



Official
Golf Course
Equipment
Supplier

TO MAKE THE BEST WALK-BEHIND MOWER,
THE ONE THING WE COULDN'T CUT WAS CORNERS.



Introducing the new John Deere B Series Walk-Behind Mowers. There are no shortcuts to being the best. That's why we spared no small detail with our new 18-, 22-, and 26-inch walk-behind greensmowers. From our new adjustable handlebar height adjustment down to our terribly efficient grass catcher, our new B Series walks are without peers in their category. A larger muffler, along with a smaller pitched chain and new chain adjusters, puts a damper on sound levels. New bedknife-to-reel knobs allow for easy adjusting. And a new oil drain funnel makes changing oil quick and neat. We did all of this and more to ensure one thing: to give you and your operators a cut pattern that is straight and superior. For a demo, please call your local John Deere Golf & Turf Distributor. Or dial toll-free 1-800-537-8233.



www.JohnDeere.com



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

CIRCLE NO. 115



Hole of the

■ No. 16

Tournament Players Club at Deere Run
Silvis, Ill.

Month

'Mother Earth'

PGA pro D.A. Weibring was the perfect person – and maybe the only person – to design the Tournament Players Club at Deere Run in Silvis, Ill., which opened in 2000 and is the home of the John Deere Classic, set for July 25-28. Weibring was the right guy because he *knows* the event – he's won it three times. (Incidentally, the John Deere Classic is the only event that holds a pro-am for superintendents.)

Weibring, an Illinois native, is a 24-year veteran of the PGA Tour and operates a design and consulting company. He designed the course around the Rock River. The 16th hole, the track's signature hole, is called "Mother Earth." The par 3 sits on a bluff 40 feet above the Rock River, located to the left.

Chris Hague, who joined Deere Run in March as its certified superintendent, calls the course "a beautiful piece of property." He says No. 16 is easy to maintain because it's so natural. But it's a tight play and a fairly difficult hole, he adds.

Play the Major Challenge at www.majorchallenge.com.

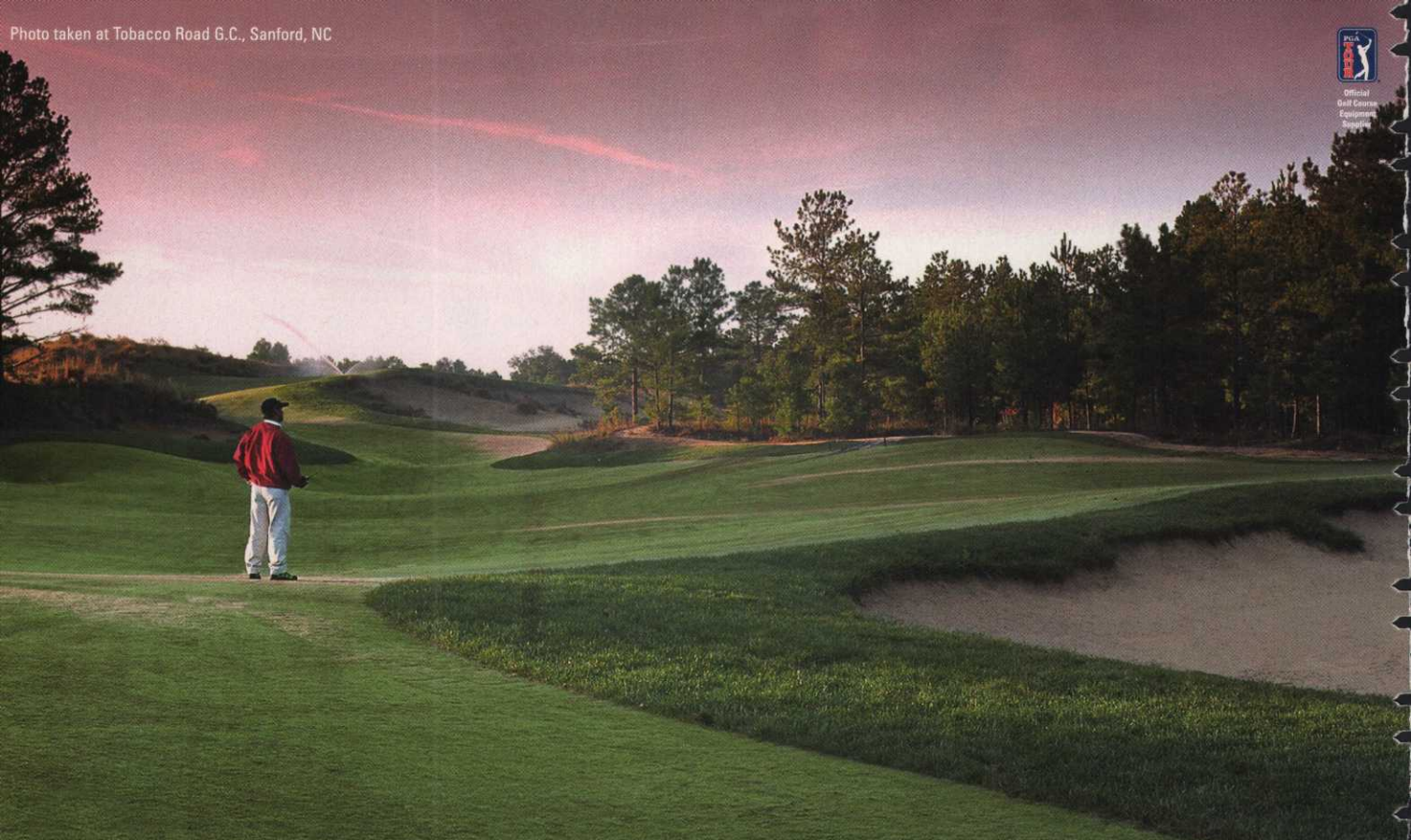
Golfdom's Hole of the Month is presented in partnership with:

