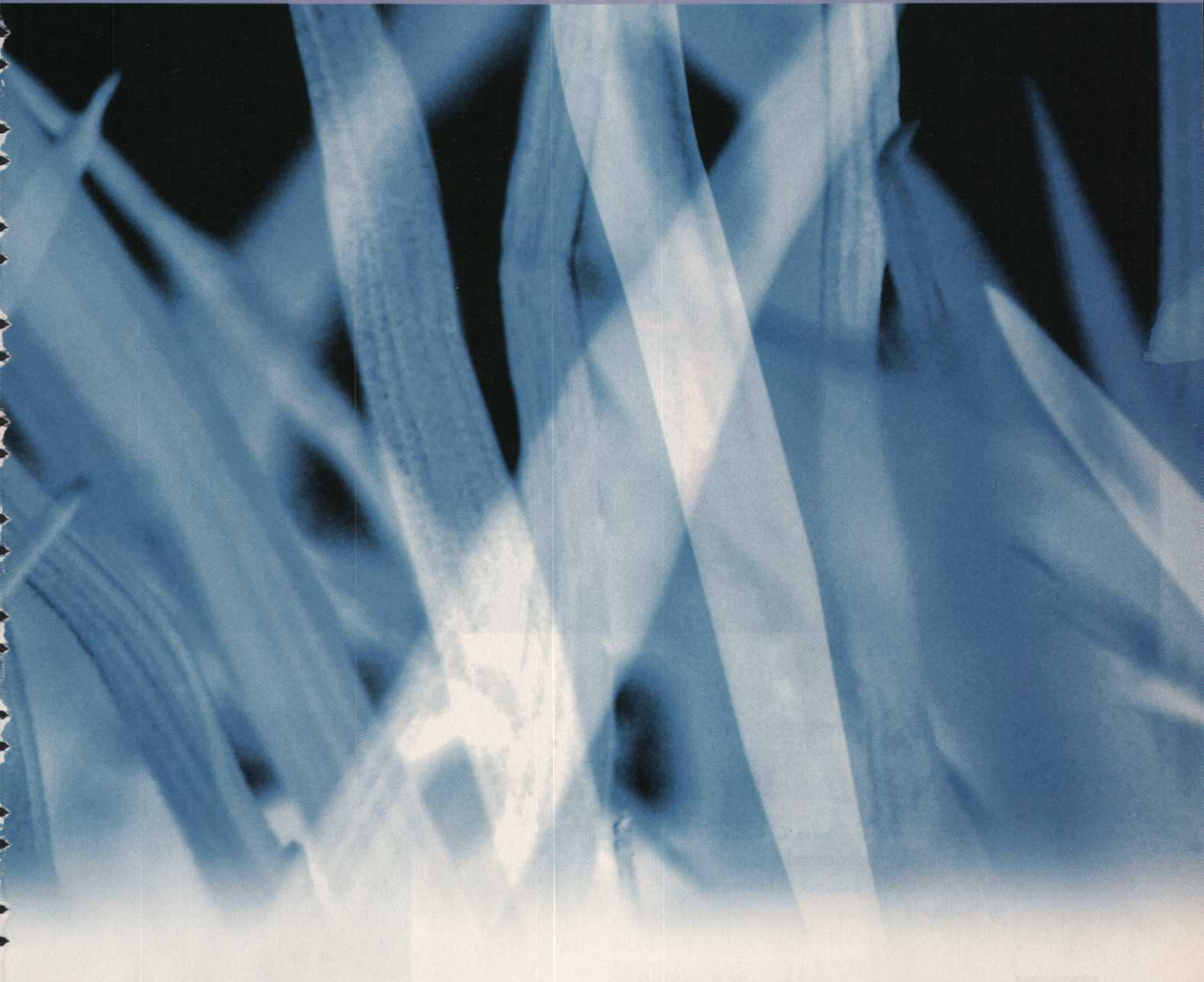


SYSTEMIC STROBILURIN - BENTGRASS AT 240%

To protect longer,
you have to work from the inside.

A close-up, artistic photograph of several grass blades, likely from a turf, showing their texture and structure. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of depth and texture. The blades are arranged in a way that suggests a dense, healthy lawn.

