

Golfdom

11.20

The Moores, the merrier

The USGA's
Jim Moore didn't
retire — he became
an overqualified
rough mower
at his sons'
courses



Jim Moore with
his superintendent
sons, Andrew (left)
and Travis (right)

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The Moores, the merrier

Golf has been good to Jim and Kay Moore, who now enjoy the successes of their boys in the same industry



When it rains, it pays

A look at how parametric weather insurance is making its way into the golf world



The gift of giving

OUR GAME **CREW**



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Golfdom

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THE LEADER.



"I won't make any predictions for Election Day, but I will do some of my own cherry picking and highlight a few of the things that stand out to me that make this issue special."

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief & Associate Publisher*

A lot to be proud about

I am writing today in the middle of a short golf getaway to Southern Indiana. Yesterday, we played Victoria National in Newburgh, Ind., and today we'll play the Dye Course at French Lick Resort. It's been good to act normal for a few days with some friends from Ohio and Minnesota.

Tuning out the news for even a short time has been a breath of fresh air. The drive from Evansville, Ind., to French Lick was about 90 minutes and beautiful, winding through the Hoosier National Forest and crossing over Patoka Lake. My classic rock channel was turned up loud. I enjoyed scoping out the various antique malls and unusual fall/Halloween decorations of the houses along the way. From the driver's seat, you can't tell there's a spooky pandemic afoot.

But, you sure can tell there's an election about to happen. If yard signs are any indicator of how a state will vote, you can count Missouri and Southern Indiana in favor of President Donald

Trump. Extra effort points to the landowner along I-70 in Missouri for hanging about 20 Trump signs 40 feet off the ground in the tops of the trees. I hope he had a cherry picker.

I won't make any predictions for Election Day, but I will do some of my own cherry picking and highlight a few of the things that stand out to me that make this issue special.

- There are some proud dad moments in this issue with the cover story on Jim Moore and his sons, penned by Editor Christina Herrick: a touching shoutout to Jake Payne by his son Clay in Starter; a sad story of the passing of a grandpa who supported his entire family

on p. 31; and a proud dad stunned by how quickly his boys are growing up in Brendon Reaksecker in 19th Hole. I'm a sucker for a good father/son story myself, having lost my father to cancer more than 10 years ago. I think of him often and seeing stories like these fondly remind me of him. I'm playing golf in his home state now, in the hometown of his favorite basketball player Larry Bird. I'm sure Dad was riding shotgun with me as I crossed over Patoka Lake, jamming out to classic rock, and he was the one who made me instinctively turn off the radio out of respect to the locals when I pulled up to the resort.

Thank you to all the fathers and sons sharing their stories

with us in this issue, and a tip of the cap to Eddie Brown.

- There is also a proud women in golf theme in this issue, penned by our talented team of female editors: Herrick, Senior Editor Abby Hart and Associate Editor Sarah Webb. *Golfdom's* coverage of the second annual Women in Golf event, sponsored by Bayer, begins on p. 19. And, I'll also point out that Webb wrote an especially moving column in this issue (see p. 10), her first for the magazine, that made me proud of both her and Abby. I've been using the word "proud" in this column a lot, but it is the right word. I'm also proud that *Golfdom* is able to support Women in Golf and encourage our women readers to check in with us with their story ideas and opinions.

- Last bullet and then I'm going to go see how many golf balls I lose on the Dye Course (over/under is 7) — soon, you will see a survey from *Golfdom* in your email inbox. Please take a few minutes to take our survey and help us create our State of the Industry report. This year, we will be donating \$1 to the Wee One Foundation for every returned survey. And, it would make me proud (there's that word again) to write a sizable check this year to the organization, in a year they haven't been able to fundraise like they would typically. **G**

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TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS' TURF FUEL

Keeping Bonita Beautiful

To help with an unusual year, Brendon Reaksecker relies on Turf Fuel at Bonita GC

Bonita Golf Club is a public course near San Diego. It's 6,200 yards, primarily *Poa* and bent, with small greens. This year, Superintendent Brendon Reaksecker is seeing challenges unlike he's ever faced before in his 14 years at the course.

First, the weather. It's like the course is a month behind, with abnormal heat and extremely dry conditions. And then, the amount of play. Like many courses around the nation, Bonita is seeing an unprecedented amount of play as an aftereffect of the pandemic. In a typical year, the course got a break between 10:30 a.m. until the start of the twilight rate. That break disappeared. What's more, the afternoon is also packed — groups are going off at 4:30 p.m., knowing they won't get a full round in.

"We're on pace to do 70,000 rounds. That's a lot of traffic on a golf course," Reaksecker says. "It's tight, and the greens aren't very big. They're tired, and we're trying to



keep them the best they can be, as long as we can."

Then, there's the usual challenges at Bonita — well water that is 4.3 on the EC meter means fertility and a high level of salinity are always a concern. The turf can get chlorotic, making the greens look worn.

That's why Reaksecker turned to Turf Fuel's line of products to see what they could do for him. He promised his local rep he'd give them a year to see if they made a difference, and that promise paid off.

"The combination of foliar fertility one week and then soil building the next helps the rooting depth and the wear tolerance for all the rounds that we get," he says. "It hardens the plant with good color. Turf Fuel has allowed the greens to be more consistent, with steadier growth and less peaks and valleys of clipping yields. Overall, we have a better product."

Element 6 and Lessen 11 are his



favorites for mitigating sodium issues and overall plant stress due to heavy traffic coupled with poor water quality. He also employs several other Turf Fuel products at Bonita, including Respo Fuel, Minors Fuel Kelp, Root Down, Kraken, Quick Green, Greens Phite Supreme, K26 and MZ-23.

"With the increase in rounds due to Covid and golf being so popular, we're implementing more applications this season," Reaksecker reflects. "The products are working well and providing great benefit, so we will keep using them."



Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// **STILL SWINGING**

SUPER TALKS AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE SALLY

BY CHRISTINA HERRICK // *Editor*



When Hurricane Sally made landfall in Florida the evening of

Sept. 16 into the morning of Sept. 17, it was nothing out of the ordinary for hurricane season for Eddie Daigle, superintendent of Osceola Golf Course in Pensacola, Fla.

Hurricane Sally hit Pensacola, and Daigle said this time around, the golf course did not suffer as much damage.

He said when he woke up around 3 a.m. on Sept. 17, Sally was a Category 2 hurricane, and wind speeds had picked up to 105 miles (up from the expected 80 mph). "We were on the right, northeast quadrant, so we were getting the worst winds," he said.

Gulf Shores, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla., bore the brunt of the storm.

"I'm going to have to get a new roof, but I had to get a new roof when Hurricane Ivan went through," he said. "It was exactly 16 years ago to the date that Hurricane Ivan came through. They're basically in the same spot."

Daigle says Osceola Golf Course, an 18-hole municipal course, is too far inland to worry about storm surge.

"We probably lost about a dozen trees versus about 300 last time," said Daigle, comparing Hurricane Sally to Hurricane Ivan. "I have some washouts where surface runoff was."

A day after Hurricane Sally made landfall, Daigle said there were golfers on the greens. "Before (the hurricane), golf has been up for us with the whole coronavirus thing," he said. "We've been doing better than we were at this point last year. We got a little setback with the hurricane. We'll get it cleaned up and get going again."



Osceola Golf Course, a municipal course in Pensacola, Fla., experienced a few washouts and several downed trees, but the damage wasn't as bad as the havoc Hurricane Ivan wreaked 16 years prior.

// **CONGRATS, MARK!**

AZ GOLF HALL OF FAME INDUCTS MARK WOODWARD, CGCS

The Arizona Golf Hall of Fame Committee added Mark Woodward to its 2020 class.

Currently the director of agronomy at Whisper Rock Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., Mark Woodward, CGCS, is a superintendent/director of agronomy who has more than 50 years of experience in many facets of the golf industry, 45 of those in Arizona. His diverse career has included stints as a superintendent and as an administrator.



Mark Woodward

As the City of San Diego's golf operations manager in 2005, Woodward was responsible for preparing the Torrey Pines South Golf Course to host the 2008 U.S. Open. He served as CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America from 2008 through 2010, and was a senior vice president of operations for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based OB Sports Golf Management from 2013 through 2017. Woodward served on the Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association board of directors on three separate occasions, dating back to the 1980s, and currently serves as president.

// **IT'S AN ONLINE WORLD**

REGISTRATION FOR GIS 2021 NOW OPEN

Registration is now open for the virtual 2021 Golf Industry Show (GIS), Feb. 2-4, 2021.

Registration levels include an all-access package for an 18-hole facility; an all-access package for an individual; a base package for an 18-hole facility; a base package for an individual; and free options.

Registrants can get 30 days of free access to the virtual trade show as well as access to the opening session, closing session and other networking and general events.



//SWAG AHEAD

Upper Deck releases PGA Tour licensed trading cards

➔ Upper Deck, a premier sports and entertainment collectibles company, added to its golf portfolio: Artifacts Golf, a premium trading card product that will offer collectors a wide array of autograph and memorabilia cards from the game's most beloved icons and rising stars, is set to hit store shelves in spring of 2021.

Upper Deck's first golf release since 2014 will be jam-packed with top talent, including 15-time major championship winner Tiger Woods, World Golf Hall of Fame members Arnold Palmer and Annika Sorenstam, as well as popular Tour pros Bryson DeChambeau, Collin Morikawa, Jus-

tin Thomas, Matthew Wolff, Danielle Kang and Lexi Thompson.

The first of three planned golf card releases for 2021, Artifacts Golf will feature a 50-card base set, a 30-card rookie set, a Multi-Majors Winners Memorabilia subset, rare signed memorabilia cards and popular Diamond Relic insert cards that can include up to four lab-created diamonds per subject.

All three golf releases will include Legendary PGA Tour Course Relic cards featuring course-used sand and dirt from the famed TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., home of The Players Championship.

//FOR THE YOUTH

TRUGREEN, FIRST TEE JOIN FORCES

TruGreen and First Tee, a youth development organization using golf as a catalyst for personal growth, partnered up to support the expansion of the First Tee College Scholarship Program to include alumni pursuing careers in agronomy, plant science and other science-based professions.

The First Tee College Scholarship Program pairs First Tee alumni with adult mentors who help encourage and guide them throughout the college experience, including virtual and in-person meetups. The program also provides scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year for four years, and scholars will receive assistance with internships and full-time employment placement post-graduation. TruGreen associates will serve as mentors.

At the end of September, TruGreen donated \$80,000 to First Tee of Greater Philadelphia to support its Drive for the Future Initiative. With this contribution, the John F. Byrne Golf Club will be transformed into an outdoor classroom, serving as the heart of First Tee's programs in northeast Philadelphia.

//NEW GUY AT THE HELM

OPEI NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP

The board of directors of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) appointed Rick Olson, chairman, president and CEO, The Toro Co. as chairman. The board also elected several new executive committee members to the 2020-2021 roster.

"Change and creativity are the watchwords of OPEI this year," Olson said. "No one could have predicted how 2020 would unfold, but the association is ready to tackle the challenges ahead from how we meet and connect with one another to reassessing our priorities. We've learned through this pandemic just how important our outdoor spaces are to our mental and physical health."

Dan Ariens has joined as GIE+EXPO Show chairman, which will be a permanent position on the executive committee due to the importance of the event and the impending changes that will take place in the coming years. Joe Wright also joins the executive committee as secretary/treasurer.

EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

Clay Payne
@ClayPayneTurf:

My Dad, @9HoleSuper, knew I was shorthanded today. So, he dropped everything at his course to come help me throw sod around. The older we get, the more we cherish working alongside one another. Thanks, Pops! #MuniGolf

Follow us @Golfdom



TRADING CARDS COURTESY OF: UPPER DECK; PHOTO BY: ZACH VARTY (RIGHT)



“Many attendees of this year’s Women in Golf event said it was eye-opening just how many women are involved in the turf industry, but I think this is just the beginning.”

