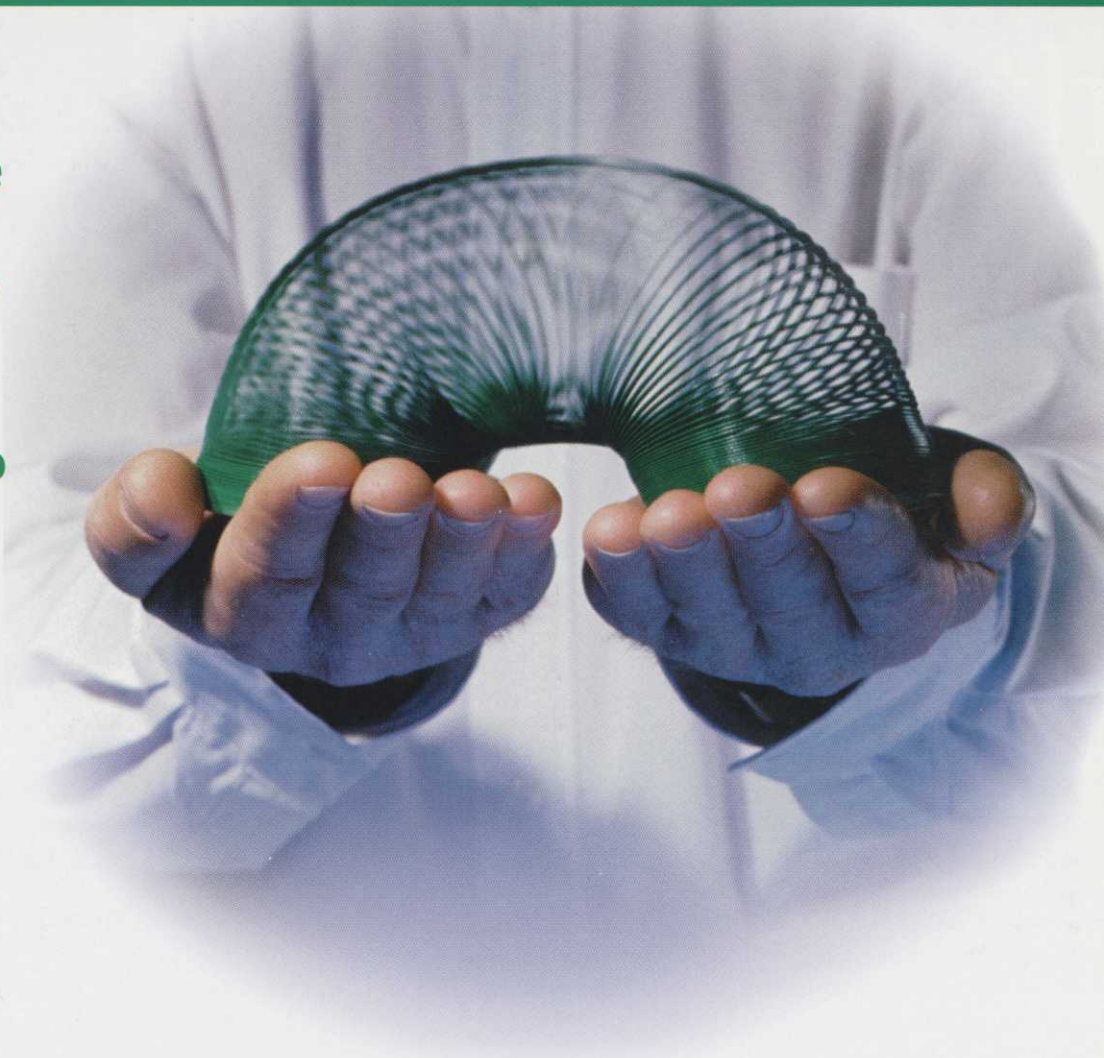


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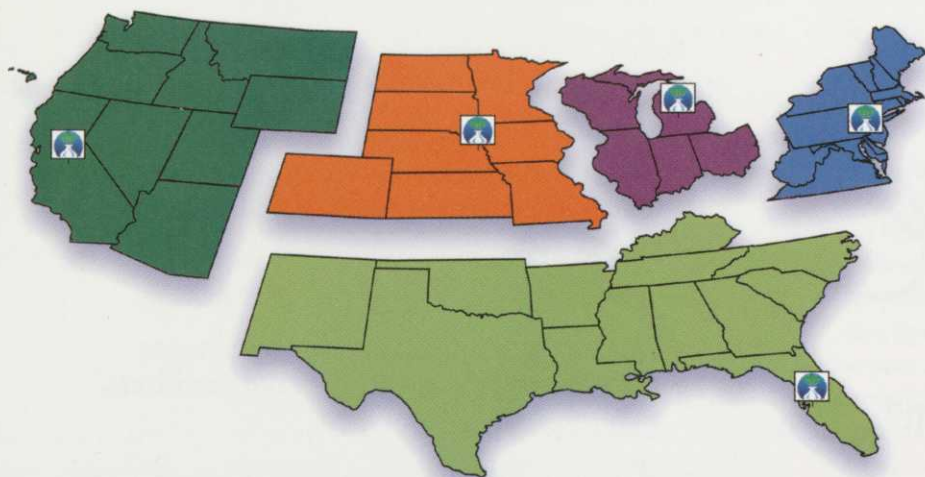


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# Golfdom's Hole of the Month

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## Tucson Treat

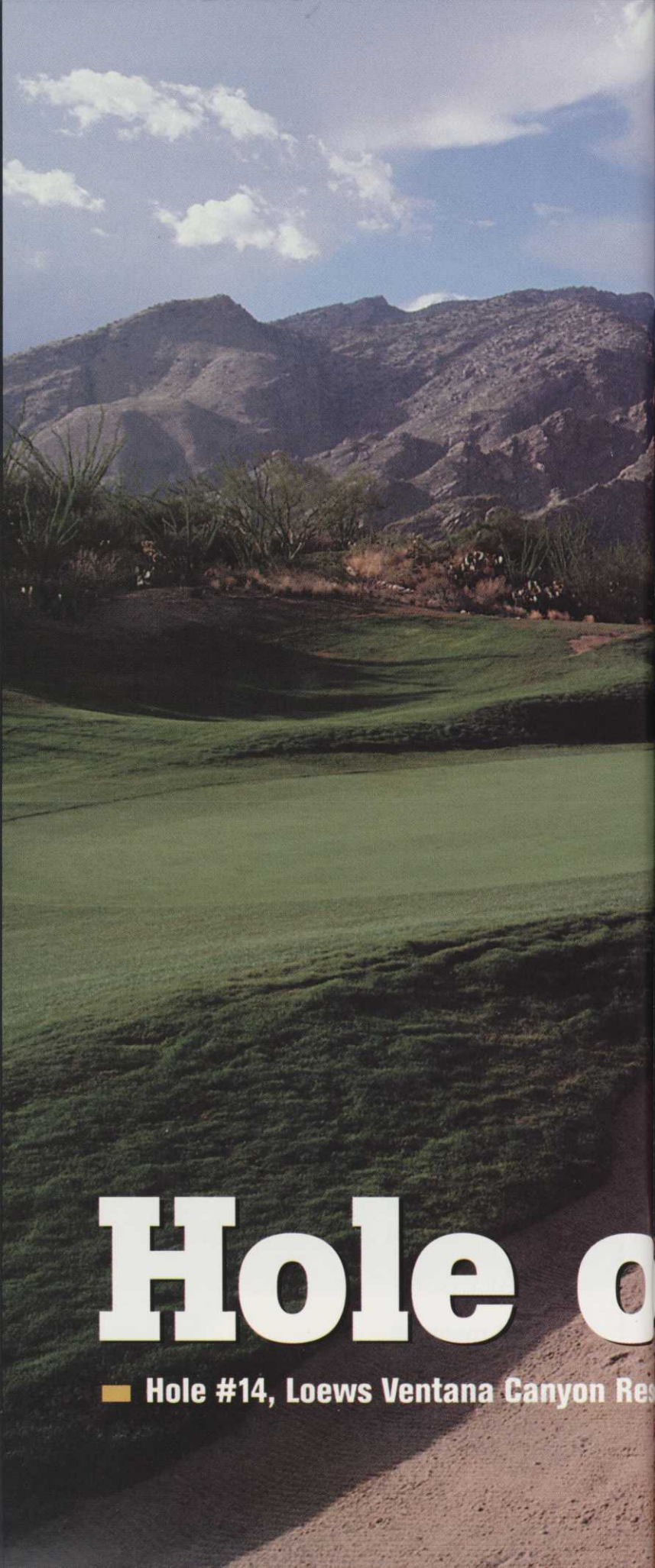
For Michigan native and Michigan State University turfgrass school graduate Wally Dowe, caring for desert-style target courses doesn't come naturally. But after five years of learning the subtle maintenance approaches necessary to guide Arizona golf courses through horrendous afternoon monsoons and bone-dry, 120-degree-plus temperatures, he's confident enough in his abilities to take an occasional break at his course's popular Flying V Bar and Grill.

