

Field of Dreams

Continued from page 49

president Kevin Smith. She explained Garagiola's plight to build a field at St. Peter. The four were more than willing to help — if they could. They went to the reservation last December and met Garagiola and Sister Martha to survey the ground's condition.

When Holyoak first saw the ground at St. Peter, the past president of the Arizona Cactus and Pine GCSA figured it would take a miracle to grow grass on it. "When I first saw it, I asked myself, 'Can we do *anything*?' " Holyoak recalls.

The environment reminded Smith, CGCS of The Golf Club at Eagle Mountain in Fountain Hills, Ariz., about the stories of dust bowl Kansas in the 1940s. "The wind blows there frequently, and it's oppressively hot," he says of the climate on the reservation.

Nearly 50 people showed up at St. Peter on a weekend in May to trench and install a state-of-the-art computerized irrigation system complete with fertigation and a drainage system. Superintendents and others vow to continue to help maintain the field in the future.

The project officially started when Clark took a soil sample from the clay- and silt-laden ground. There were problems with the soil — it was very high in sodium because of the high salt content in the reservation's water supply — but

Continued on page 53



RICHARD CARMER



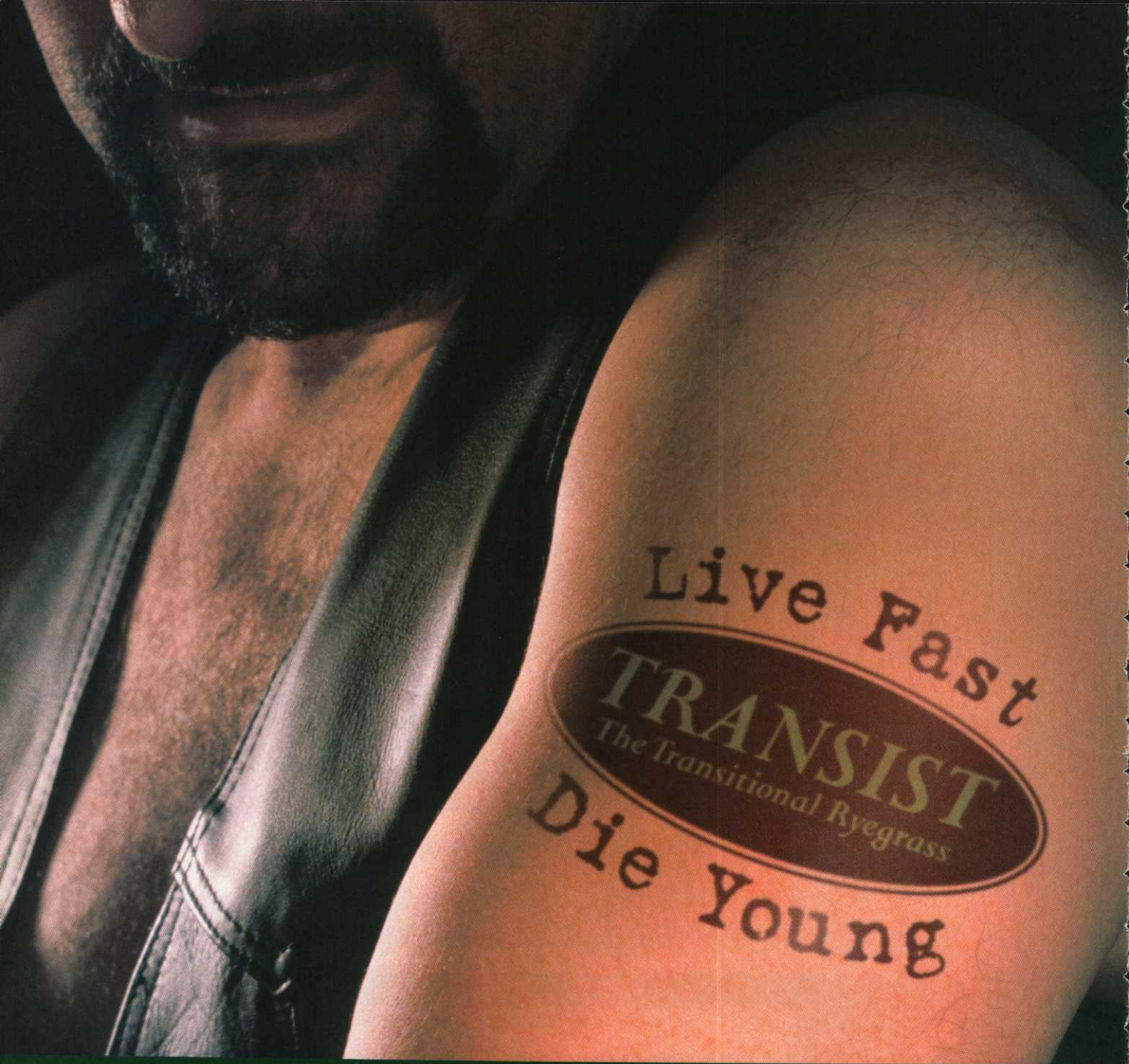
Make sure you get your nutrition.

