

Top 10 Golfers' gripes

Continued from page 38

6. Why are we rebuilding the greens when they look so good?

Because they are 13-year-old, mutated-beyond-imagination Tifdwarf greens. And the reason they look so good is because they are overseeded — and you can't see any bermuda!

5. You shouldn't have overseeded the greens this year.

This gripe comes: A) when you are transitioning in the seed; B) when you are transitioning out the seed; or C) from players in the afternoon twilight league who experience Poa trivialis that's getting long in the tooth.

4. You should have overseeded the greens this year.

This one comes when: A) Mr. or Mrs. Doe is invited to play at (insert name here) country club and discovers that "the maintenance staff there mows with walking mowers and the greens look like checkerboards"; or B) when it has been cool enough for long enough that your bermuda is purple and slick and stimping at 10.

3. That pin placement on No. 12 today was downright illegal!

What you want to say is, "The USGA gives recommendations, not rules, on pin placements — you idiot!" But what you must say is, "I'm very sorry for that pin placement, and I will fire the person responsible for it immediately (remember, the complainant may be the president of your course some day).

2. How come our greens aren't like the ones at (insert name here) country club?

Well, that club has a larger budget by \$500,000, has eight more employees and a \$50,000 initiation fee. Shall I continue?

1. I was watching the PGA tournament on TV and the (insert name here) course's greens looked healthy and tidy when cut short.

My response: I was watching the British Open in August, and I think our roughs would look healthy waist deep.

If you'd like to add to Joe Bo's list of gripes, you can e-mail him at SwampTh101@aol.com. Golfdom will gladly print your gripes in an upcoming issue

EVERGREENTM

THE PROVEN TURF GROWTH BLANKET

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size
- Longest lasting
- Choice of 3 and 7 year warranty covers



CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

COVERMASTER INC., REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3
TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-74-COVER (742-6837)

WEB: www.covermaster.com
E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com

COVERMASTERTM
COVERMASTERTM
COVERMASTERTM
MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

MEMBER
Sports
Turf Maintenance
Managers Association

Turf
Management
Made Easy . . .



Easy to install & remove



Anchor pegs supplied



Deeper root development



Any custom size cover



THERE'S A REASON
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A
ROTARY
TRIM MOWER.

UNTIL NOW THERE WASN'T ONE.



See the
tournament quality
cut of the new Toro
Groundsmaster® 3500-D
rotary trim mower on
your course.

CALL FOR A DEMO
1-800-803-8676 ext. 300

GROUNDMASTER® 3500-D

Key Advantages

- **Excellent cutting performance** thanks to three independent, 27" Contour™ Plus semi-recycling decks that deliver a 68" width of cut.
- **Superior power** provided by a 32 hp Kubota® turbo-diesel.
- **Superb trimming capabilities** and the ability to vary tire tracking are two benefits of the Sidewinder™ cutting system, which allows decks to slide 12" left or right of center (24" full travel).
- **Unequaled traction** thanks to the patented Series/Parallel™ 3-wheel drive traction system.
- **Attractive striping** is effortless with rear rollers.
- **Operator comfort** is ensured by power steering, tilt steering and adjustable seat.



TORO.

INTRODUCING THE NEW TORO GROUNDMASTER® 3500-D.

The new 3500-D is the only rotary trim mower on the market that gives you a tournament quality cut. With its patent-pending Contour™ Plus decks, you're ensured of the cleanest cut while virtually eliminating scalping. Thanks to its popular Sidewinder™



The Sidewinder System allows you to vary tire tracking or trim embanked areas.

cutting system, you can now trim around trees, ponds and bunkers, plus vary your tire tracking, easier than ever. And with the rotary deck's rear rollers, you can have tournament quality striping every day. The 3500-D. There's never been anything like it. Until now. To learn more, see your Toro distributor. Or visit www.toro.com.

TORO®

Designs on Golf

■ ARCHITECTURE

As C.B. Macdonald pointed out, the green complex is to golf architecture what the “face is to the portrait.” In golf, it’s the lyric to our song, the story to our film.

