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Use MACRO-SORB® *radicular* throughout the growing season to enhance root development, especially when aerating, hydrojecting, overseeding, sodding, or when you are watering in other agrochemical products.

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Tank-mix MACRO-SORB® and QUELANT®-Ca with fungicides, PGRs, herbicides, or liquid fertilizers to enhance the efficiency of the agrochemicals and to improve the overall health and quality of your turfgrass all season long.

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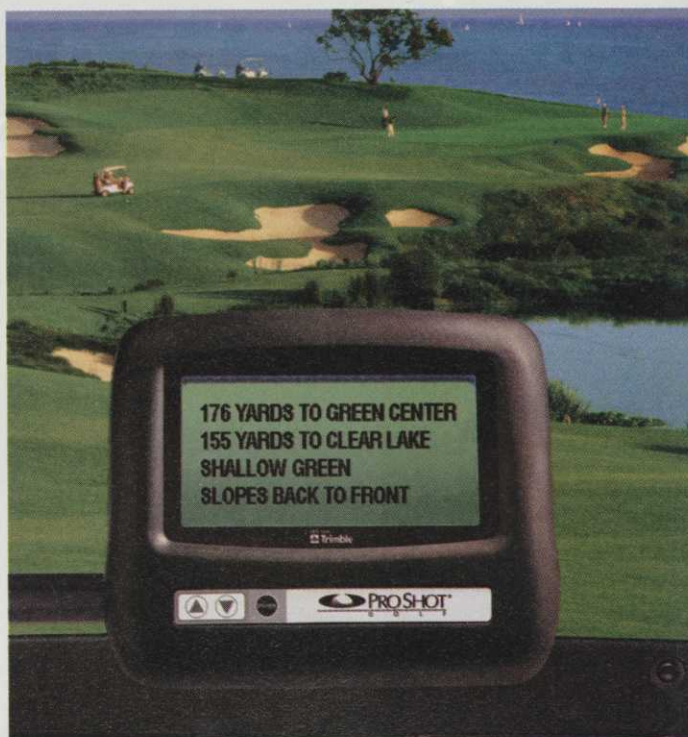
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Far Out



Golf carts equipped with cool electronic gadgets to track yardages and survey holes layouts have piqued the interest of golfers, leading to increased business for course owners.

Pro Tips
Lay up on your tee shot with fairway wood or long iron, which provides you with a shot between 130 and 150 yds. to this narrow green.

Tee	Total Yds.	Yds. From Tee	To Center of Green
Blue			369
White	446	149	
Gold	420	123	
Red	394	97	

Previous Next
Start Time: 10:34 Elapsed Time: 0:04 Should Be On 1st Fairway

Continued from page 30
that charges \$75 a round.

However, the price of a system for turfgrass management depends on several variables, including whether it's custom designed, says Shawn Phillips, general manager of John Deere Skylinks.

"It could range anywhere from \$100,000 to \$300,000," he estimates. "But as with any technology, I would expect the cost to come down."

A system would be cheaper to implement on the turf management side if it was already in place on the golf side because certain components of the system, such as a base station, would already be purchased and functioning.

Some wonder if it's possible that a system could falter if satellites malfunction. Experts believe that snafus are rare because a system needs only four of the 24 satellites to function.

"It would be a rare case," says Mark Schmidt, program manager for Deere's SkyLinks. "If it did occur, it would only be for about five seconds." ■

Golfdom's Hole of the Month

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Most people see the Hole of the Month as a beautiful picture. You see all the hard work that makes it possible. Our vision is to make your job just a little easier by providing equipment with the performance and durability you can count on, day in and day out.



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CUSHMAN JACOBSEN RANSOMES RYAN

Great Expectations

It's hard to imagine higher expectations on a course than those on Bandon Dunes in Bandon, Ore. Open since May, the course already ranks No. 10 in *Golfweek's* list of the top courses built since 1959. That's OK. Superintendent Troy Russell says he enjoys the pressure.