What did Mom always tell you?
Don't skimp on the nutrients.
The unique Scotts® Contec® fertilizer formula packs essential nutrients into every particle, and excellent release characteristics deliver those nutrients exactly when and where they're needed.
Try it. You'll like it.
Contact your distributor today, or call 1-800-543-0006.



The Andersons

Scotts



Overseeding and nurse grass applications require a grass with the right attitude. A variety that will deliver superior turf performance when you need it, then just disappear without a trace. Introducing Transist, the Transitional Ryegrass from Pickseed.

Transist was developed specifically for transitional applications through an eight-year series of crosses between perennial and annual ryegrasses. The result is the one-of-a-kind Transitional Ryegrass that combines the high turf quality of its perennial roots with the rapid establishment, low persistence and economy of its annual ancestors.

Transist leaves other intermediate ryegrasses in the dust. It establishes quickly and exhibits better mowability and a slower rate of growth. It's also finer leaved, darker green and generally more attractive. And since it's less persistent, it will transition out much more quickly and completely in the spring.

Transist, the Transitional Ryegrass from Pickseed. Superior performance. No long goodbyes.



PICKSEED
good things growing...

P.O. Box 888 • Tangent, Oregon • 97389
Phone: (800) 547-4108 • Fax: (541) 928-1599

Circle No 126

Field of Dreams

Continued from page 51

it was treatable. Clark determined that gypsum amendments would improve the soil and make it fertile.

Cannon and the superintendents then called their own meeting for their peers and Garagiola. Nearly 25 superintendents attended, and all committed to giving their time and energy to build the field.

"I couldn't believe it was happening," Garagiola says. "I never lift my nose at someone writing a check [to make a donation], but these people wrote a check with their hard work, muscle, sweat and tears."

Smith was awed that so many superintendents and others from the golf course maintenance industry, including several equipment suppliers, were willing to help. Nearly 50 people showed up at St. Peter to help install the irrigation system in May. "We knew this would be

► **Sister Martha Carpenter is filmed by a local TV cameraman. The project has received mainstream media attention.**

▼ **A group of volunteer workers, including former Cactus and Pine GCSA president Randall "Hoke" Holyoak (center), help install the irrigation system in May.**

something that could galvanize our membership and bring our members together," Smith says.

Heart of the matter

Garagiola jokes that he changed the name of St. Peter Indian Mission to Our Lady of Quicksand. "Because once you get in, you can't get out," he says.

Garagiola has an endearing relationship with the students. They know that because of the former St. Louis Cardinals catcher, they have a new basketball court, new floors in classrooms, new restrooms, a new feast house and new carpet in the church, not to mention a new convent for the five nuns.

Garagiola knows a lot of people in high places. When he tells them about St. Peter and asks them to help, they take out their

Continued on page 55



RICHARD CARMER



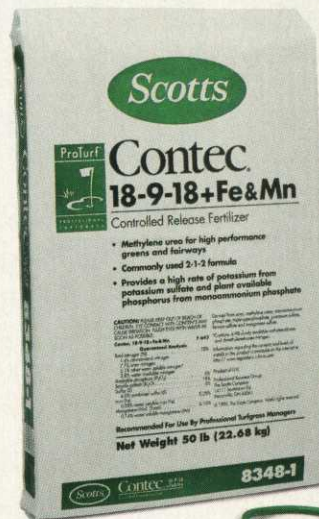
Minimal surge.

