

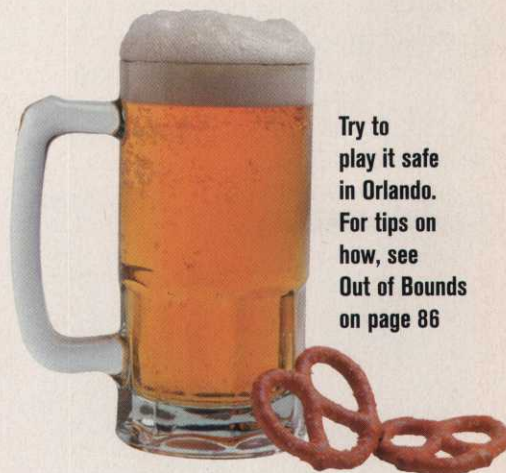
No Offense, Mickey

Here's how to get off Orlando's beaten path for a little R&R during the greatest show on Earth . . . err . . . turf

BY JOEL D. JACKSON

after all-day seminars and trekking the GCSAA trade-show floor at Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, it's a good bet you'll be ready for a break. While there are plenty of hotels and restaurants on popular International Drive, there are just as many nearby local hangouts if you want to get away from the crowd, have a cool brew and get some reasonably priced food.

Those seeking the sports bar/grill experience won't be disappointed. Venues include two Orlando Ale Houses, one on Kirkman Road (just



Try to play it safe in Orlando. For tips on how, see **Out of Bounds** on page 86

north of the International Drive area) and one in Lake Buena Vista (on State Route 535, about 10 minutes west on Interstate 4). Each Ale House has a gazillion TVs covering sports 24/7, dollar beers and good food. J.B.'s Sports Bar (also on Kirkman Road) is another good bet.

Take Kirkman a little farther north, and you'll find Sam Snead's Tavern. Sam's golf memorabilia is on display, with good food to boot. Another recently remodeled golf bar is the Fairways Lounge at the Grand Cypress Club in the Lake Buena Vista area. If you must do Disney, there's the ESPN Club at the Boardwalk/Epcot complex. It's easy to get to from the convention center and is about a 15-minute ride.

Other local favorites include J.T.'s restaurant and bar. Hooters features three outlets near the

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PHOTODISC

GCSAA Preview

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convention center. The outlet at Pointe Orlando on International Drive will probably be mobbed, so you might want to hit the one on Kirkman Road for more elbow room (notice how Kirkman Road keeps coming up?), located just past Universal Studios. There's also a Hooters in Lake Buena Vista.

Pointe Orlando also sports The Players Club and Dan Marino's Tavern, but they're a little pricier than the others.

If you want to go primitive and visit a dive that has survived all the Disney-related flash and dash, don't miss The Big Bamboo Bar off State Route 535 and U.S. 192 in Kissimmee, not far from the convention center. This plain, ramshackle concrete-block bar with dirt parking lot and a screen door for air conditioning is a real urban legend that doesn't make the guidebooks. The walls are adorned with business cards of practically everyone who has worked at Disney, along with cartoon

sketches by original Disney animators. The furnishings are early flea market — rear seats from Econoline vans are used for booth seats along with wooden-cable spools for tables. The atmosphere may be rustic, but the beer is cold.

The international brethren can get a little slice of home or a pint at the Cricketeer Arms Pub in the Mercado complex on International Drive. For those ale lovers wanting to shake the tourist traffic, there are Kitty O'Shea's at Lake Buena Vista and The Stagedoor English pub on West 192 past Disney (friendly folks, full bar and even karaoke).

If you do have champagne tastes, there's always the Wyndham Palace Hotel in Lake Buena Vista. It features free champagne at sunset in the piano lounge on the 27th floor while over-

looking Disney fireworks. There is excellent five-star dining at Arthur's 27 and the Outback (not the chain), where reservations are required to sample the kangaroo and ostrich.

