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# Golfdom

JUNE 2002 • VOLUME 58 • NO. 6

Being an inventor  
is fun and exciting,  
but not as glamorous  
(or lucrative)  
as you think

BY LARRY AYLWARD

# 30

# YOU AND YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS



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### About the cover

You could say a light bulb went off in Getty Images photographer Michel Tcherevkoff's head to come up with the idea for this cover.



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## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

### JUNE

**17 Minnesota GCSA Scholarship Fundraising**  
St. Cloud, Minn.  
[www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org)

**17 Indiana GCSA's Turf Research Fundraiser**  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
[www.igcsa.com](http://www.igcsa.com)

**17 Sierra Nevada GCSA's Chapter Meeting**  
Roseville, Calif.  
[www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa](http://www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa)

**20-22 OPEI 50th Anniversary Meeting**  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
[expo.mow.org](http://expo.mow.org)

**20 Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors Association's Summer Meeting**  
Los Gatos, Calif.  
[www.itoda.org](http://www.itoda.org)

**27 Eastern North Carolina Turfgrass Association's Aquatics Meeting**  
Herford, N.C.  
[www.encta.org](http://www.encta.org)

### JULY

**7-9 Texas Turfgrass Summer Institute**  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
[www.texasturf.com](http://www.texasturf.com)

**9 Indiana GCSA's Monthly Meeting**  
Muncie, Ind.  
[www.igcsa.com](http://www.igcsa.com)

**13-17 Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference**  
Indianapolis  
[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)

**15 GCSA of New England's Monthly Meeting**  
Fall River, Mass.  
[www.gcsane.org](http://www.gcsane.org)

**15 Rocky Mountain GCSA's Monthly Meeting**  
Aurora, Colo.  
[www.rmgcsa.org](http://www.rmgcsa.org)

**16 Maine GCSA's Monthly Meeting**  
Orono, Maine  
[www.mgcsa.com](http://www.mgcsa.com)

**17-19 TPI Summer Convention and Field Days**  
Fort Collins, Colo.  
[www.turfgrassosd.org](http://www.turfgrassosd.org)

**17 Central California GCSA's Monthly Meeting**  
Atascadero, Calif.  
[www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa/gcsacc\\_site.html](http://www.gcsaa.org/cgcsa/gcsacc_site.html)

**18 Iowa Turfgrass Field Day**  
Ames, Iowa  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org)

**25 University of Minnesota Field Day**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
[www.mgcsa.org](http://www.mgcsa.org)

### AUGUST

**5-7 2002 Fertilizer & Crop Protection Health and Safety School**  
Research Triangle Park, N.C.  
[www.tfi.org](http://www.tfi.org)

**13 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day**  
Lansing, Mich.  
[www.michiganturf.org](http://www.michiganturf.org)

**15-17 GCBAA's Summer Meeting**  
Minneapolis  
[www.gcbaa.org](http://www.gcbaa.org)

**15-30 Irrigation Training and Research Center: Designer/Manager School of Irrigation**  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.  
[www.itrc.org](http://www.itrc.org)

**21 New York State Turfgrass Association's Third Annual Sullivan County Challenge**  
Liberty, N.Y.  
[www.nysta.org](http://www.nysta.org)

### SEPTEMBER

**8-10 2002 Annual Turfgrass Conference and Tradeshow**  
Auburn, Ala.  
[www.agcsa.org](http://www.agcsa.org)

**14-22 OTF's Golf Scotland Study Tour**  
Glasgow, Scotland  
[www.ohioturfgrass.org](http://www.ohioturfgrass.org)

Let us know about your events. Send information to Frank Andorka at 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, 44130. Fax information to 440-891-2675 or e-mail to [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com).