Scotts® Contec® fertilizer plugs you into excellent overall green-up, fewer clippings on fairways and optimal greens speed. How?

Through its homogeneous formulation and excellent nutrient release characteristics. Aren't those

the most powerful reasons you need for using it?

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



The
Andersons

Scotts

CIRCLE NO. 124

www.golfdom.com **Golfdom 53**

GREENS QUALITY SOD

BENTGRASS
TIFEAGLE
TIEDWARE

- Custom grow to your specifications
 - Washed or on sand
 - Big or Small Rolls



Life is Short. Sod It!

760/360-5464 • 800/477-1840 • www.westcoastturf.com

Field of Dreams

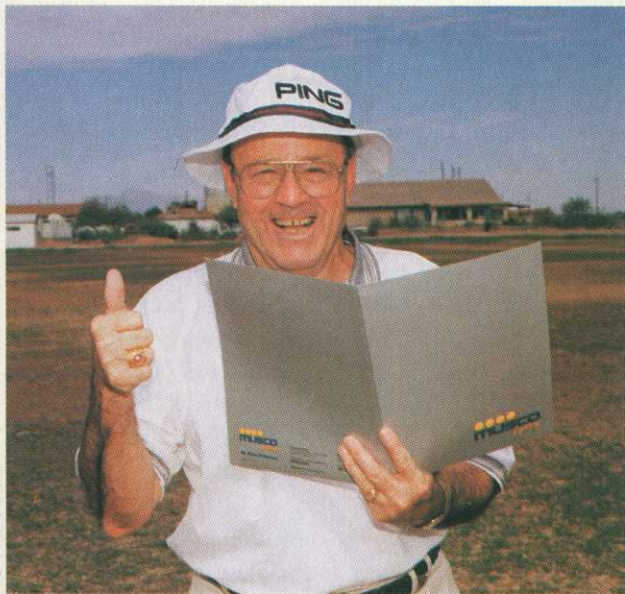
Continued from page 53

wallets. Garagiola says his friend, Joe Crookham, president of Oskaloosa, Iowa-based Musco Lighting, promptly donated lights for the softball field after hearing Garagiola's pitch.

When Garagiola walks in a second-grade classroom, the kids see him, smile and exclaim, "Hi Joe!" in unison. Garagiola cherishes the gesture.

"I just want these kids to have a chance," he says pensively. "Life is a race, and we're all at the starting line. I want these kids to be in the race. They're no different than anyone else."

Smith is touched by the undertaking and honored to be a part of it.



RICHARD CARMER

"These people — in a strong, silent and efficient way — got the job done," Joe Garagiola says of those who helped build the field.

"You can't put into words what you see and experience there," Smith says. "It's really something special."

Smith spread the word about the project to the association's affiliate members, who also responded in droves to help. Shawn Connors, president of Horizon's golf division, presented Sister Martha with plans for the field's irrigation system on April 21, which happened to be Good Friday. "She told me, 'This is really a *good Friday*,'" Connors says.

Of course, the kids are ecstatic about the field. Cameron Fasthorse, a sixth-grade student, says he won't miss running and kicking up the annoying dust. All John White, a seventh-grader, can say about the field is, "Cool!"

Sister Martha says the field will be like an oasis in the desert. "People will be out here all the time," she adds. "It will change the face of the earth here."

Everyone knows the field must be maintained if it's to endure. But superintendents and others vow their support and insist they won't forget about the project in a few years.

"This ball field will get treated like a golf course," Clark says. "We have people lined up who will aerify it annually."

But Clark realizes that he and other superintendents won't be able to stop by St. Peter on a regular basis to mow the grass or service the irrigation system.

"They have state-of-the-art everything," Clark says of the equipment. "But there's a lot here and not just anyone can run it. It's going to take training."

Garagiola and Sister Martha say they will train parents of students to maintain the field. "There's a hidden element in all of this, and that's parent involvement," Garagiola says.

Garagiola, who an Indian medicine man dubbed "Awesome Fox" for his dedication to St. Peter, admits he was a doubting Thomas and wondered if the field would ever be built. Now that he sees a thick grass field in place of what used to be, Garagiola is inspired. His soul is especially stirred by the altruism exhibited by superintendents and other industry representatives who embraced the project so passionately.