SARAH WEBB, Associate Editor

So long, comfort zone

When I’m asked if I golf, whether at industry events or in my personal life, my response has always been, “yes, but I’m not very good,” or “sort of, but I’m more of a par-3 kind of gal.” In reality, neither of those are particularly true. I can hold my own on the golf course; I even got a birdie a few weeks ago playing at a local course with my dad.

I hadn’t thought there was a problem to my response until I attended last year’s Green Start Academy, hosted by John Deere and Bayer. Carol Rau, career consultant and speaker with Career Advantage Golf, who also presented at this year’s Women in Golf event, told me to stop downplaying my golf experience. (For more on this year’s Women in Golf event, sponsored by Bayer, check out the insert that follows p. 18.)

Since then, whenever I’m asked if I play golf, my answer is “Yes, I do,” and the raised eyebrows and follow-up questions of where I like to play and what I typically shoot are a lot more validating than the shrug and disinterested nod

I used to get as a response. I think this is something that women in the industry, myself included, should strive to be better about: not minimizing our accomplishments, not second-guessing our ideas, not peppering our speech with “maybes,” “sort ofs” and “sorrys.”

This was also a major theme of this year’s Women in Golf event: being brave and stepping out of your comfort zone.

I still remember my first industry event three years ago — I was working solely for our sister publication, *Landscape Management* at the time and was a fresh two weeks into the job, my first one out of college. I showed up

to a facility tour of a nearby landscape company put on by the Ohio Landscape Association sticking out like a sore thumb with my little Ford Fiesta nestled in between giant pickup trucks and my blonde ponytail and reporter’s notebook set off against baseball caps and work boots.

That day in the office, I contemplated what would happen if I went home sick, and my stomach roiled as I drove to the event after work. Thankfully, Senior Editor Abby Hart attended the event with me, and it happened to be her first industry event on the job as well. As I went over in my head what was expected of me for the thousandth time, I looked to Abby, who

had her shoulders squared and head held high.

She was steady. She was self-assured. She was brave. And, she forged her way into that unfamiliar territory, only looking back to help me along.

Many attendees of this year’s Women in Golf event said it was eye-opening just how many women are involved in the turf industry, but I think this is just the beginning. I’ve written several stories throughout my time with *Golfdom* on turf education programs, such as the revamped program at South Fork High School that’s headed up by Wendy Schepman, and I’m encouraged by the young women in middle school and high school stepping into these programs that were — and still are — male dominated.

As events like Women in Golf, Syngenta’s Growing Golf and SiteOne’s inaugural Women in the Landscape Industry gain momentum, I hope more women feel comfortable to take that first step into an “unexpected” but fulfilling career, so much so that their career choice is no longer deemed “unexpected.”

And to women already in the turf industry, I think it’s just as important to help pave the way for those women by your side and those who come after you — just as Abby and so many others did for me.

And to answer your question, yes, I golf. ☺

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The Golfdom

FILES

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Are you leading your crew through the chaos of 2020 or just managing the mayhem? Who would you consider to be a good leader today? Consultant Ron Frame explains the differences between a manager and a leader in a November 1979 article of *Golf Business* (the former title of *Golfdom*). The crises of the coronavirus pandemic, course shutdowns, financial uncertainty, wildfires and hurricanes added to the typical problems of the day have tested the mettle of even the strongest superintendent, and here, Frame urges superintendents to examine how they're approaching their work. To read the full article, visit golfdom.com/exclusive.

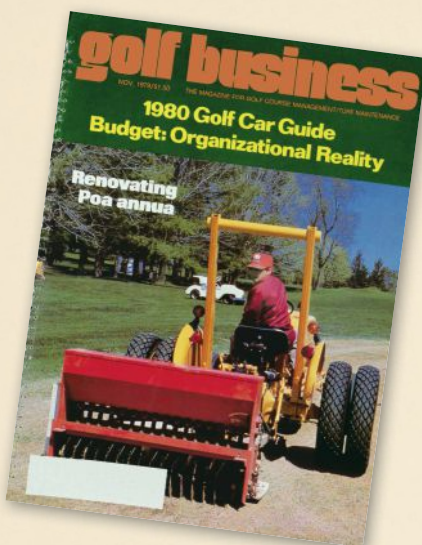
Leadership and management: Partners to misunderstanding

Lean back, relax, close your eyes and think: leader, leadership, to lead. We can conjure up a mental fantasy picture of a leader. Think about it. Remnants of strong childhood impressions quickly come together to form a familiar image of strength, a friendly honest smile, clear piercing eyes, lean features, a voice conveying truth, dignity, right, trust and respect: a combination of the Lone Ranger, John Wayne and Winston Churchill.

The concept of leadership is strong in our minds with roots that go back deeply into our youth. It is difficult to find the same familiarity with the concept of management. Management is a more recently introduced item to the well of our understanding.

Many practicing managers speak management but think leadership. When asked for a definition of the difference between the terms, they are most often felt to be largely synonymous.

Golf course superintendent is a position of management. His resources are people and things; his responsibilities are reflected in the condition of an acreage set aside for the play of golf. His failures and successes are wrapped up in the manner with which he combines the utilization of



those resources to get the job done.

His preparation for the management role is largely technical, broad segments of knowledge about things and processes. His most frequent recurring source of headaches is often not things and processes, but people. What then, is the most accessible aspirin, leadership or management?

Leadership is a gift, a combination of inherited personality characteristics, developed, either early or late, in growing-up social experiences and tested in day-to-day relationships with peers. There are degrees of strength of leader-

ship characteristics.

Management, on the other hand, is a combination of acquired pragmatic skills, developed and tested through work experiences, and used in terms of the goals set for the position. The golf course superintendent uses the tools of management to get things done through people (human resources) and utilizing things (physical resources) available to him. Management skills can only be learned. Genes have little to do with that ability except in areas of integrity, intelligence, energy, sensitivity and a myriad of other, like conditions. Management is a job one learns. Leadership is something one has. The golf course superintendent who views the terms as meaning the same thing, but lacks a leadership self-image, is also likely to be uncomfortable and perhaps awkward and ineffective in the management role.

The typical golf course superintendent, because of his technical training and a natural inclination towards hands-on doing, has difficulty really seeing his role as truly that of management. If he further encumbers himself with a leadership interpretation of management when he knows he lacks "natural" leadership characteristics, he finds himself dealing with crisis, reacting rather than acting, fighting brushfires rather than eliminating their source, operating on an impulse "heroic" level rather than on a rational plane.

Management is work, a planned effort of getting one foot in front of another, a scheduled stream of activity to reach the goals that are required as part of the package. Solid leadership traits can be a bonus to this role, kept in perspective, but the superior effect is gained by a rational understanding of what you are, teamed with knowledge of management tools and applied to those critical human resources. **G**

// TEXAS TURF FAMILY



Travis (left) and Andrew (right) Moore share a deep connection to their courses. Jim Moore (center) is a former superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club, where Travis is superintendent. Travis is a former superintendent at Bear Ridge Golf Club, where Andrew is superintendent.

The Moores, the merrier

Golf has been good to the Moores, who now enjoy the successes of a second generation in the industry

BY CHRISTINA HERRICK

It's dinner time at the Moore family home outside of Waco, Texas, and Jim and his wife, Kay, sons Andrew and Travis, daughter-in-law Carly and grandsons Shane and Wyatt gathered to once again to break bread and talk about turf.

Jim and Kay Moore retired from the USGA Green Section, Jim as director of education and outreach and Kay as USGA office manager. Sons Andrew and Travis are golf course superintendents. Andrew is at Bear Ridge Golf Club, and Travis is at Ridgewood Country Club, both in Waco. The Moore's other children, Patrick and Allison, have pursued careers outside of turf.

With two children in the business, dinnertime conversations inevitably revolve around turf. Although, Patrick once asked his mom, "Have you ever had a conversation that didn't revolve around golf at the dinner table?" Kay said no. The topic at this dinner: proper verticutter height.

When you're a member of the Moore family, turf comes with the territory. Travis and Carly's 3-year-old son Wyatt is already spending time on the course.

"Wyatt is already checking greens with me," Travis says. "He knows what I'm talking about when I say 'hey, let's go check greens.' I really enjoy bringing him out."

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Early days

Before joining the USGA, Jim was a superintendent and took Kay for an evening look at the course. They came across an older couple playing, and the couple complimented him on the conditions. Jim says he immediately started to point out all the course's faults.

"We drove off and Kay said, 'You know you're going to have to learn to say thank you and shut up,'" he says. "I think that's a good lesson for superintendents everywhere. You get worried about all that stuff, and it can overshadow all the good things about it."

Kay was a pioneer of working from home. She was the office coordinator of USGA Green Section Education when Jim was on the road with USGA. The Moores say the days before cellphones meant office hours weren't the traditional 9-to-5.

"Kay would get a lot of calls after hours,

and I would call in from a hotel and get the messages from her," Jim says. "I don't know how she was able to stick it out."

Jim says in the earlier days, he would dictate reports of the courses he visited as a consultant for the Green Section while driving, and he would hand those tapes to Kay, who would transcribe them and put them into a report. When he was back in Waco, Jim would edit the typed-up reports, and Kay would start the next batch.

"All during that, she somehow raised three little boys," Jim says, noting Kay and Carly have "done every bit as much to make these careers work as the guys who are showing up to the course every morning."

Kay says simply, "You just do what you have to do."

Building memories

A favorite memory for the Moore family of Jim's time working for the USGA was how

the family helped build a junior course at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, a municipal golf course in Waco. Cottonwood Creek was a major collaborator with many of Jim's research projects. At the time, Jim was director of construction education, and he said the goal was to show that junior course construction on a budget was feasible.

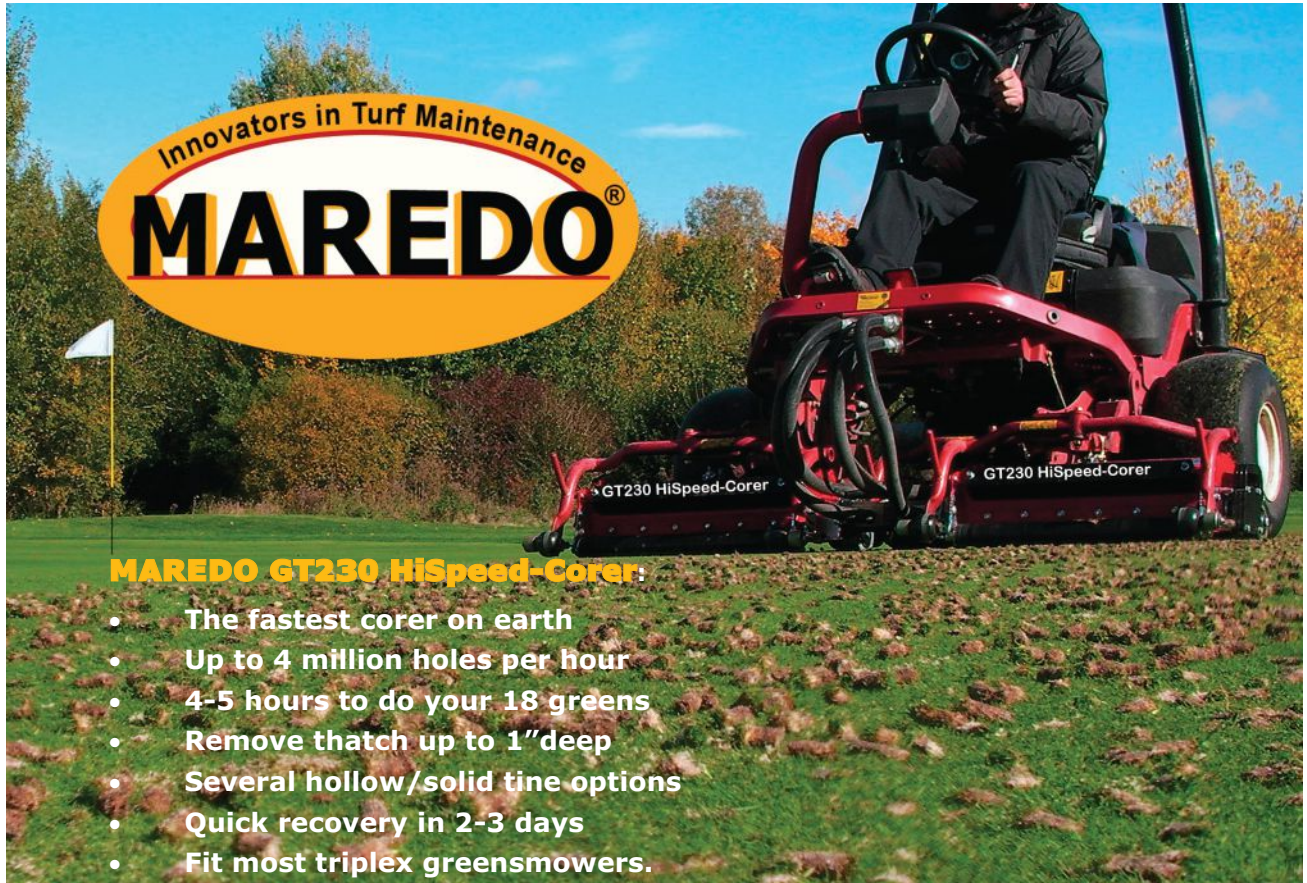
"We got the idea to prove that we could do something on a lot smaller scale with an existing golf course with the cooperation of a superintendent," Jim says.