As director of golf course maintenance for the Tom Fazio-designed Loews Ventana Canyon Resort GC in Tucson, Ariz., Dowe oversees a 54-person crew. With the help of assistant superintendents Kevin Phillips at the 6,819-yard Canyon Course, and Jim Sims at the 6,926-yard Mountain Course, Dowe makes sure the undulating bentgrass greens of the two par-72 championship courses don't wilt in the sometimes surprising humidity and beneath the traffic of more than 80,000 golfers a year.

The semi-private resort courses, both built in the mid-1980s, are nestled in Tucson's Santa Catalina Mountain foothills and have been the site of the PGA and LPGA Tucson Open Pro-Am tournaments. The Canyon Course winds its way through the spectacular Esperero Canyon, finishing with an island green on the par-5 No. 18. The Mountain Course, with a 146 slope rating, is built around the 9,000-foot Santa Catalina mountains and features a world-famous 107-yard par-3 signature hole, complete with a heating and cooling system below the green.

Pictured here is the Mountain Course's 14th hole, photographed by Mike Klemme. The 183-yard par-3 has birdie potential for golfers who can land their drives on the green's hilly left side and hope for friendly rolls.

Among the maintenance challenges for



# Hole o

■ Hole #14, Loews Ventana Canyon Res



A photograph of a desert golf course. In the foreground, a large sand trap with raked lines is visible. To the left, a green fairway leads to a hole with a white flag. The background features rugged, brown mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several saguaro cacti and a cholla cactus are scattered throughout the landscape.

**f the Month**





Dowe is irrigating with effluent water, which has high bicarbonate and sodium levels. He treats the water with sulfuric acid, applies gypsum and regularly flushes greens to cope with effects of effluent water. He's also nearly "religious" about aerification in the summer, he says, using quarter-inch tines to keep the air flowing on bentgrass greens that prefer dry heat to humidity.

Dowe is overseeing the first real renovation work since the course was built, excluding the resurfacing of greens four years ago. Bunkers are being recontoured and relined as part of an ambitious renovation that will include removing rock and bringing in new sand.

# Golfdom

## SEPTEMBER

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		

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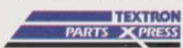
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**A**s we approach the 20th anniversary of the movie *Caddyshack*, it's time I pay homage to the film that changed my professional life. I know some of my blue-blooded, but-toned-down cohorts still cringe when the movie is mentioned in conversation. But they should realize that there's always a danger in taking oneself too seriously.

Me? I'm a proud owner of a *Caddyshack* videotape. I requested the movie as a Christmas present a few years ago. I had taped the film from a television broadcast several years ago, but I found it difficult to watch closely because of TV's many distracting commercial breaks, not to mention the TV editing.