"They're hall of famers," Garagiola says. "The kids feel important because these people didn't just give them lip service. A lot of people come by here and say they're going to do this and that. But these people — in a strong, silent and efficient way — got the job done. You judge people by what's inside of them, and these people have heart." ■

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 55**

Fred Slagle gazes at the rolling hills and the verdant turf of the Little Thunder GC in Madison, Ohio. He eyes the course from right to left and back again. A cool rain has left the fairways and greens glistening in the setting sun, like tinsel sparkling on a lighted Christmas tree.

Slagle envisions Little Thunder packed with children ages 6 to 12 from all walks of life. Little Thunder, which opened in June, is Slagle's gift to the kids, whom he says badly need a place of their own to experience golf.

Slagle, owner and designer of the nearby Reserve at Thunder Hill GC, known as one of the most difficult courses in the state, is on a mission to get more kids to play golf and, more importantly, to get them to learn and heed the etiquette of the sport.

"Where can kids play golf today?" Slagle asks before quickly answering his own question. "The unanimous answer is nowhere."

Even golf's marketers say the game needs more kids' courses to grow interest in the sport, which is dominated by white adult males and not exploding with new golfers. The National Golf Foundation stresses that golf needs to be more "comfortable" and "exciting" for kids.

A 10-year-old kid, unless he or she is a budding Tiger Woods, is going to feel out of place and intimidated playing a course that's 7,000 yards long. Slagle's 9-year-old son, Darian, encountered such humbling feelings when his father let him play at the Reserve at Thunder Hill, a long and formidable course. Darian realized quickly that kids need their own courses.

So Darian began lobbying his father about three years ago to build a course on the tree-filled land near the Reserve at Thunder Hill that Slagle had purchased for his three young boys as a trust fund. Slagle chuckled at the thought, but Darian was impassioned about his request.

Darian told his dad that regular golf courses, such as the Reserve at Thunder Hill, were too big for kid golfers. Besides, adults don't want kids on such courses, Darian said, because they take too long to play. Darian

A Little Thunder, A Lot of Impact

BY LARRY AYLWARD



OWNER/DESIGNER

FRED SLAGLE

SCORES AN ACE

WITH A GOLF

COURSE FOR KIDS

also made it clear that he wasn't talking about miniature golf or a pitch-and-putt course.

"He wanted a real golf course like the Reserve at Thunder Hill," Fred says. "He just wanted to make it a little shorter."

Slagle's other son, then 5-year-old Damon, chimed in that it was a great idea. He told his dad that they could name the small course, Little Thunder. Slagle still thought it was a wacky idea, but he agreed to research the possibility of building a golf course for kids.

Slagle discovered there were plenty of three-hole, nine-hole and par-three courses for children to play, but no scaled-down, 18-hole courses with bunkers, ponds, multiple tees and other components that characterize full-scale courses.

If he was going to build a course for kids, Slagle wanted to provide them with a full-fledged golf experience — from making them think about strategies involved with certain shots to teaching them how to repair divots.

The more Slagle began thinking about the project and its benefits, the more he wanted to build the course. And he had the 65-acre site, which he says was a perfect spot for the project. "It's almost like God said, 'If you're going to build a golf course for kids, this is where it should be,'" Slagle says.

To date, more than 40 businesses have donated nearly \$1 million in supplies, equipment and labor to the cause. Slagle says most everyone he asked agreed to help as soon as he mentioned kids and a golf course.

