

# Golfdom

05.21



Torrey Pines Senior Superintendent Rich McIntosh, photographed last month at Torrey Pines GC, La Jolla, Calif.



## *Talking Torrey*

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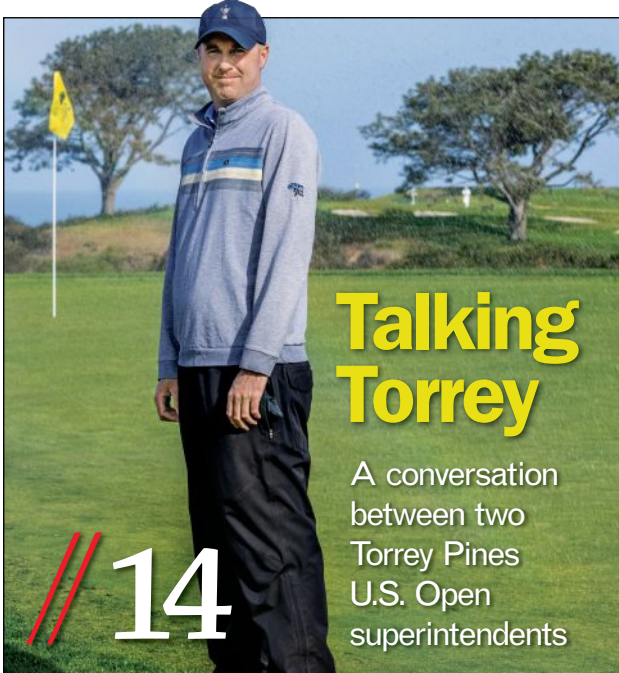
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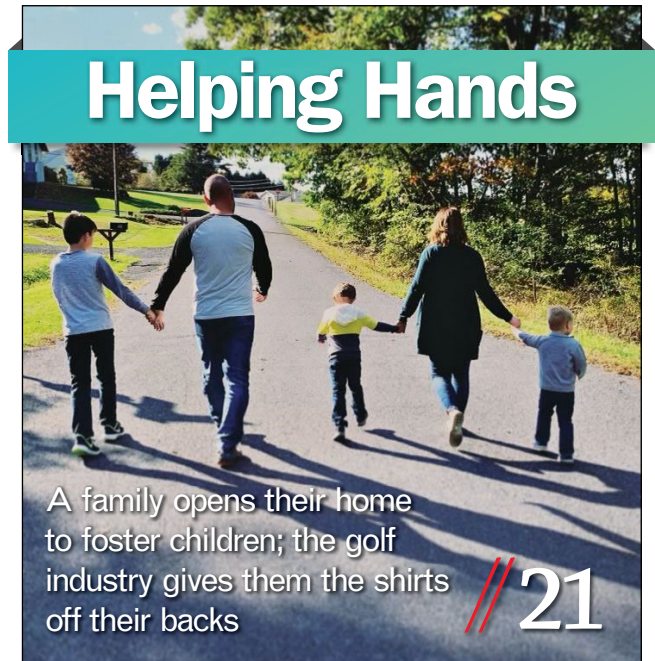




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## EDITORIAL

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER** Seth Jones  
785-542-2627 / [sjones@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:sjones@northcoastmedia.net)

**EDITOR** Christina Herrick  
216-675-6009 / [cherrick@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:cherrick@northcoastmedia.net)

**MANAGING EDITOR** Sarah Webb  
216-363-7932 / [swebb@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:swebb@northcoastmedia.net)

**DIGITAL EDITOR** Joey Ciccolini  
216-363-7925 / [jciccolini@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:jciccolini@northcoastmedia.net)

**ART DIRECTOR** Pete Seltzer  
216-706-3737 / [pseltzer@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:pseltzer@northcoastmedia.net)

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carlos Arraya, Karl Danneberger (*Science*), Alan FitzGerald, Joe Gulotti, Mike Kenna (*Research*), Matt Neff, Jared Nemitz, Sean Tully, Mark Woodward

## BUSINESS

**CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS**  
1360 EAST 9TH ST, 10TH FLOOR, CLEVELAND, OH 44114

**GROUP PUBLISHER** Bill Roddy  
216-706-3758 / [broddy@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:broddy@northcoastmedia.net)

**PUBLISHER** Craig MacGregor  
216-706-3787 / [cmacgregor@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:cmacgregor@northcoastmedia.net)

**WESTERN REGIONAL SALES MANAGER** Jake Goodman  
216-363-7923 / [jgoodman@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:jgoodman@northcoastmedia.net)

**EASTERN REGIONAL SALES MANAGER** Dan Hannan  
216-363-7937 / [dhannan@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:dhannan@northcoastmedia.net)

**ACCOUNT MANAGER** Chloe Scoular  
216-363-7929 / [cscoular@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:cscoular@northcoastmedia.net)

**EXECUTIVE SALES ASSISTANT** Petra Turko  
216-706-3768 / [pturko@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:pturko@northcoastmedia.net)

**DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & EVENTS** Michelle Mitchell  
216-363-7922 / [mmitchell@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:mmitchell@northcoastmedia.net)

**MARKETING & EVENT MANAGER** Allison Blong  
216-363-7936 / [ablong@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:ablong@northcoastmedia.net)

**SR. MGR., PRODUCTION SERVICES** Rhonda Sande  
216-978-9778 / [rsande@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:rsande@northcoastmedia.net)

**SR. AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**  
Antoinette Sanchez-Perkins  
216-706-3750 / [asanchez-perkins@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:asanchez-perkins@northcoastmedia.net)

## MARKETING/MAGAZINE SERVICES

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## CORPORATE

**PRESIDENT & CEO** Kevin Stoltman

**VP OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS** Steve Galperin

**VP OF GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRODUCTION** Pete Seltzer

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Marty Whitford

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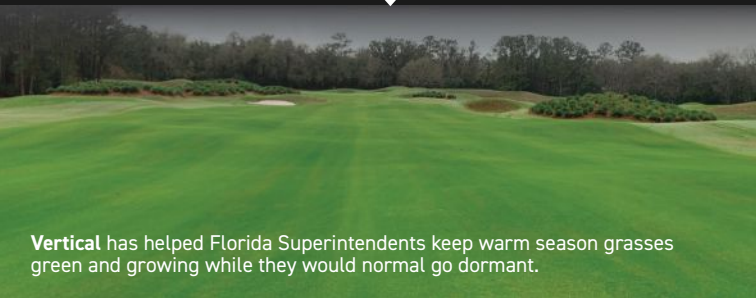


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“After that interview concluded, I called Mark up just to talk more to him about his memories of Torrey Pines and the 2008 U.S. Open.”

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

started the planning process to accommodate 100 people (staff and volunteers) for another day.”

**Mark missed most of the tournament from a spectator and television standpoint but was lucky enough to walk the last nine with Tiger and Rocco.** “Rocco was very cordial and nice, accommodating. Tiger was in his zone. He didn’t know there were 25,000 people on the course because he was so in the zone.”

**Woodward’s family got a close encounter with Tiger right before he won it.** “On the 90th hole, I’m behind the ninth green with Mike Davis and all the guys. Tiger Woods comes up to Mike, on the green, while the rest of us migrated to the seventh tee, the next playoff hole. Tiger and Davis are having a serious conversation, very close, face-to-face. I thought, ‘what the heck, did someone do something wrong?’ As soon as they stop talking, they call security over and took Tiger under the ropes right exactly where my whole family was standing. (My wife) Amy said his eyes were totally in the zone, steely focused. My daughter even had to move the stroller. He was straight ahead. Turns out, he had to use the restroom. He came back to seven tee, hits his drive down the middle, Rocco hits his in the left bunker. That’s how it ended.” 📍

Email Jones at:  
sjones@northcoastmedia.net.

# Tales from Torrey

**I** was discussing story ideas for *Golfdom* in 2021 with our Editor-at-Large Ed Hiscock when he gave me a lightning bolt of an idea. “Seth, *Golfdom* has an opportunity that no other magazine does — we have the 2008 U.S. Open superintendent (Mark Woodward) on our team. We could get the 2008 Torrey Pines U.S. Open superintendent to discuss the event with the 2021 Torrey Pines U.S. Open superintendent ...”

That great idea came to fruition recently when we arranged a Zoom call between Mark and Rich McIntosh, senior superintendent at Torrey Pines. An abridged version of their interview begins on page 14, and the complete interview is available at [Golfdom.com](http://Golfdom.com).

After that interview concluded, I called Mark up just to talk more to him about his memories of Torrey Pines and the 2008 U.S. Open. Here are some of the best bits from that discussion:

**Mark was surprised every time he got a follow-up call for the Torrey Pines job.** “I applied for it in May of 2004 ... I started the job in February

of 2005. I did a phone interview with a committee. Then I did an in-person interview. Then I met with two different committees. Every one of those steps was a month or more apart. I kept thinking, ‘well, they must be moving in a different direction.’ Then a month later I’d get a call, and they’d say, ‘we’re going forward with you to the next step ...”

**Mark had nine grievances filed against him during his three years at Torrey Pines.**

“I won every one of the grievances, but I had to take the time to go down to the Union Hall and explain to the union people why I was holding people accountable. You can’t just

mow fairways for three hours in the morning, and that’s your day, and I’m going to pay you for eight hours.”