To create a sound green complex with strategic interest that’s also maintainable, the architect must be a genuine artist. In this day of the USGA green, it’s tougher for architects to create truly original green designs. In fact, none of the greens on my list was originally constructed as a USGA-spec green and only three are USGA greens today. The demand for increased putting surface speed has limited what architects can do with contours, which ultimately undermines the game’s character.

We love the charming character of small greens. But for the most part, the timeless green complexes are reasonably sized. Ample space provides more hole locations, lending greater strategic interest and a better chance for the green to be maintained.

Most of all, these greens are memorable. Something about their features is planted in your mind after you play them a few times, enabling you to stand in fairways and recall their nuances to negotiate.

So, with those principles in mind, here are 10 favorites that constitute great greens:

5th Green, Pinehurst #2, Pinehurst, N.C. – Superintendent Paul Jett notes that Donald Ross had a home close to the long par 4 and probably put a lot of time into fine-tuning this 5,978-square-foot masterpiece. The 5th epitomizes what a natural green site should look like after the architect finishes it.

Watching players in the 1999 U.S. Open refuse to hit run-up shots to this green was shocking. The putting surface sits in a Redan-like manner above the player and penalizes the slightest miscue. Pinehurst’s 5th is extraordinary thanks to its majestic character and the creativity required to play it.

17th Green, Los Angeles CC North, Los Angeles – It’s a simple, but classic green complex. This well-bunkered putting surface sits at fairway level with a sweeping tier in its middle that falls toward lower-left flag locations. All it takes is one round here to know you can use this tier to shape your mid- to long-iron ap-

Golf’s Greatest Green Complexes

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WITHOUT THOUGHT-
PROVOKING AND
SOMETIMES
ECCENTRIC GREEN
COMPLEXES,
THE GAME WOULD
QUICKLY GROW DULL

proach into the left-hand hole locations.

Meanwhile, the front- and right-side pins require vastly different approach shots. The overall naturalness of this green complex is unmatched.

6th Green, University of Michigan GC, Ann Arbor, Mich. – It’s quirky time. This 309-yard, down-hill par-4 plays to a 6,800-square-foot green set in the face of a hill. The green is shaped like a reverse C with a bunker jutting into the middle of the C. Hazards guard the front, left and right of this epic complex.

Most players have a wedge into this steeply sloped marvel, but depending on the hole location many things can happen. There are four compartments to the green, each protected by different bunkers. Alister MacKenzie and Perry Maxwell created this along with several other extremely cool C- and horse-shoe-shaped greens.

13th Green, Franklin Hills CC, Franklin, Mich. – While we’re in Wolverine country, why not mention this tiny Donald Ross gem of a green? It’s the smallest on my list and maybe the smallest in golf at 1,800 square feet.

Every layout needs one rousing do-or-die shot, and 13 at Franklin Hills provides just that kind of thrill. Sitting above the fairway, it’s guarded by sand on all sides and looks like it’s perched higher than it is because of its lack of size. The pressure you feel to hit this bread plate is unrivaled in golf, and yet that tension was created by Ross through subtle feature work.

No one advocates building greens this small anymore, but it works well on a limited play course, especially one maintained by the multi-talented Tom Gray.

3rd Green at Sand Hills GC, Sand Hills, Neb. – It’s the most natural green on my list — and maybe in golf. This 220-yard, par-3 is sort of a reverse-Redan on steroids. The Bill Coore and

Ben Crenshaw-designed green is placed onto a sandy ridge that runs into the middle of the putting surface. You can have a blast shaping shots off this steep ridge to the right-hand hole locations. If you play too far left or long and don't catch the ridge ... look out, trouble awaits.

17th Green at TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. – Pete Dye's actual green design gets overlooked here because the putting surface sits on an island and most people are just happy to hit it. Sure, the green started all kinds of weird trends, but the real beauty of this is often missed. The back right-hole location asks players if they want to be bold or not so bold, while the front and middle tiers offer similar dilemmas. That kind of simple temptation is the essence of any good green, island or not.

13th Green at Somerset Hills, Somerset, N.J. – You have to see this one to believe it. A severe dip runs through the middle and separates front hole locations from back ones. It's just one of many wild and wacky gems at this A.W. Tillinghast masterpiece.

