



says. "We're all focused on making sure the course is ready for that."

Ah, yes, the U.S. Open — the one Tansey returned to the Black Course to help host. As the tournament approaches, Tansey says he's getting antsy.

"You keep waiting for it to come," Tansey says. "After a while, however, you're ready to have it come so you can move on. The buzz around here has been intense, and it's only going to become greater the closer we get to June."

Christine, Tansey's wife, will also receive her master's degree in education in June, clearing the way for her to teach in New York state. Once that exciting month is over, Tansey says he'll start looking for his next adventure. He says he'd like to stay in the metropolitan area, which includes New Jersey, Connecticut or New York.

"I like working up here," Tansey says. "People appreciate the work you do more because you have serious golfers in this area. Sometimes, a little recognition of the work you do will go a long way to keeping you satisfied."

Andy Thompson (30, Penn State University)

For the second year in a row, Thompson has eluded *Golfdom's* far-reaching spy network. If you ever want to come in from the cold, Andy, you know where to find us. ■

Editor's Note: Golfdom will revisit these former students periodically to examine their progress in the industry.

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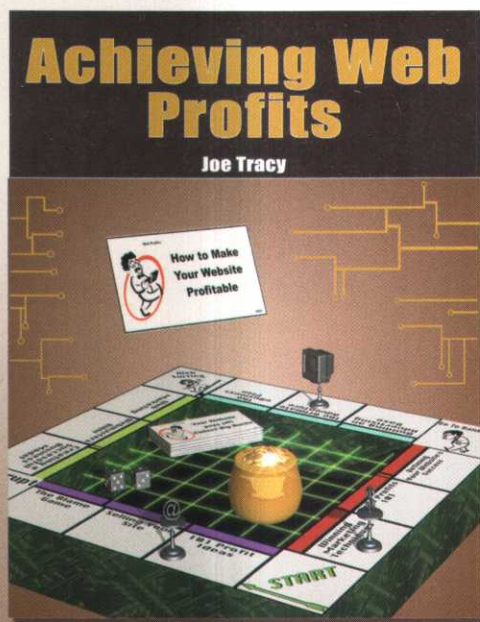
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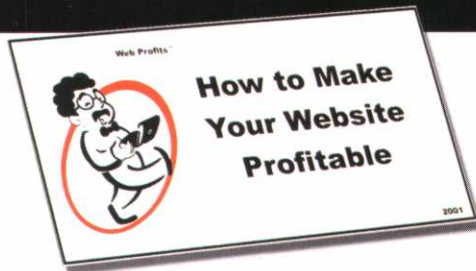
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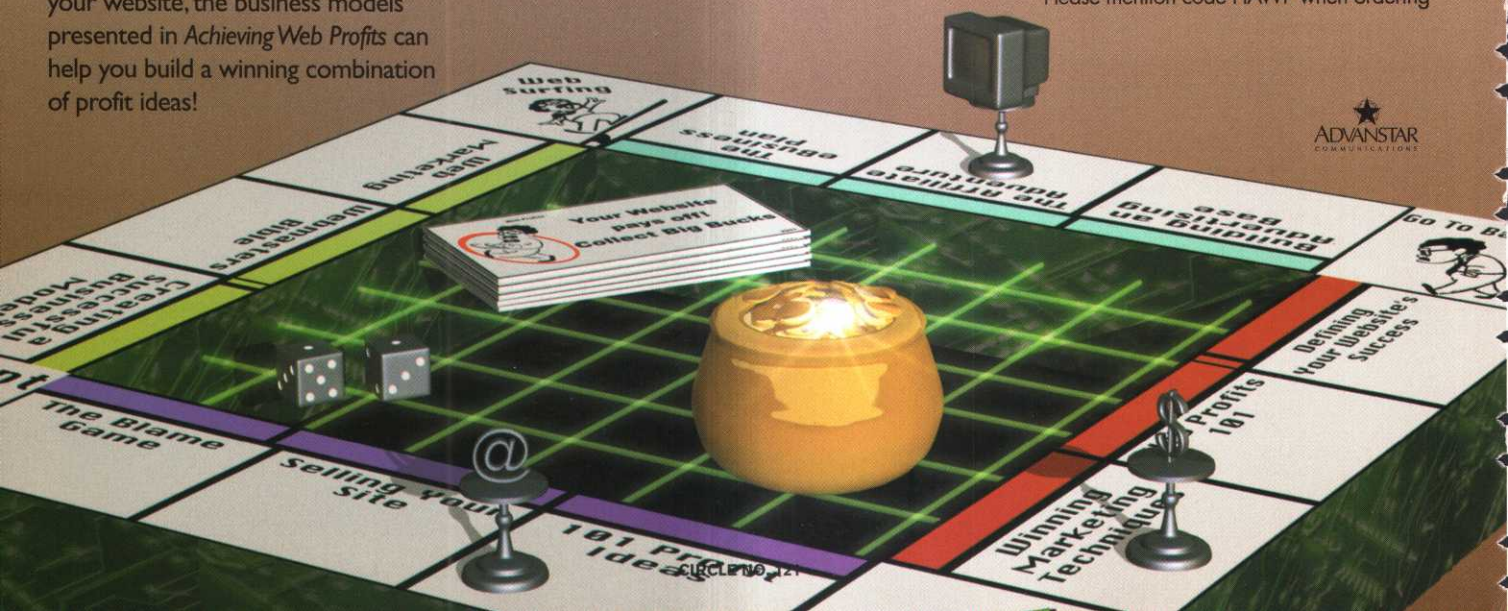
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The Folio: Award, one of the highest national honors in publishing, is awarded to magazines that are judged outstanding in achievement of their editorial missions. The final results were announced on Oct. 30 in New York. *Golfdom* was named the top national business-to-business magazine in the Agriculture/Farming category.