**The crew didn’t think it would go to a Monday finish.** “We thought Tiger is going to miss that putt on Sunday to tie Rocco, it’s a downhill snaking 18-footer. We’ll go home and everyone’s going to say it was a great U.S. Open. Then he made it! And we all looked at each other and said ‘we gotta come back tomorrow now!’ I told my volunteers, I need enough people to prep the course. About half my volunteers said ‘there’s no way I’m leaving, I want to see this through because it’s so awesome!’ We instantly



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# Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



## // RULES RUNDOWN

# SHALL WE PLAY A GAME?

NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE CARD, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY SARAH WEBB // Managing Editor



It's been a minute since we sat in a Bingo parlor with Grandma, a thick cloud of cigarette smoke hovering overhead as a monotone voice called out letter and number, letter and number, until someone shouted, "Bingo!"

In this month's issue, we included a new spin on the old game, inspired by a superintendent and the mundane things golfers say to our readers day in, day out.

Superintendent Bingo, sponsored by Sipcarn Agro USA, was inspired by a Twitter post made by Jason Haines (@PenderSuper) when he asked his followers what would be some of the most common phrases they hear while working that they would include on a superintendent bingo card. The resulting conversation — and commiseration over some of the most overused phrases — inspired *Golfdom* to make the game a reality.

Now that annoying moment when a member of the crew drives past a par three and has someone from the foursome proudly point to his or her ball with a, "You should have put the pin there!" can be celebrated ... somewhat. Because after all, we have prizes.

The first 25 readers to post a Bingo (five squares covered in a row vertically, horizontally or diagonally for those of you unfamiliar with the game) on social media and tag @Golfdom and @SipcarnAgroTurf will win some gear from *Golfdom* and a free case of Karma from Sipcarn. The first blackout (all 25 squares covered) will receive \$1,000 in Sipcarn product credit for any enhanced turf quality product, Karma or Coastal. Re-

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## // 2 IN 1

# GOLF'S IMPACT IN COLORADO

The Colorado Golf Coalition in collaboration with the National Golf Foundation and Radius Sports Group has reported the direct economic impact from golf in Colorado was \$1.3 billion in 2019, while golf courses contributed approximately 33,061 acres of green infrastructure for wildlife habitat and improved quality of life.

The *Colorado Golf Economic & Environmental Impact Report* shows the industry generated more than an estimated \$2.0 billion (direct, indirect and induced) to the wider Colorado economy, with more than 19,400 jobs supported by the golf industry, \$696.5 million in wage income and more than \$166.5 million in state and local taxes. This compares favorably to \$4.8 billion and 46,113 jobs contributed by the Colorado snow sports industry in 2015.

Colorado golf's greenspace includes turfgrass and 11,855 acres of water, wetlands and native rough, which supports wildlife and pollinator habitats, cools the urban heat island, filters surface water runoff and contributes to health and well-being. The report's environmental highlights show water use of less than 1 percent of the state's annual water consumption, with approximately 97 percent of Colorado golf courses employing at least three or more water conservation measures. Consumer spend at golf facilities was reported to exceed \$639.3 million, and golf tourism contributed \$281.3 million to the economy, while facilities invested \$92 million in capital improvements.

## // NEW EDITOR IN TOWN

# GOLFDOM ADDS DIGITAL EDITOR

The *Golfdom* Staff has grown with the addition of Digital Editor Joey Ciccolini.



Joey Ciccolini

He comes to us from Kent State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism.

"We're excited that Joey has joined our talented staff, and we're looking forward to the contributions he'll make to our magazine," said *Golfdom* Editor-in-Chief Seth Jones.



PHOTO BY: WELGLAD / ISTOCK-GETTY IMAGES PLUS / GETTY IMAGES (GOLFBALL); GOLFDOM STAFF (BINGO CARD)





## //SEARCHING FOR SUPERS

# GGA Partners, USGA announce collaboration; GCSAA responds

**➔** The United States Golf Association (USGA) will join with GGA Partners (GGA), an international consulting firm, to launch a new service to place top-notch golf course superintendent candidates at facilities across North America.

As part of its suite of advisory services, GGA has long provided executive search services for facility clients. The collaboration will expand the company's offerings, with the USGA Green Section's agronomic and maintenance expertise serving as key factors in targeting the unique needs of each golf course and identifying superintendents with matching skills who can help facilities elevate playing conditions, improve course presentation and foster sustainable practices.

"For any golf facility, the ability to hire the right talent is crucial for long-term success, and we believe in creating and maintaining partnerships with facilities," said Patrick DeLozier, GGA's managing director of executive search. "The stakes are higher than ever for facilities looking to hire superintendents, and they are looking for candidates with a wide variety of skills."

The collaboration will allow the

USGA to expand its reach and enhance its ability to inform best management practices for golf course maintenance, including resource prioritization.

"GGA's values and business areas are strategically aligned with our mission," said Matt Pringle, managing director of the USGA Green Section. "With this new joint service, we can find the best match between the needs of the golf course and the skill set of their next superintendent, while providing ongoing support to deliver outstanding playing conditions and improved golfer satisfaction."



The collaboration seemed to have ruffled

some feathers among members of GCSAA, as the day after the announcement, GCSAA President Mark Jordan issued a statement on behalf of the association and its members. In part, it read:

"We have heard the many concerns that GCSAA members have voiced related to the recently announced partnership between the USGA and GGA Partners, and we have opened lines of communication with the USGA to share these concerns and to better understand everyone's perspectives on this offering. We have been encouraged by the USGA's willingness to discuss these matters ..."

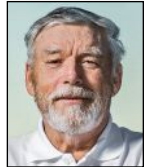
## //WE WANT MOORE

# JIM MOORE TO CONTRIBUTE TO GOLFDOM

Jim Moore, retired director of education and outreach for the USGA Green Section, will be joining *Golfdom's* talented lineup of blog contributors.

Moore made more than 1,000 consulting visits to golf courses in the U.S., Mexico and Germany. Now retired, he lives on the family farm in McGregor, Texas, where he keeps beehives and collects their honey in an operation they call Buzzard Honey, named for the buzzards that live nearby.

Be on the lookout for his insight on all things turfgrass and more at [Golfdom.com/category/blog](http://Golfdom.com/category/blog), and check out his family's story, "The Moores the Merrier" from our November 2020 issue.



Jim Moore

## //JOINING FORCES

# SINGLE PHASE POWER SOLUTIONS PARTNERS WITH CORNELL PUMPS

Single Phase Power Solutions (SPPS) has teamed up with Cornell Pumps.

The partnership will incorporate Cornell's pumps and pump monitoring systems with SPPS engineered pump systems that use the SPPS large horsepower single-phase Belle Motor. Availability of these proven pumping solutions enhances SPPS' capabilities to deliver higher horsepower, single-phase pump solutions for a wide range of industries and applications using readily available single-phase utility service.

According to the company, the new partnership with Cornell allows Single Phase Power Solutions to better design pump-and-motor combinations to suit site-specific needs, with no harmonics no reliability issues and no tuning required.

## //GOLFDOM WISDOM

"If the last square you need for a Superintendent Bingo blackout is 'Receive the June issue of *Golfdom*,' alert the crew that that issue could be worth \$1,000." #golfdomwisdom

## // 2 NEWBIES

### MCDONALD & SONS NAMES NEW NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ADDS TO DESIGN TEAM

McDonald & Sons has promoted Mike Tilleli from project manager to Northeast regional director.

Tilleli has successfully handled the company's New York metro area projects for several years. The company saw the necessity to align its management team with the regional coverage.

McDonald & Sons is a premier golf course builder in the U.S. and has been in business since 1984. McDonald & Sons has been a Certified Builder with the Golf Course Builders Association of America since 1990, as well as one of only 50 charter members.

McDonald Design Group has also added John Douglas, professional landscape architect, to the design team. Douglas brings with him a varied set of skills to an already established team.

## // GIVING BACK

### FMC donates \$25K to GCSAA chapters

➔ FMC Professional Solutions has distributed \$25,000 in total to Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) chapters across the country.

FMC Professional Solutions hosted a virtual booth at the 2021 Golf Industry Show (GIS), and GCSAA members were invited to play a game to accrue points for their chapters. The FMC Professional Solutions virtual booth featured the Kalida Fungicide Masterpiece Hunt game, which asked golf course superintendents to “find the difference” between two Mona Lisa-inspired golf course images. Each round was scored based on the correct difference being found and the time it

took to find it. With a virtual leaderboard updated in real-time, the top 30 chapters earned awards from \$250 to \$5,000.

The donation initiative was driven by FMC True Champions, a program launched in fall 2019. Superintendents can register, and FMC will track purchases of qualified products and submit their “give back” donation directly to their local GCSAA chapter. The post-GIS donations are a portion of FMC's 2021 pledge to local GCSAA chapters. Through August 2021, a percentage of all Fame SC Fungicide, Rayora Fungicide and Kalida Fungicide sales will be donated to local GCSAA chapters.