5th Green at Merion GC East, Ardmore, Pa. – It's arguably the best par-4 in golf, thanks in part to its Hugh Wil-



The 6th green at the University of Michigan GC in Ann Arbor, Mich., is a quirky green shaped like a reverse C that challenges golfers to hit the right shot.

son-William Flynn green design. On paper, the hole resembles a thousand others in golf: long par-4 with a creek running the length of the left side. But the green sits on a terraced slope, with seemingly 30 little nooks and shelves that make putting this green both a joy and a nightmare. The severe slope of the green, the bunker short and the fairway height grass above the green

make this the best approach in golf.

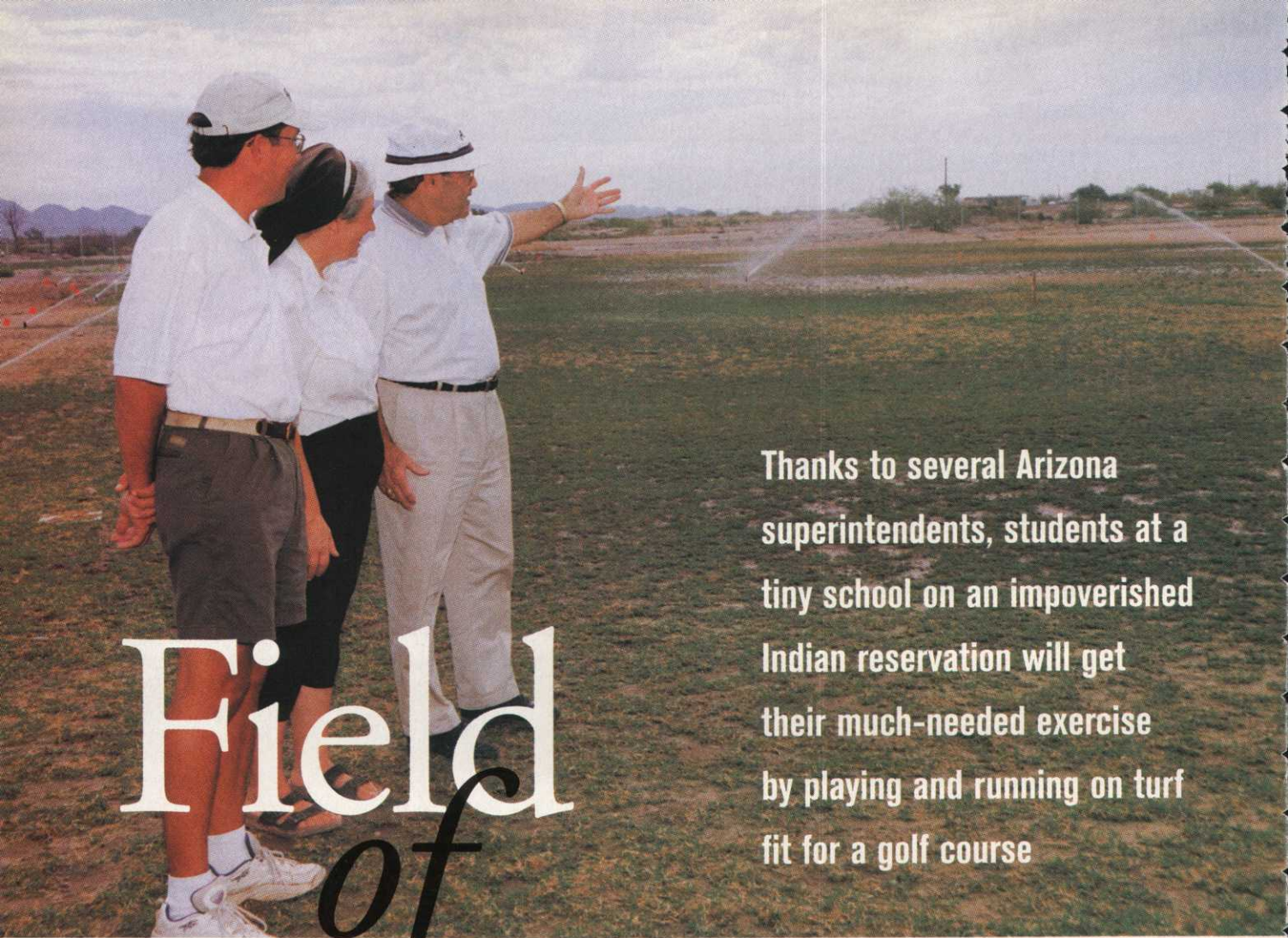
7th Green at Shinnecock Hills GC, East Hampton, N.Y. – The only pure Redan takeoff on my list, created originally by Seth Raynor and kept by William Flynn when he redesigned the course in 1930. It's a simple, classic Redan that gives you multiple options and entices you to play at the flag, even though you know better than to tempt fate.