Mike Hurdzan, Ph.D., offered to help, along with Jim, Travis, Patrick and Andrew. Superintendent J.D. Franz carved out 5 or 6 acres for the course. Both Travis and Andrew say building something together is a great memory to share.

"You look back, and you think 'That was pretty cool that I got to do that with these guys,'" Travis says.

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Continued from page 14

Ahead of the curve

Jim is beyond an early adopter when it comes to technology. Mike Kenna, Ph.D., former director of USGA Green Section Research, says that penchant for technology gave Jim an unusual title.

"We used to tease him that he was a doctor of gizmology," Kenna says. "If there was a gizmo out there, something new — laptop computers, cellphones, temperature devices, soil moisture meters, anything technology oriented, Jim was always out in front of that."

Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., former managing director of the USGA's Green Section, says this helped the Green Section stay ahead of the curve.

"Jim would really step up and work out the bugs and say this is how we could do it," she says. "We would be able to incorporate



Nine-year-old Patrick Moore, 15-year-old Travis Moore and 13-year-old Andrew Moore help construct the junior course at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco, Texas.

that into some of our programs."

An example is his use and interest in aerial photography. Before unmanned aerial vehicles and drones, Jim would set up a large kite with a remote-controlled camera to take aerial photographs of courses. Now, he preprograms drones to take aerial photos of Bear Ridge and Ridgewood.

"I can take the exact same photos, with

the same altitude," Jim says, noting Travis will overlay the photography with his irrigation as-builts. "They can do comparisons, and that's particularly helpful on a grow-in with new greens like Andrew was doing."

Jim jumped on early with personal computers. He said he wanted to create a program to track periodic maintenance on golf course equipment, something similar

PHOTO BY: THE MOORE FAMILY

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Patrick, Kay, Andrew, Carly and Travis with the U.S. Open trophy when Jim Moore was in charge of bringing the trophy to the Golf Industry Show.

to tracking maintenance on planes when he was in the Air Force.

“Part of my job in the military was tracking equipment, and we tried to predict when it would fail based on its maintenance history,” he says. “When I became a superintendent, you have 20 different pieces of equipment. There’s no good way to track equipment. I did some small ap-

plications for tracking equipment maintenance. What I did back then, guys would look at now and fall out of their chair, but at the time, it was cutting edge.”

Resource management

While at the USGA, Jim wanted to look at where golfers were and weren’t going on the course, thinking there were areas unnec-

essarily maintained. Moore worked with Matt Pringle, USGA’s senior director of research, science and innovation, to track golfers’ whereabouts on the course. While Pringle wanted to see where pace of play slowed down, Moore wanted to observe the areas where golfers did and didn’t go.

Using Cottonwood Creek, Jim says they collected hundreds and hundreds of data points of a diverse set of golfers.

“What it showed us was Cottonwood had an easy 14 to 15 acres (that could be taken out of play),” he says. “I could prove to them these areas did not need to be maintained.”

He and the USGA worked with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, to experiment with and identify the best cultural practices for the out-of-play areas at Cottonwood Creek. These plots still exist, almost a decade later.

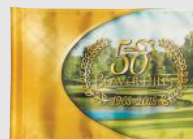
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// TEXAS TURF FAMILY



Travis, Carly, Kay, Wyatt, Jim, Shane and Andrew Moore spend many a family meal talking turf.

Continued from page 17

Course connection

The family ties don't just end with turf. Jim, Travis and Andrew have worked at the same courses, as Jim was once superintendent of Ridgewood, and Travis was once superintendent of Bear Ridge.

Bear Ridge, once known as Twin Rivers Golf Club, is an 18-hole semiprivate course designed by Peter Jacobson and Jim Hardy in 2001. Ridgewood is an 18-hole private course that first opened in 1947. Ralph Plummer redesigned Ridgewood in 1962. Jim says it's almost innate that a superintendent will see a course he once worked at as his own.

"It's been 35 years since I've been a superintendent at Ridgewood and still driving by, I think of it as my course," he says. "Not as much since Travis is there, but you get that kind of connection to anything. You're not just going to leave that there when you go home."

Travis, GCSAA Class A, agrees, noting he's invested in Andrew's renovation.

"That's probably why I talk to Andrew as much as I do about Bear Ridge because I was a superintendent there and Andrew helped me when I was there," he says. "Plus, it gives me an excuse to think about something other than my real job. I can go bother him at his real job."

Andrew was previously an assistant su-

perintendent at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio, but his career path hasn't always been destined for turf. While the entire family graduated from Texas A&M, Andrew went on to get a master's in international affairs and worked overseas.

"Andrew has a different way of looking at things in general," Jim says. "I think it's helped him as a superintendent. It gives him a broader perspective."

Mowing, not slowing down

Retirement has meant Jim helps Travis and Andrew on their courses. Bear Ridge is undergoing a major renovation, and Andrew is building a crew. Jim fills in when needed. Andrew says he's enjoyed watching his dad work with a newer employee in the shop at Bear Ridge.

"It's fun seeing them work together, seeing (the new employee) as a mechanic and seeing dad's mechanical chops being put back to use," he says.

Kay says she's thankful that the boys live close and that they're able to get their dad out of the house.

"I call Andrew once a week to thank him," she says.

Both Travis and Andrew say they enjoy bouncing ideas off their dad about a chemical application or another issue, and they enjoy teaching their dad new things.

"The most frustrating thing about Dad is he's right way too often," Travis says. "You have to listen to him even if you don't want to; you've got to at least consider it."

Both boys keep Jim on standby for tournament preparation. Ridgewood recently hosted the Texas Senior Amateur Championship, and Jim was out talking green speeds with Travis.

However, Travis and Andrew do have some strict ground rules when it comes to having their dad help.

"I've been told to do my mowing," Jim says. "It's not my job to tell (golfers) where they can and can't drive."

Family first

Both Kay and Jim say they enjoy seeing what kind of superintendents their sons have become.

"They treat people they work with really well," Jim says. "I'm more proud of that than that they have good greens."

He's also working on a golf simulator in his shop, with the hope to unveil it to the family at Thanksgiving this year.


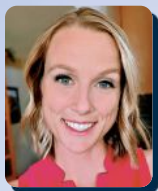
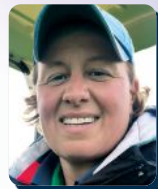
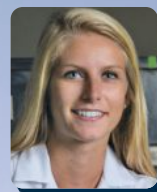
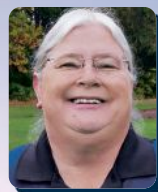
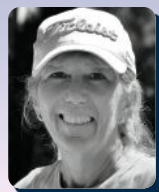
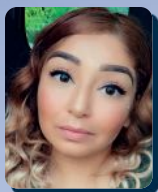
"Golf has been awful good to our family," Jim says. "I think all of us realize we've had good careers in golf. For our family as a whole, that's given us a chance to take care of our family, have a place to live and have some good experiences." 

PHOTO BY: JEFF WILSON



Women in Golf



At the second annual Women in Golf event,
women shared their experiences
of being brave, confident and leading
in a male-dominated field



// A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

2020 Women in Golf serves as a unifier during difficult times

By Mike Hirvela

In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, wildfires raging in the West and Hurricane Sally slamming into the Gulf Coast, on Sept. 16-18, Bayer held the 2020 Women in Golf virtual event. Bringing together more than 75 incredibly talented women from across the golf and turf industry, we hosted participants from the United States and Canada — and even a few from Europe — for a series of online educational and networking sessions.



MIKE HIRVELA

While this year has presented some unique challenges when it comes to event planning, after the overwhelmingly positive reception from participants of the 2019 Women in Golf event, it was even more important to continue this initiative during these dynamic times. One silver lining of creating a virtual event was our ability to bring back the alumnae to mentor this year's group and to give them continuing education opportunities along with an expanded network of peers.

One common theme we heard time and again was that these women didn't know there were this many other women in the turf industry, and

learning you're not alone can be a powerful thing. Bayer is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion (D&I) in our workforce, and it's a passion we want to share and

expand in the markets we serve, so knowing we're helping to make these connections is very gratifying.

I've also grown personally through Women in Golf and now look at D&I through a different lens. The women who are a part of this community have really leveraged Women in Golf as the impetus behind coming together, fostering bravery and growing themselves and their network, and it has been truly incredible to see. They advise, collaborate, laugh and grow together. I've not been part of a group like this before, and it has been an eye-opening experience for me that has been both rewarding and educational.

As a company, Bayer looks forward to continuing to support Women in Golf. If you're interested in learning more about this year's event, read on! Thanks, *Golfdom*, for partnering with us once again on this journey.

Sincerely,

Mike Hirvela

*Customer Marketing Manager
U.S. Turf & Ornamentals*

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// 2ND ANNUAL WOMEN IN GOLF

Wonder women

Women from all over the turf industry gathered at the second annual Women in Golf event to share their experiences of being brave, confident and leading in a male-dominated field

By Abby Hart, Christina Herrick and Sarah Webb

“The brave might not live very long but the cowards don’t live at all. It’s tough to be brave and uncomfortable,” said Mel Reid, an English professional golfer who plays on the LPGA Tour and the Ladies European Tour and was a guest speaker at the second annual Women in Golf event.

Reid’s words on bravery set the tone for the virtual event, sponsored by Bayer, which gathered nearly 80 women from the golf and turf industries for education and networking. After three days of keynote speakers; panel discussions with female golf course superintendents, educators and industry suppliers; and workshops on career and communication — the attendees of the 2020 event came away with plenty of insights and inspiration to propel them forward in the turf industry.

Here’s what we learned at the second annual Women in Golf event.

Embrace discomfort

As a female in a traditionally male sport, Mel Reid understands what it’s like to feel a little uncomfortable, and in her speech, she encouraged attendees to

get used to the feeling.

“You really do have to put both feet forward and embrace the discomfort because that’s where growth happens,” Reid said. “Whatever you’re uncomfortable about, you either win or you learn. There’s no other way of going into that zone. You either get the job, or you learn about it. Being uncomfortable is a great thing, but it doesn’t feel good at that

time. You just have to push through that barrier to be brave.”

Of her personal experience as a female golfer, she said, “I was determined to beat the boys, which was my inspiration to work hard. When I got to certain levels and started winning, I learned that I had a platform to speak on because people were listening to my story.”

Jackie Applegate, global vice president of environmental science and vegetable seeds at Bayer, encouraged attendees to claim their seat at the table — or course — in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

“This kind of thing used to be unthinkable because there weren’t enough women to host a forum like this,” she said. “At a time when women are few and far between, we have to work harder to

Continued on page WIG4



Christi Clay, CSFM, (left) and Sun Roesslein, CSFM, of North Area Athletic Complex, Arvada, Colo. Roesslein says it’s unusual to have two women managing an athletic complex.