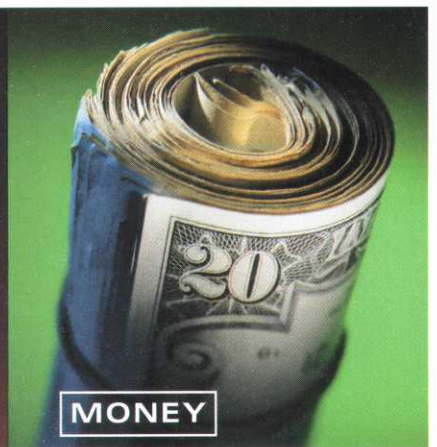
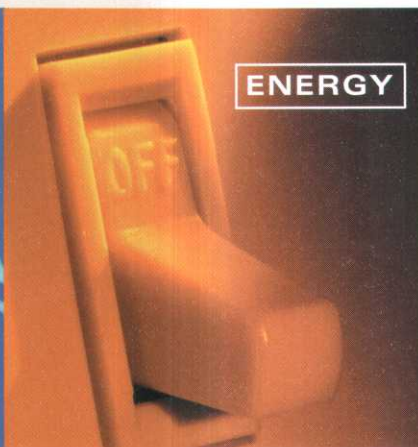
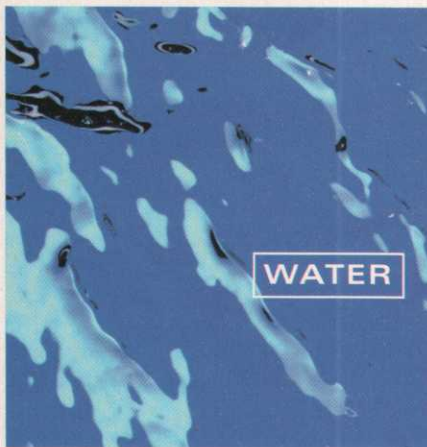
Less expensive but very popular are the two Bahamas Breeze restaurants, one on International Drive and the other on State Route 535 near Lake Buena Vista. They feature rum drinks, reggae music and Floribbean cuisine. I like the Jamaican Wings, which are huge.

If guys want to shop and do the Tim Allen grunt, there's the humongous Bass Pro Shops store on the International Drive north extension. Just take a right on International Drive, which is off — you guessed it — Kirkman Road. ■



Jackson, Golfdom's contributing editor and an Orlando resident, knows the city's scene better than the chamber of commerce.

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CIRCLE NO. 124

What's New?

Here are some of the new items you'll find on the GCSAA trade-show floor

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

it's always one of the first questions after the event: Was the trade show crowded? But, for a change, let's pose that question before the 73rd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show takes place Feb. 3-9 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. Of course, a few things need to be considered.

One – Sept. 11. Attendance will be down because people are afraid to fly.

Two – The economy. Attendance will be down because people don't have the money to travel.

Three – Orlando ain't rainy, chilly and boring like Dallas. Remember the heavy traffic on the floor last year because there was nowhere cool to sneak off to? But Orlando has its Dis(ne)ytractions.

The bottom line: If you make it to the show and spend some time on the floor, you'll see some cool things. You usually do.

If you stop by The Scotts Co.'s booth, you'll probably be impressed with its research on Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass. Eric Nelson, a senior turfgrass scientist at Scotts, says the product will be the "most thoroughly studied bentgrass

cultivar ever" before it hits the market in 2003.

Scotts and Monsanto, who are working on the technology together, say that *Poa annua*, *Poa triv* and bermudagrass are difficult to control selectively or suppress in conventional creeping bentgrass without also damaging the bentgrass. "Roundup Ready creeping bentgrass should permit selective control of both grassy and broadleaf weeds without any observable phytotoxic reaction on the bentgrass," according to the companies.

Initially, the product's seed will be used for fairways, but eventually it will be used for greens. Scotts and Monsanto are currently seeking regulatory approval for the product.