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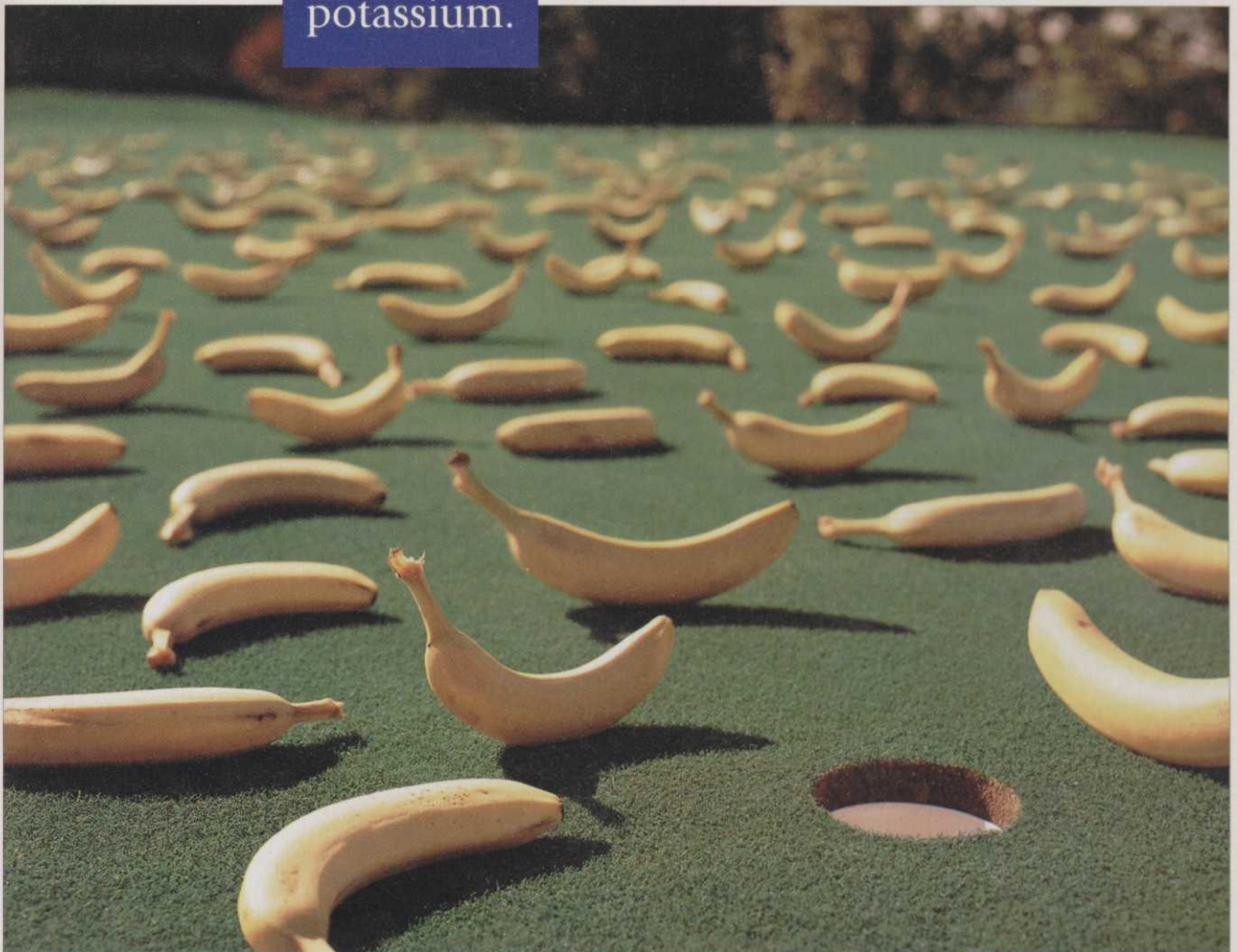
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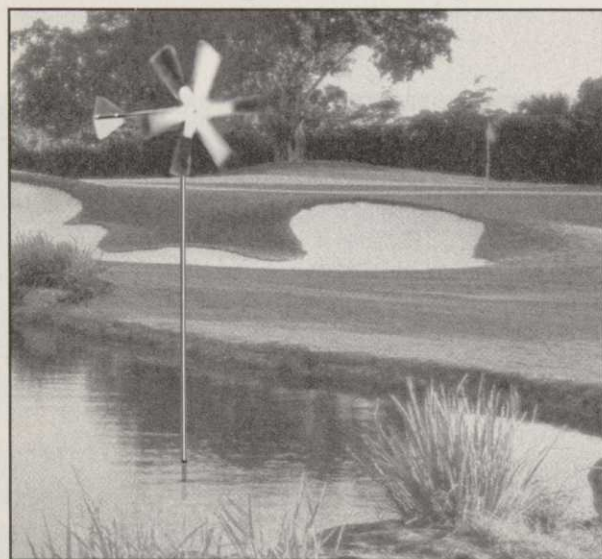
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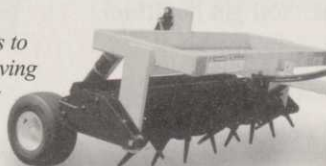


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CIRCLE NO. 137

## Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

### Ego-Free Design

I appreciate Geoff Shackelford's candid thoughts on golf course designers who put their egos ahead of good design (Designs on Golf, February). I would suggest there are too many so-called architects, owners and green chairmen who forget about the golf course and are only interested in fueling their own careers and egos at the expense of what is right.

I can name 10 historic golf courses off the top of my head that have been severely damaged since 1960 by bad design work and sloppy decision-making. People forget about due diligence and research, and use their overinflated egos as their guide.