Continued from page WIG3

earn a seat at the table. I still have to earn my seat at the table and have to be all-in.

“As women in a male-dominated industry, it’s not easy to be a leader and trailblaze our own path,” she added.

Molly Fletcher, entrepreneur, motivational speaker and former sports agent and founder of Molly Fletcher Co., based in Atlanta, delivered a keynote asking attendees to put themselves out of their comfort zones.

During her talk, Fletcher peppered attendees with the following advice and questions:

- Sometimes we have to reframe our story if it holds us back. We have to find a way to connect.
- What self-limiting beliefs do we have that hold us back? Belief often comes down to reframing the narrative.
- At the end of the day, people want to know, do I like you, can you help me and do I trust you? When it comes down to what we do, it’s all about connection.
- Sometimes we have to act like we have the business before we have the business.

• Who we give our energy to is more important than how we anticipate our time. Am I putting my energy in the right places, to the right things, people and projects?

• Can we lead if our tanks are empty? Can we show up for others if we’re distracted and unfocused?

• When you succeed, take another woman with you.

Fletcher wrapped up her talk with this advice: “Those moments, when you think, ‘this would be crazy,’ do it.”

What made you brave?

Kelly Lynch, regional manager, Pure Seed, pushed attendees to think when she asked, “What made you brave?”

Her own experience becoming a professional golfer at age 18, becoming a member of the PGA at 23, coaching Division I men’s and women’s golf and Division I rowing, and eventually, making the jump to the seed industry, all resulted from her contacts, so Lynch urged the women present to be brave, reach out to people and have a conversation.

Lynch also offered an unusual anal-

ogy for the time and energy we give ourselves and one another: peanut butter.

“You can give away as much peanut butter as you want, but if you don’t keep enough for yourself, for your mental and emotional health, you’re losing in the deal ... I learned to say no, and those are the gifts that I had to replenish for me,” she said.

“I’m really good at working,” Lynch added, “but I had to become really good at living.”

Kimberly Erusha, Ph.D., principal at Kimberly Erusha Consulting, said that personal development is important for building confidence in your skills and in your career. Erusha has had a stellar career in turf, moving up from a technical writer at the USGA to director of education to managing director of the USGA Green Section to now heading her own consulting firm.

“Take those personal development opportunities and recognize that you bring a unique perspective to your role,” she advised.

“Never underestimate the power you have as a female who really knows her

LORABETH WEST

*Assistant director of agronomy
Hillcrest Country Club, Los Angeles*

“I only do the grass, I don’t play golf,” says Lorabeth West, when asked how she got into golf.

She studied genetics at Rutgers University and got bitten by the turf bug after she took a horticulture class as an elective. West switched tracks and earned a degree in plant science, horticulture and turfgrass management.



West decided to move across the country to take a job on the golf course at Los Angeles (Calif.) Country Club. When the opportunity for the assistant director of agronomy opened up across the street at Hillcrest Country Club, she went for it and got it.

She manages a team of 10 on the golf course at Hillcrest. Even after this most unusual of golf seasons, where the golf course has been affected by shutdowns, nearby protests and wildfires, she loves that anything can change at the drop of a hat

during the workday. “You always have to be on your toes, and it keeps things exciting. It’s hard to get bored,” she says.

Being a female in the golf industry didn’t really strike West as uncommon until someone pointed it out, she says. “That pushed me to strive and say, ‘Why’s that uncommon? Why can’t we all be a part of this?’”

Learning from other women in the industry at the 2020 Women in Golf event was a great experience, she says, especially the insights from Carol Rau on enhancing your resumé and communicating your ability to lead a team.

For those just starting out in the industry and in the interviewing process, West has another recommendation: “It’s a job that is driven by passion — so you need to find the place that you’re comfortable,” West advises aspiring superintendents.

“There’s a lot of different outlets in the industry, from the golf course, fertilizer — all different sides of it. So, you don’t want to find yourself in a spot that you lose your love for it. You have to find where you’re comfortable and where makes you happy.”

To check out a Golfdom Zoom Views interview with Lorabeth West, visit [Golfdom.com](https://www.golfdom.com).

SUN ROESSLEIN

Sports stadium manager

North Area Athletic Complex, Arvada, Colo.

Sun Roesslein is a sports stadium manager with Jeffco Public Schools in Colorado. She manages North Area Athletic Complex in Arvada, Colo., a 14-acre football and soccer complex.

She discovered the Bayer Women in Golf event through social media. Kelly Lynch, regional manager for Pure Seed, whom



Roesslein had met through the Sports Turf Managers Association, encouraged her to apply even though she doesn't work in golf.

Lynch told her, "We need all the women in the turf industry that we can get."

Roesslein says there's many challenges to her job, including co-managing the day-to-day field operations of the complex with colleague Christi Clay. They're both responsible for staffing ticket booths, managing other staff members at events and helping out officials and athletic trainers for any game or outside event as needed.

The complex is also the home field for six local high school football teams and in a typical year would host at least 30 to 35 home games in a 10-week season and playoffs. This year is a

shortened six-week season, but Roesslein says she's happy the complex gets to mark its 20th anniversary with games.

"It's not exactly how we wanted to celebrate," she says.

"We're certainly glad to have the chance to show off what we've managed to accomplish in 20 years and give the kids a chance to play."

Another challenge, Roesslein says, is the general misconception that many coaches who play at their field for the first time often ask, "I'd like to talk to the guy in charge."

To which she replies, "Yeah, you're talking to her."

She says it's also unusual to have two females in charge of an athletic complex, but she works well with Clay.

Roesslein says she's noticed more young women at conferences and says the experience at Women in Golf was a great way to connect with other women in turfgrass. A highlight was the scheduled hourlong happy hour that, for many attendees, continued for three hours or more.

"(Bayer) did a fantastic job this year with the challenges that they were faced with and turning it into a very worthwhile event," she says. "I would not have had the ability to connect with so many people within the golf course industry and vendors; that was pretty cool. Clearly, they're doing something right if something they had slated to be an hour turns into three hours."

stuff," she said. "Use that professional development to hone in on your industry. You need to be able to articulate your skills and what advantage you bring to that organization. You need to

be able to file that away and come back to it. Really listen and follow through. Don't doubt yourself."

Carol Rau, a certified professional in human resources, also led the group in

examining how they can best present themselves and their leadership skills to a prospective employer.

"Elevate how you come together with

Continued on page WIG6



Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles features a newly renovated golf course designed by Kyle Phillips. 2020 Women in Golf inductee Lorabeth West is assistant director of agronomy at the property.

Continued from page WIG5

people on your team and other people who are nothing like you to provide a great experience to your customer,” Rau advised. “Don’t forget to use the word ‘leadership.’ If you want to be characterized as someone with leadership skills — you’ve got to use the word.”

Rau also stressed that when explaining experience in an interview, don’t get caught up in the weeds — that is, look at the big picture, not just how you can solve technical problems with turf, since everyone interviewing for that job has those skills.

“Golfers love golf, not turf,” she explained. “Showing how you work together with your leadership team to grow the game of golf is a great way to stand out ... show how you drive success for your team.”

Own your journey

Rau also started off the third day panel discussion on “Owning your journey” by asking attendees to picture their dream job. “Give yourself permission to dream

big. What would that feel like to be in that role, in that location?” she asked.

Rau said once you have a big dream in mind, think through how you’re going to get there. She encouraged attendees to be brave and go for that dream job.

“If you know the why and you know where you’re headed, you’re actually taking a step forward,” she said.

As the final day wrapped up, women from the 2019 class shared some of their successes based on what they’d learned from participating in Women in Golf.

Tami Jones, superintendent at DeSoto Golf Club in Hot Springs, Ark., shared how she applied for the position of director of agronomy for eight courses at Hot Springs Village. While she ultimately didn’t get the job, she was one of the top two candidates.

“This environment last year made me brave,” she said. “Before WIG, I know there were other women in golf, but it was always in passing.” She said she realized that she deserved to be at the table, and it encouraged her to brush up her resumé and apply.

Carol Turner, assistant golf course superintendent at Bigwin Island Golf and Country Club in York, Ontario, Canada, said the timing of last year’s event couldn’t have been better. Her initial interview at Bigwin came two days after the 2019 Women in Golf event. After her first interview went well, she had an interview with the general manager.

“Iaced that interview based on everything I learned from WIG,” she said.

The general manager asked her if she was a golfer and instead of her usual reply of “yes, I am but I’m not very good,” she said “the answer is ‘Yes, I am a golfer.’”

“I got the job on the spot,” she said.

Alex Hills, assistant superintendent, Bay Hill Club and Lodge, Orlando, Fla., attended the Women in Golf event last year. She said it’s made her want to advocate for women looking to enter the industry.

She said she feels it’s important to show her daughter that “nothing is just for men.”

“We might have to prove ourselves over and over, but know that you’re not fighting this battle alone,” she said.



RENEE GEYER

West Course superintendent

Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio

Renee Geyer, West Course superintendent at Firestone Country Club, didn’t grow up in a greenkeeping family.

In fact, most of her life, she thought she would follow in the footsteps of her father, a professional opera singer, and she studied vocal music education and vocal performance in college.

“I was drilled in my whole life. I was doing things that I thought



I wanted to do, but I wanted them for the wrong reasons,” she says.

She would offer to mow people’s lawns as a kid, because she liked being outside. “My god-father taught me how to play golf,” she recalls. “He’s the one who said, ‘Girl, make yourself happy. You’ve got to be happy for yourself.’”

So, I dropped out of school, enrolled at Ohio State’s agriculture tech program and said, ‘Let’s give it a shot.’”

Geyer’s been in the industry for 13 years, a superintendent for 4 years, and she is loving her life in turf. Her advice for aspiring superintendents is, “Surround yourself with good people, good

mentors and keep in contact with them. And, when it comes to the work on the golf course, give it 110 percent to prove to people, I can do this. You’ve got to be confident.”

She felt honored to be selected for the inaugural Women in Golf, which took place in North Carolina in September 2019. “It was great to be able to connect on a professional level — what

To check out a Golfdom Zoom Views interview with Renee Geyer, visit [Golfdom.com](https://www.golfdom.com).

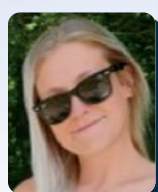
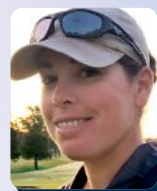
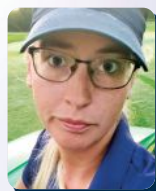
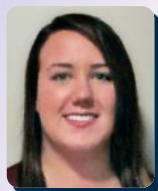
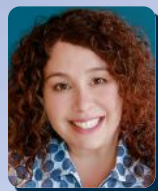
problems do you have on the golf course? — but also on a personal level ... to have a network of shared like minds and experiences and be able to build on that,” she says.

Fast forward to the 2020 virtual event, and Geyer appreciates being able to share her story with a whole new set of women pursuing careers in this business.

Geyer admits that there can be some struggles with trust and communication with crew members who have never had to report to a female boss, but she remains optimistic. “I truly believe that if you’ve got an open heart and an open mind, anybody can work for anybody and work with anybody. No one works for me. We work together for the product that we have,” she says.

“Stay true to who you are, and stand your ground,” she says. “Take a breath, say a prayer and you’re going to be all right.”

Women in Golf 2019 Alumnae



ABOVE (L-R) — Jessica Aytoun, Tammy Banks, Brandyn Baty, Emily Braithwaite, Morgan Creighton, Rachel De Ruyte, Julie Dixon, Nancy Dykema, Claudia Flock, Amanda Friend, Tina Fry, Renee Geyer, Elizabeth Hachey, Andrea Hill, Alexandra Hills, Carey Hofner, Elizabeth Holmes, Sally Jones, Tami Jones, Brianna Kenny, Kendra Kiss, Kelly Kuchelmeister, Kelly Lynch, Alex McNeill, Brandi Merrick, Phuc Nguyen, Lisa Marie Pearce, Maggie Reiter, Miranda Robinson, Karen Rumohr, Jennifer Schneider, Jill Seymour, Patricia Sloan, Morgan Taylor, Lesley Thomas, Carol Turner, Maria Ines Vivoni, Joy Negen (not pictured). *Not all of the 2019 Women in Golf attendees were able to be a part of the 2020 event due to other commitments.