www.johndeere.com



JOHN DEERE

MIKE KLINE



WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET ON THE COURSE, YOU NEED A PARTNER YOU CAN COUNT ON.



For every job on your course, there's a John Deere made especially for it. A full-line of quality equipment, born out of the suggestions and critiques of thousands of superintendents and technicians. From quality mowers and tractors to aerators and utility vehicles. But it doesn't end there. We supply you with the industry's best operator manuals, tech literature, and support hotline. We deliver quality parts 365 days a year, with a 99.5% fill-rate overnight. And we offer the JDC™ MasterLease, the most cost-effective way to acquire golf and turf equipment. To see how John Deere can make a difference on your course, call your local John Deere distributor or 1-800-537-8233.



www.JohnDeere.com



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

Shades Of Green

■ OPINION

In a letter to *Golfdom*, I was accused by an Ohio golf professional of widening the gap between superintendents and golfers with my April “Sausage Eaters” column. I’d like to take a moment to address his concerns.

First of all, the gap between golfer expectations and what superintendents face every day will continue to grow, with or without my column. I’m not sure enough golfers read this magazine for my April column to have a worsening effect on relations between golfers and superintendents as he alleges.

My message was intended to nudge golfers to get more involved in the nitty-gritty of our business to help us fight undue restrictions on our livelihood instead of merrily rolling along oblivious to the changing landscape around them. Maybe I should have used honey instead of vinegar or solicitation instead of sarcasm. But hey, if the Foot Joy fits, wear it.

Green is good, but maybe golfers will learn that brown is also beautiful. They can have a significant role to play in our ongoing battles with local governments who want to issue unrealistic regulations if they would get involved. It’s amazing what a few hundred phone calls and letters can do.

Meanwhile, back at the barn ... oops, I mean “environmental resource center,” we have our own laundry to clean when it comes to whining about things. Have you ever heard any of these before?

From crew members:

Q: How come I’m always on the Flymow detail?

A: Because you ran the Groundskeeper into the lake. You can’t mow a straight line, and you make such sharp turns with the mower they are mistaken for alien crop circles seen from space. If you can manage to drag that Flymow around without cutting down the wildflowers, I may keep you on the payroll.

Q: When do I get to mow fairways?

A: When you have been here 10 years, show up on time every day (especially mow days), and when you learn how to take care of a \$30,000 piece of equipment.

Whining Isn’t A Winning Strategy

BY JOEL JACKSON



WE HAVE OUR OWN
LAUNDRY TO CLEAN
WHEN IT COMES TO
COMPLAINING
ABOUT THINGS

Q: How come I have to tuck in my shirt tail and can’t wear my cap backwards?

A: Because this isn’t a rap party or the X-Games. It’s a place of business. Besides, I can’t tell if you’re coming or going half the time, even without the hat confusion. Asking questions like that also keeps you off the fairway mower.

From superintendents:

Q: Why does the same clique always run everything?

A: Associations are run by those who show up. Did you ever volunteer to serve on a committee or the board of directors? Those same eight to 10 guys just love spending their free time at planning meetings; lining up speakers and meeting sites; calling vendors to sponsor events; manning the registration table at meetings; and stuffing or stapling newsletters.

