

Real-Life Solutions

■ GENEVA GC, GENEVA, ILL.

Superintendent Gives Thumbs Up to Burn-Down Herbicide



Product proves to be fast, simple and cost-efficient

Ed Braunsky, CGCS of Geneva GC, set out to ban the bentgrass and *Poa annua* from his course.

Problem

The playing surface at Geneva GC had become inconsistent because of bentgrass and *Poa annua*. With a centennial celebration coming up, something had to be done.

Solution

Strip down to a seedbed with the help of Basamid, a granular burn-down fumigant, and reseed.

Most superintendents are delighted to have a healthy stand of either bluegrass or bentgrass, but few are happy to have both.

Add *Poa annua* to the mix and the situation becomes highly unsatisfactory because it results in inconsistent playing conditions.

The problem

Superintendent Ed Braunsky faced this undesirable situation last summer as Geneva GC approached its 100th anniversary. Braunsky was determined to ban the bentgrass and the *Poa annua* from his Geneva, Ill.-based course before the cen-

tennial celebration took place.

Braunsky decided his best option was to strip down to a seedbed and reseed the 12-acre area on his course. He consulted the USGA Green Section, which issued a formal recommendation in a Turf Advisory Service Report.

Solution

The USGA recommended a granular fumigant, Basamid, manufactured by BASF AG, to use as a burn down. Unfamiliar with the product, Braunsky consulted Bruce Branham, an associate professor of turfgrass science at the University of Illinois, who confirmed USGA's recommendation.

Braunsky decided to try the product, but he wanted to test Basamid before applying it on his course.

Branham assembled a 4-foot-by-4-foot test plot near the maintenance building on the course. He was impressed with what he saw.

"You could watch it take out the vegetation," he says of Basamid. "There was a visible difference in two days and again in four days. That's why I took pictures when we began the renovation. I wanted to document how effective it was."

Braunsky's meticulous preparation of the course prior to applying Basamid had much to do with the product's success. Before getting started in mid-August, the crew cleared the green and tee areas of flags and markers, and posted signs that the course was closed. They outlined the renovation areas with paint and mowed the fairways to one-half inch. All clippings were blown into the roughs and cut with a rough mower.

Low areas of the fairway were filled with fresh soil and rolled to the proper grades. Sprinkler heads were flagged. The fairways were aerated and cores removed. And, finally, signs were posted warning that

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Basamid was being applied. "If you expect anyone to ignore those signs, you should install a fence," Braunsky says.

The superintendent and his crew spent two days applying 2.75 pounds per acre of Basamid with a drop spreader.

"It's important to immediately water (the treated area) for 15 minutes to activate the material," Braunsky notes. "And make sure no one enters the area for 24 hours."

Braunsky watered the treated area for 15 minutes three times a day for the next five days to create a water seal that kept the

product in the root zone.

By the end of August, the seedbed was ready to seed, which Braunsky ac-



complished with a slit seeder, applying starter fertilizer and immediately watering. He chose several low-mow seed varieties, all of which ranked highly on the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program studies.

The grass began to emerge seven days later, and



(Right) Basamid is applied using a spreader set at 25. (Left) Watering the area creates a water seal to keep Basamid in the root zone.

the course was mowed five times before the beginning of November.

Outcome

His course isn't in perfect condition, but Braunsky was pleased with the results of Basamid. He was also happy with the final cost for the project.

"To look at what we accomplished with \$24,000 when any other approach would have cost a minimum of twice that and could have run into six figures ... that's pretty amazing," he says. "Add to that how fast and relatively simple it was and, yeah, I'm happy." ■

Tips:

Cup Cutting

Some say it's an unappealing chore, but most will tell you that cup cutting is one of the most important tasks in golf course maintenance. Nobody, from superintendents to golfers, wants to see a flagstick tilting like the leaning Tower of Pisa. "Next to keeping up the greens, it's one of the most important things we do," says Lynn Richert, superintendent of Angushire GC in St. Cloud, Minn., who prefers to cut cups herself.

To become an accomplished cup cutter, a person must first decide which type of hole cutter he or she wants to use. There are different types — from the one you pound into the ground to the one you twist and turn into the turf. Preference has a lot to do with comfortability.

So does practice. "(Cup cutting) isn't the type of thing you can just start to do and do well," says John Kelly, director of marketing for Standard Golf. If you're new to cup cutting, Kelly recommends you learn the art on a nursery, not the front nine.

Richert prefers the twist-and-turn hole cutter, the only model she has ever used. Precision cutting, she says, involves three components: location of the hole in a playable area, accurate depth and straightness. But there's more to the process than abiding strictly by these components, she admits. Richert also enforces a cup-cutting policy.

