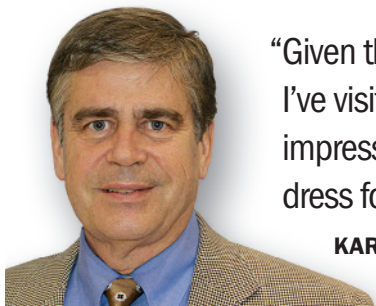
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“Given the number of golf courses I’ve visited, why didn’t I have an impression of what is appropriate dress for women?”

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

Dress appropriately

This past summer, Renata, one of my graduate students, received an internship offer from the USGA’s Green Section. She asked me about proper attire for the internship. Telling students what to wear in a university setting is sensitive and can end in an appointment with human resources. So I replied with something like, “Whatever is appropriate.”

Renata, who is bright and hardworking and wanted to give the appropriate professional impression, found my answer lacking and continued to inquire.

I tried replies like, “Go to a clothing store and ask the sales staff,” and “Ask a few women golfers what they think you should wear.” The answers Renata received were vague and often based on the age of the advice giver. Also, these clothing decisions should not entirely reflect playing golf, but additionally represent an expert providing technical support to golf course superintendents and club officials.

Men are easier to dress. Don’t wear denim, wear a collared shirt with sleeves and throw in a sports jacket just in case, and you basically have it covered. For Renata, a golf hat or visor, along with a pair of spikeless or walking golf shoes, would be appropriate. It was the in-between about which I didn’t have a clue.

Given the number of golf courses

I’ve visited, why didn’t I have an impression of what is appropriate dress for women? I started scanning books and online, looking at what women golfers wear.

Through photographs, I found the evolution of women’s golf wear rather telling. In the middle of the 19th century, women playing golf in Scotland wore everyday Victorian clothes, which included stiff-structured petticoats and bustles, with hemlines slightly above the floor. Swinging a golf club in Victorian dress had to be nearly impossible, and putting could not have been easy. Twentieth century dresses weren’t much better, though the Edwardian style of the time jet-tisoned the hoops and many of the petticoats.

At this time, Charles Dana Gibson penned a number of satirical drawings of the “Gibson Girl,” a personification of the ideal female in all her beauty, including a female golfer. The drawing

consisted of the Gibson Girl standing in the rough while several caddies (dressed in business suits) supposedly looked for her golf ball. It carried the caption, “Advice to Caddies. You will save time by keeping your eye on the ball, not the player.”

In the early 1900s, London’s Thomas Burberry introduced improvements to women golf clothing that allowed greater freedom to swing a club. By the 1920s, popular women’s golf wear consisted of a blouse, a pleated skirt and a knit cardigan sweater. The mid-1920s saw the introduction of the one-piece golf dress.

Also in the ’20s, golf fashion became more popular, with women golfers appearing on the covers of magazines like *Vogue*. However, other magazine covers exhibited tension with women golfers. For example, a cover of *Life* magazine (Oct. 14, 1920) shows a smartly dressed

young women golfer standing on the putting green checking her face with her compact while several male golfers lie in the fairway. The caption reads “Fore.”

One-piece dresses, skirts,

blouses and sweaters were the common attire of women golfers through the 1950s and 1960s, with variations still popular today. However, I witnessed uneasiness with women on the golf course through the 1950s. I think his unease changed with the cover of *The New Yorker* (Aug. 12, 1974) depicting a woman pulling her bag to a green.

So, what advice could I give Renata? I never gave her any advice. When she returned from her internship she told me she and everyone else was pleased with her dress. I guess she figured it out.



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

Proxy for annual bluegrass seedhead suppression

Zac Reicher, Ph.D., is a technical specialist with Bayer Environmental Science. He has more than 25 years of turfgrass research experience and has conducted many annual bluegrass control experiments on research plots and golf courses. Zac can be reached at zac.reicher@bayer.com for more information.

Q What is the biggest frustration superintendents have when using Proxy?

Inconsistency of control from year-to-year is the biggest frustration superintendents have with using Proxy (ethephon). Because Proxy is effective only when applied before annual bluegrass seedheads emerge, making the initial application early enough in the spring has been a challenge.

Q What is the recommended timing for Proxy applications?

Annual bluegrass seedhead initiation occurs in late fall. For an effective Proxy application, superintendents must apply it in the spring before they can see seedheads. Our observations in the field and research support applying Proxy in early spring. Our advice is to apply Proxy after annual bluegrass has started to green up, even if creeping bentgrass still is mostly dormant. If in doubt, make the Proxy application early, rather than delay it. The first application can be Proxy alone. Make a second spring application three

weeks to four weeks after the first application, and include PrimoMaxx (trinexa-pac-ethyl) in most cases.