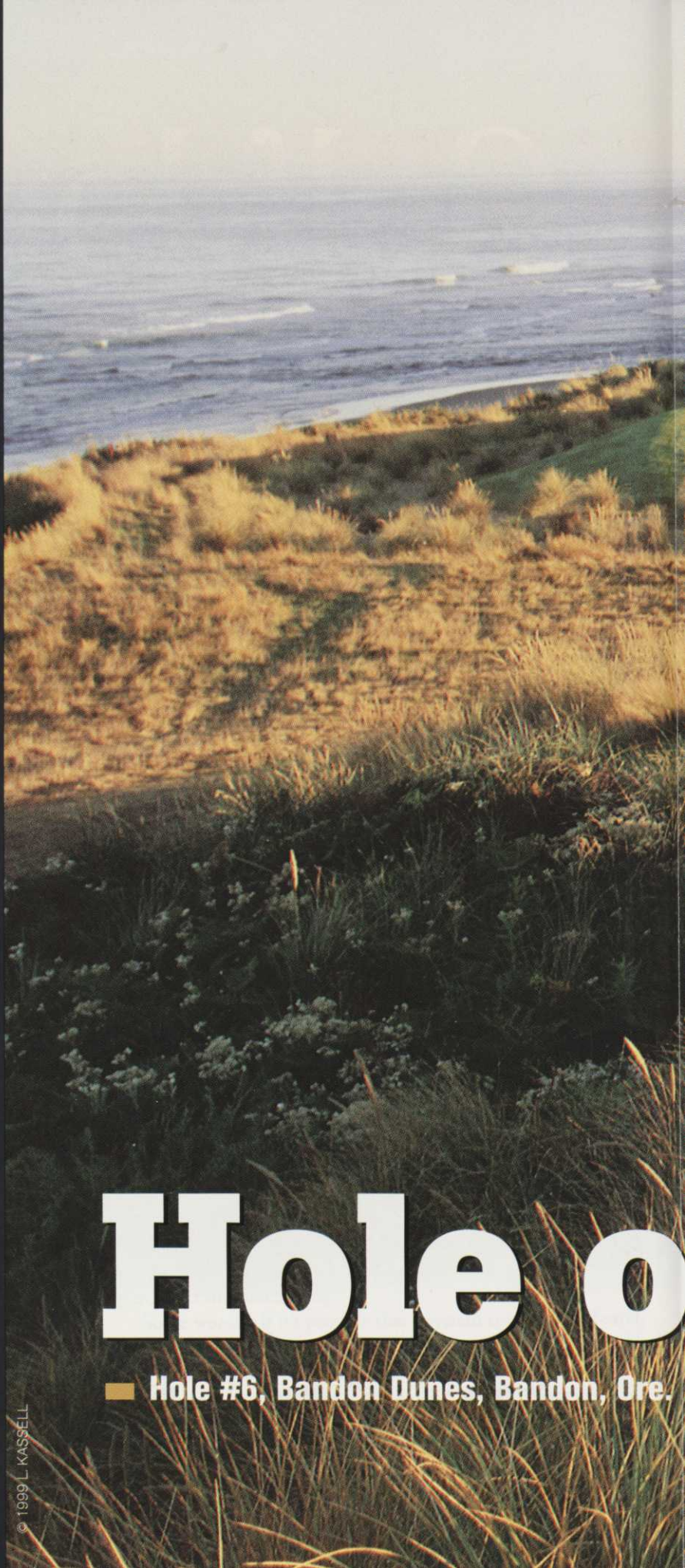
"We work hard to make sure we get all the details right," Russell says. "We want to make sure the course offers the best playing surface available to our customers."

Designed by Scotsman David McLay Kidd and shaped by Jim Haley, the course skirts the Pacific Ocean, and hole #6 presents one of the most picturesque views on the course. But don't be seduced by its beauty: a few feet right or left can mean the difference between a par and a triple bogey.

"You have to be vigilant and hit your shots carefully on this hole," Russell says. "You're constantly hitting directly into a two-club wind, and there's not a lot of margin for error on either side. For people who complain about the difficulty of this hole, however, the answer is simple: Don't mis-hit your shot."

Though Russell says working on the Pacific Ocean is one of the greatest rewards of working at Bandon Dunes, it also presents some unusual challenges. The salt from the overspray — the hole sits 90 feet above the beach — and the constant wind keep the grounds crew focused on maintenance. The greens and surrounds are frequently hand watered, and the severe Oregon winter brings with it monsoon-like rains that have to be compensated for with gypsum treatments.