That's the power of a systemic. Xylem to tip, Heritage® is the only systemic strobilurin that protects each and every blade of grass, including new growth. Broad-spectrum disease control protection from the inside, that lasts up to 28 days against all four major classes of fungi and the six major turf diseases. Heritage works from the inside so your turf looks good outside. Call 1-800-395-8873 to contact your local Syngenta sales representative and learn more about Heritage.




www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com

Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product. ©2002 Syngenta. Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC 27419. Heritage® and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

Golfdom

AUGUST 2002 • VOLUME 58 • NO. 8

Over the Hill?



37

The Green Industry May Be Greener . . .

Disenchanted superintendents may want to consider a career in lawn care.

By Phil Fogarty

38

He's the Real Deal

You know what you get with Hazeltine National superintendent Jim Nicol.

By Larry Aylward



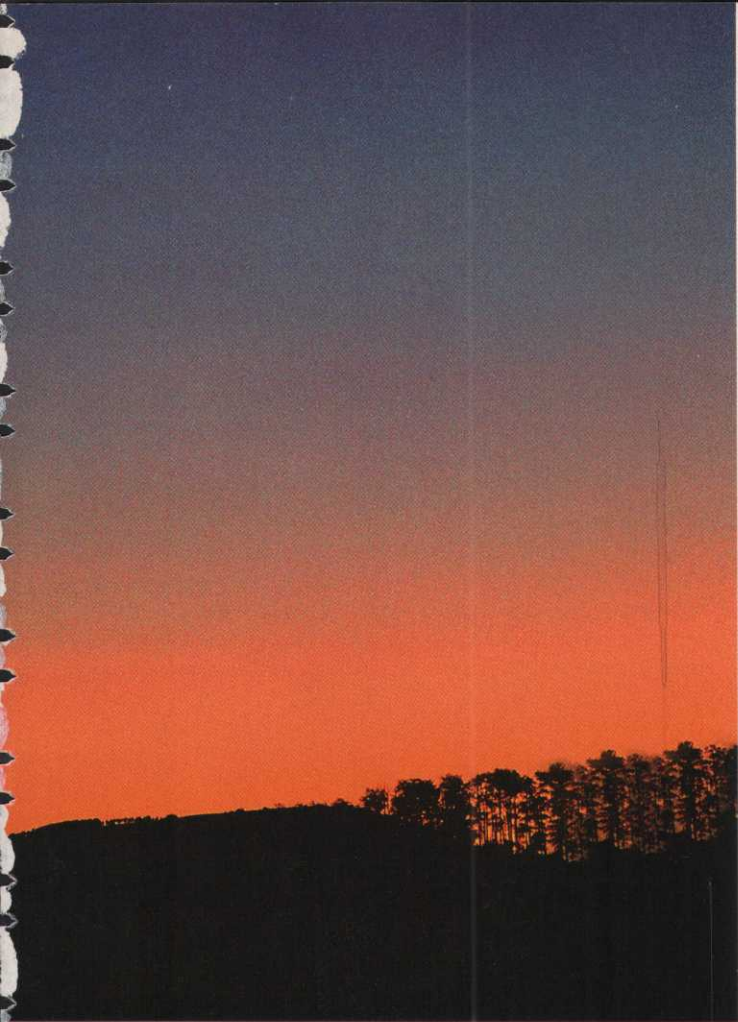
50

Seeds of Struggle

Lessons learned from problems seeding the back nine smoothed the way for a flawless front nine seeding at Firestone CC's West Course.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.





columns

cover story

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.

They're older, but so what? Turning 50 doesn't mean superintendents have to turn the page on their golf course maintenance careers.

26

About the cover

Art Director Lisa Lehman designed the innovative "Over the Hill" concept.

- 8 **Flagstick**
This Turf Disease Can Affect You
- 10 **Pin High**
He's Just Enjoying 'Doin' Nothin'
- 25 **Shades of Green**
We Are Definitely Not Over the Hill
- 48 **Designs On Golf**
Let's Deep Six The Doublespeak
- 52 **It's Academic**
Effective Grub Options Shrink
- 66 **Out of Bounds**
Personal Library

departments

- 6 **Going Postal**
- 12 **Off the Fringe**
- 22 **Hole of the Month**
- 58 **Tips: Preparing for Sodding**
- 62 **Company Line**
- 65 **Classifieds**

News with a hook

- 12 **A Specialty Company**
- 16 **At Any Cost**

Getting It Straight

We had a case of mistaken identity in the July issue, and it's time to set the record straight. Jennifer Mongeluzo, an intern at the Sunningdale CC who was profiled in a story, is from New York. In the cover story on "How the Other Half Lives," Don Brown is certified superintendent of White Manor CC. In the Local Heroes ad, it should have said Gary Carls is from Sunnyvale GC in Sunnyvale, Calif.