For starters, she always sharpens a cup cutter on a bench-grinding wheel before venturing out on the course. When she's not cutting cups herself, Richert requires less-experienced cutters to use a small

piece of plywood with a circle in it when cutting. The person places the plywood over the area where the hole is to be cut, with the circle in the wood over the hole's exact location. The person then stands on the wood when cutting the hole to eliminate the possibility of the person leaving unsightly foot tracks next to a cup.

Cup cutters can take one or two cuts from a hole. Some prefer one cut so plugs can be replaced entirely, instead of two sections, which might lead to an imperfect fit. But others take two cuts because they say it's too difficult to push a larger one-cut plug out of the hole cutter's shell. Richert, who prefers taking two cuts, says plug replacement is as important as cutting cups. For that reason, she carries a bucket with topdressing mix to use for resetting uneven plugs.

If your greens are old and don't drain well, you may want to try a cup hole cleaner, designed to remove water from the cup hole prior to inserting a turf plug. If you don't remove water from the cup, it will overflow when the plug is placed back in the hole and leave a brown ring around the old cup. Some superintendents use other gadgets, such as a meat baster, to remove the water, but Par Aide Products offers a tool designed specifically for the task.

While some superintendents and maintenance workers believe cup cutting is a drag, Richert enjoys it. "You get your hands dirty, but I'd rather be doing it than riding a machine," she says.

Cup cutting, which Richert performs every other day, also allows her to get close-up looks at the course's greens to check for disease, moisture and damage. "By the time I'm finished cutting cups, I've also fixed about 100 ballmarks," she says.

Cup cutting also requires intangible skills, like discretion. "It's not difficult to teach someone to cut cups," Richert says, "but it's a matter of whether the person will do it with the care you want it done." ■

— Larry Aylward

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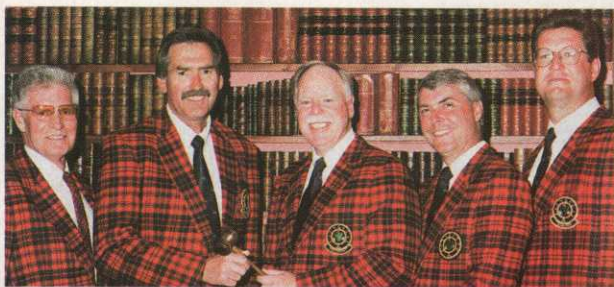


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Circle No. 131

Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



The American Society of Golf Course Architects named its new officers (from left): **Jay Morrish**, treasurer; **Brian Ault**, president; **John LaFoy**, immediate past president; **Clyde Johnston**, secretary; and **Damian Pascuzzo**, vice president.

Greggory Mackintosh was named superintendent of Widow's Walk GC in Scituate, Mass., by International Golf Maintenance.

Coyote Creek GC in San Jose, Calif., named **Michael Pifferini** as superintendent.

Ken Graves is the new superintendent at Pelican Hill GC in Newport Coast, Calif.

The Barbara Worth Resort GC in Holtville, Calif., named **Adam Schauer** as superintendent.

Stuart Cagle, CGCS of Old Oakland GC in Indianapolis, recently became a master greenkeeper. Cagle becomes the sixth master greenkeeper in the United States and only the 23rd in the world.

Coral Canyon GC, in St. George,

Utah, named **Darin Miller** as assistant superintendent.

Salisbury, Md.-based Marshall Management named **Anthony Scera** as vice president of its golf and country clubs division.

Roger Lowell of Arundel, Maine, was inducted into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame. He has been superintendent at Webhannet GC in Kennebunk Beach since 1973.

Arnold Palmer Golf Management named **Joe Stein**, superintendent at Tan Tara GC, North Tonawanda, N.Y., as its Superintendent of the Year. Stein was chosen from a pool of 40 eligible superintendents at Palmer facilities across the country.

Jeff Dunovant joined the National Minority Golf Foundation as program director. It also named **Darwin**

N. Davis as chairman of the board.

Canby, Ore.-based Turf-Seed named **Crystal Rose-Fricker** president.

Bill Whitacre was named president of Simplot Turf and Horticulture. He previously was president of Research Seeds in St. Joseph, Mo.



Turf Diagnostics and Design promoted **Sam Ferro** to president. He had been a vice president.

Let us know about your people on the move. Send information/color photos to Golfdom's Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440/891-2675 or e-mail to fandorka@advanstar.com.

The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES



Tillers

New Holland Construction has added new tillers to its growing line of skid-steer attachments. The tillers are ideal attachments for breaking up clumps and preparing seedbeds, according to the company.