Roundup Ready Creeping Bentgrass is currently being tested by selected superintendents across the country. Representatives from Scotts and Monsanto will be at Scotts' booth to answer questions about the product. They'll also be handing out educational bulletins.

If you happen by BASF Professional Turf's booth, you might ask someone about the company's new fungicide, Insignia, to be released early this year. The fungicide offers broad-spectrum control of several turf diseases, in addition to suppression of dollar spot, the company says.

If you stop by Pursell Technologies' booth, make sure to ask about its polymer-coated insecticide formulated with its patented PRECISE coating technology, which allows gradual release of pesticides through osmotic diffusion. It works in every stage of an insect's growth, either as a preventative application or a curative control for adult insects.

If you happen by John Deere's booth, you'll want to check out its new 180B/220B/ 260B Walk-Behind Greens Mowers. Deere claims they're the lightest greens mowers made today. To decrease noise, the mowers are equipped with smaller-pitched chain and new chain

adjusters, as well as a larger muffler with high-impact resistant polymer chain covers.

If you see more orange than normal, don't be alarmed. You're probably just nearing Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products booth. In October, Textron announced it was dumping its Ransomes brand in the United States and adopting one major primary color – orange – to market its major brands, which also include Jacobsen, Cushman and Ryan. Therefore, Textron will showcase many "new" orange products.

Other new products you'll see on the show floor:

Debris blowers

The Toro Co. offers its Debris Blower 400 and Debris Blower 600, which clean areas



of leaves, twigs, pine needles, clippings and other debris. The blowers are also for clearing dew, the company says.

The 400 is a compact unit, and the 600 features a powerful 36-inch diameter fan. For more information, contact 952-888-8801 or www.toro.com.

Utility mower

National Mower Co. introduces the IM25 utility mower, a walk-behind reel mower designed to cut tees, clubhouse grounds

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John Deere says its new walk-behind greens mowers are light and less noisy.



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What's New?

Continued from page 64

and greens during the grow-in period. The easy-to-handle and durable IM25 tracks well for striping. The mower also features a built-in backlapping device to speed reel sharpening.

For more information, contact 888-907-3463 or www.nationalmower.com.

Syringing system

Reelcraft Industries introduces an enhanced syringing system, featuring a hose-handling concept designed to make syringing of greens easier, more efficient and economical. The system utilizes a direct underground maintenance retractable hose



reel system, known as the DGM System. It's installed permanently at each green with a 75-foot water hose.

For more information, contact 800-444-3134 or www.reelcraft.com.

Four-stroke engine

Stihl introduces a mixture-lubricated four-stroke engine known as the Stihl 4-Mix. With the technology, Stihl will not only meet the EPA's phase two emissions standards taking effect in 2005 and the regulations set forth by the California Air Resources Board, but the company will also provide professional users with the benefits of two-stroke and four-stroke engine technologies combined.

For more information, contact 800-467-8445 or www.stihlusa.com.

Electric vehicle

TH!NK Mobility, an enterprise of the Ford Motor Co., offers a zero-emission, low-speed electric battery-powered personal vehicle. The new neighbor sport package is a tailor-made solution for superintendents who want an environmentally conscious mode of golf course transportation.

For more information, contact 866-24-TH!NK or www.thinkmobility.com.

Turf reinforcement mats

North American Green introduces its Vmax3 Composite Reinforcement Series, comprised of three different Composite Turf Reinforcement Mats (C-TRMs). The products allow vegetation to be used in

many shoreline, channel and slope applications where rock riprap and concrete have been used in the past. The new Vmax3 series contains two new products, SC250 and P550. The third product in the series is North American Green's well-established C350.

For more information, contact 800-772-2040 or www.nagreem.com.

Water cooler station

Par Aide Products offers a new water cooler station, which features recycled plastic wood slats over a powder-coated steel frame. A large capacity, built-in trash receptacle keeps trash out of sight with easy accessibility. Double doors allow plenty of room to take the water cooler in and out, and with inside housing there's plenty of room for cup storage and service.