In the June issue, the caption on page 64 of the "Process Makes Perfect" article should have read, "The fifth hole before the restoration. MacKenzie's original sketch for the green was available, making it one of the better-documented greens on the course."

Also in June, the phone number for the Syngenta GreenPartners program item in Company Line should have read 800-334-9481, ext. 6379.



56

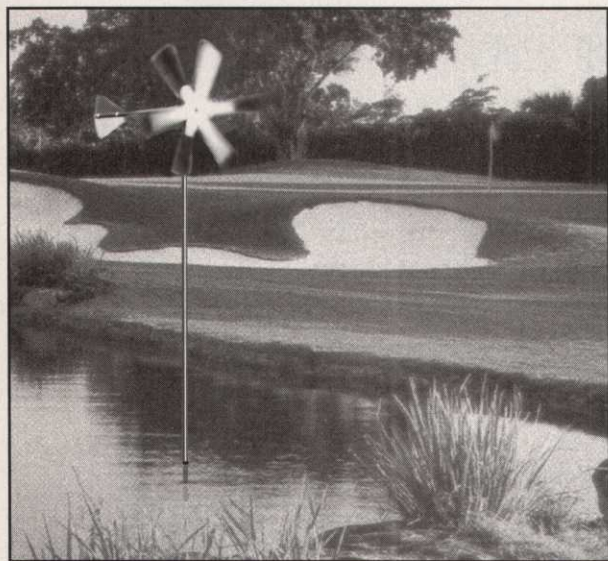
In a Word, Resourceful

Superintendents put spreaders to many uses.

By Peter Blais

Prevent damage from Canada geese.

A new visual bird repeller
that uses uv light to scare geese.



Uniquely painted blades scare geese with uv light.
Wind driven blades repel geese in up to 2 acre area.

\$69 each

JWB Marketing

Call: (800) 555-9634

www.birdcontrolsupplies.com

CIRCLE NO. 104

TEMPORARY/SEASONAL LABOR VISAS



NEW FLAT RATE!

BRAND NEW PRICE STRUCTURE!

OPTION I

\$3,500 FOR 1-20 PERMITS

OPTION II

\$5,000 FOR 25-100 PERMITS

BE SURE TO SIGN UP BEFORE FALL!

Foley Enterprises

The H-2B Specialists

Austin (512) 282 3237 Fax (512) 282 0958

Email: FoleyEnt@ev1.net

Toll Free (888) 623 7285

CIRCLE NO. 105

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

BUSINESS STAFF

John D. Payne GROUP PUBLISHER 440-891-2786 jpayne@advanstar.com
Mindy Moczulski ADMIN. COORDINATOR 440-891-2734 mmoczulski@advanstar.com
Jill Hood PRODUCTION MANAGER 218-723-9129 jhood@advanstar.com
Rosy Bradley PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 218-723-9720 rbradley@advanstar.com
Darryl Arquette CIRCULATION MANAGER 218-723-9422 darquitte@advanstar.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

7500 OLD OAK BLVD.
CLEVELAND, OH 44130-3609

Kevin Stoltman MIDWEST MANAGER kstoltman@advanstar.com
440-891-2772 FAX: 440-891-2675

Pat Roberts WESTERN MANAGER proberts@advanstar.com
440-891-2609 FAX: 440-891-2675

Michael Harris ACCOUNT MANAGER mharris@advanstar.com
440-891-3118 FAX: 440-826-2865

Leslie Zola CLASSIFIED, ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE lzola@advanstar.com
800-225-4569 X2670 FAX: 440-826-2865

REGIONAL OFFICES

Joseph Sosnowski EASTERN MANAGER jsosnowski@advanstar.com
150 STRAFFORD AVE.
WAYNE, PA 19087
610-687-2356 FAX: 610-687-1419

MARKETING SERVICES

Marcie Nagy REPRINTS (500 MINIMUM) 440-891-2744 mnagy@advanstar.com

Tamara Phillips CIRC. LIST RENTAL 800-225-4569, EXT. 2773 tphillips@advanstar.com