Through my many viewings of the film, I've discovered that beneath his mumbling, disheveled exterior, Carl Spackler, the character portrayed magnificently by Bill Murray, was a wise assistant superintendent. He taught me some valuable lessons from his unusual School of Greenkeeping. They follow:

**Lesson #1: Chrysanthemums are overrated** – As Cinderella Carl whacking chrysanthemum blooms into make-believe golfing glory filled the screen, I began to see the folly of formal landscaping around the golf course.

I was reborn a naturalist on the spot and endeavored to stamp out chrysanthemums forever in favor of native plants. I purchased a sling blade the next day.

**Lesson #2: Be happy in your work** – While some superintendents bemoan Murray's character as an insidious caricature of a superintendent, keep in mind that the golf pro didn't even get a cameo part. Carl's work ethic is certainly worth noting as he spent nights stalking the vandalizing gopher.

Ted Knight did a great job as the pompous, meddling club president, Judge Smails, who like many club officers never really understood golf course maintenance. Carl did not live for the judge's approval, but by the old adage: "We must be happy in our work!"

Even if it meant simply sculpting gopher figurines out of plastique explosive.

## Caddyshack Clicks, 20 Years Later

BY JOEL JACKSON



BENEATH THAT  
DISHEVELED  
EXTERIOR,  
CARL SPACKLER  
TAUGHT ME SOME  
VALUABLE LESSONS

**Lesson #3: There's more than one way to kill a mole cricket** – Carl's problem wasn't mole crickets, but gophers tunneling to the beat of Kenny Loggins' music. What I learned from Carl was the determination to somehow find solutions to problems on the course.

For instance, even if the EPA bans all pesticides, we still have dynamite. You, too, can march to a different drummer.

**Lesson #4: Baby Ruth bars are bound to fall into the pool of life** – Perhaps the pivotal scene in the movie is when the loyal, down-to-earth, unappreciated Carl comes to the rescue of the club members panicked by a candy bar in the swimming pool. Carl uses his devotion to duty and common sense to recognize the reality of the situation and gets a sweet reward, while the rest of the people cower in fear and ignorance, trapped by their perceptions.

Hey, candy happens!

**Lesson #5: The importance of networking** – Carl told Chevy Chase's character, Ty Webb, that he once met the dalai lama and felt he had secured a chance for immortality. Likewise, I once worked for Arnold Palmer, a recognizable golf deity. So if I ever need to update my resume, I've got that going for me . . . which is nice.

**The moral to this column** – Lighten up folks. Remember that you only get to go through life once. And if you do it right, once is enough. Also, don't be ashamed to dream, like Spackler . . . the Cinderella boy, outta nowhere, a former greenskeeper now about to become the Masters champion.

*Joel Jackson, CGCS and director of communications for the Florida GCSA, predicted that Caddyshack would become a cult classic when it was released in 1980. For the record, he has seen the film 53 times, not including tonight.*



# Seed Supplies *Sufficient*

Turfgrass seed production is up, and prices are stable. That's good news for golf courses hit hard by the blistering summer heat.

BY RON HALL

**C**ommercial buyers of seed should be smiling this season, particularly those who do a lot of over-seeding. Production is up, supply is up and prices are stable for most seed species and varieties — particularly perennial ryegrass. Demand should remain strong, too.

Several factors affect demand for seed, including golf course construction. Weather is also a determining factor in the seed industry — for both seed production and demand, says Wayne Horman, seed marketing manager for Marysville, Ohio-based

## TESTING DEBATE CONTINUES

The debate over the need for expensive independent purity testing continues. Before one Wisconsin superintendent seeded fairways this year, he turned to Marysville, Ohio-based Seed Technology Inc. for a more in-depth analysis of the creeping bentgrass seed mixture that he had purchased from an Oregon seed producer.

Despite certification tags that indicated high-quality bentgrass seed virtually free of noxious weeds, the 45-year-old seed-testing laboratory's 50-gram test revealed some *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis*. But something else in the test results was more disturbing.

"One of the things that surprised me was that we found tall fescue, ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass," says Matthew Levy, Seed Technology's president. The findings were somewhat odd, he says, because tall fescue and ryegrass seed are well over 10 to 20 times larger than creeping bentgrass seed



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