For more information, contact 888-893-2433 or www.paraide.com.

Fertilizers

PRO-SOL offers its newest turf fertilizers, Chameleon and Transition, intended for direct application. Chameleon contains iron with a combination of eight essential macro, secondary and micronutrients. Transition contains potash with a combination of four essential secondary and micronutrients.

For more information, contact 800-633-7685 or www.fritinc.com.

Core processor

Selbro offers its core processor, which efficiently grinds aeration cores on the most sensitive turf areas, according to the company. The one-person operated



machines features one-pass operation and can load into a utility vehicle quickly.

For more information, contact 800-973-5276.

Hose reel

Coxreels' 1125 Series has been improved for greater operator efficiency. Special features have been added and existing features modified to enhance its ease of use. New features include a low-profile outlet riser and open hose slot for even coiling of the hose onto the reel; a more

comfortable round-tapered handle; and a longer, more accessible drum-locking pin. For more information, contact 800-269-7335 or www.coxreels.com.

Herbicides

PBI/Gordon received EPA acceptance for three new herbicides containing the active ingredient carfentrazone-ethyl. The new combination products are called SpeedZone, SpeedZone St. Augustine Formula and PowerZone.



They're marketed

under Gordon's new ProForm brand.

The products contain carfentrazone-ethyl in combination with phenoxies and dicamba. Adding phenoxy actives and dicamba broadens the weed-control spectrum and adds systemic activity to the contact activity of carfentrazone-ethyl for multiple modes of action.

For more information, contact 800-821-7925 or www.pbigordon.com.

Biopesticide

MicroBio, a subsidiary company of Becker Underwood, introduces Nematac S, a bio-pesticide that uses a natural enemy instead of chemicals to control the pesky mole cricket.

Nematac S is a nematode-based biopesticide formulated in a water dispersed carrier that is applied as a high volume spray. The beneficial nematodes in Nematac S become active when applied to a soil profile and use mole crickets as hosts. The microscopic nematodes enter inside the mole crickets and release bacteria, which is lethal to the pest.

For more information contact www.bucolor.com

Fungicide

Medallion, from **Syngenta Professional Products**, has received a new label from the EPA for control of pink snow mold and the more difficult to manage gray snow mold. When applied at .5 oz per 1,000 square feet in the fall before snow cover, Medallion gives superintendents the just-in-time protection against snow mold, according to Syngenta.

Although Medallion is a contact fungicide, research in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast and the Rocky Mountains shows that it actually controls the disease in the thatch and near the surface of the soil.

For more information, contact 336-632-2115 or www.syngentaprofessionalprod



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Moving Ahead

Change is the only constant in the lives of *Golfdom's* millennium kids

BY FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.,
MANAGING EDITOR

Two years ago, *Golfdom* chose five students who graduated in 2000 to follow as they progressed in the profession. Each of them started their careers with dreams and expectations.

In 2001, some experienced rapid change. To a man, however, they look forward to see what 2002 has in store. Here are their stories:

Ross Pudenz (24, Iowa State University)

When a Minnesota-based management company purchased the Wild Ridge/Mill Run golf complex where he worked, Pudenz, an assistant superintendent, heard

rumors of changes, but he wasn't worried. The new owners assured him there would not only be a place for him in the new organization, but a promotion might also be in store.

"I didn't really let myself get too interested in the idea of becoming a superintendent with the new company until management started talking about it in concrete terms," Pudenz says. "Whenever you have someone purchase your course, rumors always circulate."

At press time, the new owners told Pudenz he would become the superintendent of St. Croix National GC in Somerset, Wis. Pudenz says he's looking forward to his first superintendent post. One of his first priorities is to create a safety program.