Bidirectional tine rotation allows the unit to operate effectively with the skid steer moving forward or backward. Replaceable, hardened tines are made for extended life and easy replacement, according to the company.

For more information, contact 630-260-4000, www.newholland.com/construction or CIRCLE NO. 200

Fungicide

Griffin L.L.C., a joint venture company of Griffin Corp. and DuPont, introduces Concorde SST, a chlorothalonil fungicide that contains Super Stick Technology, also known as SST, for maximum staying power. After drying, Concorde SST covers thoroughly and adheres to plant leaves under a range of climatic conditions. Concorde can be applied to virtually all turf grass species and varieties, plus more than 75 ornamental plants.

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Seeder

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For more information, contact 800-363-8780, www.1stproducts.com or CIRCLE NO. 202

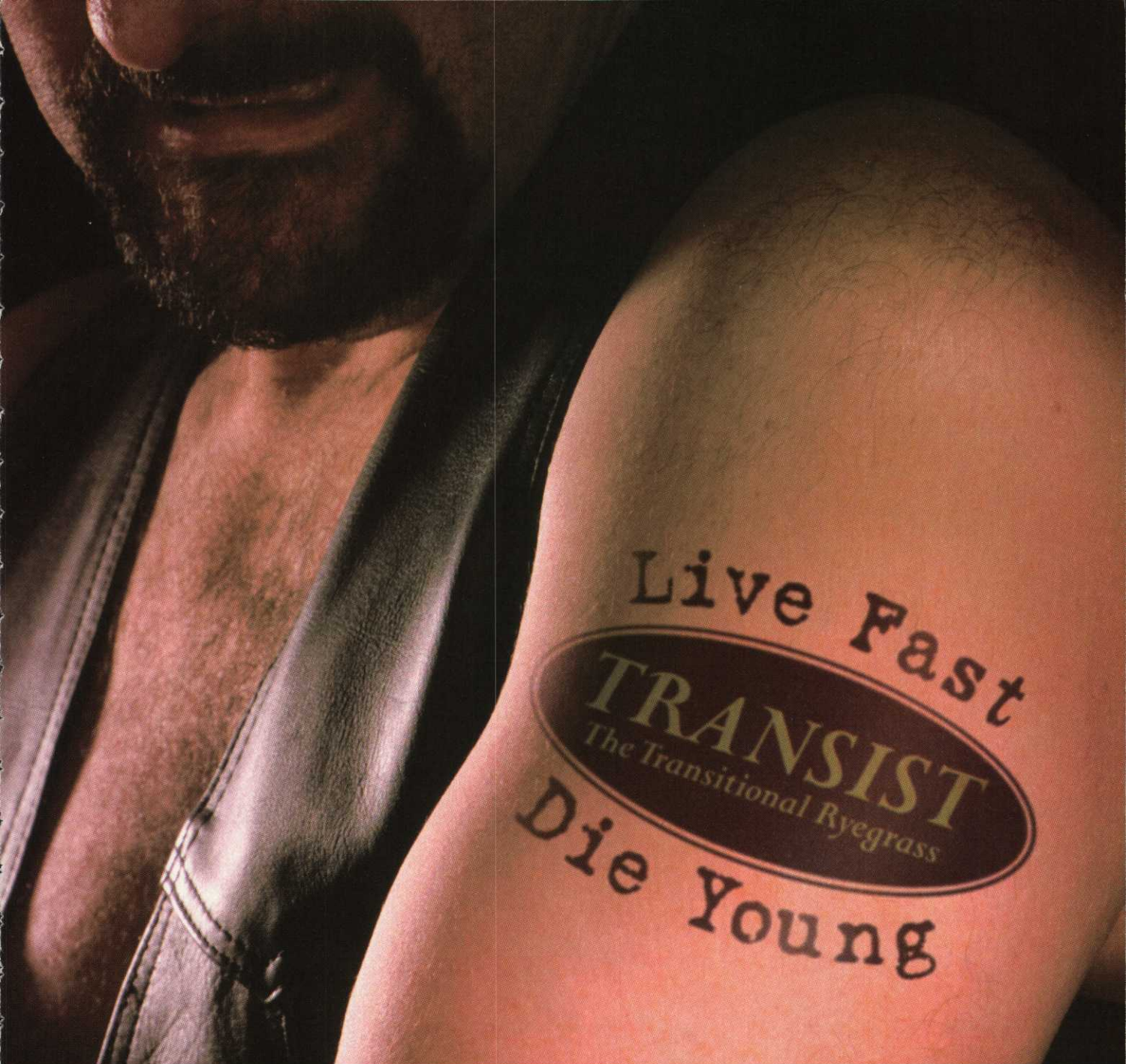
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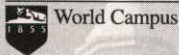
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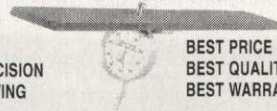
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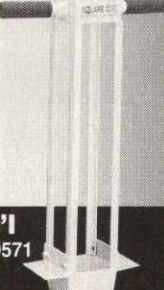
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Golfdom's Joke of the Month



A cautious hacker is facing a 170-yard, par-3 island green surrounded by water and decides he'd better use an old ball. As he tees up a scuffed range ball, a booming voice from above says, "USE A NEW BALL!"