2020 INDUCTEES ON THE COVER (L-R) — Beatrice Acevedo, Jan Bel Jan, Ann Bloomfield, Susan Bond, Leah Brilman, Alyssa Cain, Devon Carroll, Beatriz Chavez, Yvonne Conner, Malia Coston, Vanja Drasler, Francesca Faldella, Crystal Fricker, McKayla Fricker, Andrea Gelinas, Leah Gendron, Kari Haug, Ashley Kendall, Reyna King, Lindsay Knowlton, Diane Mischel, Jasmine Morning, Betsy O'Donnell, Nina Oldenkamp, Nichole Parker, Shannon Perry, Kara Piergentili, Rhiannon Radacosky, Sun Roesslein, Anaëli Rubio, Angéla Schmitt-Lefebvre, Jennifer Torres, Tyna Wauffull, Lorabeth West, Amy Wilber, Karen Withers, Andrea Wolf, Miyuan (Nancy) Xiao, Jessica Anders (not pictured)



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The Golfdom Conversation

When it rains, it pays

Parametric weather insurance is making its way into the golf industry — here is what to know about what these policies can and can't cover

BY CHRISTINA HERRICK

When it rains, it pours, says the old proverb. But, a new type of parametric weather insurance is gaining popularity, and because of that, superintendents might start saying: When it rains, it still pays.

Parametric weather insurance isn't necessarily a new thing, says Eric Anderson, a consultant for Vortex Weather Insurance. What's new is its availability for the golf industry, an industry ruled by weather.

Vortex sells supplemental weather insurance policies underwritten by Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance USA. And, facilities or tournaments can buy policies determined by a rainfall threshold to cover the time of the event.

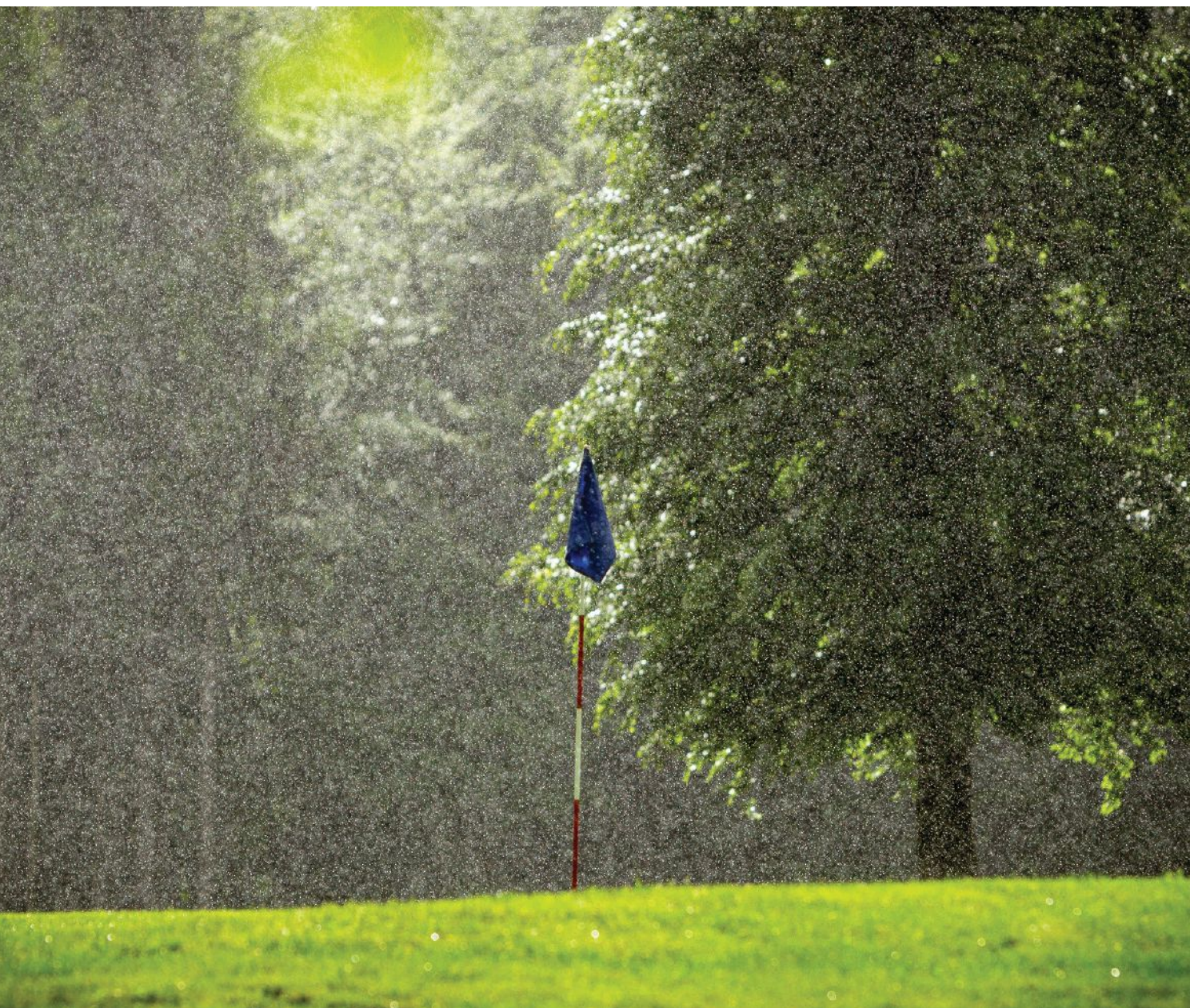
"If a golf club has a tournament from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., it's \$500 a player and there are 100 players, it's important to have a weather risk plan in place," Anderson says. "The event has \$50,000 of at-risk revenue that can be lost due to bad weather. We offer a financial solution that can help."

The party taking out the policy determines a rainfall threshold appropriate for the event. Rainfall amounts could be as low as 1/10



Eric Anderson

Continued on page 28



Continued from page 27

inch or as high as more than an inch. If the rainfall total during the insured time meets or exceeds that threshold, the policy will trigger, and the course or tournament recovers the expense.

“If the club can recover the revenue lost due to rain using Vortex Weather Insurance, they can apply those recovered funds toward other business expenses,” he says.

Vortex uses independent government-generated hourly precipitation totals from thousands of weather stations around the country.

Who knows the course best?

Anderson says it’s important for superintendents to understand that this is available as they can help determine what threshold to set a premium at and if there are any drainage issues on the course that would impact playability.

“The premium decreases with higher rainfall thresholds, so if the course drains well, it would be best to choose a three-quarter-inch or 1-inch threshold,” he says. “The probability of it raining an inch versus one-tenth of an inch is less probable, so the cost is going to be less.”

PHOTO BY: ANZE FURLAN-PSG/PRODUCTIONS / ISTOCK-GETTY IMAGES PLUS / GETTY IMAGES

Anderson says if a golf event has a rainout, the lost revenue can have a ripple effect on other parts of the course.

"If the course isn't playable, this ultimately affects the course's bottom line and can take away funds that would otherwise be used toward new tractors, golf carts and other equipment needed to keep the course pristine," he says.

But, there is also a secondary benefit. If a rainfall amount is met, but the course is deemed playable and the event can continue, the insured party still receives payment for the policy.

What it does and does not do

It's important to understand that the insurance offered by Vortex Weather Insurance is just that: weather insurance. Policies are available that also include hot and cold temperatures and a combination of rain and temperature parameters. Policies can also cover as little as a two-hour event to an entire year.

"It's parametric, hourly, customizable insur-

ance," he says. "Many people don't understand the term 'parametric,' but it really is a simple concept once explained. If a policy is triggered, it pays out. Unlike traditional insurance, it's not indemnity based. If the policy threshold hits, you're getting a check in roughly two weeks."

Watching the next day's weather forecast won't put the odds in favor of the club, however, insurance must be purchased no fewer than 15 days before the event.

"If it's going to rain the next day, you can't buy a policy the day before," Anderson says.

Policies can cover a variety of golf-related events, such as tournaments, seasonal coverage, fundraisers, pro-am tournaments, etc.

Anderson is quick to point out that this insurance would not cover catastrophic weather events such as a hurricane. However, if a course opted to purchase insurance for an event or seasonal coverage, and it met the policy's parameters, the precipitation would be covered.

Continued on page 30



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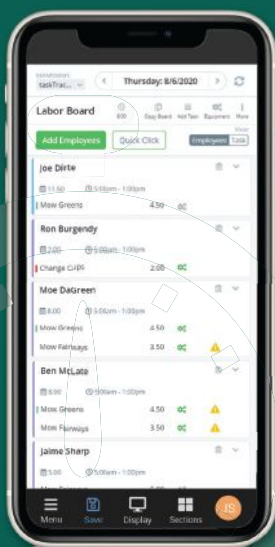
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*Continued from page 29*

"It doesn't matter where the rain comes from," he says. "Rain is rain. If it hits the threshold when a hurricane came, and you bought the insurance, you're getting a check for the amount you're insured."

Peace of mind

That peace of mind is why Geoff Lofstead, executive director of the South Florida PGA, says his section chose to purchase a policy for its Pro-Pro Championship.

"Having the insurance was a stress reliever knowing that regardless of the weather over the two days of the championship, we would not have any financial ramifications," he says.

Lofstead worked with the course's superintendent and Anderson to set the parameters based on current conditions and drainage. And, Vortex Weather Insurance also provided data on annual rainfall on the selected dates.

"Then, it was a matter of deciding on the cost of the insurance against the amount of rainfall we could have received," he says.

Jeff Voorheis, executive director of the Metropolitan PGA, says his section did some cost/benefit analysis to help determine the proper parameters to cover a large pro-am event for the section's foundation. He says it was a confidence boost in hosting the fundraiser for all parties involved.

"There will be tournaments and events where the investment makes more sense than others," Voorheis says. "Almost every club has a few events, outings or fundraisers each year that likely come immediately to mind as financially critical and would readily invest in this type of protection."

OUR GAME CREW

The gift of giving

BY SETH JONES

Back in the spring, when most Americans were first learning about COVID-19, everything about golf was uncertain. Would golf courses be allowed to open? If they were, would people feel comfortable enough to come out and play?

Not only have golf courses been open but they've been slam-packed. That meant golf course maintenance workers were quickly brought back to work and thankfully, didn't lose out on the revenue they expect to support their families.

But, when things were still uncertain, Dave Vanslette, CEO of FAIRWAYiQ, reached out to *Golfdom* to propose a program to help support golf course maintenance workers who were out of work when golf was shut down. *Golfdom* jumped in and enlisted the support of its brother in the industry, the National Golf Foundation, with whom the magazine shares a common founder in Herb Graffis. Our Game, Our Crew was born.

"I am a person who needs to take action, so when I see a situation developing that is concerning, I wonder, 'how can I help?'" Vanslette

recalls. "When the COVID-19 lockdowns began in March, I wondered what would happen to people working in the golf course maintenance industry. I work with these people on a daily basis and knew that many people didn't have the opportunity to work from home as I did."

Giving back

Thankfully, the GoFundMe donations started pouring in ... while the nominations for workers in need *did not*. Many superintendents told *Golfdom* that their crew was working plenty of hours, so they wouldn't qualify for the additional money.

But, there were still some in need, and thankfully, Our Game, Our Crew was able to donate a larger sum than what was previously expected to those people. One of those workers was Eddie Brown, a 25-year employee at Mountain Lake GC, Lake Wales, Fla., who tragically died after contracting COVID-19 in April.

"Eddie was a true Southern gentleman ... very polite, a respectful gentlemen," says Tony Nysse, director of golf course and grounds at Mountain Lake. "He worked here for 25 years and was supporting his family — this wasn't

Continued on page 32

An effort to support crew members during the pandemic serves as a reminder that there are always those in need



Eddie Brown, a 25-year employee at Mountain Lake GC, Lake Wales, Fla., tragically died after contracting COVID-19 in April. Our Game, Our Crew helped his family get back on their feet.