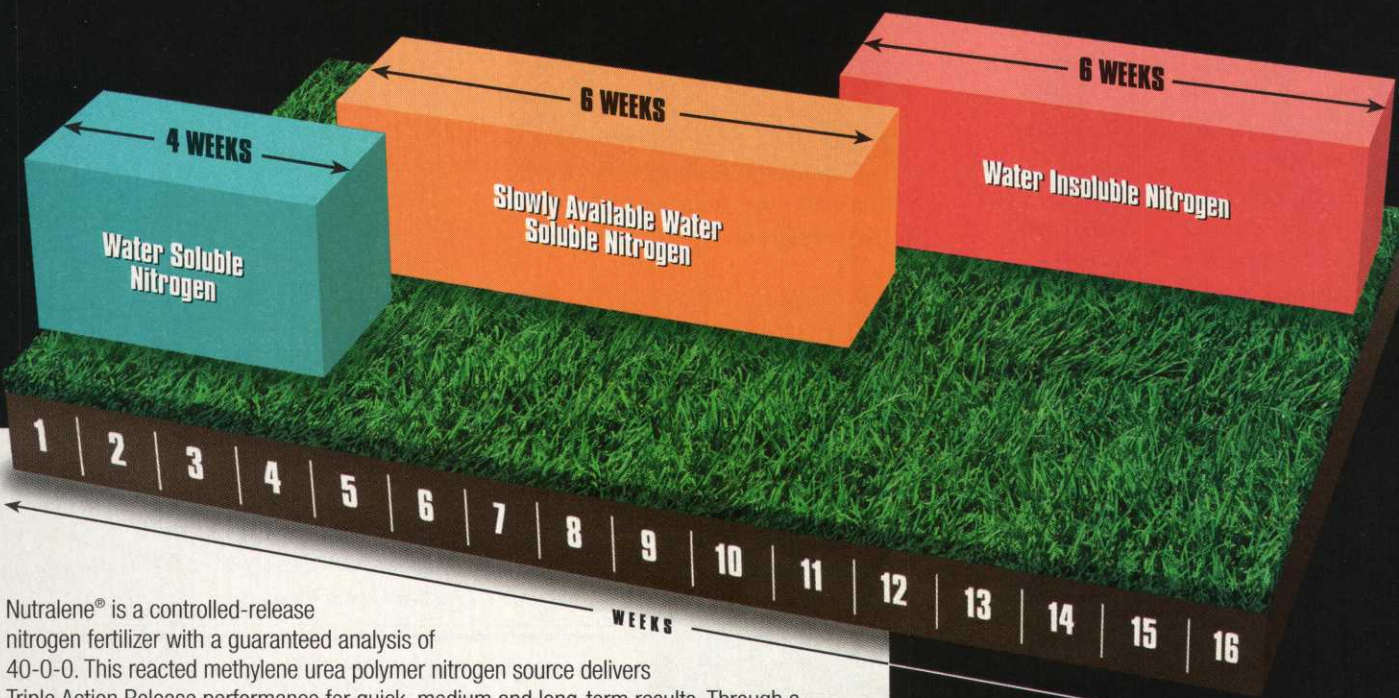
It's a challenging course, but that was Slagle's intention. While it's billed as a kids' course, it's difficult for some adults, who are encouraged to play the course with their kids. The greens pose a tough putting test, with undulations that would challenge Arnold Palmer in his hey-day. There are plenty of hazards,

Continued on page 58

There's Only One

Nutralene®

Controlled Release Nitrogen



Nutralene® is a controlled-release nitrogen fertilizer with a guaranteed analysis of 40-0-0. This reacted methylene urea polymer nitrogen source delivers Triple Action Release performance for quick, medium and long-term results. Through a combination of hydrolysis and microbial activity, N is uniquely and evenly released over a 12 to 16 week period under a broad range of environmental conditions, while enriching the microbial population of the soil at the same time. This combination means this nitrogen source is not solely dependent on either moisture or soil temperature for its ideal release pattern. This Triple Action mechanical release of NUTRALENE gives you a three-fold advantage.

1. Urea nitrogen (15%) for quick release, to provide good immediate response during the first four weeks after each feeding.
2. Short chained methylene urea (MU) polymers (50% to provide the sustained feeding required from week 4 through week 10 after application).
3. Long chained methylene urea (MU) polymers (35% for the sustained release) that's needed to provide a truly "extended" feeding period.

Thanks to its Triple Action Release modes, NUTRALENE provides an excellent nitrogen source in cooler temperatures or over wintering situations. And, its low salt index means this advanced nitrogen source will not burn even during the hot weather. You can count on uniform sustained feeding even following heavy rains or when applied through equipment that can cause particle fracturing. NUTRALENE is not dependent on a coating or particle size for nitrogen release. The result is a continuous, long-lasting nitrogen source, which begins feeding soon after application and continues for up to 16 weeks.



Nu-Gro Technologies, Inc.
2680 Horizon Drive, SE, Suite F5
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
1-888-370-1874
www.nugrotech.com

Circle No. 128

Nutralene® is a federally registered trademark of Nu-Gro America Corp.