Please join us in offering congratulations to our entire editorial team.

Golfdom



Bring on the Night

Here's how to supply the 'daylight' to rebuild bunkers and perform other construction projects under the moon

BY MARK LESLIE

Lights, excavator, action! Excavator? Yes, the suggestion here is: If you must use heavy equipment for major construction work — such as rebuilding bunkers, lasering tee boxes and installing fairway irrigation or drainage — do it at night under banks of lights.

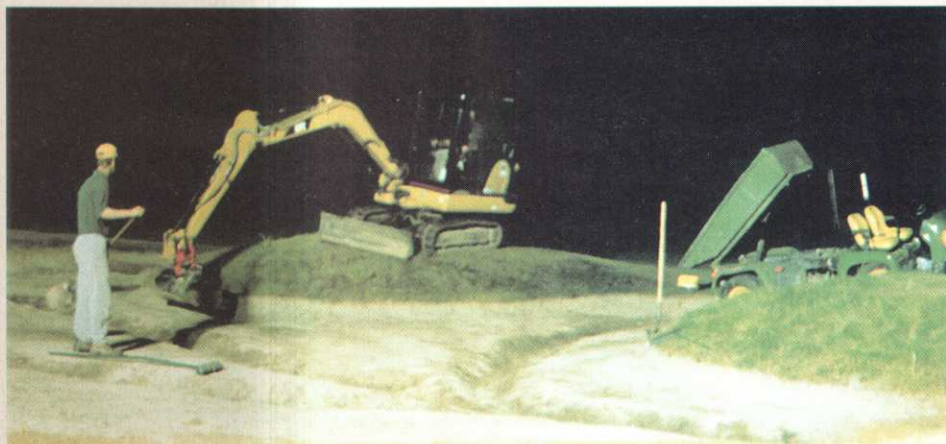
Prompting this idea is Cal Roth, director of golf course maintenance for the PGA Tour's 24 Tournament Players Clubs. He has instituted a policy that asks his superintendents to perform

Problem

Major golf course renovation projects often get in the way of golfers, who aren't happy that they shelled out \$50 to \$150 to play around a bunker renovation. You know the thinking: *Nothing* comes before customer service.