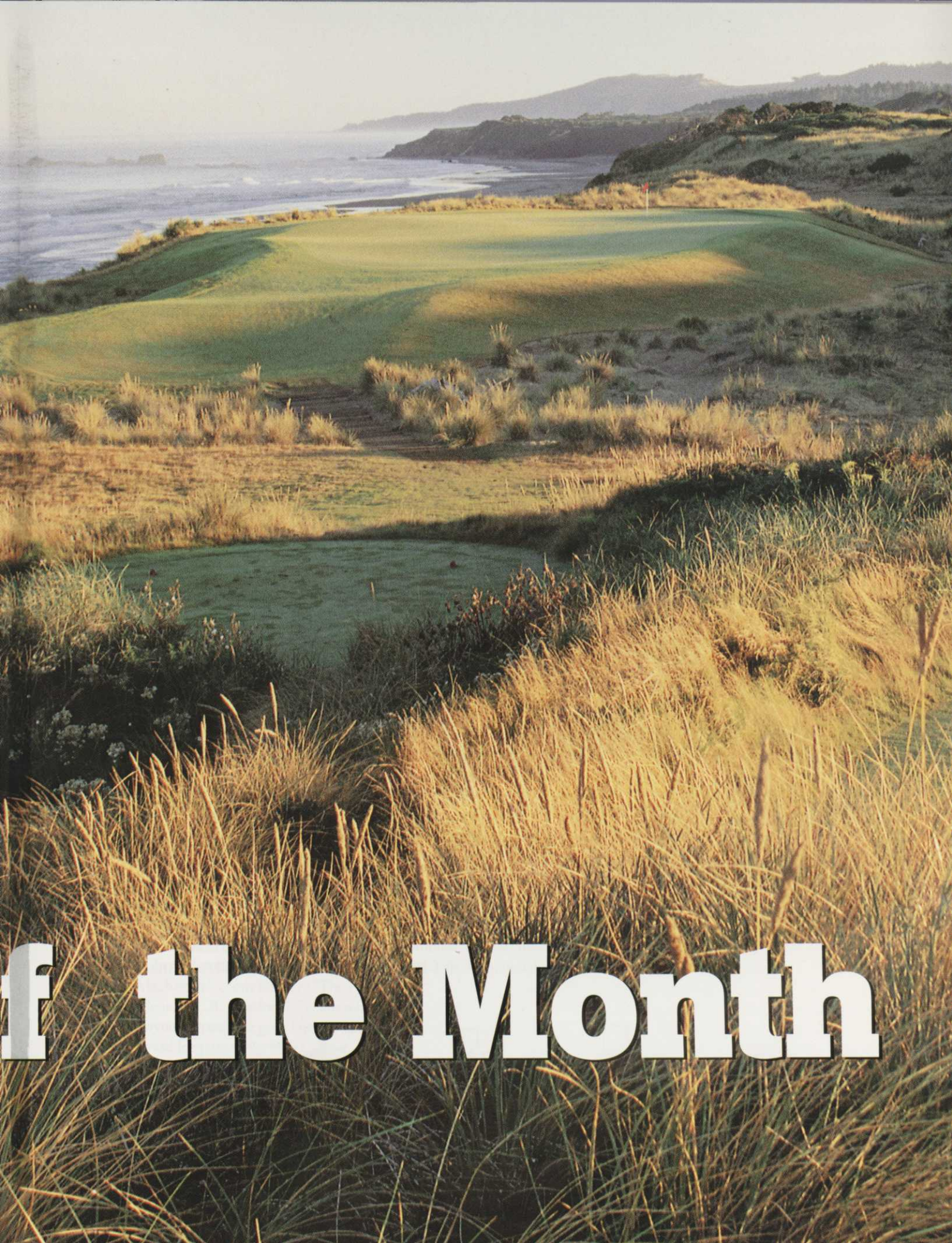
"There are days that I wish the expectations of the course weren't already so



Hole 0

■ Hole #6, Bandon Dunes, Bandon, Ore.

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of the Month



elevated, being the young course that it is," Russell says. "It doesn't add a lot of pressure to anyone, though, since our own expectations of how the course should be maintained are already up there with the best."

Golfdom

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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During an uneventful evening at the local Starbucks, yours truly recently handed out awards from the little-known and lightly regarded Golf Academy of Architecture and Sciences.

Winners received a small, gold-plated statuette known as the "C.B." (it depicts C.B. Macdonald rudely pointing at an innocent laborer during construction of The National Golf Links). The C.B. is designated for the finest (and not so finest) architectural achievements of the 20th century. So without further ado, here are the best and worst of the last 100 years:

Best performance by an ensemble cast: *The nominees* — Pine Valley GC (produced by Crump, Colt, Wilson, Tillinghast, Alison, Wilson, Flynn, Thomas and Maxwell; directed by George Crump). Pebble Beach Golf Links (produced by Neville, Grant, Morse, MacKenzie, Egan, Hunter, Lapham, various superintendents and Nicklaus; directed by Samuel Morse). *The winner* — A tie, proving that design by committee does work twice every 100 years.

Worst performance by an ensemble cast: *The only nominee* — Augusta National Golf Club (produced by Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie; meddling by Roberts, Maxwell, Roberts, Trent Jones, Cobb, Roberts, Cobb, Roberts, G. Fazio, Morrish, Cupp, Nicklaus, T. Fazio and Hootie, among others). Just when you thought they had done everything they could to erase any hint of Jones and MacKenzie, out came the Lon Hinkle trees and rough in 1999.