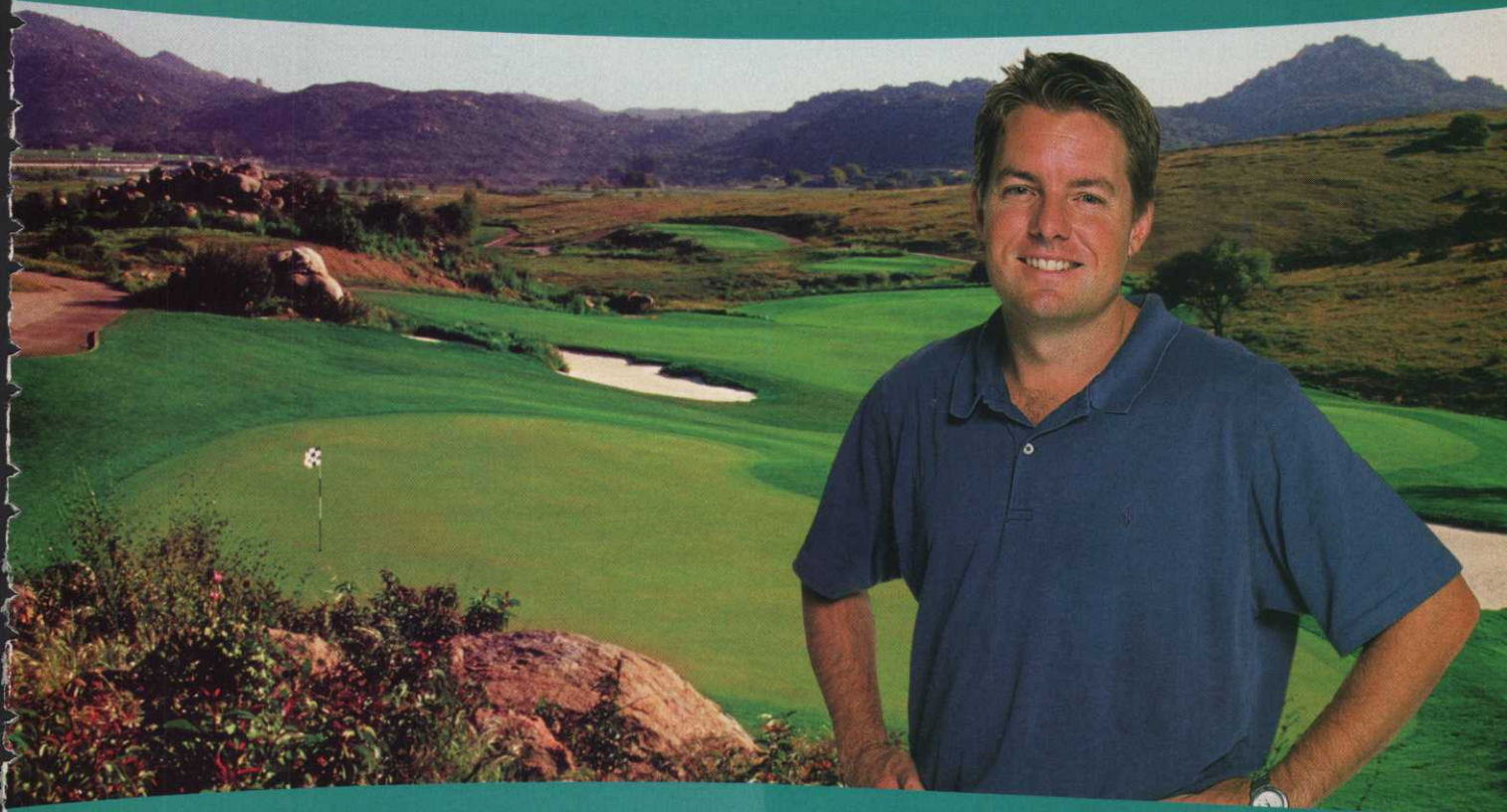
"Safety is a big issue for me," Pudenz says. "There's more to life than tending to a golf course, and if you're not safe on the golf course, you won't be able to live your life off it."