All this from Neutralene® ... and only Neutralene®

- Grass continually grows greener and thicker... Instead of faster and longer.
- Grass responds with controlled growth... So there's no surge growth to cause extra mowing.
- Controlled growth produces less clippings
- Not dependent on Coating or Particle size
- No more worry of burning grass... Even in hot weather
- More friendly to the environment



For more information on Neutralene® a Proven Methylene Urea, call 1-888-370-1874 or e-mail us at nugro@iserv.net.

Money Shot

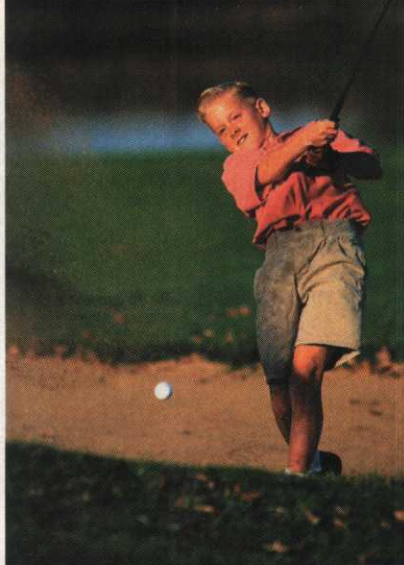
Continued from page 56

too, as in 64 bunkers and four ponds.

Slagle realizes that a 7-year-old kid may not have the patience or desire to play 18 holes. So he designed the course with that in mind, along with skill levels. While kids can play 18 holes, they can also play six at a time. The first six holes on the course are the easiest, the second six holes are harder and the third six holes are the most difficult. "We needed to make the course flexible," Slagle says.

While golf is about strategy, it's also about etiquette perhaps more than any other sport. Slagle believes golf is the only sport that teaches kids respect for fellow players and the environment.

He did not build Little Thunder to teach kids how to drive a golf ball 250 yards as much as he did to teach them about social grace. "It's a sport that teaches you to be a gentleman," he says.



DIGITAL STOCK

Kids will feel out of place and intimidated playing courses that are 7,000 yards long.

When Slagle began plans for Little Thunder, he envisioned a place where kids could learn and play golf for free. He wants to stay true to that concept, but he realizes Little Thunder must have big money to make it happen.

Little Thunder is incorporated as a non-profit organization, and a major fundraising effort to obtain \$5 million is under way to offset playing fees. Sla-

gle wants to invest the money as an endowment so the course can function off annual interest revenues of about \$500,000.

Standing on the fairway of the 9th hole, Slagle pauses to view the landscape, dotted with maple, dogwood, beech and tulip trees. He jokes that he wanted to please his kids, but this time he may have gone too far. Then he dwells upon what he has created.

"We're not doing this to see what kids can bring to golf," Slagle says. "We're doing it for what golf can bring to kids. We want to give kids the chance to be introduced to a sport of gentleness, honesty and consideration for others."

It's an understatement to say that Fred Slagle is on to something.

Larry Aylward, editor of Golfdom, can be reached at 440-891-2770 or larryward@advanstar.com.

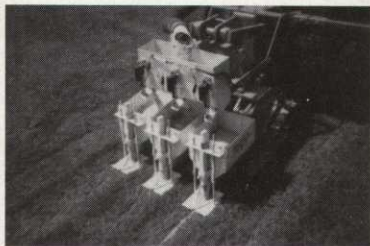
WaterWick®

IMPROVES DRAINAGE!



IMPROVES AERATION!

Patented non-invasive process that inserts gravel into the soil without removing any existing material.



(888) 287-1644

www.waterwick.com

Water Wick, Inc.
491 North Main Street
Southampton, New York 11968

Circle No. 130

WHERE DO YOU STORE YOUR PESTICIDES?



SECURALL offers a complete line of safety storage buildings specifically designed for storing your turf chemicals safely and securely. All buildings are designed to help you comply with prevailing EPA and OSHA codes. Constructed of 12 or 16 gauge galvanized steel. Standard buildings come with many features or choose from several options.