Best architect in a supporting role: *The nominees* — Howard Toomey ("Saving Private Flynn"), C.H. Alison ("Citizen Colt"), Billy Bell ("Rosebud: The Captain Thomas Story"), Robert Hunter ("The Outlaw Alister MacKenzie"), Seth Raynor ("The Phantom Menace: C.B. Macdonald"). *The winner* — Raynor. Doesn't he get a lifetime achievement award for putting up with C.B.?

Worst redesigned or added hole on a famous course: The par-3 third at Inverness. You leave Toledo and play among pines and lakes of Colorado before returning to Toledo.

Best par-3: The Redan at North Berwick.

Best par-4: 17th at St. Andrews.

Best par-5: 13th at Augusta National

The Best, Worst of 20th Century

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WINNERS RECEIVED

A SMALL, GOLD-

PLATED STATUETTE

KNOWN AS THE C.B.

Worst hole: 7th at Stone Harbor. You know, the one with the jagged-edged island bunkers and the football-shaped green.

Best designs by era:

- 1900-1909 — Pinehurst #2 (yes, it took a while, but this is when it started).
- 1910-1915 — The National Golf Links (C.B. shows how to do it properly).
- 1916-1919 — tie, Somerset Hills and San Francisco GC (Tillie's two best?).
- 1920-1925 — Pine Valley (all 18 holes perfect from day one).
- 1926-1929 — tie, Cypress Point and Pebble Beach (Egan's 1928 redo is vastly underrated).
- 1930-1935 — tie, Shinnecock Hills and Augusta National (one ages gracefully, one doesn't).
- 1935-1959 — Prairie Dunes (second nine added in 1957 and worth the wait).
- 1960-1970 — Harbour Town (changed the direction of modern design).
- 1971-1980 — Muirfield Village (a rare moment for player designers).
- 1981-1985 — TPC Sawgrass (lost in all the fray is an excellent design).
- 1986-1994 — Shadow Creek (a panelist's dream. They say the course is good, too).
- 1995-1999 — Sand Hills (proof that if you build it, they will come).

Best architect: *The nominees* — Donald Ross, C.B. Macdonald, Pete Dye, A.W. Tillinghast, George Crump, Tom Fazio, Robert Trent Jones, Alister MacKenzie. *The winner* — MacKenzie. They're all unique but the "Good Doc" designed three of the world's top five.

Best design: Pine Valley in a close vote over Cypress Point.

Geoff Shackelford's latest book is *The Golden Age of Golf Design*. He can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com

Leasing turf equipment provides an alternative to budget-busting purchases

BY LARRY AYLWARD,
MANAGING EDITOR

You dream about driving that slick, new fairway mower — the one with enough cool gadgets to rival the Batmobile. There's one problem: Your maintenance budget is tapped for the year. So it looks like you're stuck with that 10-year-old cutter that clatters like a run-down city bus.

Or are you?

You can have that swanky mower if you really want it — without breaking your budget — by leasing it.

OK, so you won't own the mower if you lease it, and you won't have equity in the \$25,000 machine. But don't let that deter you, says Dan Gilmore, director of leasing and finance for Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products. There are several good reasons to lease turf equipment, he stresses. For starters, you may not have to make a down payment.

"The No. 1 reason that superintendents are interested in leasing is because it's a way to maximize their equipment purchases while staying within their budgets," Gilmore says. "Typically, the money you need to keep a golf course running is not the same dollar amount you have in the budget."

A golf course maintenance operation that has an expensive fleet of 7-year-old vehicles is a good candidate to study a leasing plan, Gilmore notes. That course's superintendent needs to figure how much is

spent on monthly parts and service, and then decide if the equipment is worth future investments for repairs. The superintendent may find the amount of money spent on monthly repairs could be used to make payments on new leased equipment.

Steve Schmidt, CGCS of the Colonial GC in Williamsburg, Pa., is at that juncture. Colonial GC is 5 years old and some turf equipment needs to be replaced. Schmidt believes that particular items, such as a greens mower, is more tailored to leasing because it's more apt to break down after four years. But he believes it makes sense to purchase other equipment, such as certain mowers known for their durability.

In vogue

Leasing in the golf course industry dates back to the 1970s, when cash-strapped courses began renting golf cars from manufacturers because they didn't have the money to buy them, Gilmore says. "Then course owners began asking themselves why they weren't leasing turf equipment as well," he adds.

By the mid-'80s, leasing equipment was popular with large and reputable operations, Gilmore says. It has only gotten more popular across the board.

Ron Skenes, manager of communications for Augusta, Ga.-based E-Z-GO, says more golf courses are leasing carts and turf equipment from the same company to get better deals.

FOR RENT