Pudenz sometimes has to pinch himself to make sure he's not dreaming. Last year, he told *Golfdom* he planned to leave Mill Run to pursue a head superintendent position. Then came the purchase — and the opportunity to follow his dream without completely abandoning the course that has been his home for two years.

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"I'm excited about being able to remain in the same company as my friends," Pudenz says. "It will make leaving a little easier."

Pudenz also experienced change in his personal life. He now has a steady girlfriend named Hannah, who he met when she worked in Mill Run's pro shop. Are wedding bells in the offing? Pudenz isn't saying for sure, but stay tuned.

Steve Richau

(30, Lake City Community College)

Richau believes he may finally have found a steady job. At this time last year,



Richau worked at Stoneycreek at Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, Va., his second course since graduation. He decided his options for career advancement were limited at Stoneycreek. So he packed up his wife Kim and their (now 22-month old) daughter Sadie and searched for another new job, this time in the golf-rich state of North Carolina.

"I won't lie; the fact that I was changing jobs for the third time in two years came up at several interviews," Richau says. "I know I'm in danger of becoming labeled a 'job hopper,' but John (Adkins) was willing to overlook that, and I'm ready to stay around for a while."

Adkins is superintendent at Tot Hill GC in Asheboro, N.C., and he hired Richau to work for him as an assistant

superintendent. Richau says he has far more responsibilities at Tot Hill than he did previously. This will prepare him well for his next move, which he hopes will be to a superintendent's job near Asheboro. Kim, for one, is ready to settle down.

"She told me she has one more serious move left in her," Richau says. "I'm hoping to stay in this area for a while so I don't have to subject her or Sadie to another move. There are many golf courses in the area, and the opportunities will be available. I'm looking forward to learning all that John can teach so I'm ready when my time comes to move up."

John Nachreiner

(29, Michigan State University)

Nachreiner also changed jobs last year. When his contract with Egypt Valley CC in Grand Rapids, Mich., ended in January, Richau worked at the Turf Research center at his alma mater, Michigan State University. While there, he helped remove the artificial turf from the school's football stadium and installed a natural grass field.

"That was a great experience," Nachreiner says. "I'm a big Spartans fan, and it was neat to help them out while I searched for another job in golf course maintenance."

It's not that Nachreiner didn't like Egypt Valley; on the contrary, he says the crew there is extremely talented. At the same time, however, the crew is large, and it was hard for any individual mem-



bers to get enough hands-on experience. He found an assistant's job in April at Orchard Lake CC in Orchard Lake, Mich., which suited him perfectly.

"We have a great crew here, and as second in command I'm responsible for making decisions about what needs to be done and when," Nachreiner says. "We implemented significant changes to the maintenance practices, such as walk-mowing tees and greens, that drew rave reviews from the members."

Nachreiner says he liked the responsibility of doing the scheduling and managing people. He says Orchard Lake also has the advantage of being closer to Detroit, which gives him more choices of free-time recreation than Grand Rapids.

"There's a lot more for me to do on nights and weekends," Nachreiner says. "There's definitely great music, and I love the metropolitan feel."

Kevin Tansey

(24, State University of New York at Cobleskill)

Tansey remembers where he was when he first heard the news of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He stood in the clubhouse of the Black Course at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., where he'd gone for a break shortly after the first plane hit the tower.

"We were hosting a state fundraiser with many businessmen who worked in the city," Tansey says. "They'd paid \$750 per person to play our course and use our facilities, but they left almost immediately after they heard the news. We closed the park at noon for the rest of the day. It made you feel so isolated."

Tansey says the most tangible effect of the attacks is the tightened budget imposed on the course by the state after the Sept. 11 tragedy squeezed the budget. A mandatory hiring freeze will prevent the course from replacing an irrigation technician who left recently.

"It's not going to hurt us too much, but you want to be at full strength going into the U.S. Open in June," Tansey