Who was around in the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s to protect these golf courses? It seems as if there was a whole generation of architects asleep at the wheel during these years.

David Savic

Old Course Design

Dublin, Ohio

### Mixing Nike

Your column about Nike's attitude toward golf may be the best story I've ever read (Pin High, April). I wish this story could be printed in every newspaper and magazine.

I've been in the golf industry for 38 years, and your article was absolutely correct. If we keep doing the same things we've done in the past, we won't let the average man or woman even think about playing this wonderful game. In addition, we're shutting out young people as well with the expensive courses we keep building.

Bud Welch

Golf Professional

Rock Hill, S.C.

### Mind the "Maverick"

Don't you think the guys from the chemical companies might not

want us to stop rotating our chemical applications for fear of losing sales? Michigan State University professor Joe Vargas is at least honest enough to buck the system and stand up to the big companies ("A Maverick's Theory," April).

As for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University professor Houston Couch and the other professors who have issues with Vargas' theory, I respect their opinions as well. In the end, though, shouldn't all of us, including the researchers, at least give Joe's theory some thought? I know I will.

Sean P. Magginn

General Manager/Superintendent

Blues Creek GC

Marysville, Ohio

### Age-Old Questions

I've decided to answer to Pat Jones' question, "Which is better, bald or gray?" (Flagstick, April).

Without a doubt, bald is better.

Charlie Tadge

Superintendent

Vineyard GC

Cincinnati

If you're older and wiser, my 60 years on this earth should make me very wise (if not any smarter) by now, but I still don't know how the Easter bunny can find us at Grandma's house.

Bill Byrnes

President

Floratine Products

Collierville, Tenn.

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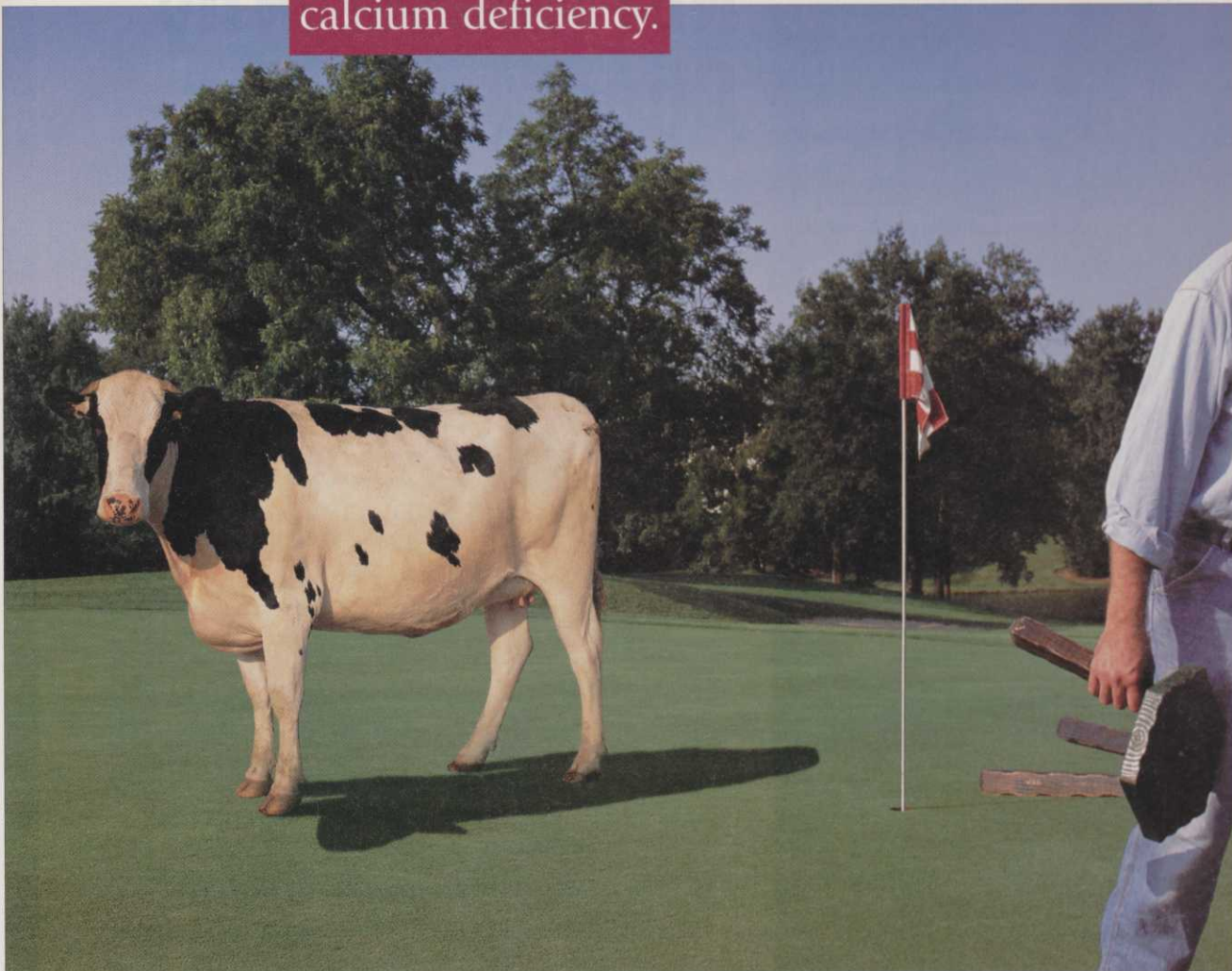
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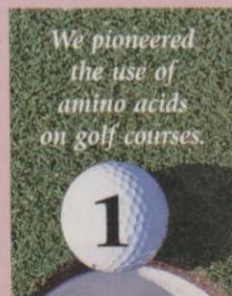