Solution

Bring in banks of lights and night shift crew workers, and conduct the renovation projects at night.



tasks such as aerification, overseeding and heavy verticutting before play begins and after it ends.

"We [use the strategy] with slow cultural practices that are disruptive to the playing surface and the customer," Roth says. "Crews go in behind the last starting time, follow that group and work into the evening until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. In the morning, they start ahead of play and try to accomplish the task over a two- or three-day period."

But major construction work during off-hours? While noise ordinances prevent this type of operation in some places, it's still the solution to the age-old quandary of how to renovate without bothering golfers for many golf course maintenance staffs.

There is one simple key: Surmount that most bothersome problem — no daylight at midnight — by supplying the "daylight" yourself with a generator-operated,

A major bunker renovation at night is easier than you might think if all the proper ingredients are in place.

mobile lighting system, like those used in nighttime highway construction.

Here's a scenario considered for a massive bunker restoration project at a Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course in Maine:

- Set up a night shift crew to work 10-hour nights four days a week, starting each night once the sun sets over the mountain and the last golfer has left the course.

- Tackle one bunker at a time. Each night, remove the old sand, core out the bunker, then install new drainage pipe and clean-outs.

Cover the pipe with a 1-inch layer of sand, then spray a fiberglass-type material called Klingstone, which binds the sand and creates a barrier between the old subgrade and new

sand, and prevents gravel from migrating into the sand over time.

This product will save the course a lot in labor costs if they had planned on using clay. The time to put in clay takes half a day per bunker, but Klingstone only takes 10 minutes.

However, since Klingstone needs several hours to work its magic, operations need to be shut down.

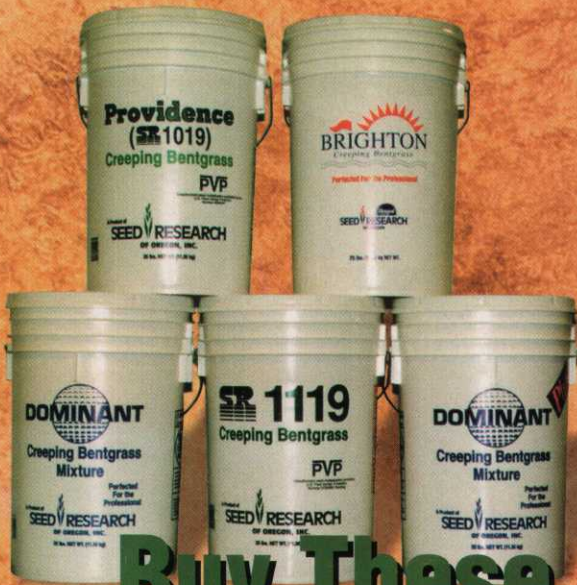
- The next night, fill the bunker with sand and begin the work on the next bunker. Start and finish one bunker every night.

Golfers will never know the work is going on — with the exception of a single bunker.

Ah, the night shift. It's a mode of operation that could revolutionize major construction work on many golf courses. Just charge up the heavy equipment and flick on the light switch. ■

Leslie is a free-lance writer from Monmouth, Maine.