Continued from page 31

a side job. He was supporting his family and two grandkids. He was a beacon of light for the maintenance team. Everyone knew Eddie.”

Nysse says Brown contracted COVID-19 after attending a funeral in Georgia, which created a rough patch for the family for a few weeks; his son suffered complications to his health, and his widow had a heart attack 10 days after Brown’s passing. Nysse says both the Our Game, Our Crew funds as well as a GoFundMe donation from Mountain Lake GC helped get the family back on their feet again. And, he still fondly recalls the last time he saw Brown at work.

“The last time I spoke with him was the very first day we got a brand-new Toro 4700 fair-

way mower, and the look on his face ... it was like he was riding around mowing grass on a Mercedes-Benz,” Nysse says. “He didn’t have a lot of new equipment over his 25 years here, but he was proud as a peacock on the property on the last day he worked here on that shiny new red piece of equipment.”

A ray of hope

During those uncertain days early in the pandemic, Our Game, Our Crew gave the team at *Golfdom* something positive to work on, says Craig MacGregor, publisher.

“The golf course maintenance workers and the superintendents, all those folks are our family,” MacGregor says. “I’m glad Dave came to us, and we were able to support some families in need, because it gave us a good feeling when there weren’t a lot of things to feel good about at the time.”

Vanslette says it was difficult to hear the heartbreaking stories of those who were nominated, but, at the same time, it served as a reminder that there are always people who need help.

“We all spend so much time worrying about ourselves, our families, the world in front of us,” Vanslette says. “At least for me, it takes recognition that there are many in need to jar me back to reality. This is always true — the pandemic was just the catalyst here. Giving is actually something that helps both the person doing the giving and the receiver of the gift. I forgot how much helping others has always helped me. I am extremely grateful to be able to help even a small number of people through this program.”

Nysse says that Brown’s passion for doing the job right lives on at Mountain Lake. Brown was very particular about leaving the wash pad clean after using it, and the crew continues to obey that rule out of respect for Brown. So beloved was Brown that after his passing, the club immediately created a new program to offset funeral expenses for any employee who tragically passes away.

“What (Our Game, Our Crew) did for Eddie was more than anyone could have hoped for or anticipated,” Nysse says. “Through their family to you guys, that’s awesome ... it is so graciously, warmly accepted by them. You have no idea how far that goes for them.”

PHOTO BY: MOUNTAIN LAKE GC



Super Science

// A CENTURY STRONG

USGA GREEN SECTION 100TH ANNIVERSARY

By Mike Kenna, Ph.D.

The USGA Green Section officially turns 100 this month. Golf and other turfgrass sports owe a lot to Charles V. Piper, Ph.D., and Russell A. Oakley, Ph.D., when celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Green Section.

Piper and Oakley were instrumental in the early days of the Green Section. They were among the earliest scientists to conduct studies in turfgrass science and golf course management, and they served as the first chairman and co-chairman of the USGA Green Section.



Charles V. Piper, Ph.D., and Russell A. Oakley, Ph.D.


Piper and Oakley were well-known USDA experts on grasses. In 1906, a golfer named Dr. W.S. Harban went to Piper and Oakley for help with turfgrass problems at his course. Later, golf course architect C.B. MacDonald asked Piper and Oakley for help growing grass at the National Golf Links of America in Southhampton, N.Y. Hugh Wilson also sought their assistance while establishing Merion

Golf and Cricket Club in Ardmore, Pa. This need for information led to the 1917 publication of *Turf for Golf Courses* by Piper and Oakley.

In 1920, Mr. E. J. Marshall of the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, saw a need for help solving turf problems on golf courses. Along with Hugh Wilson and other golf enthusiasts, Marshall's passion convinced the USGA Executive Committee to establish the Green Section on Nov. 20, 1920. On Feb. 10, 1921, Piper and Oakley published the first issue of *The Bulletin of the Green Section*.

From the beginning, Piper and Oakley worked with grasses suited for golf courses, and they established the Arlington Turf Garden at the USDA's Arlington Experiment Farm. This early research location is where the Pentagon is today.

The USGA contributed a large part of the funds for the agronomists pioneering turfgrass research. By the 1930s, 30,000 square feet were at putting green height. Early work was on stolon plantings of creeping, velvet and colonial bentgrass strains. There also were plots of various grasses obtained from different bentgrass seed sources.

Piper and Oakley were men of great character, keen vision and remarkable achievement whose contributions to the improvement in early greenkeeping methods were immeasurable. 



Mike Kenna, Ph.D., is the research editor of *Golfdom* and can be reached at mpkenna@gmail.com.

This project was funded in part by the USGA Green Section.

NEWS UPDATES

PRIMERA HIRES VP, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Primera has created a new Cooperative Services Team and added a new hire to serve as vice president of business development.

Nick Strain joins the Primera team as vice president of business development. Strain will focus on Primera's profitable development and growth while working with its membership to identify and develop growth strategies, facilitate conversions and lead Primera's efforts on product category development.

Rachel Boehm has been promoted to director of cooperative services and will continue to work with Primera's membership on communications, engagement, marketing and reporting while leading the cooperative services team.

Cheryl Kuenzel, as part of the cooperative services team, was named director of analytics. She will focus her efforts to drive insights from Primera's rapidly growing data collection.

Morgan Cothern will serve on the cooperative services team as cooperative services associate. She will support membership with ordering, reporting and tracking Primera-related transactions, while providing members with the most current promotions, pricing, inventory and invoice assistance.

GOLF COURSES PURCHASE MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF SEED SOWN EACH AUTUMN ON GOLF COURSES IN (THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE UNITED STATES)."

Kevin Morris and Mike Kenna, Ph.D.
(see story on page 34)

//OVERSEED NEEDS

On-site testing for overseeded bermudagrass fairways

By Kevin Morris and Mike Kenna, Ph.D.

Overseeding bermudagrass fairways is a common practice throughout the southern half of the United States. Golf courses purchase millions of pounds of seed sown each autumn on golf courses in this region. Golf course owners, managers and superintendents seek grasses that establish quickly, exhibit exceptional playability, are aesthetically pleasing and require fewer inputs. This project evaluates new and established cultivars for overseeding bermudagrass fairways at golf courses in the Southern and Western U.S.

The United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) jointly sponsored this trial. This project's information is valuable to the golfing industry because it determines the adaptation of grasses for golf course use. Information obtained from on-site testing will be of particular value to plant breeders, researchers, extension educators, USGA agronomists, golf course architects and superintendents who need to select the best-adapted cultivars for overseeding in a particular regional climate.

This project focuses on the use of saline water or sites that reduce water use by irrigation with lower evapotranspiration (ET) replacement rates.

The trial consists of not only single cultivars but also blends and mixtures

FIGURE 1



Entries were established in 100-square-foot plots, replicated three times where fairway traffic is evident and outside of landing zones.

of various species. Therefore, the test has 22 entries that consist of 10 ryegrass blends, nine single perennial ryegrass cultivars, one intermediate ryegrass, one annual ryegrass and one *Poa trivialis*. Three standard entries are in the trial (perennial ryegrass, intermediate ryegrass and *Poa trivialis*).

Trial sites were located on golf courses near a land grant university with a turfgrass research program or a metropolitan area accessible to a university turfgrass scientist (Table 1). The tests were maintained by the golf course superintendent at each location using management procedures common to their golf course and the geographical area and in consultation with the research cooperator. There were no unique management practices other than irrigation as these trials receive real-world golf course

Research Takeaways

- This trial focused on the cultivar, blend and mixture performance of 25 entries, primarily under reduced (ET-based) water rates or saline (low-quality) irrigation water.
- Nine golf course sites, chosen based on geographic location and maintenance characteristics, were established in fall 2016 and 2017 in large plots on golf course fairways.
- Entries containing perennial ryegrass had the best overall turfgrass quality in the fall and spring for both trial years.
- There was some variation in the performance of entries at the ET-based reduced irrigation locations versus the saline irrigation locations.

conditions and stresses.

The research cooperators established 100-square-foot plots, replicated three times where fairway traffic is evident and outside of landing zones. Trials were planted in fall 2016 and reseeded

PHOTO BY: DAVID GARDNER, PH.D.

100
USGA
GREEN SECTION

Research
provided
and funded
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TABLE 1

Trial locations were selected in important use areas or sites with challenging environments or unique characteristics.

Golf Course	Location	Cooperator	University
Tucson Country Club ²	Tucson, Ariz.	David Kopec, Ph.D.	University of Arizona
Lost Key ^{2,3}	Pensacola, Fla.	Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.	University of Florida
Jekyll Island Golf Club ¹	Jekyll Island, Fla.	Clint Waltz, Ph.D.	University of Georgia
Mississippi State University	Starkville, Miss.	Wayne Philley, Ph.D.	Mississippi State
Lonnie Poole Golf Course at NC State ¹	Raleigh, N.C.	Grady Miller, Ph.D.	N.C. State
New Mexico State University Golf Course ¹	Las Cruces, N.M.	Bernd Leinauer, Ph.D.	New Mexico State
Lakeside Golf Course ¹	Stillwater, Okla.	Charles Fontanier, Ph.D.	Oklahoma State
Texas A&M Univ. Campus ²	College Station, Texas	Casey Reynolds, Ph.D.	Texas A&M
The Rawls Golf Course at Texas Tech ¹	Lubbock, Texas	Joey Young, Ph.D.	Texas Tech

¹ Uses reduced water rates via ET replacement.

² Utilizes saline irrigation water.

³ Lost Key has seashore paspalum fairways and all other sites have bermudagrass fairways.

TABLE 2

Summary of the two-year 2016 NTEP overseeding trial for turfgrass quality ratings.

Name	Species or Composition	Sponsor	Top Statistical Group*			
			2016-17	2017-18	Total	Percent
Stellar 3GL	100% Stellar 3GL PR	Mountain View Seeds	9	8	17	94%
Black Pearl (PPG-PR-308)	100% PPG-PR-308 PR	Mountain View Seeds	8	8	16	89%
Champion GQ	33.3% SR4650, 33.3% SR4650ST, 33.4% Sideways PR blend	Seed Research of Oregon	8	8	16	89%
LCP-186	100% LCP 186 PR	SiteOne Landscape Supply	8	8	16	89%
Ringles	100% Ringles PR	Semillas Fito, S.A.	7	9	16	89%
SPR Spreading Ryegrass Overseeding Mix	50% Saguaro PR, 50% High Life PR blend	Ledeboer Seed	8	8	16	89%
Allsport 5	100% Allsport 5 PR	SiteOne Landscape Supply	8	7	15	83%
CS-PRX	50% Premium, 50% Prominent PR blend	Columbia Seeds	7	8	15	83%
Landmark Winterseed 5 Blend	20% Majesty, 20% Salinas, 20% Benchmark, 20% Sox Fan, 20% Gallop PR blend	Landmark Turf & Native Seed	8	7	15	83%
Natural Knit	35% Mensa PR, 35% Savant PR, 30% Saguaro PR blend	Ledeboer Seed	8	7	15	83%
Brightstar SLT	100% Brightstar SLT PR	Standard	6	8	14	78%
Futura 3000	33.4% Karma, 33.3% Wicked, 33.3% Fiesta 4 PR blend	Pickseed	7	7	14	78%
Landmark Winterseed 3 Blend	33% Majesty, 33% Salinas, 33% Gallop PR blend	Landmark Turf & Native Seed	7	7	14	78%
LTP-3-PR Blend	33% Seabiscuit, 33% Man O'War, 33.4% Pharaoh PR blend	Lebanon Seaboard Corp	8	6	14	78%
Sun	100% Sun PR	Semillas Fito, S.A.	7	7	14	78%
Line Drive II	100% Line Drive II PR	Proseeds Marketing	7	6	13	72%
Ph.D.	33.3% Thrive, 33.3% Aspire, 33.3% Banfield PR blend	DLF Pickseed	7	5	12	67%
Commander ST	100% Commander ST PR	SiteOne Landscape Supply	5	6	11	61%
Futura 2500	30% Transit 2600 IR, 23.3% Karma, 23.3% Wicked, 23.4% Fiesta 4 PR blend	Pickseed	4	5	9	50%
ProSport 4	100% ProSport 4 PR	SiteOne Landscape Supply	4	5	9	50%
Transit 2600	100% Transit 2600 IR	Standard	3	5	8	44%
IRFL-2-11	100% IRFL-2-11 IR	Seed Research of Oregon	2	3	5	28%
Sabre III	100% Sabre III <i>Poa trivialis</i>	Standard	2	2	4	22%
Breakout	100% Breakout annual ryegrass	Mountain View Seeds	1	2	3	17%
LBP-PT-601	100% LBP-PT-601 <i>Poa trivialis</i>	Ledeboer Seed	1	2	3	17%

* An entry that was not significantly different (LSD0.05) from the top performer mean turfgrass quality for each year and on-site location.

in fall 2017 with the same entries at the same physical location. Each year, the researchers recorded the establishment rate, turfgrass quality and color.