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member, golf is a game of integrity and honesty. We expect the same honoring of the rules, and fair play, in our inaugural Superintendent Bingo. A “find Jimmy Hoffa yet?” from last month does not count. However, the entire crew for a single 18-hole course can play on one card. (We’ll politely ask those facilities with multiple courses to play on a different card for each 18.)

Posting the card on the bulletin board in the pro shop is not only within the rules, but encouraged.

“*Golfdom* readers know that we have their best interest in mind, and maybe when golfers see this Bingo card, it will motivate them to come up with original material, or even better, to say thank you,” says Seth Jones, Editor-in-Chief, *Golfdom*. “Mostly, we want our readers to have fun with this. Their most stressful time of the year is quickly

approaching, so hopefully this Bingo game can give them a laugh when it’s most needed.”

Sam Wineinger, manager, T&O marketing & formulator business, Sipcam Agro, says he knew his company and its new product Karma would be a good match to sponsor the laidback game as soon as he saw it. Wineinger spent many seasons working on a grounds crew before his current gig, so he knows how often these phrases are uttered.

“The Bingo card is an outside-the-box fun approach to have a good time on the golf course,” Wineinger says. “Many of the quotes on the card are things I’ve absolutely heard from my days of working on the golf course. It gave me a few laughs and brought back some good memories. The first square players should (fill in) is try using Karma to control *Pythium*.”



## //STICK 'EM UP

# GOLFDOM STICKERS UP FOR GRABS

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**Matthew Herrmann**

@Herrmann\_GCS

Superintendent, Green Valley CC, Lafayette Hill, Pa.

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## Ask Thad

BY THAD THOMPSON

Superintendent

Terry Hills GC, Batavia, N.Y.



**What's the most off-the-wall idea you have tried at maintaining your course or a specific area? Did it work?**

— Allen, Blythewood, S.C.

When I got the superintendent job at Seneca Falls (NY) CC in 1999, I walked into an elderly irrigation system that was desperately in need of a total upgrade. We had quick couplers on galvanized swing joints down the middle of every fairway. I was going to show them and straighten them all! After breaking the first two woefully rusted swing joints, I quickly knew I needed a better solution. I used two threaded, nylon elbows, lubed up with Teflon pipe dope between the quick coupler key and the old Buckner impact sprinklers. I now had a very rudimentary swing joint that let me level every head, and because it was a few inches taller I am, it even increased the throw. It was genius for a few years until we replaced the system in 2004.

**What's the most mundane task that you just have to do, but that you and everyone on every team you have ever been on really dislikes?**

— Tim, Liberty, S.C.

This should be an easy question, but it's complicated. I could say collecting garbage, but I get to see the course as a whole. I could say changing cups, but I get to inspect the greens. I could say a disaster like a larger irrigation break, but to see how the team comes together in an emergency is a great bonding and team unity experience. Aeration? Leaf cleanup? Bunker edging? Still all team efforts that make you proud at the end of the day. I have a hard time picking something that's considered mundane because even the smallest jobs contribute to the overall product at the end of the day. If I had to pick one though, it might be punching out at the end of the day.

Got a question for Thad? Tweet to @TerryHillsMaint and @Golfdom or email Thad at [thadthompson@terryhills.com](mailto:thadthompson@terryhills.com)



“I have been lucky in my career as a superintendent to have always had a trusted co-pilot — an assistant who is an extension of myself, ready to take over if need be.”

**ALAN FITZGERALD**, *superintendent,*  
*LedgeRock GC, Mohnton, Pa.*

## No solo flying here

**E**ver since I was a child, I have been fascinated by airplanes and flying. My first flight in 1989 was on a 1960s era Soviet airliner on a school trip to (at the time) Communist Russia. I vividly remember landing in one of the most horrendous storms imaginable and, on the way home on Aeroflots “modern” airliner, how the outside jet was wiggling on the wing. I did not think much about it until we landed, and the mechanics were on it before the airplane door opened. Needless to say, I was happy that I wasn’t proceeding on to Cuba in it.

Like anyone who has flown quite a bit, I have my flying stories, including ending up on an Aer Lingus 747 going to JFK when I was supposed to be on a Ryanair flight to London, or the time in Philly in a huge snowstorm, where the deicing crane collapsed and broke the wingtip off of the airplane. The pilot’s “It’s OK folks, they bump us all the time; we’ll be in the air soon” was not reassuring as we watched jet fuel pour onto the runway ...

At some point, possibly driven by these experiences, I became really interested in the science and engineering

behind air crash investigations. The one thing that surprises me is how many times human error is a major factor in a crash, either directly or as part of a sequence of events where if any one piece was missing, the crash would not have happened. It provides an interesting perspective on people and the decisions they make, which can be transferred to the real world and everyday life. Outside of the cockpit, there might be the mechanic who cuts a corner to make his job easier or forgets to tighten something or the air traffic controller who missed something and put

two planes in the same place.

Inside the cockpit, a breakdown in communication between the pilots is where most issues occur. The reason there are two pilots is that one checks the other, but that only works when the communication lines are open. Crew resource management ensures that if the captain makes a mistake, the co-pilot must be confident and comfortable enough to correct it, instead of just relying on the hierarchy of the positions. Maybe one of the pilots is tired and makes a simple miscalculation on fuel load. Maybe it is a fault, but pure panic takes over and

they freeze, or it could be as simple as completion syndrome, where the pilots focus on some simple mundane issue and forget to actually fly the plane.

I have been lucky in my career as a superintendent to have always had a trusted co-pilot — an assistant who is an extension of myself, ready to take over if need be, someone I can trust to bounce ideas off of and most important, one who is not afraid to correct me on those occasions when I get a little too excited or have completion syndrome where I just have to get it done, even if it’s not the right thing to do.

Just like a cockpit’s resource management, it only works with mutual respect and when it is clearly defined who is in charge and there are no conflicting decisions. The industry has changed over the years with assistants staying in jobs longer. Personally, I feel this is a good thing, not only for superintendents — who can take some pressure off themselves by having someone trustworthy to hand the reins to when they are not there — but also for the club to know it is being guided by a team rather than an individual.

Hopefully, I have not scared anyone from flying, but just as the co-pilot sits in the right seat, your assistant is your right-hand (wo)man and is there to always back you up. 🇨

Alan FitzGerald ([alan@ledgerockgolf.com](mailto:alan@ledgerockgolf.com)) is superintendent at LedgeRock GC in Mohnton, Pa.




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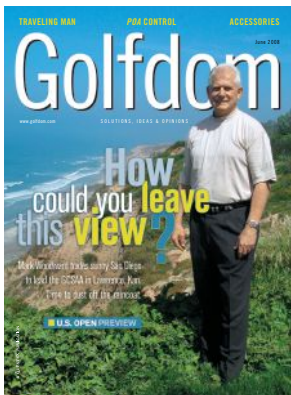
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# Then and now

BY MARK WOODWARD

2008 Torrey Pines U.S. Open superintendent Mark Woodward rings up 2021 Torrey Pines U.S. Open superintendent Rich McIntosh — and we listen in



Mark Woodward, CGCS, featured on the cover of the June 2008 U.S. Open preview issue.

**T**he 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, pitting Rocco Mediate against Tiger Woods in an 18-hole Monday playoff, remains one of the most exciting U.S. Opens ever. Next month, the U.S. Open returns to San Diego and the site of that legendary tournament.

The man at the helm of course conditions then was *Golfdom* Contributing Editor Mark Woodward, CGCS. How great would it be to ask Woodward to ring up the course's current superintendent, Rich McIntosh, to discuss the 2021 U.S. Open?

That's exactly what we did. Here's what the one-time and soon-to-be Torrey Pines U.S. Open superintendents talked about.

**Mark Woodward:** I've been thinking about you a lot lately, Rich, because the U.S. Open is coming up. How are you doing?

**Rich McIntosh:** (As of late April), we're in a real good position. My biggest problem is trying to be patient. We're still cold outside. Our rough is still an inch-and-a-half. We're trying to expose as much kikuyu as possible to get it moving. It'll be a hodgepodge of rye and kikuyu, but I want it to look as much like a monostand, a uniform mix of kikuyu and ryegrass throughout the property.

**Woodward:** Will the graduated rough be back?

**McIntosh:** A little bit, but nowhere near the extent that it was when you were here. Mainly on the par fours, a little bit of graduated rough. Intermediate, primary and secondary — three different heights.

**Woodward:** How's your staffing? When I was there, I dealt with two or three unions, and

we had 105 volunteers coming in.

**McIntosh:** Things haven't changed, but a lot of the work you did in 2008 helped pave the way. The city knows what is coming. We're trying to follow the blueprint from the Farmers (Insurance Open) as well as the 2008 U.S. Open. We're bringing in 70 to 75 volunteers. It's been difficult with the pandemic; we've been short-staffed and under a hiring freeze. If we need to, we can pull from the other city courses.

**Woodward:** It brings back memories. I tell people it was the best three years of my career and the worst three years of my career. I was trying to write a business plan, I was preparing for the U.S. Open, I was dealing with staffing issues ... it was a political nightmare. Along the way, I had my life threatened over golf, I raised fees by \$2 ...

**McIntosh:** We're still hearing about you raising the rates! I don't think that will ever go away. 'Back when I used to play, it only cost ...' Well, it's a different product now, too.