Q: How come nobody told me GCSAA President Mike Wallace was coming to speak at our chapter meeting?

A: Obviously, the chapter needs to do a better job of communicating to those who don’t attend the monthly meetings or read the chapter newsletter.

Q: Hey, I don’t have time to go to monthly chapter meetings or read all those magazines and newsletters.

A: You must be a hard-working superintendent, but you may have a time-management deficiency.

In an age where taking personal responsibility for our state of affairs is at a premium, it does no good to only whine about things — and that includes column writers.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, retired from Disney’s golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.



How the

*ther
Half
Lives*

Wives say it takes an understanding, independent and resilient woman to be married to a superintendent

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

Editor's note: *Attention superintendents and husbands — this article is as much for your wives or wives-to-be as it is for you. Take it home and make sure they read it. They'll be able to empathize with the women quoted in the article. As for you superintendents and husbands, you'll probably learn something, too — although in a roundabout way.*

The more she learned about the profession's demands, the more Megan Dickerson grew worried about wedding a golf course superintendent. Was she engaged to a guy who would be married to his job instead of her?

"Superintendents put their heart and souls into their golf courses," Dickerson says. "It's a very demanding job."

But in the back of her mind, the 23-year-old Dickerson couldn't help but wonder if her future husband, Tom Mooney, would put his heart and soul into their marriage. Dickerson knew that Mooney had golf course maintenance in his blood. She knew that her fiancée, who will graduate with a degree in turfgrass management from Michigan State University next spring, would give him all to be successful in his career for years to come.

But while impressed with Mooney's passion for his profession, Dickerson also realized that his dedication to his job could be detrimental to their marriage. That's because in the three years she has known Mooney, Dickerson discovered that other superintendents' dedication to their jobs harmed *their* marriages.

"One day I was thinking that all of the superintendents I've met are divorced," Dickerson says. "I asked myself, 'What am I getting myself into?'"

But when Dickerson moved to Tucson, Ariz., with Mooney to be with him while he interns this summer at the Loews Ventana



Canyon Resort, she met a woman who has been married — happily — to a superintendent for seven years. Dickerson's boss at the Tucson apartment complex where she works as a leasing agent is Christa Sims, wife of Jim Sims, the superintendent of Del Lago GC in Tucson. Sims told Dickerson what it's like to be married (with children) to a superintendent.

What Sims told Dickerson — and what other superintendents' wives say — is that it takes a woman with certain characteristics to be married happily to a superintendent. The other half in superintendents' marriages says it takes a woman who's independent, understanding, patient and resilient. They say it takes a woman who wants to see her husband succeed in his career — no matter how demanding — and share in his rewards. They also say it takes a woman who knows when to set her husband straight when he's paying more heed to his job than to his marriage and family.

Continued on page 28

Megan Dickerson (left) credits Christa Sims for helping her understand what life will be like being married to a superintendent.

Continued from page 27

"Now I know what I'm getting myself into," Dickerson says, noting her talk with Sims helped enlighten her to what life will be like when she's married to a superintendent.

It's frustrating, but . . .

Life isn't always easy for women married to superintendents. For some women, life might be especially difficult if they have children and are married to superintendents whose careers are also their hobbies.

Those superintendents are often involved in extracurricular activities, such as their local associations and consulting, in addition to their jobs of tending turf. The bottom line is that they're not at home much to pitch in around the house, prepare meals and help their wives raise their kids.

While those on-the-go superintendents are in the minority, other superintendents can relate to their bustling agendas, especially during the playing season. So *their* wives can count on them not being available to attend family functions, such as picnics, family reunions and

even vacations because they have to baby-sit their golf courses night and day.

Lacy Kastler plans to attend family get-togethers this summer with her son, 12-year-old Cody, but not with her husband, Tom, who's superintendent of the Club at Runaway Bay in Runaway Bay, Texas. "He's missed a lot of family functions because he couldn't leave the course," Lacy says.

Janae Batchelor is already resigned to the fact that her husband Jason, assistant superintendent of Montour Heights CC near Pittsburgh, will miss this summer's family vacation to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. "I just have to leave him behind," she says.

Batchelor and Kastler admit it's frustrating, but they understand why their husbands must stay behind. Of course, both realize they'll see more of their husbands (and maybe even take vacation) after the golf season.

Understanding and communicating

Understanding the responsibilities of their husbands' profession is vital to successful marriages, wives say. When a superintendent must rush to the course to help repair a broken-down irrigation pump on his day off, his wife must grin and bear the consequences of not getting to spend the afternoon with him.