Winter ratings focused on percent cover of overseeding grass, color, turfgrass quality, texture and growth rate. Spring and summer ratings consisted of color, turfgrass quality, texture and growth rate.

Additional spring ratings included the density and percentage of green cover of bermuda and overseeding grass during the transition back to 100 percent bermuda.

This article only presents the mean turfgrass quality for each trial location and year. The data for all the characteristics, years and sites can be accessed

online at <https://www.ntep.org/onsite/ost.htm>.

Turfgrass quality is a measure of aesthetics (i.e., density, uniformity, texture, smoothness, growth habit and color) and functional use. Assessing turfgrass quality is a visual rating system based on the judgment of the

Continued on page 36

Continued from page 35

turfgrass evaluator. The visual ratings collected on NTEP trials are based on a 1 to 9 rating scale. A turfgrass quality value of 9 is considered outstanding or ideal turf, while a rating of 1 is lowest or dead. A rating of 6 or above is regarded as acceptable turfgrass. It is an excellent first impression of whether a cultivar or blend will work in your situation. You can spend more time evaluating the other characteristics recorded for a trial location in your region.

As in past overseeding trials, entry performance varied significantly from one location to another. However, perennial ryegrass (PR) cultivars or blends performed the best across the nine test sites. We calculated the number of times an entry was equal to the top-performer using the LSD0.05 value for that location. For example, Stellar 3GL, Black Pearl (PPG-PR-308), Champion GQ, LCP-186 and Ringles were not significantly different from the top performer.

Considering only the five ET-based locations, SPR Spreading Ryegrass Overseeding Mix, Stellar 5GL, Black Pearl and Allsport 5 had mean turf quality ratings in the top statistical group at each site for both years.

For the three saline irrigation-based locations, the entries in the top statistical grouping at each site for both years include Champion GQ, Natural Knit, LCP-186, Futura 3000, Ringles and Stellar 3GL.

Entries with intermediate ryegrass (IR), *Poa trivialis* and annual ryegrass did not do as well as the best performers. Entries containing anywhere from 30 to 100 intermediate ryegrass or annual ryegrass did not perform well overall, with a few exceptions.

Futura 2500, a mix containing 30 percent intermediate ryegrass and 70 percent perennial ryegrass, performed well at the Las Cruces, N.M., and Lubbock, Texas, locations. The intermediate ryegrass entry Transist 2600 was a good performing entry with turf

MORE ON NTEP

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) develops and coordinates uniform evaluation trials of turfgrass varieties and promising selections in the United States and Canada. Test results are used by national companies and plant breeders to determine the broad picture of the adaptation of a cultivar. Also, the information is useful to assess cultivar adaptation to a local area or level of turf maintenance.

Briefly, the NTEP is a self-supporting, nonprofit program, sponsored by the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and the National Turfgrass Federation Program policy is made by a policy committee consisting of one member from each of the four Regional Turfgrass Research Committees in the United States, one member from the Lawn Seed Division of the American Seed Trade Association, one member from the United States Golf Association Green Section, one member from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, one member from the Turfgrass Producers International, one member from the Turfgrass Breeders Association, one member from the Oregon Seed Association and an executive director. The program does not recommend varieties. However, Extension specialists and others use the data from tests for making recommendations.

The policy committee is responsible for determining program policy including, (1) requirements for submission of entries, (2) scheduling tests, (3) evaluation methods, (4) selecting standard or control test entries, (5) setting entry fees, (6) coordinating tests in their respective regions, (7) establishing guidelines for publication and data distribution and (8) scheduling committee meetings.

quality in the top statistical group at Stillwater, Okla.

It is also notable that one of the main selling points for annual or intermediate ryegrass is a better spring transition back to bermudagrass. Therefore, less than top turfgrass quality ratings may not be the only determining factor for choosing one of these entries.

Often overseeding results in fair to poor bermudagrass recovery in the spring or summer. Consider the following overseeding plan that avoids aggressive practices, which may injure the bermudagrass before winter dormancy (4):

- Do not verticut, but if verticutting is employed, set the blade depth to a quarter-inch above zero or higher. The higher depth will avoid damage to bermudagrass stolons and crowns.

- Increase mowing heights by 25 to 35 percent two weeks before overseeding preparations begin.

- One week before overseeding preparations, spray Turflon Ester Ultra (triclopyr) at 16 ounces per acre to slow bermudagrass growth. An alternative is to apply Primo (trinexapac-ethyl) at 10 to 15 ounces per acre. In general, when overseeding preparations begin at cooler temperatures, chemical growth regulation is not required due to decreased bermudagrass competition.

- Scalp bermudagrass at or just below the summer mowing height.

- Leave clipping debris on the surface as mulch for the incoming ryegrass.

- Continue irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture and to avoid soil drying.

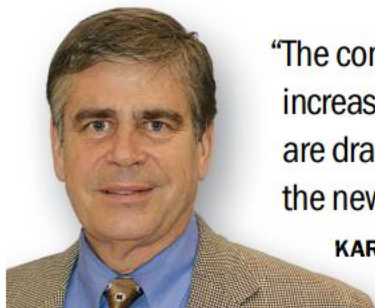
- At this point, the bermudagrass will still be green, but it is ready for overseeding. Once the seed is applied, use reel mowers set at the same scalping height to mow the seed into the turf canopy. The use of steel drag mats also helps the seed move into the bermudagrass understory.

- Following the first or second mow on the new ryegrass, spray Primo to promote ryegrass tillering and increase density. ©

Kevin Morris is the executive director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. You can contact him at kmorris@ntep.com. Mike Kenna, Ph.D., is the research editor for *Golfdom* and can be reached at mpkenna@gmail.com.

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"The continual occurrence and increased severity of the western fires are dramatically shown every night on the news."

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

Burning down the turf

A few years ago, I received an email from a golf course that had been covered — like snow — in a thick layer of volcanic ash. The course was located in the Patagonia region of Argentina, and the volcanic ash had drifted from erupting volcanic mountains in Chile. The questions asked of me were: What would the ash do to the turf? And, what should we do about it?

My first thought was, how did they get my name? We don't have volcanoes in Ohio ... at least not at the moment. Not able to give an intelligent answer, I contacted a former student and colleague at the University of Chile for help. My colleague, Alejandra Acuña, Ph.D., identified a forage specialist in her department whose research focus was on the impact of volcanic ash on forage production. Who would believe that extension fact sheets on the impact of volcanic ash on pastures existed? Needless to say, the golf course was very appreciative of this forage researcher's help and reassurances.

As I have watched and read about the horrific fires that have ripped through and engulfed much of the western United States, leaving a burned and bare landscape like a volcanic eruption, I've wondered about the impact fires have on turfgrasses. Except for seed production, fire or burning is not widely discussed or written about in our profession. Yet, fire has had a prominent role in grassland management in the past and to a lesser degree now.

West of the Mississippi River, prescribed burns (i.e., controlled fires or planned fires) are still used by land managers and farmers. In some cases where allowed, homeowners will burn their lawn. In most cases, notifying the local fire department is advisable.

Vegetation burning returns nutrients to the soil and helps new plants germinate by breaking the thick outer seed coat. The secondary impact of fires includes controlling brush and weeds and helping reduce ticks, mice and parasite populations. Fire is part of the rejuvenation of past prairies through the Great Plains.

The fact is we do not live in the 1800s. Driving down a county road while a ditch or large pasture is burning or along a highway in the northwestern United States, like the Willamette Valley in Oregon, quickly brings into focus the downside to burning. The physical presence of smoke can cause serious visibility and air quality concerns. Field burning like in the Willamette Valley requires strict environmental and weather restric-

tions, including how much area can be burned. A significant human population and wildfires do not mix.

Ecologically, fire impacts grass diversity and species composition. I've listed below the ecology impacts I find interesting and applicable, much of which is based on research and observation of tall and short grass prairies.

① Grasses recover back to their original state before the fire more quickly than shrubs and trees.

② Frequent fires favor grasses over trees.

③ Grasses are more tolerant of fire when dormant.

④ Less nitrogen is lost when a dormant turf is burned.

⑤ Researchers at Curtis Prairie at the University of Wisconsin report that tall grass prairie could tolerate a burn every year. They found that the health of the prairie was the highest when it burned every three to five years.

⑥ Cool-season turfgrasses are favored over warm-season turfgrasses by late summer or early fall for burning because cool-season grasses are not as actively growing compared to warm-season turfgrasses.

⑦ Conversely, spring burning favors warm-season turfgrasses over cool-season turfgrasses because they are dormant or not actively growing.

⑧ Rhizomatous turfgrasses are less damaged from fire compared to stoloniferous turfgrasses. Underground rhizomes allow quicker sprouting of new plants. The deeper the rhizome, the more protected the plant.

⑨ Drought increases the severity of fire effects.

The continual occurrence and increased severity of the western fires are dramatically shown every night on the news. A sobering thought is what are these vast areas going to look like in the future? ⑥

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



Turf covers can be used to prevent situations where desiccation, low temperatures and ice can kill the grass.

Cover talk

When it comes to implementing turf covers, it all comes down to what (turfgrass) stress superintendents are dealing with because that's going to help them figure out what type of cover they need and how to manage taking them on and off, according to Bill Kreuser, assistant professor and Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"It's just getting people to think about what stress are they trying to prevent," he notes. "In the Great Plains, it's desiccation. In the Southeast, it's low-temperature kill on the bermudagrass that can't handle hard freezes in the winter. In the Great Lakes and throughout Canada, it's minimizing water on that surface to prevent crown hydration issues or prevent ice from accumulating on top of the grass and suffocating it."

In the Great Plains, Kreuser recommends a more permeable, mesh-type cover that's woven so that when it snows or rains, the moisture will go through the cover and rehydrate the plant.

On the other hand, in the Great Lakes and Canada, impermeable turf covers are recommended.

"Those covers are more like a tarp, and that keeps the water off. Sometimes, they'll put straw or bubble wrap underneath that to get some air in there so that plant can breathe during the winter," Kreuser says.

Turf covers are often used during the winter in high-value areas like greens and tees.

The other half of the battle, Kreuser says, is deciding when to put covers down and when to remove them.

"The trick with covers is you don't want to put them on too early or take them off too late," he says. "In research from a couple years ago, we took them off late, and they were bright green, but a day and a half later, the temperatures went into the 20s, and all that bright green grass that broke dormancy was killed. The plant was able to regrow new leaves, but it took weeks to recover."


He advises superintendents to monitor the grass growth and put covers down when the grass has stopped growing and temperatures hit around the freezing mark. He recommends removing them before the grass starts to regrow in the spring. 

PHOTO COURTESY OF: BILL KREUSER

Evergreen Turf Covers

BILL THOMPSON

Sales manager

Superintendents need to consider many factors in choosing the right cover for their course as their position can very well depend on the performance of the cover. Whether for winter protection, new course construction, renovation projects and frost protection in the Transition Zones, there is a cover with a budget for you. Greens covers can be made in one piece. The construction should be easy to work with and come with the appropriate amount of sod staples. The covers should be lightweight but strong and able to outlast the warranties provided.