**Woodward:** Day in and day out, Torrey Pines should get that kind of money because people want to play there; they want to walk in Tiger Woods' footprints.

**McIntosh:** And it's a sustainable business model. We are able to operate on our own with the revenue we generate, and we can put some money away for capital improvement projects, so we can continue to improve the golf course.

**Woodward:** Are you using the back tees on No. 13?

**McIntosh:** Oh yeah, we use it for the Farmers. The renovation we did in 2019, mainly for infrastructure and upgrading bunkers, a new

*Continued on page 16*

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**Rich McIntosh's path to the 2021 U.S. Open**

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## // TALKING TORREY



Continued from page 14

irrigation system — just modernizing the golf course for the next 20 years — allowed Rees (Jones) to come in and make some tweaks. We actually put another tee in behind the pro tees on No. 15. It can be a 517-yard par four now.

**Woodward:** Tell me about the turf types. Are you still primarily *Poa annua* on the greens?

**McIntosh:** *Poa annua* on the South; during the redo of the North in '16, they did go to bentgrass greens. You know, this is the perfect climate for growing *Poa annua* greens.

**Woodward:** Those are temporary bentgrass greens.

**McIntosh:** We're still fighting it. I'll fight it to the last day I'm here because I'm stubborn. We regrassed tees and approaches, kept them bermuda for consistency and firmness. I went with Latitude 36, a little more tolerance to cool weather. We've seen great benefits, and it's an easier transition than the old 419 was. It's been a really good grass for us. Still pure kikuyu fairways and kikuyu rough.

**Woodward:** When I was at Torrey Pines, I told people, 'I grow three weeds for a living, kikuyugrass, *Poa annua* and eucalyptus trees.' There was kikuyugrass in the parking lot growing up through a handicapped parking pole, 8 feet up in the air. And then, we were mowing fairways at a half-inch. The adaptability of that grass is amazing.

**McIntosh:** It can be the most invasive grass ... Pat Gross (retired USGA agronomist) says kikuyugrass is a coward. It's strong and mighty when it grows where you don't want it to ... then you put it under stress, and it runs away and hides.

**Woodward:** The trees were a huge issue. We had trees shading greens, 100-foot eucalyptus trees.

**McIntosh:** A lot of trees have come down in the last 10 years. There were some storms that came through. My first Farmers here, play was suspended on Sunday due to high winds. We had 70- to 90-mile-per-hour sustained winds. I drove out of the shop, there was a euc down there, a euc down there ... there were 30 to

Continued on page 18



Woodward (left) and Jon Maddern, CGCS, teamed up to take on the 2008 U.S. Open conditions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WOODWARD





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In 2008, the USGA had four heights of cut of rough. The 2021 rough will be less complex.

*Continued from page 16*

40 trees uprooted. That and we've been hit really hard by the pine bark beetle. It's taken a lot of Torreys out. Not just the beetle, but also they're at the end of their life — they were planted when the course was built. They only live 60 to 70 years.

**Woodward:** Turf and trees don't always go together.

**Listen to the complete interview**

We didn't have enough space for the entirety of Mark's interview with Rich, but the complete interview is available in podcast form on [Golfdom.com](http://Golfdom.com). Some of the things the two talk about include:

- McIntosh's aggressive topdressing program to get dense kikuyu
- Details of specific tweaks Torrey Pines has seen in recent years
- Why Woodward thought he was going to get fired seven months before the '08 U.S. Open

**McIntosh:** Especially eucalyptus trees. It'll be a perfectly calm day, and you'll see a 12-, 14-inch diameter limb just drop because the tree decided it was too heavy. You're right, eucs are a weed.

**Woodward:** They should be outlawed — that's just one man's opinion!

I've been thinking about you Rich for a long time. When Seth (Jones) set this up, I was excited. I wanted to hear where you're at and how you're doing. One of the only U.S. Opens I haven't watched in my whole life was the 2008 U.S. Open because you're so busy. Enjoy it. Go out there and see what's going on. You know how hard

your staff worked. Your mentors are coming in. They're going to see the finished product. Make sure you enjoy it because once it's over, it's done. I wish you all the luck in the world.

**McIntosh:** I'm most excited for all the volunteers coming out, my mentors coming out the week prior and seeing the product... and then all the hard work that our staff has put in, to enjoy tournament week and the results of the hard work. It's everything we've been working toward since I got here. 🙌

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WOODWARD

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“Green side up!”

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“Thought you were the beer cart!”

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“You must golf all the time!”

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“The greens are too \_\_\_\_\_!”

“Find Jimmy Hoffa yet?”

Receive June issue of *Golfdom*

“Tearing up my greens again?”

“Digging to China?”

“It’s safer to stand on the fairway!”

“Can you call the beer cart for us?”

“Sorry I didn’t yell fore.”

“The bunkers are too \_\_\_\_\_!”

“Is the guy changing cups angry?”

“Thank you.”

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# Helping hands

**W**hen a family friend visited the Weinert household nearly a decade ago declaring that Tom and Paula Weinert would make great foster parents, Paula replied, “Yeah, if God would drop a baby in our lap.”

Four adoptions, dozens of foster children and one charitable organization later, Paula had no idea how true her words would come to be.

## How it began

It all started in November 2012 when Paula’s brother called her asking if she’d be open to taking in then-six-week-old Kyra, Paula’s great-niece.

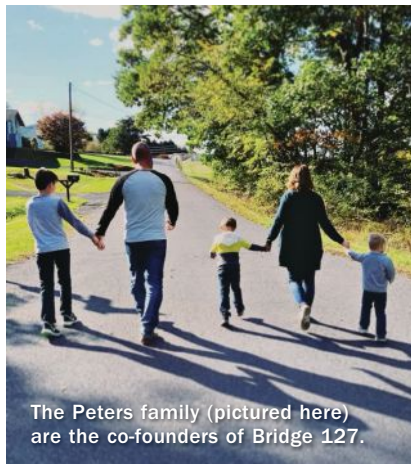
“We didn’t even know her name at the time,” recalls Tom Weinert, who is the vice president of sales at The Plant Food Co., based in Cranbury, N.J. “We knew that they had a baby, but we didn’t really know of her. When her brother called, my wife didn’t hesitate. She goes, ‘Well, I’m bringing home a baby.’”

The Weinerts also have four biological children; the youngest is now 20 and the oldest 31.

After taking Kyra in, the Weinerts registered for fostering classes, and within a week of becoming certified, the phone started ringing — and it hasn’t stopped since. Several of the children had come from abusive homes, and one child was born on the street, swaddled in rags his mother had bought from a Dollar General store to clean him up.

In the span of about nine-and-a-half years, close to 20 children have come through the Weinert home, some staying for a single night, others for up to 18 months and still others for good. The Wein-

A family opens their home to foster children; the golf industry gives them the shirts off their backs



The Peters family (pictured here) are the co-founders of Bridge 127.

BY SARAH WEBB

erts’ four adopted children include Kyra (9), Sam (8), Kalli Grace (5) and Zayn (3).

“You hear so many horror stories about fostering, and I want to be a positive spot for kids, for parents, for people thinking about fostering,” Tom Weinert says. “We are supposed to be taking care of the people who are less fortunate. I’ve been very blessed to watch these kids grow. I think we’ve needed these kids more in our lives than they needed us in their life.”

## Bridging the gap

As if fostering 20-plus children wasn’t enough, the Weinerts created a charitable organization in 2020 called Bridge 127, designed to help bridge the gap for foster youth and those aging out of foster care by providing them with resources that will ease transitions and improve their living conditions.

The name of the organization is inspired from a Bible verse, James 1:27, that reads, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to constantly work alongside and for orphans and widows in their affliction.”

The idea came to the Weinerts after so many of the children they’d fostered came to them with nothing but a black Hefty garbage bag full of their belongings. Fellow foster parents Jim and Jessica Peters and several youth caseworkers helped establish the organization.

“Most of the time, we take the stuff and throw it out, because it would be dirty and they’d be coming from really bad situations,” Tom Weinert says. “Bridge 127 is about just trying to step into their lives and make them feel special for a couple

*Continued on page 22*



Left: The Weinerts' four adopted children: (from left): Zayn (3), Kalli Grace (5), Kyra (9) and Sam (8). Right: Clothing and shoes that have been donated to Bridge 127.



longtime friend of Tom.

"I've known Tom forever; he's been in the fertilizer business forever. Every time

I talk to him, he's got a new kid," Currier chuckles. "He was telling my wife and me over dinner one night about how they were starting to collect clothes for Bridge 127."

Upon hearing about the organization, Currier called on a few friends and sought out the help and contributions of staff and members of his golf club.

"I haven't even tapped the whole of it

yet — even at the club here, there are so many people who would donate that stuff," Currier says. "Everyone is always looking to help someone. It's incredible how much stuff everyone comes up with. Everyone wants to see that go to a good cause."

In addition to pitching in carloads of clothing, Currier decided to donate the proceeds of The Cody Classic to Bridge 127. The annual tournament in memorial of longtime superintendent Richard Spear is named after Spear's beloved labrador who died several months after Spear in a house

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WEINERT FAMILY

Continued from page 21 of moments."