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**A**h, summertime. As I write this, I'm lounging on a beach chair at my weekend getaway place in the Hamptons and catching some rays. My beloved Indians are in first place as the All-Star break approaches and the patriotic fun of the Fourth of July is only weeks away. I even broke par again the other day! How I love the month of June.

*(Editor's Note: Unfortunately, Mr. Jones is lying. He actually wrote this column in late April while chained to his desk in wet, chilly Cleveland. He has no weekend place and couldn't find the Hamptons with a GPS locator. The Tribe had lost five straight at the time and, as for tanning, Mr. Jones skin pallor was somewhere between Dracula and Casper the Friendly Ghost. The only way he could break par is by quitting after 12 holes.)*

And with June comes our "Cheers and Jeers" salute to the best and worst of the summer of 2002.

*(Editor's Note: Again, this man is a hopeless fibber. It's April 25 . . . how could he have a clue about what's happened in May and June?)*

As I look back on the past few months . . .

*(Editor's Note: Liar, liar, pants on fire.)*

Hey, cool it! People expect me to be timely and relevant, so I'm indulging in a bit of literary license here. Just shut your big trap!

*(Editor's Note: Make me!)*

You asked for it, pal.

*(Sounds of scuffling and a punch connecting. Jones gives the Editor's Note a fat lip.)*

Had enough?

*(Editor's Note: Yesthhh. I promith to be quiet.)*

So, without further interruption, here are our Cheers & Jeers of summer:

**Cheers** to that dynamic duo of a mild-mannered Mother Nature and a surprisingly spunky economy. Rounds played were up 6.2 percent early in the first quarter and suppliers report brisk sales in plant protection and equipment. Recession? What recession?

*(Editor's Note: Pleasth don't hit me again, but I feel compelled to say that the economy could have tanked by June and nobody can really predict the weather. Perhaps you should try another angle.)*

## Not Necessarily Cheers & Jeers

BY PAT JONES



CHEERS TO THAT  
DYNAMIC DUO OF  
A MILD-MANNERED  
MOTHER NATURE  
AND A SURPRISINGLY  
SPUNKY ECONOMY

Um . . . good point. How about this?

**Cheers** to the great team at Bethpage Black for presenting a fabulous course for the U.S. Open. With this event, the USGA propels public golf to a whole new level.

*(Editor's Note: Sorry, but I mushht remind you that bad things sometimes happen to good courses and the Open might not go off perfectly.)*

All right. Let's try it this way.

**Cheers** to GCSAA for its courageous last-minute decision to switch the 2003 Conference & Show site from Atlanta to good old New Orleans. See you on Bourbon Street!

*(Editor's Note: Oh, for Pete's sake! Now you're just making things up. You're also going to get nasty letters from the nice people in Atlanta.)*

Hey, don't get me wrong. Atlanta is a great city. It's just not my favorite place for a convention. OK, smart guy, try to pick this apart.

**Cheers** to the sense of cautious optimism about the economic health of the golf industry that was present, at least in my mind, on April 25.

**Jeers** to the continuing feeling of uncertainty that (as of April 25) seems to prevent us from completely accepting and enjoying the cautious optimism. Is that OK?

*(Editor's Note: Yesthhh, I think so. You seem to be saying that things are going pretty well, but we still have to take life one day at a time.)*

That's right.

*(Editor's Note: OK, I'll buy that. Hey, we make a good team. How about we do this every month?)*

How about you quit bleeding on my computer and go bother Shackelford instead?

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