He's startled, but proceeds to pull a new ball out of his bag and tee it up. He hears the voice again. "TAKE A PRACTICE SWING!" So the guy takes a practice swing. There's a moment of silence, then the voice says, "USE THE OLD BALL!"

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GOLFDOM, Volume 56, Number 8, (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly by Advanstar Communications, Inc., 131 W First St., Duluth, MN 55802-2065. Subscription rates: One year \$25.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$35.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$65.00 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada at \$45.00 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$7.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8.00 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10.00 (U.S. and possessions), \$14.00 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16.00 (all other countries); add \$5.00 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to GOLFDOM, 131 W 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802-2065. Canadian G.S.T. Number: R-124213133, Publications Mail Agreement number 1436694. Printed in the U.S.A.

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child's play

Ah, the dog days of summer. While you spend restless afternoons at the course and long for the post-Labor Day

slowdown, it's easy to forget that in just a few weeks the kids will return to school.

There will be no more driving them all over town for games and swimming, no more racket in the backyard until dark, no more begging to stay over at Johnny's or Susie's on a weeknight.

During the summer, those endless requests can drive you nuts, but you know better. You know that in a blink they'll be gone, and you'll wonder where all that time went.

So rather than living a constant "Well, if I'd only ..." nightmare in the future, carve out time with the children. Ask them what they would like to do, listen to their music (even 'NSYNC or hip-hop) and take a few weeks to reconnect.

To help get you started, we have tapped into our inner-little kid to provide some suggestions.

• **Run away to the carnival** — The annual county fair is not only a good way to teach your kids how to avoid con games, it's also a time of cotton candy, funnel cakes, petting zoos,

THERE'S STILL TIME TO DO PLENTY OF THINGS WITH YOUR KIDS THIS SUMMER. SO DON'T LET IT SLIP AWAY. **BY MARK LUCE**

heat, hay and the thrills and spins of the Scrambler, Octopus and Zipper. Don't be a chicken. That couple minutes of upside down terror is worth it for the giddy laughter emanating from your child.

• **Take me out to the ball game** — Peanuts, Crackerjack, dirt and the hope — no matter how slight — of catching a souvenir all provide thrills at a baseball game. If there's not a pro team within driving distance, you can try minor league, semi-pro or even an adult amateur game. The pace of baseball lends itself to that most important link between parents and children — conversation.

• **Relive Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom** — Pitch a tent, build a fire, catch some fish for dinner and top it off with S'mores. Camping and canoeing teach children cooperation, a few indispensable survival tips and a healthy appreciation for the great outdoors. If you don't have the gear, check local outfitters or the parks and recreation center, since many of them will rent tents, sleeping bags and canoes. Don't forget the bug spray.

• **Good graffiti** — A trip to the discount store and about \$30 will yield all of the following: finger paints, crayons, sidewalk chalk, scissors, glue, markers, construction paper, water colors and a big pad of drawing paper. Add

imagination and a couple of old golf shirts for smocks, and you have hours of sometimes messy — but always creative — fun. Yes, it's OK if you can only draw stick men.

• **Build a treehouse** — There's never a bad time to begin building what your kids will call "the fort" or "our secret headquarters." Ingenuity, resourcefulness, elbow grease and a stack of wood will yield above-ground adventure and encourage your kids to be handy with the tools. To augment the new addition, help your kids plant a few trees and flowers.

• **Watch my line** — Today's coarse society doesn't always lend itself to good manners, but there's no better place to learn than the golf course. Don't nag the kids about their developing swings. Instead, let them enjoy the space and pace of the game, while subtly instructing them about fixing ball marks, letting people play through, replacing divots, who's "away" and all the things that make golf, well, golf.

• **Fly a kite** — Enough said.

Again, these are just some ideas to get you started. Let the kids decide. In the final analysis, it is not so much what you do, it's the fact that you are doing it together. Happy rest of the summer.

Mark Luce, a free-lance writer from Lawrence, Kan., will someday have kids. Until then, he'll just spoil rotten the children of his friends.

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