Golf is well known to be a charitable game, so it's no surprise that when the efforts of the Weinerts with Bridge 127 became known in the industry, the industry wanted to offer a helping hand.

Enter Craig Currier, superintendent of Glen Oaks Club on Long Island, N.Y., and



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**Craig Kight**, Superintendent, Eagle Brook Country Club & Regional Superintendent, Arcis Golf, Geneva, IL

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fire. It's put on in November with the help of the Met PGA Foundation in New York.

"Richard Spear was a longtime superintendent here on Long Island (at Piping Rock)," Currier says. "He was a good friend and my mentor who passed away unexpectedly (in 2016). We've been doing that and raising money every year since 2017. We're just trying to find some good causes to keep his name and memory going."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament wasn't held in 2020, but through donations, The Richard Spear Memorial Fund still managed to write a check of \$15,000 to Bridge 127.

"It hits home when he tells you all the kids' stories. If you don't have any compassion for that, I'm not sure what to do," Currier says. "It takes a special person to do what Tom does. I'm happy to help him in any way that I can, and it seems like all



The Cody Classic, an annual tournament held in memorial of longtime superintendent Richard Spear, helps raise funds for charitable organizations.

the guys in the golf community are too."

### Getting the word out

When asked about all the good he and his wife have brought to so many children, Tom Weinert shies away from taking credit for any of it — fostering kids, ad-

vocating for them, building a charitable organization on their behalf.

"My goal is to create awareness," he says. "If we find just one more good home for a kid to land safely ... it was all worth it." ©

For more information on Bridge 127 and to learn how you can donate, visit [Bridge127.org](http://Bridge127.org).

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG CURRIER

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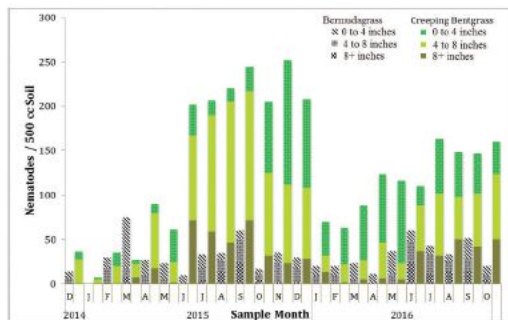
// **EASE THE STING**

## STING NEMATODE DISTRIBUTION IN PUTTING GREEN ROOT ZONES

By Mike Kenna, Ph.D.

**S**tung nematodes are very destructive microscopic pests that feed on turfgrass roots. There are limitations to chemical control strategies for managing sting nematodes. Chemicals are only effective if they come in contact with the nematodes. At North Carolina State University, Jim Kerns, Ph.D., and his graduate student Glen Galle observed sting nematodes' annual behavior to improve chemical application timing.

The scientists determined the vertical distribution of nematodes in greens throughout the year. They conducted golf course trials on L-93 creeping bentgrass and Champion bermudagrass greens. Sting nematodes reach their highest numbers in late summer on



Turfgrass researchers at North Carolina State University study the distribution of sting nematodes in bermudagrass and creeping bentgrass rootzones.

They were in the top 4 inches of the soil in the spring and the middle 4 inches during the summer. A similar trend occurred in 2016, although nematodes were throughout the 12-inch root zone during the summer. In the summer, bermudagrass had an even distribution of nematodes throughout the 12-inch root zone. The presence of nematodes is beyond the typical rooting depth of both turfgrasses.

In both turfgrass species, the winter months show most of the nematodes in the soil's top 4 inches. This indicates that feeding may be occurring on both grass species. During winter, bermudagrass is dormant, and bentgrass is slow to produce new roots. A fall nematicide application could further protect vulnerable turfgrass roots from nematode feeding. ©

**Reference**

Galle, Glenn, and Jim Kerns. 2017. Comparative control methodology of *Belonolaimus longicaudatus* and *Meloidogyne* species on golf course putting greens. USGA Green Section Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program: 2017 Research Summaries. p. 265-268. <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/ressum/2017/265.pdf>

both grass species (see Figure 1), but differences in nematode population growth vary among the grass species. Sting nematodes started to increase in March or April on creeping bentgrass. On bermudagrass putting greens, they increased in late April and May. So, chemical application timing is dependent on the putting green turfgrass species used.

An unanticipated result is nematode location in bentgrass



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

**NEWS UPDATES**

**PRIME SOURCE HIRES NEW SE TERRITORY MANAGER**

Prime Source, a division of Albaugh, has hired Jeremy Moore as its new southeast territory manager.

"We are pleased to announce that Jeremy will be joining our sales team and will be assuming the territory



**Jeremy Moore**

responsibilities from Justin Watts, who will now be focusing full time on his role as national sales manager," said Russ Mitchell, director – specialty of Prime Source.

Moore brings more than 20 years

of experience in the turf and ornamental industry. He started his career with TruGreen and followed that at Scott's Lawncare, both in sales. Moore joined Quali-Pro in 2007, which later became part of Control Solutions.

Moore worked in various roles during his tenure with the company, including head of customer service, southeast territory manager and national key accounts manager. Moore graduated with a bachelor's degree in ag business from North Carolina State University. Moore will be based in North Carolina.

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**Paul Koch, Ph.D., and Kurt Hockemeyer**  
(see story on page 25)



## //RESIST THE RESISTANCE

# Preventive fungicide applications for dollar spot control on creeping bentgrass fairways

By Paul Koch, Ph.D., and Kurt Hockemeyer

Fungicides often are required for the successful management of dollar spot (*Clarireedia* spp.). However, it is essential to note that repeated use of similar active ingredients can lead to dollar spot-resistant populations.

During the summer of 2019, we evaluated several fungicide products and combinations at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Madison, Wis. (Table 1). The experiment was on a creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* Pennncross) fairway maintained at 0.5 inch and grown on a native silt loam root zone. Individual plots measured 3 feet by 5 feet and were arranged in a randomized complete block design with four replications.

Treatments were applied at a nozzle pressure of 40 psi using a CO<sub>2</sub>-pressurized boom sprayer equipped

## Research Takeaways

- All of the treatments provided some level of control relative to the nontreated plot.
- None of the treatments were phytotoxic to creeping bentgrass maintained as a golf course fairway.
- Twelve of the 21 treatments provided effective season-long dollar spot control (less than five spots per plot).
- Recently released Posterity, Xzemplar, Maxtima and the combination product Traction provided effective dollar spot control.

with two XR TeeJet AI8004VS nozzles. Fungicides were agitated by hand and applied in the equivalent of 1.5 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet. All treatments were initiated on May 20, and subsequent applications were made at 14-, 21-, 28-, or 35-day intervals.

The experimental area was not inoculated. The number of dollar

spot infection centers per plot were counted every other week from June until early September. Treatment means were subjected to analysis of variance and separated using the Fisher's Least Significant Difference method ( $P = 0.05$ ).

The Aug. 21 rating date had the highest disease pressure of the season, and every treatment except for one reduced disease relative to the nontreated control on this date (Table 2). We did not observe phytotoxicity with any treatment (data not shown).

A total of 12 of the 21 treatments provided effective dollar spot control (< 5 spots per plot) on the Aug. 21 date, including recently released products from the succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI) class such as Posterity and Xzemplar, the demethylation inhibitor (DMI) class such as Maxtima

Continued on page 27

FIGURE 1



Recently released Posterity, Xzemplar and Maxtima provided effective dollar spot control.



**TABLE 1**

**Product name, the common name of the active ingredient, company and FRAC code for fungicides tested**

Product	Common name	Company	FRAC code*
Ambient Plus	Pigment	Simplot	NC
Banner Maxx	Propiconazole	Syngenta	3
Daconil Action	Chlorothalonil + Acibenzolar-S-methyl	Syngenta	M5 + P1
DuraPhite	Phosphorous acid	Simplot	33
Emerald	Boscalid	BASF Corporation	7
Extreme Green 20	Iron sulfate	Simplot	NC
Heritage Action	Azoxystrobin + Acibenzolar-S-methyl	Syngenta	11 + P1
Honor	Boscalid + Pyraclostrobin	BASF Corporation	33 + 11
Maxtima	Mefentrifluconazole	BASF Corporation	3
Navicon	Mefentrifluconazole + fluxapyroxad	BASF Corporation	3 + 7
Posterity	Pydiflumetofen	Syngenta Syngenta	7
Primo Maxx	Trinexapac-ethyl	Syngenta	NC
Secure Action	Fluazinam + Acibenzolar-S-methyl	Nufarm Americas Inc.	29 + P1
Torque Traction	Tebuconazole + Fluazinam	Nufarm Americas Inc.	3 + 29
Xzemplar	Fluxapyroxad	BASF Corporation	7

\* FRAC codes indicate the biochemical mode of action, according to the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee ([www.frac.info](http://www.frac.info)). M5 indicates multisite inhibitor, and P1 represents a plant defence-inducing product. NC, not classified.