17th Green at The Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland – The Road Hole green. As we saw during another classic British Open, its genius is summed up by the same concept that makes most of the other greens so special: temptation. And that's what any great green complex does to the golfer. It tempts you to try something courageous, with room to play safe and a stiff penalty awaiting for the player who gets carried away.

Geoff Shackelford's next book is Alister MacKenzie's Cypress Point Club, a design that has its share of green complexes. He can be reached at geoffshackelford@aol.com.



The most natural green to make the list, the 3rd green at Sand Hills GC in Sand Hills, Neb., is sort of a reverse-Redan on steroids.



Thanks to several Arizona superintendents, students at a tiny school on an impoverished Indian reservation will get their much-needed exercise by playing and running on turf fit for a golf course

RICHARD CARMER

Field *of* Dreams

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

It's exercise time at St. Peter Indian Mission, a small school located on the poverty-plagued Gila River Indian Reservation in tiny Bapchule, Ariz. Young students jog across the parched, grassless playing field outside the weathered school building. The kids huff and puff as they scurry by, their feet whisking up swirls of dust.

It's like they're running on concrete, really. The ground, although dusty, is rock-solid from baking in the searing desert sun. It's compacted and cracked, like the fractured pavement of a busy city boulevard.

It's nearing 10 a.m. on this sun-splashed spring morning, and the temperature is already flirting

with 90 degrees. The unadorned terrain of the reservation, located about 40 miles south of Phoenix, is several degrees hotter.

Standing on the outskirts of the barren field are representatives of Arizona's Cactus and Pine GCSA, including Mark Clark, CGCS from Troon Golf & CC; Lynn Cannon, executive director of the Cactus and Pine GCSA; and Randall "Hoke" Holyoak, a former superintendent who's now baseball field supervisor for the city of Mesa, Ariz. They are accompanied by Joe Garagiola, former Major League Baseball player and television sports personality; and Sister Martha Carpenter, principal of the Catholic school, whose students range in ages from 5 to 14. Together, they watch the children scramble and sweat under the bright, cloudless sky.

◀ Kevin Smith, Sister Martha Carpenter and Joe Garagiola (from left) admire the growing grass.

They squint their eyes toward the morning sun as they survey the field, whose only life consists of patches of tumbleweeds and sickly brush. But the group envisions a field of dreams — a sprawling, vibrant green plot of land stretching across the school's compound like soft, lush carpeting.

Garagiola invited the Cactus and Pine members to St. Peter, where he has volunteered since the early 1990s, to talk about their plans to grow grass for the kids to run and play on, instead of the bare and hardened ground. Clark, Cannon and Holyoak huddle with Garagiola and Sister Martha over a map of the proposed four-acre complex, which includes fenced and regulation-size soccer and softball fields, as well as a track.

In May, a caravan of superintendents and dozens of other workers hauled equipment to the site to install a computerized irrigation system with all of the state-of-the-art fixings, including fertigation and a drainage system to combat summer monsoons. Several volunteers



RICHARD CARMER

returned in mid-June to sprig the field with bermudagrass and again in August to patch various spots and apply other finishing touches. The field will be ready this month, just in time for the 185 students to return to school.

This school year, and for many years after, the students at St. Peter will get their exercise by playing and running on turf fit for a golf course.

Continued on page 49

▲ Joe Garagiola (right) embraces Musco Lighting's Gary Anderson as Sister Martha looks on. Anderson's company donated lights for the softball field.