Features

- High Security Lock
- Fiberglass Insulated Walls
- Fluorescent Interior Lights
- Corrosion Resistant Enamel Finish
- Steel Shelves With Raised Edges
- GFCI Protected Electrical Wiring

Options

- Heating / cooling / ventilation
- Dry chemical fire extinguisher
- Fiberglass floor grating
- Liquid level detectors
- Water sprinkler system
- Ramps

SECURALL®

5122 North State Road 39 LaPorte, IN 46350
1-888-326-7890 FAX: 1-888-324-3780
Email: securallsales@csinet.net
www.securallproducts.com

CIRCLE NO. 129



Let's Get (the Best) Bent

Top bentgrass gives courses like Cog Hill in Lemont, Ill., distinction because the turf remains lush at all cutting heights.

MIKE KLEMME

BY MARK LESLIE

Superintendents
want the finest
varieties money
can buy

What do superintendents want in bentgrass? "Bragging rights," says turfgrass breeder Milt Engelke of Texas A&M University.

Forget science and technology. Don't even be concerned about grounds crew members spending 18 to 36 hours daily on their hands and knees digging out *Poa annua*. If it's bragging rights they want, then bragging rights they'll get.

The best modern bentgrass has a great look, especially at lower heights with frequent mowing, says Terry Buchen, an agronomic consultant from Williamsburg, Va. "The grass has a sheen over it, no matter how low it's cut ... sort of a waxed-car look."

In this case, it's a Lexus or Rolls Royce look. For as a Lexus is to a Grand Am, bentgrass is to bluegrass. It's far more expensive, of higher quality and has a flashier paint job, but it's also more costly to maintain. That's the rub for manag-

ing the newest and highest rated bentgrass — the Penn A and Penn G series of cultivars.

Their extraordinary density and color, combined with good disease resistance, have won the hearts of many cool-season and transition-zone superintendents, whose clubs can afford the cost of extra cultivation efforts necessary to keep them healthy — such as mowing below one-eighth inch, frequent topdressing and grooming, and light verticutting.

Engelke underscores the point about his SYN 96-1, 2 and 3 varieties that ranked fifth, sixth and eighth behind the As and Gs (which filled the first four slots) in recent National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) studies. "These [SYNs] will make another significant step toward moderate maintenance levels and improving the quality of the golf course without breaking the budget," he says.

But Bill Rose, president of Hubbard,
Continued on page 61

OVERSEEDING? READ ON...



'Awesome Results' with Focus...

"FOCUS™ Biostimulant did an awesome job for us this past season on our fall-overseeded greens and fairways. The rapid stand establishment and excellent winter color of our triple-blend of *Poa trivialis* brought lots of favorable comments.

We have continued to apply Focus to our greens, with exceptional improvements in our bermudagrasses (419 and Champion), especially in rootmass development. Also, you know your grass is loaded with chlorophyll when your mowers come in with green juice dripping off the bedknives!"

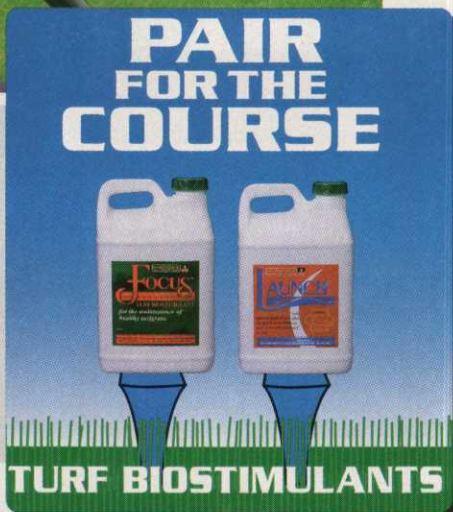
*Bart Miller, GCS
Crowfield Golf & Country Club
Goose Creek (Greater Charleston) SC*

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS.



An Employee-Owned Company

Questions? Let's talk:
1-800-821-7925
www.pbigordon.com



'Miracle Worker' (Launch, that is)...

"LAUNCH™ Biostimulant is a miracle worker, in my opinion. A severe ice storm hit Cloquet in February, 1997. When I started here in March of last year it was still a mess. The No. 2 green didn't have a blade of grass left and No. 1 was almost as bad.

When we seeded these greens (partially sodding the shadiest area of one), we figured it would be mid-July or August before the new Penncross could be played. But, thanks to Launch, we were putting on them by the first of June!"

*Jud Crist, GCS
Cloquet Country Club
Cloquet, MN*