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**TABLE 2**

**Fungicide treatments, combinations and timing for dollar spot control**

Treatment, formulation and rate per 1,000 sq. ft.	Application code <sup>2</sup>	Dollar spot infection centers per plot <sup>1</sup>		
		June 26	July 25	August 21
Posterity 1.67SC 0.1 fl oz	BDFHJLN	0.0 g	0.0 g	0.0 h
Posterity 1.67SC 0.16 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	0.0 fg	0.0 h
Posterity 1.67SC 0.21 fl oz	BFJN	0.0 g	0.0 g	0.0 h
Posterity 1.67SC 0.16 fl oz	B			
Primo Maxx 1.0EC 0.25 fl oz	B			
Secure Action 4.18SC 0.5 fl oz	E			
Primo Maxx 1.0EC 0.25 fl oz	E			
Posterity 1.67SC 0.16 fl oz	H			
Heritage Action 51WG 0.2 oz	H	0.0 g	0.0 g	0.0 h
Primo Maxx 1.0EC 0.25 fl oz	H			
Secure Action 4.18SC 0.5 fl oz	K			
Primo Maxx 1.0EC 0.25 fl oz	K			
Posterity 1.67SC 0.16 fl oz	N			
Daconil Action 6.11SC 2.0 fl oz	N			
Primo Maxx 1.0EC 0.25 fl oz	N			
Maxtima 3.34SC 0.2 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	1.0 fg	15.8 e-h
Maxtima 3.34SC 0.4 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	2.8 c-g	2.8 fgh
Xzemplar 2.47SC 0.26 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	0.5 fg	0.0 h
Emerald 70WG 0.18 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	1.8 d-g	4.3 e-h
Banner Maxx 1.3EC 1.0 fl oz	BEHKN	1.0 g	7.8 bc	16.8 e-h
Torque 3.6SC 0.6 fl oz	BEHKN	29.3 abc	2.3 c-g	31.5 d-h
Navicon 3.34SC 0.85 fl oz	BEHKN	6.3 efg	0.3 fg	2.8 fgh
Honor 0.28SC 1.1 oz	BEHKN	39.8 a	7.0 b-e	2.5 gh
DuraPhite <sup>®</sup> 3.0 fl oz + Extreme Green 20 <sup>®</sup> 3.0 oz + Ambient Plus <sup>®</sup> 0.37 fl oz	BDFHJLN	12.5 c-g	2.8 c-g	94.5 b
DuraPhite <sup>®</sup> 6.0 fl oz + Extreme Green 20 <sup>®</sup> 6.0 oz + Ambient Plus <sup>®</sup> 0.37 fl oz	BDFHJLN	6.5 efg	1.3 efg	73.8 bc
DuraPhite <sup>®</sup> 3.0 fl oz + MoCa 5-0-5 <sup>®</sup> 3.0 oz + Ambient Plus <sup>®</sup> 0.37 fl oz	BDFHJLN	12.5 c-g	8.0 bc	129.0 a
DuraPhite <sup>®</sup> 6.0 fl oz + Extreme Green 20 <sup>®</sup> 6.0 oz + Daconil WeatherStik 6.0SC 2.0 fl oz	BEHKN	25.5 a-d	6.0 b-f	53.3 cd
DuraPhite <sup>®</sup> 3.0 fl oz + Extreme Green 20 <sup>®</sup> 3.0 oz + Ambient Plus <sup>®</sup> 0.37 fl oz	BEHKN	23.3 a-f	8.8 ab	62.0 bcd
Traction 3.24SC 1.3 fl oz	BDFHJLN	0.0 g	0.0 g	0.0 h
Traction 3.24SC 1.3 fl oz	BEHKN	0.0 g	0.0 efg	0.0 h
Xzemplar 2.47SC 0.26 fl oz	BFJN	0.0 g	0.0 g	0.0 h
Nontreated Control	—	12.5 c-g	7.5 bcd	141.5 a
	LSD P = 0.05	18.33	5.97	34.23

<sup>1</sup> Application Code B = May 20, C = May 28, D = June 4, E = June 11, F = June 18, G = June 25, H = July 2, I = July 10, J = July 16, K = July 24, L = July 30, N = August 13, O = August 21.

<sup>2</sup> Means followed by the same letter do not significantly differ according to the Fisher's LSD test (P = 0.05).

<sup>3</sup> DuraPhite 12 is a combination of potassium phosphite (12 percent K<sub>2</sub>O) and manganese phosphite (2 percent Mn)


<sup>4</sup> Extreme Green 20 is derived from ferrous sulfate heptahydrate and contains 12 percent sulfur and 20 percent iron

<sup>5</sup> Ambient Plus is a turf color enhancer and has no known effects on dollar spot severity

<sup>6</sup> MoCa 5-0-5 contains Ca (1.0 percent), Cu (0.05 percent), Fe (0.1 percent), Mn (0.05 percent), Mo (0.0005 percent), and Zn (0.05 percent).

Continued from page 25 and products containing mixtures of active ingredients like Traction.

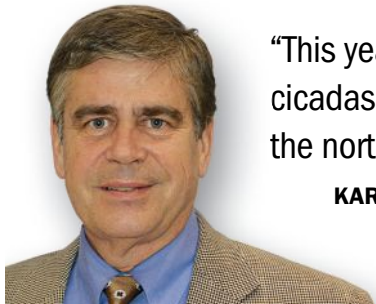
There are several excellent options for dollar spot control on bentgrass fairways. Using a combination of products with

different modes of action will prolong their usefulness by preventing pathogen-resistant strains. 

Paul Koch, Ph.D., and Kurt Hockemeyer are at the University of Wisconsin. Contact Koch via email at [plkoch@wisc.edu](mailto:plkoch@wisc.edu).

**Reference**

Adapted from *Plant Disease Management Reports*, Volume 14, March 9, 2020



“This year, the 17th-year periodical cicadas will return to large areas of the northeastern United States.”

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

## Spring invasion

**I**n late spring of 2004, I was a spectator at a PGA Tour event. I remember standing around the 11th green when the marshals raised their hands to quiet the crowd in response to a golfer getting set to hit his shot. What occurred at that moment was a deafening humming sound from the surrounding trees. Adding to the constant noise was the occasional shriek from a spectator being hit by a small flying object. It was apparent that millions of these periodical cicadas had little respect for marshals.

This spring, the 17th-year periodical cicadas will return to large areas of the northeastern United States. Periodical cicadas do not cause turf or landscape damage and go unnoticed for 16 of the 17 years. They spend almost their entire life underground feeding on the juices of plant roots, mostly deciduous tree roots. Feeding occurs to a depth of 2 feet.

As time progresses, the leadup year (16th) sees increased feeding by nymphs. This feeding does not cause long-term damage to the plants. It has been noted that mole activity increases as the 17th year approaches due to the increasing nymph activity. The year following periodical cicada emergence, mole activity falls off, most likely due to the lack of nymphs.

This spring, the 17th year of the cicada life cycle, the nymphs will emerge when soil temperatures reach 64 degrees F. The density at which the nymphs emerge can be as high as 40 per square foot in a highly synchronized fashion. Given the highly

synchronized emergence of periodical cicada, which is unique to only a few species out of 3,000 species, the one-year life cycle is a biological wonder. Upon emergence, the nymphs quickly climb nearby vegetation where they molt and wait for a week in the trees for their exoskeleton to harden.

Given that the periodical cicada does not cause turf damage, I asked David Shetlar, Ph.D., professor emeritus, about the main concerns with periodical cicadas in turf.

*“There are times that the cicadas can be really annoying, especially to golfers. After the cicadas have first emerged, they tend to do a lot of flying back and forth to find mates and places to lay eggs. They are pretty clumsy flyers, so they tend to run into golfers and spectators, and, being relatively heavy, it can be a good thump when one runs into you.”*

In a recent study, researchers found that the chitin level in the wings of a periodical cicada is considerably higher than a locust (the cicada is not a

locust). The heavier wings are believed to be a possible cause of the clumsiness in the flight and abruptness of when cicadas crash into a golfer.

Periodical cicadas males mostly cluster in what are known as chorus trees. The males make their mating sound by contracting or pulling their tymbals (ribs) in, causing a clicking sound. When they release the ribs, another clicking sound is made. The accumulative sound generated from these trees can reach 100 dba.

From an annoyance perspective, the periodical cicadas are attracted to the sound of mowers and power tools and will land on the operators. From a maintenance perspective, the periodical cicada is less active early in the morning or at dusk. Maintenance operations should be targeted toward these times of the day.

The emergence of the periodical cicada occurs for only one purpose: to mate. The females will create small slits into twigs or branches where they will lay their eggs. The eggs hatch, and the nymphs drop to the ground and burrow down into the soil to begin their 17-year (or 13-year, depending on the species) life cycle.

On a closing note, Shetlar passed on to me the most common question asked of him regarding the periodical cicada. Dogs and cats like to eat periodical cicada. Oftentimes, the pets will throw up a mass of chewed up black and orange cicada remains. Cicadas are not poisonous and can be eaten, but if pets eat too many of them at one time, they often end up regurgitating them to make room in their stomachs.

This year, I plan on returning to that PGA Tour event, if allowed, but I will be packing ear plugs and ducking down each time the marshals raise their hands. **G**

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





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**Checking an irrigation system** in springtime helps ensure the system is working properly and efficiently the entire season.

# Spring irrigation 101

A key to restarting an irrigation system, according to Brent Harvey, principal of Brent Harvey Consulting in San Diego, Calif., is to physically visit and turn on every sprinkler head.