Subscriber, Customer Service 218-723-9477; 888-527-7008

**Books, Directories, Current Issues, Back Issues, Photocopies,
Microfiche, Film Copies, CD-Rom** 800-598-6008; 218-723-9180

CORPORATE



Robert L. Krakoff CHAIRMAN AND CEO

James M. Alic VICE CHAIRMAN

Joe Loggia PRESIDENT AND COO

David W. Montgomery VP/FINANCE, CFO AND SECRETARY

Alexander S. DeBarr EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Daniel M. Phillips EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Scott E. Pierce EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Eric I. Lisman EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Adele D. Hartwick VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER & CONTROLLER

Rick Treese VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Golfdom does not verify any claims or other information appearing in any of the advertisements contained in the publication, and cannot take any responsibility for any losses or other damages incurred by readers in reliance on such content.

Golfdom welcomes unsolicited articles, manuscripts, photographs, illustrations and other materials but cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping or return.

Advanstar Communications provides certain customer contact data (such as customers' names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) to third parties who wish to promote relevant products, services and other opportunities which may be of interest to you. If you do not want Advanstar Communications to make your contact information available to third parties for marketing purposes, simply call toll-free 888-527-7008 between the hours of 7:30 am and 5 pm CT and a customer service representative will assist you in removing your name from Advanstar's lists. Outside the U.S., please phone 218-723-9477.



Introducing Our **NEWEST** Amino Acid Biofertilizer

QUELANT[®]-Minors

Micronutrients Chelated with L-Amino Acids

Micronutrients, although required in relatively small amounts, very often are not available for plant uptake.

QUELANT-*Minors* is formulated for foliar application and absorption.

It provides Mg, Mn, Fe, Zn, S, B, Mo and L-amino acids in the proper proportions and the correct ionic forms for plants to absorb them.

L-amino acid chelated micronutrients are foliar absorbed, easily translocated, and used by turfgrass for normal growth and development.

For more information about QUELANT-*Minors* contact your local distributor or call Nutramax Agriculture, Inc. at 1-800-925-5187

macro-sorb.com

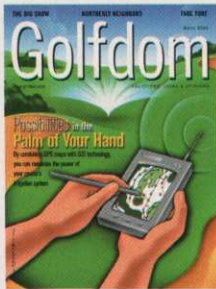


Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

You Forgot About Us

I must compliment you on your article "Possibilities in the Palm of your Hand" (March).



The article was quite factual and timely.

However, I am disappointed my company, GroundLinkx, was not contacted for contribution to your article. If you type "golf course maintenance gis" into the major Internet search engines, we are No. 8 in Google, No. 3 in Alta Vista and Nos. 5, 7 and 8 in Yahoo. In addition, GroundLinkx is the GIS program that is used by superintendent Kevin West at Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC.

David L. Mikesh, President
GroundLinkx LLC
Littleton, Colo.

Need for Green Our Own Fault

Superintendents have a lot of people to blame about the perception that completely green turf is better than having some brown, but superintendents are also to blame (Pin High, May).

For example, how many of us enjoy seeing things turn brown in the summer? Part of it is that superintendents do get pressure to keep courses green, but part of it is that many of us have been trained to provide perfect conditions all the time. It also stems from the fact that many of us are perfectionists and cannot tolerate off-color turf ourselves.

In order for things to change, a movement needs to begin somewhere so that totally green

turf is not the norm, and a little brown can be acceptable to golfers.

Jeff Johnson, Superintendent
The Minikahda Club
Minneapolis

Etchells Is a Gem

I really enjoyed the article on Ed Etchells ("Jack's Right-Hand Agronomic Man," May). I had the pleasure of working with Ed on a Nicklaus project in Monroe, N.Y., a few years ago and I learned a lot from him. Etchells is a great source of knowledge and experience, and he's more than willing to share all he knows.

Ed Walsh, CGCS
The Golf Club at Wending Creek Farm
Coudersport, Pa.

Battle Over Organics Continues

In reference to your organics article ("Do They or Don't They?," May), we just submitted a manuscript to *Crop Science* in which we found that some organic products actually increased dollar spot. We also evaluated the potential for biostimulants to reduce disease, and none of them were better than low amounts of nitrogen applied every two weeks.