"You just have to be content with being alone sometimes," says Batchelor, who has her own career as a high-school guidance counselor.

Sue Brown has been married to a superintendent for 24 years. She says she and her husband Tom, certified superintendent of White Manor CC in West Chester, Pa., have a solid marriage, partly because she understands the demands that come with being a superintendent.

When their 20-year-old and 17-year-old boys were younger, Brown says they rarely saw their father in the summer. She sometimes



"His is different from a nine-to-five job, but you have to accept that he's not going to be there all the time and you do. It has worked out fine for us." – SUE BROWN, WIFE OF SUPERINTENDENT TOM BROWN

took the boys to the golf course so they could see him.

"His is different from a nine-to-five job, but you have to accept that he's not going to be there all the time — and you do," Brown says. "It has worked out fine for us."

In May, Batchelor gave birth to a daughter, Abigail. Of course she would like to have Jason around the house more this summer, but she understands that he must work 12 straight days before he gets a day off.

"It's what he has to do," Janae says. "So complaining, moaning and being miserable isn't going to help."

Superintendents' wives say strong communication is the most important component in a successful marriage.

"You have to be able to communicate with one another," says Kim Luccini, married nearly five years to Brian Luccini, superintendent of Laurel Lane GC in West Kingston, R.I. "You have to understand what a superintendent's job is all about."

Wives also can't be afraid to communicate their true feelings, Batchelor says. "I told Jason



from the beginning that I wasn't moving to Arizona, California, Florida or any place like that," she adds. "We decided it was more important to stay in the Pittsburgh area near our families."

Kastler is not afraid to remind her husband that he's paying too much attention

Janae Batchelor and with husband Jason and daughter Abigail. "I don't think I'll get tired of putting up with his job," Janae says.

Continued on page 30

It's cheaper than sending your plants to the spa.

- Protects turf against winter stress
- Reduces transplant shock and transpiration stress
- Stays flexible and will not discolor foliage
- Makes holiday greenery last longer
- Washes easily out of spray equipment with soap & warm water

AQUATROLS

LeafShieldTM
Anti-Transpirant

AQUATROLS

800-257-7797 • Fax 856-751-3859 • www.aquatrols.com

Continued from page 29

to his course and not enough attention to his family.

"If he misses a few of Cody's baseball games, all I have to say is, 'Tom, you're forgetting your priorities.' Then he gets right back on track."

Independence – a must

For obvious reasons, wives say a woman must be independent to marry a superintendent.

"It takes a woman who doesn't need a lot of attention," says the 35-year-old Sims. "I don't think I'd be married to Jim if I needed a lot of attention."

Sims says her independence is reflected in her full-time job as the property manager of the Tucson apartment complex where she and Dickerson work. Sims wanted a full-time job because she didn't want to be a housewife. "If I didn't have a job, I don't think I'd have as much respect from Jim to have shared responsibilities [with the kids and the house]," she says.

Brown, who was a stay-at-home mom while

her two boys grew up, has great memories of the time spent with them. She became accustomed to doing things with them in the summer without her husband, such as fishing. There were times she missed Tom, but she was happy because she enjoyed being with the kids.

"I'm very independent," Brown says. "I was happy I didn't have to work and could be with the kids. That meant more to me."

Luccini says women need to be independent, no matter whom they're married to. "You need to do your own thing and have your own interests," she adds.

But Luccini admits there are times when she gets lonely in the summer. She and Brian recently agreed to set aside an afternoon a week so they can spend time together with their 1-year-old daughter, Christina. "It's about making sure we stay connected," she says.

While it's important to be independent, superintendents' wives agree it's comforting to lean on each other for advice.

"One of my good friends is the wife of a superintendent," Luccini says. "It helps [to talk to each other]. We always joke that we're golf widows during the summer. It's like a support group."

Getting involved

The past few years, Brown has worked in the office at the White Manor CC. She sees her husband every day and has a great working relationship with him. She says the job has helped her even better understand what her husband does for a living.

Luccini also formerly worked for two years at her husband's course. Even though she worked in Laurel Lane GC's pro shop, she says the experience made her realize that her husband's job encompasses many sectors.

"I realized his job is not just taking care of the grass," Luccini says. "He also faces the pressure of dealing with golfers' [demands]."



"You have to be able to communicate with each other. You have to understand what a superintendent's job is all about."

– KAREN LUCCINI, WITH HER DAUGHTER CHRISTINA