“Compare every sprinkler to the map, make sure that it’s functioning correctly, that the arc is adjusted properly and that it’s clear of debris and it opens and closes correctly,” says Harvey, who specializes in the Southwest region. “When guys don’t have the labor or don’t have the time and don’t do it, it really shows.”

Harvey adds that superintendents should compare the characteristics of each sprinkler with the control system database at the central control computer and check that mainline gate valves and lateral isolation valves are all working properly.

“The databases are supposed to be making automatic daily adjustments to evapotranspiration rates, but if the data in the database isn’t perfect, then you’re not irrigating your golf course properly,” he says.

Spring is also a great time to update the map because, according to Harvey, a golf course is alive and changing every day.

“If you don’t maintain the accuracy of your as-builts or construction record drawings, then those drawings become obsolete,” he says. “The longer you wait between updating those, the worse they get.”

Harvey says it’s best to perform this work before the summer season hits because the turf stresses quickly where it’s hot. Overall, Harvey says putting in the work to ensure the system is working properly is well worth it in the end.

“You need to maximize the efficiency or the distribution uniformity because that means you’re putting water down evenly, which means you’re able to maintain the golf course at the moisture level that you want,” Harvey says. “It’s also true that if you’re putting down water evenly, then you can have a more uniform turf condition, which means your members are happier.” ©

PHOTO BY: HUNTER INDUSTRIES



## Ecologel Solutions

**JIM SPINDLER, CPAG, CCA CSS**

Director of agronomy



Perform an irrigation water suitability test and a soil test to check for water chemistry issues that can affect water penetration, moisture availability and plant health. The presence of high sodium or bicarbonates can break down soil structure, sealing it off and preventing water infiltration. When sodium salt is present, the use of a highly soluble calcium source can remedy buildup and improve soil structure for better water and nutrient movement. For bicarbonate issues, use an acid-forming product to break down bicarbonates. To maximize water efficiency, apply a hygroscopic humectant chemistry. Hygroscopic humectants attract soil moisture vapor and condense it into plant usable water droplets. This is used to mitigate drought stress for seasonally dry areas, reduce overall watering and hand-watering requirements and mask inefficiencies in irrigation coverage.

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Product marketing manager – golf



First, check the strength of electrical connections to each rotor and investigate any poor signal situations to prevent communication issues. It's best to do this a few weeks in advance of when you need to start irrigating in case you need to repair anything. Then, before pressurizing the system, make sure all rotors are level and flush with the playing surface to maximize efficiency and distribution uniformity. When you're ready to turn the system back on, it's important to start pressurizing it as slowly as possible and make sure you adequately evacuate air in the lines to avoid damaging your pipes and rotors. Once you're up and running again, conducting a distribution uniformity audit is a great way to ensure your system is performing at its best.

For more insight from additional irrigation experts, visit [Golfdom.com](http://Golfdom.com)



# Contending with the ABW

TIPS ON HOW TO SCOUT AND MANAGE ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVILS

By Sarah Webb

**T**he annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) typically overwinters in the woods, and after spring thaw, the pests start migrating out toward turf areas that have a lot of *Poa annua*, according to Ian Rodriguez, Ph.D., technical services manager for Quali-Pro.

Upon reaching the areas of golf courses with *Poa annua*, ABWs mate and lay eggs. The larvae hatch and burrow inside the grass stems. When the larvae are small, damage isn't visible. The larvae go through several molts inside of the grass stem, and after their third larval stage, they leave the stems and start feeding on the crowns of the grass.

"That's when you start to see the actual damage," Rodriguez says. "Superintendents may start seeing the pest in catch baskets when they mow greens or even in vacuums or traps."

The pests themselves are about an eighth of an inch and gray to black in color. The larvae look like little grubs. Damage in the turfgrass looks like yellowing in the turf initially, and then it turns to brown. Rodriguez says that at first, the damage might be mistaken



The annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) has been pestering golf course superintendents for more than 70 years. Experts say scouting is a critical component of ABW control.

for a disease.

A challenge with the pest, Rodriguez says, is that superintendents shouldn't wait until they see damage to control it.

"You have to be proactive and looking for this pest way before the damage shows up," he says. "You can monitor on your own course, follow online trackers and Extension service information or hire consultants to track it for you. The

big challenge to it is timing your applications. If you spray when it's an adult peak, it's different than what you will spray two or three weeks from now."

As with any turfgrass pest, practicing good water management, maintaining proper mowing heights and ensuring good fertility can help minimize damage in the turfgrass.

"If you do a poor job on any of those, the damage will be more severe because the grass won't be growing as much, it'll take longer to recover and you will notice a lower threshold for damage," Rodriguez says. **G**



**L:** Eggs inside stem of plant at fairway height (0.5 inch). **R:** Eggs deposited in putting green height (0.125 inch) were loose or outside plant.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF: BEN MCGRAW (TOP), MIKE KENNA (LEFT)



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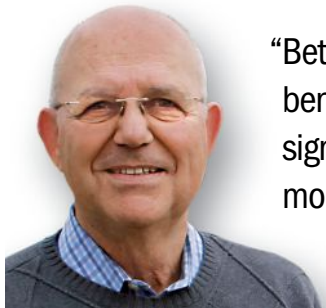
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“Better genetic resistance to common bentgrass disease problems could significantly reduce fungicide use for more sustainable golf.”

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

## New bentgrasses: The story continues

In last month's column, I talked about Rutgers University and the USGA working together to release two new creeping bentgrasses. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Green Section, the variety names selected are Piper and Oakley. Charles V. Piper and Russell A. Oakley were instrumental in the early days of the Green Section. Mountain View Seed will produce, market and distribute the new varieties.

A few highlights of the past milestones of the USGA involvement with bentgrass include:

- In the 1920s, Piper and Oakley worked with bentgrass and established the Arlington Turf Garden in Washington, D.C. (located where the Pentagon is today).

- In the 1930s, John Monteith Jr., Ph.D., and Fred V. Grau conducted the “pie green” experiments across the country that produced Cohansey, Congressional and Toronto creeping bentgrass cultivars.

- In 1937, Musser began breeding bentgrass leading to the 1954 release of Penncross.

Rutgers University has a long history of cool-season grass breeding. In 1960, C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., started the turfgrass breeding program. He had a productive career that spanned four decades. During his tenure, hundreds of new turfgrass varieties revolutionized the turfgrass industry.

In 1981, Rutgers initiated a long-term creeping bentgrass improvement program. Southshore and L-93 were two varieties developed by the program in cooperation with Richard Hurley, Ph.D., Lofts Seed.

Funk retired in 1996, and Bill Meyer, Ph.D., a commercial turfgrass breeder previously with Pure Seed, joined the Rutgers team and has continued the success of the breeding program.

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) conducted its first putting green trials in 1989. Providence and PRO/CUP were the only varieties better than Penncross. In 1993, there were more than 21 entries that performed better than Penncross. Yet, many golf course superintendents questioned the usefulness of NTEP data from universities.

In 1997, NTEP, the Green Section and the Golf Course Superintendents of Association of America conducted on-site golf course testing of new

bentgrass varieties. Penn-A1, Penn A-4 and Penn-G2 were among the top performers and set a new standard for creeping bentgrass.

In 2003, Stacy Bonos, Ph.D., started her career at Rutgers, and one of her objectives was to improve dollar spot resistance in bentgrass. A recent variety from the program is Declaration, which has improved dollar spot resistance.

Rich Hurley, Ph.D., calls the new generation of bentgrass SuperBents. His definition is “An advanced generation, highly refined bentgrass variety, bred for genetically enhanced disease resistance and scientifically designed for use on closely maintained golf greens, fairways and tees.” These are the fourth generation of bentgrass varieties. Examples developed at Rutgers University with their commercial cooperators include 007, 777, 007XL, Mackenzie and Tyee. Some of the research support for the Rutgers breeding effort was from the USGA.

Is there a fifth generation on the way? Yes, there is, and Bonos is breeding new bentgrass high-performance varieties with multiple disease resistance. Better genetic resistance to common bentgrass disease problems could significantly reduce fungicide use for more sustainable golf. She collaborates with Steven Johnson, Ph.D., Peak Plant Genetics, on fine-tuning Piper and Oakley to meet the demand for more sustainable bentgrasses.

The NTEP initiated new bentgrass putting green and fairway trials in 2020. The new test has 15 entries, along with standards at 19 locations in the U.S. Nine trials are standard test locations at universities, while four sites will have ancillary tests for traffic tolerance, thatch accumulation and anthracnose. Four additional tests will be on golf courses, and the final two are under a reduced fungicide regime. **G**

Mike Kenna, Ph.D., is the retired director of research, USGA Green Section. Contact him at [mpkenna@gmail.com](mailto:mpkenna@gmail.com).