Jack Fry
Professor, Division of Horticulture
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kan.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at fandorka@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pat Jones PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-891-3126 pjones@advanstar.com
Larry Aylward EDITOR 440-891-2770 laylward@advanstar.com
Frank H. Andorka Jr. MANAGING EDITOR 440-891-2708 fandorka@advanstar.com
Geoff Shackelford CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877 geoffshackelford@aol.com
Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971 flgm@aol.com
Mark Luce CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044 mluce@sunflower.net
Dave Wilber CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 916-630-7600 dave@soil.com
Dr. Karl Danneberger CHIEF SCIENCE EDITOR danneberger.1@osu.edu
Lisa Lehman CORP. CREATIVE DIRECTOR 440-891-2785 llehman@advanstar.com
Kim Traum SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER 440-891-3175 ktraum@advanstar.com
Mike Klemme CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284 mike@golffoto.com
Sue Porter EXECUTIVE EDITOR 440-891-2729 sporter@advanstar.com
Vernon Henry CORP. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-826-2829 vhenry@advanstar.com
Lynne Brakeman WEB EDITOR 440-891-2869 lbrakeman@advanstar.com

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

7500 OLD OAK BLVD.
CLEVELAND, OH 44130-3609

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF



American Society of Irrigation Consultants 221 N. LASALLE ST., STE. 3500
CHICAGO 60601; 312-372-7090; WWW.ASIC.ORG

GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

Joe Baidy, CGCS,
TURNING STONE GC

Jim Barrett, ASIC
JAMES BARRETT ASSOCIATES

Jan Beljan, ASGCA,
FAZIO DESIGN

Jerry Coldiron, CGCS,
LASSING POINTE GC

David Davis, FASIC
DAVID D. DAVIS ASSOCIATES

Kevin DeRoo,
BARTLETT HILLS GC

George Frye Jr.
CONSULTANT

Bob Graunke, CGCS,
TIDEWATER GC & PLANTATION

Steve Hammon
TRAVERSE CITY G&CC

Alan Hess, CGCS,
GOLF PARTNERS MANAGEMENT LTD.

Armand LeSage,
LAKE ARROWHEAD CC

Jim Husting, CGCS,
WOODBIDGE G&CC

Tom Kastler,
CLUB AT RUNAWAY BAY

Bob Lohmann, ASGCA,
LOHMANN GOLF DESIGN

Walter Mattison
(IN MEMORY)

Bil Montague, CGCS, MG
WICKED WOODS GC

Don Naumann,
SIERRA PACIFIC TURF

Jim Nicol, CGCS,
HAZELTINE NATIONAL GC

Doug Petersan, CGCS,
CC OF AUSTIN

Joel Ratcliff, CGCS,
WORLD TOUR

Ken Sakai
GOLF PACIFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP

Randy Zidik, CGCS,
E.H. GRIFFITH INC.

ASSOCIATIONS



American Society of Golf Course Architects 221 N. LASALLE ST.,
CHICAGO 60601; 312-372-7090; WWW.GOLFDESIGN.ORG



Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
1421 RESEARCH PARK DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3859; 800-472-7878;
WWW.GCSAA.ORG



Golf Course Builders Association of America
727 "O" STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68508; 402-476-4444;
WWW.GCBAA.ORG



National Golf Course Owners Association 1470 BEN SAWYER BLVD.,
STE. 18, MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464; 843-881-9956;
WWW.NGCOA.ORG



Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment 1156 15TH ST. NW,
SUITE 400, WASHINGTON, DC; 202-872-3860; WWW.PESTFACTS.ORG

HALF A PIECE OF MESA IS STILL MESA.

HALF AN SCU IS A WASTE.



No matter how you break it down, MESA is superior to SCUs. Why? Because when you cut or break a sulfur-coated urea granule, the nitrogen is catastrophically released, resulting in flush growth and loss of nitrogen. But with MESA, you get ammonium sulfate and methylene urea combined in a single granule. That means every particle will deliver its

nutrients properly, even if the granule is chipped or cracked. Nothing is ever wasted. The result is consistent, long-lasting turf response. And no turf burns. MESA provides the quality and performance you can't get with an SCU, at an SCU price. For more information, see your Lebanon Distributor or call 1-800-233-0628. Or visit our website at www.lebturf.com.