Aer-Flo

JEFF MONDOR

Vice president of sales

Winter growth blankets are an ideal product to extend your course's growing season and to promote an earlier turf green-up. So, what needs to be considered when using these covers? First, although the base fabric used to manufacture covers is relatively light, the larger the cover, the heavier and bulkier the cover becomes, making the positioning and removal potentially difficult if you don't have the needed manpower. Another consideration is your irrigation. Washouts can occur if water is turned on and your irrigation heads are still covered. Also, you need to be aware of where you're placing turf stakes to make sure they don't hit unseen mechanisms. Furthermore, these same stakes need to be accounted for when removing the covers, making sure none are left behind. Storage is the final consideration when using growth covers. Make sure the covers are dry before folding and storing them indoors.



Green Jacket

GARRY SULLIVAN

Vice president of sales

When it comes to turf covers, which type — impermeable or permeable — is best? Studies by well-known universities confirm that by keeping the moisture away from the turf crown, we are able to increase positive results needed to avoid crown hydration, ice damage and desiccation. A calculated light transmission property (UV resistant) that blocks out the sunlight helps to keep turf dormant during the temperature fluctuations that have become more the norm than the exception. If you are looking for a simple frost protection or to accelerate soil temperatures and encourage turf growth, permeable covers will work well.



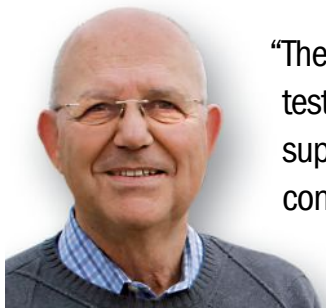
Par West Turf Services

KEN NEWCOMB

Vice president

The single biggest agronomic factor to consider when choosing a turf cover is breathability. Does that weave offer a balance between generating warmth and allowing water/air penetration through the cover? Outside of the agronomic factors when considering turf covers, the one thing that doesn't get factored in enough is labor. Typically, labor is cut back in the winter when covers are needed, and some types of covers require more labor to install and remove than others. You can get an effective and high-quality turf cover that requires half of the labor to install and remove than others because of the weight and design. Remember, these covers are sometimes sitting out in the harshest elements. You want to make sure the cover is made of the highest quality, especially for the investment you are making in them. Is your turf cover made from an inert fiber that prevents water, chemicals or dirt from adhering to it? Is the weave tight enough to prevent grass from growing through it? Is the fabric UV protected? Can you get custom sizes to match your greens? Is the manufacturer reputable and does it stand behind the product with a warranty? Does the cover price include storage bags or pegs?





“The university trials and on-site testing correlated and helped superintendents have more confidence in university results.”

MIKE KENNA, PH.D., *Research Editor*

On-site cultivar testing revisited

The USGA Green Section started testing new turfgrass cultivars on golf courses in the 1930s. Evaluating turfgrass performance at locations across the country is just as important today as it was in the past, and the Green Section helped support on-site testing by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

In 1939 and 1940, John Montieth Jr., Ph.D., and Fred V. Grau, Ph.D., established 40 “pie greens” throughout the country to identify the most desirable bentgrass varieties for putting greens. The experimental pie greens had 12 wedge-shaped sections, each planted with a different strain of bent. They were a regular or practice green to receive the everyday wear and tear of play.

Each green had standard strains for comparison, and the new entries were designated only by numbers to avoid possible partiality in scoring them. These trials selected popular vegetative bentgrasses such as Cohansey, Congressional and Toronto.

Most of the testing for new cultivars in the 1950s through the 1980s was on university experiment stations or commercial research plots. The NTEP started countrywide university turfgrass trials in the 1980s. A majority of the tests were at higher cutting heights more suitable for home lawns and com-

mercial landscapes.

By the mid-1990s, the USGA Green Section saw a need to evaluate new bentgrass and bermudagrass cultivars on golf courses. Golf courses adopting the new grasses supported by the USGA research program were slow because they were not grown under real-world conditions. Working with NTEP, the USGA supported 10 bentgrass and 10 bermudagrass putting green trials on golf courses.

Another aspect of the on-site testing was that the USGA provided help building the golf course test greens. Green Section agronomist Jim Moore worked closely with several golf course superintendents to build putting greens according to the USGA’s recommendations. So, the on-site tests provided an opportunity to demonstrate the revised putting green recommendations and information on new bentgrass and bermudagrass cultivars.

The lower cutting heights and foot

traffic on putting green trials provided an excellent real-world evaluation of the new grasses. Joe Duich, Ph.D., Penn State University, had a breakthrough success with the A and G series of new creeping bentgrasses. TifEagle from Wayne Hanna, Ph.D., USDA-ARS, was among the best bermudagrasses. Also, Jim Moore was successful in demonstrating the new putting green recommendations.

Another positive outcome was the university trials started to maintain their putting green tests similar to area golf courses. The university trials and on-site testing correlated and helped superintendents have more confidence in university results. Other on-site tests, such as the overseeding trials in this issue of *Golfdom*, provided a significant contribution over the past 20 years.

I want to conclude with the following quote from the first on-site tests of the Green Section.

“It is difficult, however, to pass judgment on a strain of grass without comparing its behavior with that of other well-tested strains in adjacent plantings. In order to make such comparisons and to test promising strains under as many environmental conditions as possible, the Green Section has established at least one experimental green in almost every principal golfing section where bent can be grown.”

Words that are still true today lend importance to on-site tests, NTEP and other university trials around the country. **G**

Mike Kenna, Ph.D., is the retired director of research, USGA Green Section. Contact him at mpkenna@gmail.com.

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1 | GolfBoard cart alternative

Weighing a fraction of what a regular golf cart does, **GOLFBOARDS** are a superintendent's best friend, according to the company. They offer reduced compaction, scattered usage patterns that are much easier on the turf and increased speed of play that allows crew members to get more accomplished, the company said. All-wheel drive eliminates tire spin, and the board will climb any hill with ease.

GolfBoard.com

2 | Michelin X Tweel Turf Comfort Tires

This version of **MICHELIN**'s airless radial tire-wheel assembly replaces the standard 18X8.5N10 front and rear tire wheel for gas- or electric-powered golf cart users. The new design includes a softer shear-beam construction, and a longer contact patch gives the tire better traction on flat surfaces and slopes. Lower ground pressure reduces turf damage. The wheel has a four-bolt pattern with a -0.4-inch offset and a black center hub. Because the X Tweel Turf has no air, it cannot go flat. It's constructed with high-strength polyresin spokes.

MichelinMan.com

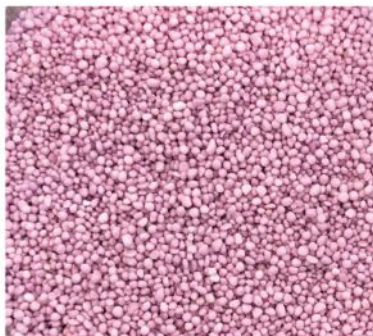
3 | Leather Premium Gloves

MILWAUKEE TOOL's Leather Performance Gloves leverage the lightweight design of the current Milwaukee Performance Gloves. The palms of the gloves are made from soft, top-grain goatskin leather for increased durability, and the back features a breathable, lightweight design. They feature a moisture-wicking terry cloth sweat wipe on the thumb to increase comfort and SmartSwipe technology on the knuckle for touch screen compatibility. For easy on and off, the new gloves are complete with a webbing pull loop and a hook and loop closure for a secure fit.

MilwaukeeTool.com

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SGN 90



SGN 160

5



4



6

4 | Sensaphone Soil Moisture Sensor

The **SENSAPHONE** Soil Moisture Sensor helps golf courses manage irrigation more efficiently. The sensor measures water content in soil and other growing media, so users can be alerted when moisture conditions fall outside the desired range. Instant notification prevents over- or underwatering, minimizes water usage and promotes growth. It's compatible with most Sensaphone remote monitoring systems, which provide the necessary alerting and data logging functionality. The system can also interface with an irrigation controller to prevent irrigation cycles when soil is already wet. Sensaphone.com

5 | PurKote Pro Mini fertilizer

PURSELL AGRI-TECH's PurKote Pro Mini fertilizer granules are smaller than original PurKote, allowing for targeted applications such as golf course fairways, greens and tee boxes. PurKote can be customized with flexible longevity, ranging from 30 days to two years, and offers the widest variety of substrates so that regardless of pH levels, moisture conditions or microbial activity, PurKote is reliable and flexible. Fertilizer.com

6 | Wright Manufacturing Mulch Kit

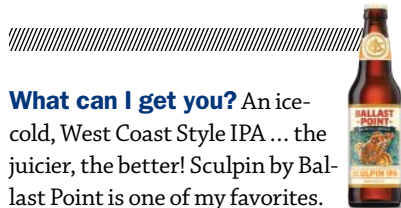
Research has shown that it is better for the environment if clippings are dropped and left to decompose, so **WRIGHT MANUFACTURING**'s simple-to-install mulch kit consists of special baffles and blades. The recirculating baffles and blades break clippings down into small, easily biodegradable pieces and drop them to the ground. The kits can be installed in minutes using only basic tools. The standard baffles and blades are removed. The mulch baffles and block plate are installed, followed by mulching blades. WrightMfg.com

The 19th Hole



Brendon Reaksecker

SUPERINTENDENT // Bonita (Calif.) Golf Club



What can I get you? An ice-cold, West Coast Style IPA ... the juicier, the better! Sculpin by Ballast Point is one of my favorites.



How was San Diego Bay today?

It was beautiful. I love to be on the water with my buddies. Waterskiing, wakeboarding or just cruising, it doesn't matter.

Tell me about Bonita. BGC is a super fun public daily-fee, 18-hole course located 15 minutes from downtown San Diego. Push-up *Poa annua* greens, Rain Bird block irrigation system and super salty well water. What's not to love?

Do you have a family? My wife and I met at UC Santa Barbara in 1992. We married in 2000 and have done our best raising Jackson, a freshman at Oregon State University, and his 6-foot, 1-inch "little" brother, Gavin, a junior in high school.

Does it feel like 14 years that you've been taking care of Bonita? I was hired to care for BGC in 2007. Looking back, the time has flown by. Gavin was 2 when I started!

What's your favorite tool in the

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



shop? I have a soil sampler that is made from a sink drain tailpipe. It has saved my job on multiple occasions.

What car that you parted ways with do you miss the most? I had a 1994 Ford "O.J." Bronco that I miss every day. We had some crazy adventures in the desert together.

What movie always stops you dead in your tracks when you're flipping through the channels? I'm terrible with movies. I've hit my head too many times to remember movie lines, and I fall asleep halfway into them. It drives my wife crazy.

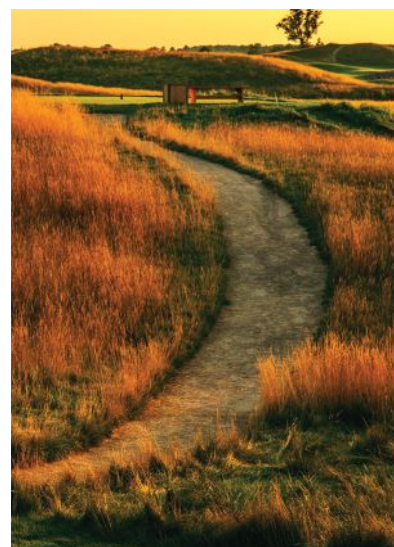
What has been your most memorable golf moment? My first

and only hole-in-one on No. 11 with arborist Javier Vargas, Simplot rep Tim Faucett and retired superintendent Dave Jones, Coronado GC. Thursday golf is legendary! We've been teeing off every Thursday afternoon for 14 years with no end in sight.

How do you show the crew appreciation for a job well done? I reward the crew by telling them "good job" when it is deserving of individual recognition. As a team, we have a great time together, especially when there is carne asada and beer involved. We have a potluck-style meal at our own private hideaway spot out on the course.



As interviewed by Seth Jones, Oct. 19, 2020.



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