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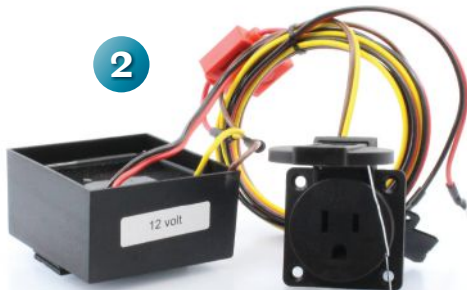


# The Shop

// MUST-HAVE NEW PRODUCTS



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The Tournament XL-7000 Ultra Wide greens roller by **SMITHCO** features a hydraulic direct cylinder drive, offering high traction and slashing maintenance. The product has been developed as a result of Smithco's nearly 30 years of production on greens rollers. With the strength to handle the toughest greens, the XL-7000 includes a 16-hp Vanguard Twin engine and power steering.

[Smithco.com](http://Smithco.com)

## 2 | Stenten AC inverter

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AC inverter allows cart owners to install standard 110-volt string lights and decorations to their cart with a convenient self-closing door to keep out the elements, according to the company. Those interested in a product demo can visit the company's YouTube channel.

[Stenten.com](http://Stenten.com)

## 3 | Toro GreensPro 1260

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[Toro.com/en/golf](http://Toro.com/en/golf)



4



5



6



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#### 4 | GroundWorx GX-1 platform

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#### 5 | 9009A TerrainCut rough mower

With a 9-foot cutting width, the **JOHN DEERE** 9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower features five 27-inch independent rotary decks. The no-tool notch adjustment system makes changing height of cut a breeze, the company said. A deeper deck design with rear discharge delivers greater clipping dispersal and a cleaner cut, while the exclusive LoadMatch system enhances mowing performance in thick, lush conditions. The passcode-protected TechControl display enables managers and technicians to input commands, controlling nearly everything regarding the operator's performance. [Deere.com/en/golf-sports-turf/](http://Deere.com/en/golf-sports-turf/)

#### 6 | Cushman Hauler 800 Elite

The **CUSHMAN** Hauler 800 Elite is activated by Samsung SDI Elite Lithium batteries, which require zero maintenance and are half the size and a fraction of the weight of lead-acid batteries. The Hauler 800 Elite Series has an ergonomic dash offering plenty of storage and a flexible bed that can be customized. It's backed by a five-year battery warranty and offers up to 900 pounds of towing capacity and faster recharge times. [Cushman.com](http://Cushman.com)

# The 19<sup>th</sup> Hole with...

## Brian Daigneau

**SUPERINTENDENT** // Shaker Hills CC, Harvard, Mass.



**What are you drinking?** A Julius, from Tree House Brewing Co. in Charlton, Mass. I'm an IPA guy, and that's their flagship beer.



**Congratulations on your new job — tell me about Shaker Hills.** It's 30 minutes west of Boston, an 18-hole high-end public golf course designed by Brian Silva. Tight course, lots of trees. It's a great layout. My son Jonah, I call him my little assistant, he's 7, said, 'this is paradise.'

**How did you find your way to the industry?** Out of high school, I went to culinary school. My parents always say I got a \$9,000 knife set. With my tail between my legs, after one semester, I went home. My mom knew somebody who worked at a country club in the next town. I went there to work on the grounds crew for two summers and decided to go to SUNY-Delhi for a turf management degree. That was 21 years ago. Thankfully, the culinary (school) didn't work out because I found something I really love.



**What's your favorite tool to get the job done?** My TDR moisture meter. It takes the guesswork out of watering at

### // BEST ADVICE

**"IF SOMETHING IS WRONG, TAKE IT AND TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER. DON'T GET UPSET WHEN YOU'RE CRITICIZED."**

night, and the Toro 648 aerifer, a great tool to have in the shop. And a mechanic, which I'm looking forward to having.

**What's your favorite golf memory?** My father's only hole-in-one, it was just me and him. I was still in high school. He's still trying to find his second; I'm still trying to find my first.

**Do you have a claim to fame?** Running in the Boston Marathon twice. I did two consecutive. Those days are over. I'm too busy with life. The year after the bombing, 2014, was my first. It was pretty emotional. Heartbreak Hill at mile 17 ... all the fan support cheering you on ... I've run a few other marathons, but that one is something different.

**Fill in the blank: The best way to keep your cool when things are hectic and someone on the crew does something batty is to \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Drive away. Go to the pump house and breathe. In July, you're toast. You just

have to drive and find some time for yourself, without getting mad at the golfers who are driving wherever they want!

**We have a Bingo card with this issue. Which square do you think you'll cover first?** Digging to China? I also hear, 'digging for gold?' and 'digging for oil?' all the time. It's July, and I'm fixing an irrigation break on a Saturday morning — that's the last thing you want to hear.

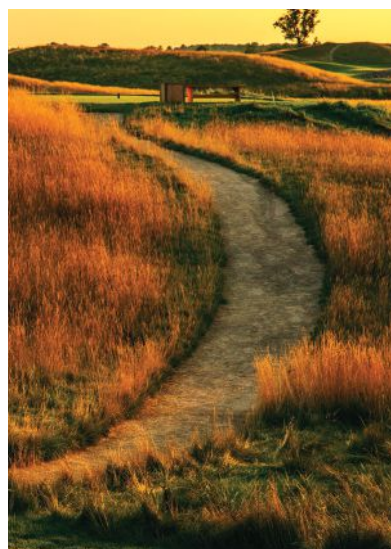
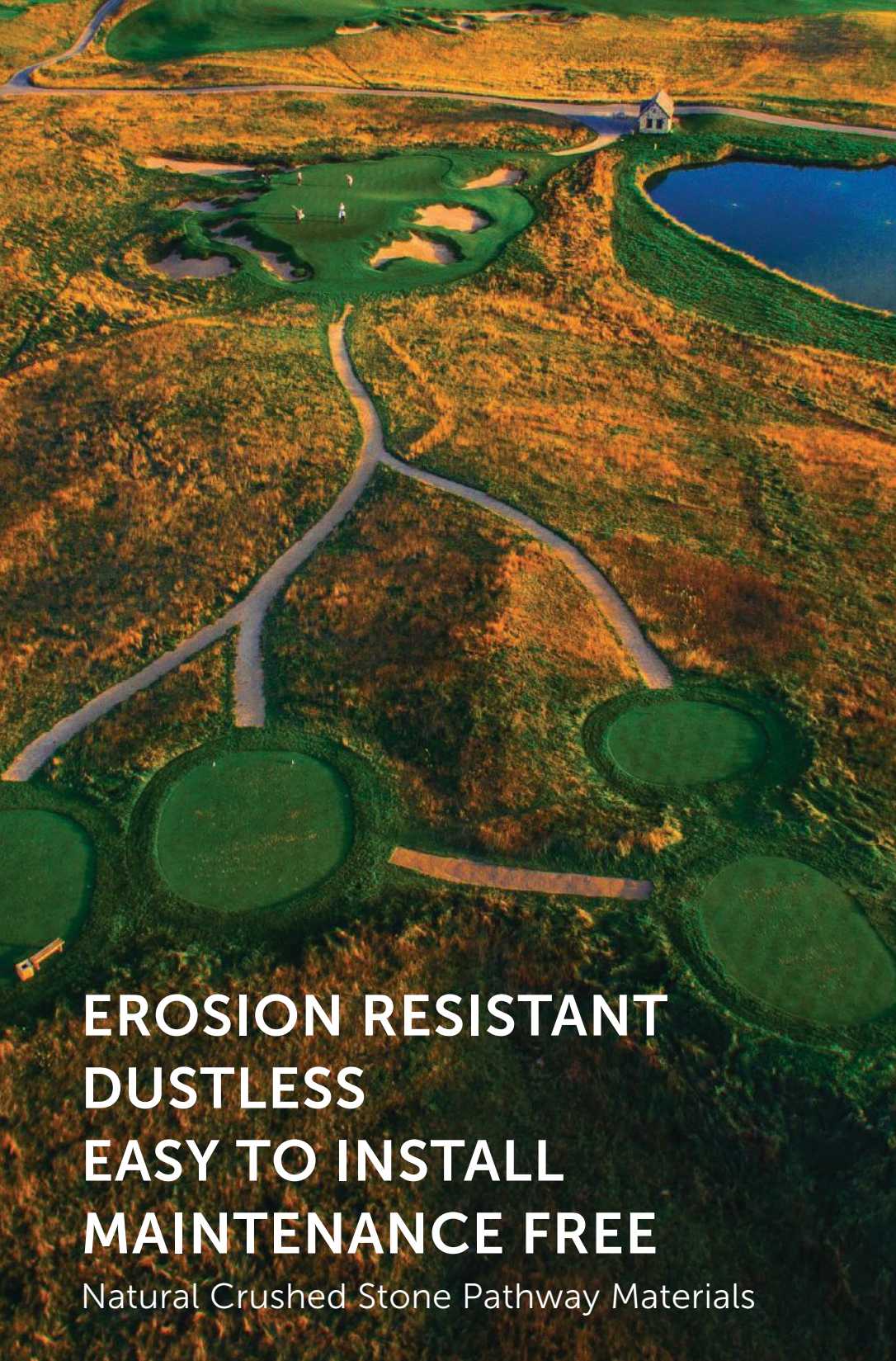
**What will you miss most about your old job?** My crew at Dudley Hill are some of the best guys in the business. It was a pleasure to go to work there because of the crew and the members. I'll miss the people.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, April 5, 2021.

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