To learn more about slow release nitrogen and fertilization, simply go to www.lebturf.com/offers and fill out the online request form to request a FREE copy of our agronomy manual. Coupon Code: GD0809



Lebanon
TURF PRODUCTS

Our reputation is growing yours.™

CIRCLE NO. 107

There's a little-known but serious condition that strikes three out of four superintendents which, without proper treatment, can turn them into babbling, shell-shocked zombies incapable of

sleeping, eating or remembering their dogs' names. The scientific name for this condition is *turfotic nervosus linksiensis*. We know it better as "Crazed Summertime Greenkeeper Syndrome."

We recently commissioned Professor Bullwinkle von Moose of the world-renowned Whatsamatta University to conduct a major study of the causes and treatments of CSGS. I'm proud to present Dr. von Moose's findings to you exclusively here in *Golfdom*.

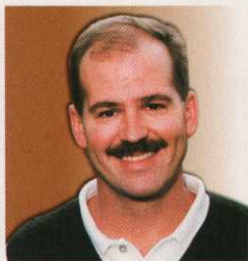
Diagnosis – You may be suffering from CSGS if you experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- You've given your pump station a pet name and visit it four or five times daily to give it gentle, loving encouragement. ("Come on Ethel, you can make it through the member/guest, sweetie pie.")
- Your assistant has standing instructions to clock you upside the head with a cup-cutter if he sees you lunging at the throat of your new, know-it-all green chairman.
- Your crew nicknames you "Watchoutfor," as in "Watchoutfor Jim today, he's ready to blow a gasket."
- You spend so much time at the course, you have to log on to Mapquest to get directions to your house.
- Those hot dogs at the snack bar actually start to look good.
- Your wife or girlfriend accuses you of having an affair with someone named "Pythium" because you keep saying her name in your sleep.
- When a neighbor casually asks if you've been playing a lot of golf lately, you begin to laugh so insanely he quietly backs away and dials 911 on his cell phone.

Causes – von Moose says the leading cause of CSGS is the Johnny Miller Virus, a disease transmitted to golfers via their TVs. "The virus causes golfers to suffer delusions under which they believe they should get Tour-quality conditions for the \$18 they just plopped down to play your course," von Moose says. "They also have a puzzling tendency to yap incessantly about 'grain.'"

This Turf Disease Can Affect You

BY PAT JONES



HOW TO DIAGNOSE

AND DEAL WITH

"CRAZED

SUMMERTIME

GREENKEEPER

SYNDROME"

Once golfers become infected with the Miller Virus (or a related malady called the "I-Just-Played-Somewhere-Else-And-This-Place-Looks-Like-A-Goat-Track-By-Comparison" Virus), superintendents are exposed to unrealistic expectations and wacky amateur agronomic theories. ("We should put out food to attract more geese. The droppings are great fertilizer, and it's free!")

Immune systems already weakened by the usual summertime mix of heavy play, hot temperatures, labor problems, disease and self-induced pressure are easy prey for the virus. Many superintendents develop full-blown CSGS by the end of June.

Treatment – Although there is no known cure for CSGS (except for chucking the whole thing and taking a cushy sales job), there are several effective treatments:

- Get a daily kiss on your nose from your spouse, child or other loved one to remind you of your real priorities in life.
- Attend a summertime chapter meeting for commiseration with colleagues. (Note: CSGS sufferers should *never* host meetings . . . their heads will literally explode from the stress.)
- Practice primal scream therapy in the privacy of your home (if you remember where it is).
- Sit down for an occasional soothing chat with your pal Bud Weiser or his cousin from Scotland, Glen Fiddich.
- Learn to smile and nod patiently while Joe Golfer tells you a better way to do your job — then stroll to the parking lot to enjoy the satisfying *hiss*s of the air accidentally being let out of the tires on his new BMW.

If all other treatments fail, try repeating the following mantra several hundred times daily: "I can make it through Labor Day, I can make it through Labor Day, I can make it . . ."

Pat Jones can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com.

**OTHER PREEMERGENTS TALK A LOT ABOUT CRABGRASS.
WITH PENDULUM®, IT NEVER COMES UP.**



Pendulum® herbicide consistently controls crabgrass better than other preemergent herbicides.* What more can we say? How about **Pendulum** controls a broader spectrum of weeds than any other preemergent—more than 40 grassy and broadleaf weeds, such as oxalis and spurge, in all. It also controls costs, to offer you greater value. Plus, **Pendulum** comes in granular and liquid formulations, and BASF pendimethalin is available on fertilizer from Scotts and Helena, for maximum application flexibility.