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Golfdom

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- 10 105 University/College
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- 13 10 Golf Course Superintendent
- 14 15 Assistant Superintendent
- 15 25 Owner/Management Company Executive
- 16 30 General Manager
- 17 35 Director of Golf
- 18 70 Green Chairman
- 19 45 Club President
- 20 75 Builder/Developer
- 21 55 Architect/Engineer
- 22 60 Research Professional
- 23 65 Other Titled Personnel (please specify) _____

3. What is your facility's annual maintenance budget?

- 24 A More than \$2 Million
- 25 B \$1,000,001-\$2 Million
- 26 C \$750,001-\$1 Million
- 27 D \$500,001-\$750,000
- 28 E \$300,001-\$500,000
- 29 F \$150,001-\$300,000
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104	116	128	140	152	164	176	188	200	212	224	236	248	260	272	284	296	308
105	117	129	141	153	165	177	189	201	213	225	237	249	261	273	285	297	309
106	118	130	142	154	166	178	190	202	214	226	238	250	262	274	286	298	310
107	119	131	143	155	167	179	191	203	215	227	239	251	263	275	287	299	311
108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	300	312
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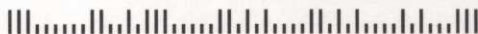
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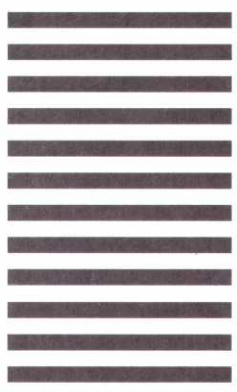




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Knowledge, gathering information vital to the process

By Peter Blais

Jim Hodge walks Val Halla GC every day to check the turf on the Cumberland, Maine, course for signs of problems. He watches the weather expected to hit the area to check for potential disease-inducing conditions. Most of all, he calls on his 11 years experience as superintendent of the municipal layout when mapping out his \$15,000 annual fungicide plan.

"I know the telltale signs of certain diseases and where they're going to hit," says Hodge, whose plan includes monthly preventative applications to his greens and two fairway treatments in the more-humid months of July and August. "I'll monitor those areas and put a preventative down."

Knowledge

As Hodge and other course managers understand, diseases can wipe out a golf course — and a superintendent's career — in a matter of days. What does a superintendent need to know to stop that from happening? Bruce Clarke, a Rutgers University professor and director of the school's Center for Turfgrass Science, listed several steps in mapping out a fungicide plan:

- List the course's key disease problems. Major problems every year need to be addressed preventatively. Those occurring infrequently can be treated curatively.
- Develop a schedule detailing when each disease is likely to occur throughout the season.
- Determine the best fungicides to control those diseases.
- Examine the full spectrum of

those fungicides.

- Schedule applications so they suppress more than one disease at a time.

"You need to know the strength of the fungicide, what controls it best and then schedule preventative treatments when those diseases normally occur," Clarke says. "Don't apply preventative treatments for an infrequent disease.

"The more infrequent diseases can be treated on a curative basis," he adds. "Gray leaf spot, for example, occurs every three to four years in most locations, although some courses have the problem every year. Optimize the use of each product at the lowest rate possible."

Peter Farno, fungicide business manager of Chipco Professional Products, says once superintendents identify major diseases and determine whether to treat them preventatively or curatively, they need to develop a plan that rotates different types of chemicals. The pathogens that cause the disease will become resistant to a particular chemical if it is used repeatedly over a period of time.

If a superintendent continues to have problems with a particular disease following a fungicide treatment, chances are the pathogen is becoming resistant to that particular chemical, according to Wakar Uddin, an assistant professor of plant pathology at Pennsylvania State University.

"It could have been a sudden change in the fungal spores where the resistant population went up and the resistant group dominates," Uddin says. "Or it could be a gradual shift



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Superintendents should chronicle where diseases like *Rhizoctonia solani* occur on their courses for diagnostic purposes.

over time, from month to month or season to season."

Superintendents must also be aware that regulatory agencies limit the amount of a particular chemical that can be applied on the same course.

"Certain chemistries are limited to maximum use," Farno says. "If the fungicide I choose covers all my problems and meets little resistance, I still can't use it endlessly. There is a capped-out usage."

History

According to Farno, Clarke, Hodge and others, a superintendent's biggest asset in mapping a fungicide plan is the history of the course. The superintendent knows the climate, the timing of certain disease outbreaks and how susceptible the course is to particular chemicals.