Preliminary research, especially at Virginia Tech, indicates that an additional Proxy application made in late fall, around the time of the last mowing of the year, improves control over spring-only applications. The following spring, make the first spring application of Proxy at the traditional timing suggested by a growing degree model, a biological indicator or based on the site history. Make a second spring application three weeks to four weeks after the first application, and include PrimoMaxx in most cases.

Q What is a reasonable level of seedhead suppression to expect from Proxy applications?

Some superintendents consistently get more than 95-percent annual bluegrass seedhead suppression year after year, while others may get 90-percent suppression one year and 70-percent suppression the next year. Some of the inconsistency may be

due to application timing each year and the size of the annual bluegrass seedhead crop. In years with abundant annual bluegrass seedheads, suppression may be slightly lower than in years with a low-or-moderate seedhead crop.

Also, seedhead suppression can vary from green to green or golf course to golf course, based on the unique microenvironment on a specific green or golf course. For

combine it with other applications, such as snow-mold fungicides in the late fall, or with fairy ring/early season dollar spot fungicides in the spring.

As with all applications, applying Proxy uniformly is important. Be sure that there are no skips in the spray pattern. A skip will show up as a long, narrow band of annual bluegrass seedheads. Proxy is rainfast after two hours.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY AT VIRGINIA TECH, INDICATES THAT AN ADDITIONAL PROXY APPLICATION MADE IN LATE FALL, AROUND THE TIME OF THE LAST MOWING OF THE YEAR, IMPROVES CONTROL OVER SPRING-ONLY APPLICATIONS.

instance, annual bluegrass seedhead development may be more advanced in south-facing areas, while seedhead development may be lagging in shaded areas. In this case, the application of Proxy might be perfect timing for some areas but not others, resulting in more annual bluegrass seedheads in some areas than others.

Q Anything else you would like to add?

The newer application schedule of Proxy means that superintendents can

Where applicable, I recommend covering a 4-foot-by-4-foot spot with a piece of plywood in an out-of-the-way area on two or three greens while you spray so you can monitor the effectiveness of the Proxy applications. These untreated areas are good tools to use to sell the golfers on the importance of suppressing annual bluegrass seedheads.



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

The 19th Hole

Tyler Andersen

SUPERINTENDENT // University of Texas Golf Club, Austin



What can I get you? An ice-cold Shiner Bock. A good ol' Texan beer.

Are you married? Got kids?

I'm married, a little over three years now, to Kristen. No kids yet — unless you count my 4-year-old German shepherd, Layla.



Favorite thing about Austin? It's definitely the music, the food and the culture. Keep Austin weird, right?

Tell me one place I have to go next time I'm there. Franklin Barbecue. He makes enough for the day, and only stays open until he's sold out. He sells out every day. It's amazing barbecue, especially the brisket.

to college, and now I'm happy to cheer "Hook 'em Horns," too. And the St. Louis Cardinals.

What are your sports teams? Anything Florida Gators, that's where I went

Tell me about the University of Texas Golf Club. It's a great championship golf course in northwest Austin, out in the hill country. We're home to the men's and women's golf teams, as well as a nice little private membership. Opened in 2003-2004. A relatively young club, but we're booming.

So then, you hang out with Jordan Spieth daily? You didn't hear? I'm rooming in his new \$12 million mansion. I take his plane to work every morning! No, he's a good guy; he's around sometimes. He does a big event every year through the American Junior Golf Association.

tion. He really gives back, it's good to see him then.

OK, say you could visit only three websites for the entire year. What websites? That's tough. Definitely the National Weather Service, ESPN.com and of course, Golfdom.com.

I'm happy to see another golfer who keeps a Bluetooth speaker in his golf bag. Keep



golf fun; It's already got enough rules. We've got to find ways to keep people interested. I love listening to music when I'm playing. I'm an old soul, I'll listen to classic rock, blues, a lot of outlaw country. I've got a JBL Flip, it's Bluetooth and syncs to my phone. It's perfectly round and fits into most cup holders.

Do you have a claim to fame? I can honestly say I'm one of the only people in the world to have sodded Bobby Jones' gravesite. I was at Atlanta Athletic Club, working for Ken (Mangum, CGCS) in 2007, and he said, "Grab these tools, and hop in the truck." Before I knew it, we're at Oakland Cemetery in downtown Atlanta and we're standing in front of Bobby Jones' gravesite. A couple pallets of Zeon zoysia show up, and we sodded it. We cut a cup next to his grave and put an AAC flag in it.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, Jan. 26, 2016.

"I KNEW I HAD A GOOD SHOT AT GETTING THE (SUPERINTENDENT) JOB DURING THE INTERVIEW WHEN THE GENERAL MANAGER AND I CONNECTED — WE HAVE A LOT OF THE SAME PHILOSOPHIES AND GOALS."



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