With **Pendulum**, there's just so much more to talk about than crabgrass. To learn more about why everyone's talking about **Pendulum**, call 1-800-545-9525 or visit www.turffacts.com. Always read and follow label directions.



WE DON'T MAKE THE TURF. WE MAKE IT BETTER.

BASF

CIRCLE NO. 108

© 2002 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved. Pendulum is a registered trademark of BASF.
*Based on field trials conducted during 2001 at Clemson University, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas, N.C. State University, Penn State University and University of Maryland. Visit www.turffacts.com for details.
02-14-123-000EB

It's been five months since he retired, but Gordon "Gordie" Crockett can't sleep in. He still gets up at five — the same time he rose nearly every day for more than 40 years. "I don't know," Crockett replies, when asked why he doesn't cut himself some slack and sleep until seven or eight. "I just can't do it yet."

Crockett called it a day for good in early March after a 41-year-career, including 39 years as superintendent, at Purple Sage and Fairview Municipal golf courses in Caldwell, Idaho, a small town located about 30 miles from Boise. Needless to say, his body clock is set to rise with the roosters.

Don't think for a minute, however, that you can take the man out of the superintendent, but you can't take the superintendent out of the man. Crockett may not be catching up on years of lost sleep, but he's catching plenty of rainbow trout. Translation: He's digging retirement.

"I'm lovin' it," Crockett says convincingly in his friendly twang. "I've been busy. I'm doin' a lot of fishin' and playin' a lot of golf."

More importantly, he's *not* doing a lot of dwelling on what it's like *not* to be a superintendent anymore.

"It was time to do something else," Crockett says. "It's nice to get up and not have to worry about the greens and the fairways."

There are things to ponder — and learn — from Crockett's lengthy career. First, it's all right to work at the same course for four decades and not have to apologize for it. Too many superintendents these days feel like they have to move around the country every five years to move up in their careers. They consider themselves "lifers" if they're at courses for more than five years.

I'm not knocking the move-around-to-move-up-in-the-world philosophy, but there's something to be said for stability. Crockett should be proud of working at the same place for that long.

"I'm kind of surprised myself," the humble Crockett says of his longevity. "I don't know. I guess I was just dumb enough to stay here."

He laughs at his comment. Crockett is proud to have spent so many years at Purple Sage and Fairview. He loved his job. Like many of his peers, golf course maintenance was his passion.

And he loves Caldwell, Idaho, the only town he's known. Crockett's like the character from

He's Just Enjoying 'Doin' Nothin' '

BY LARRY AYLWARD



THERE ARE THINGS
TO PONDER — AND
LEARN — FROM
SUPERINTENDENT
GORDIE CROCKETT'S
LENGTHY CAREER

the John Mellencamp song, "Small Town."

*I was born in a small town;
And I live in a small town;
Prob'ly die in a small town;
Oh, those small communities.*

You'd think that after 41 years, Crockett would have a hard time letting go of his job — but he doesn't even miss it. Heck, it doesn't even sound like Crockett had to ease into retirement. "It was kinda nice to get up that first morning and think, 'Man, I don't have to do a darn thing today,'" he says.

That's the way it should be when the time comes — for all of us.

Perhaps Crockett's legacy is his son, T.J., who became a superintendent because he wanted to be like his dad. T.J., the superintendent of Meridian GC near Boise, said he's happy his dad decided to hang up his work boots.

But T.J. will miss his father. After all, Gordie wasn't just his dad; he was his mentor and ally. "We relied on each other," T.J. says.

T.J. will miss moments he may have taken for granted — like when he'd pick up the phone and call Gordie at his course to talk turf maintenance. "I'd ask him, 'What are you doing to get rid of the green moss or the black algae?'" T.J. says.

There's a hint of sadness in his voice when T.J. realizes there will be no more dialing up his dad for advice.

"Oh, he can still call me on the phone to talk," Gordie says, when told of T.J.'s sentiment. "If I'm home."

Gordie cackles. Chances are he *won't* be home. He'll be casting his line into the lake or studying his line to the hole on the green.

"I'm just enjoyin' doin' nothin'," he declares.

After more than 40 years in the business, he deserves to enjoy "doin' nothin'."

Golfdom Editor Larry Aylward can be reached at 440-891-2770 or lajlward@advanstar.com.