Hodge keeps track of when, where and what he applied and how long the materials were effective. "It's a matter of knowing what I've used and what I've gotten for results, keeping an eye

Continued on page 80

Tips

Continued from page 79

on the weather and monitoring the fertility program, since it's geared toward disease resistance," he says.

BASF Marketing Manager William Strickland recommends mapping a preventative maintenance program on an Excel spreadsheet.

Gathering information

Where can superintendents gather information concerning diseases that are likely to strike their courses as well as ways to treat them?

Most depend heavily on local associations, universities and manufacturers offering field development and technical support, Farno says.

"The best way to stay informed is to attend turfgrass conferences," Uddin says. "Superintendents also need to read scientific journals. Decisions must be made on scientific merit. Don't make applications simply because something worked elsewhere."

For \$20 a year, Rutgers sends out a twice-monthly pest-advisory newsletter that tracks potential disease outbreaks in various parts of New Jersey. Many states offer similar services through educational institutions, Clarke says.

Many superintendents rely on diagnostic labs to identify disease outbreaks. Rutgers is home to one of several well-known labs throughout the country.

"We received 3,500 samples from 18 states last year," Clarke said. "Rutgers fee is \$50 in-state and \$75 out-of-state with a 48-hour turnaround time. That's pretty reasonable to make sure you're putting down the right fungicide treatment when a single treatment often costs thousands of dollars."

Some superintendents take advantage of e-mail and online services that monitor weather conditions to help predict disease outbreaks. Dennis Watkins, superintendent of Lords Valley CC in Hawley, Pa., helped develop turf disease models for Skybit, a meteorological data-analysis company. Skybit takes site-specific meteorological data (which is



Steven Langlois, who teaches in Rutgers' two-year golf course maintenance program, kneels next to a brown patch epidemic, highlighting the need for a plan.

broken down to 1-square-kilometer areas) and compares it to known disease models. Then it produces a daily report that depicts the potential for disease at a given site, Watkins says. The daily reports can be e-mailed or faxed to the subscribing course.

"It's particularly helpful with the timing of my first and last pythium spray preventatives," says Mike McNulty, superintendent of Philadelphia CC and a Skybit subscriber for the past four years. "It could save a whole treatment. Being a 27-hole course, it could also save us as much as \$10,000. I also



If symptoms like these show up on your course, it's possible that dollar spot has infected it.

have a lot of confidence in the gray leaf spot model."

Syngenta Professional Products offers Pest Outlooks, located at www.greencastonline.com. The free, online service uses weather data from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, historical data and pest models to identify — on a weekly basis — climatic conditions that favor outbreaks of a variety of diseases and insects within various geographic areas of the country. The service covers seven of the most common diseases encountered by superintendents: dollar spot, gray leaf spot, summer patch, brown patch, pythium blight, rust and red thread. It also covers eight common white grub species, including Oriental beetle, May/June beetle, European chafer, masked chafers, Japanese beetle, Asiatic garden beetle and black turfgrass ataenius.

"It's a window to the future," says Joe DiPaolo, Syngenta's golf market manager. "Once superintendents know the likelihood of the disease appearing, they can go to where they usually see it [on their courses] and do some other things to verify its existence. [Syngenta Technical Manager] Dr. David Ross and his team have put together a series of turf-solution sheets that address what the pest problem is, when it occurs and what the different control options are. Those pieces of information let superintendents decide what they need to do and when they need to do it."

While these technical information-gathering tools are helpful in keeping turf diseases at bay, there's still no substitute for the firsthand research that superintendents like Hodge do on a daily basis.

"You take all the fancy equipment and new technology, and they're wonderful," Clarke said. "But the bottom line is that superintendents still have to walk around their golf courses." ■

Blais is a free-lance writer from North Yarmouth, Maine.