▼ School children ran on ground that was rock-solid from baking in the desert sun before the field was built.



FRESH SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER TURF MANAGEMENT.



REOPEN™
• Opens soil,
lets it breathe.

RECHARGE™
• Promotes
spring green-up,
rejuvenates root
regrowth throughout
the season.

REMOVE™
• Reduces
salt build-up.

ROOT REVIVE™
• Extends turf
root system.

The FreshPack™ line of microbial turf stimulant products is your answer for improved turf vigor from tee to green. These environmentally safe products have been proven in University studies and on courses like yours. The result? Soil quality is improved and turf root systems are healthier. Able to stand up to rigors of heavy play,

environmental stress, disease pressure and insect damage. Applied with conventional equipment, simply load the FreshPack products and go. There's no interruption of play.

For more information about FreshPack products and the latest University results log-on to www.ecosoil.com. Or call 800-331-8773.



Exclusive Distributor

FreshPack™
Environmentally sound solutions for turf.



©2000 Eco Soil Systems, Inc. TM are all trademarks of Eco Soil Systems, Inc. Always read and follow label directions.

Circle No 123

Field of Dreams



Ed Shimkus, superintendent of Troon North GC in Scottsdale, Ariz., guides a trencher through the hard ground.

RICHARD CARMER

Continued from page 47

"How many lives will this field touch?" Garagiola asks before quickly answering his own question. "It will reach out like an octopus. We're going to have kids playing here all day long. This field will help them physically, spiritually and mentally."

Do you believe?

The Gila River Indian Reservation, established in 1859, is composed of Pima and Maricopa tribes, whose roots date back 2,000 years. The 372,000-acre reservation is home to about 20,000 people. Although it's still part of the reservation's name, the Gila River ceased flowing many years ago after a dam was built.

The reservation has serious social problems — nearly 75 percent of its residents live below the poverty line, and alcoholism is widespread. But just as alarming is that the reservation's residents suffer from one of the highest rates of diabetes per capita in the world. That reason alone makes building a grass field for the children even more vital because exercise is essential to combat the onset of the disease.

Sister Martha explains that exercise helps speed up the metabolism in Indian children, which is genetically low and often leads to obesity, a major cause of diabetes. "The two biggest weapons we have to combat diabetes are exercise and nutrition," she adds.

The students run one mile before breakfast, one mile before lunch and one-half mile before recess. Last December, Garagiola visited St. Peter and watched the kids run during one of the area's notorious windstorms. The kids were covered with the desert's irritating dust and overcome with frustration. Garagiola was agitated as well and felt helpless. But as he watched the children battle the elements, the notion struck him about the possibility of growing grass on the land.

That's when Garagiola turned to the Arizona superintendents he met last year — people he knew were experts in grow-

ing grass and tending turf. Garagiola, a popular public speaker, had emceed a Cactus and Pine function and had met Cannon and several superintendents. He phoned Cannon to ask for help.

Cannon, in turn, spoke with Clark, Holyoak and chapter
Continued on page 51

Fewer clippings.

The excellent nutrient release characteristics of Scotts® Contec® fertilizer for tees, greens and fairways means excellent green-up with minimal surge and fewer clippings. You also get the benefits of these essential nutrients from every single particle.

And that's the bald truth.

Contact your distributor today, or call 1-800-543-0006.

CIRCLE NO. 124

www.golfdom.com **Golfdom 49**

Extreme Golf

Do you have a difficult turfgrass requirement?

TMI turf grasses perform superbly in the most demanding environments.

Why?... Maybe it's because TMI has the most advanced genetics, combined with research to select the right turf grass for the right application.

This gives TMI varieties and the turf professional who use them a distinct advantage. Benefits like ease of transition, better resistance to turf diseases and lower maintenance requirements are just a few of the many ways Turf Merchants is

**Perfecting
Turfgrass
Performance™**

33390 Tangent Loop
Tangent, Oregon 97389
Phone (541) 926-8649
Fax (541) 926-4435
800-421-1735
www.turfmerchants.com

TMi
TURF MERCHANTS, INC.