Relationships that last for 12 years are something special. Just ask Brian Darrock.

As superintendent of Fairbanks Ranch Country Club in Rancho Santa Fe, California and a 2003 Keeper of the Green,
Brian has relied on Floratine products for over a decade to keep his greens as pristine as the club's coastal setting.

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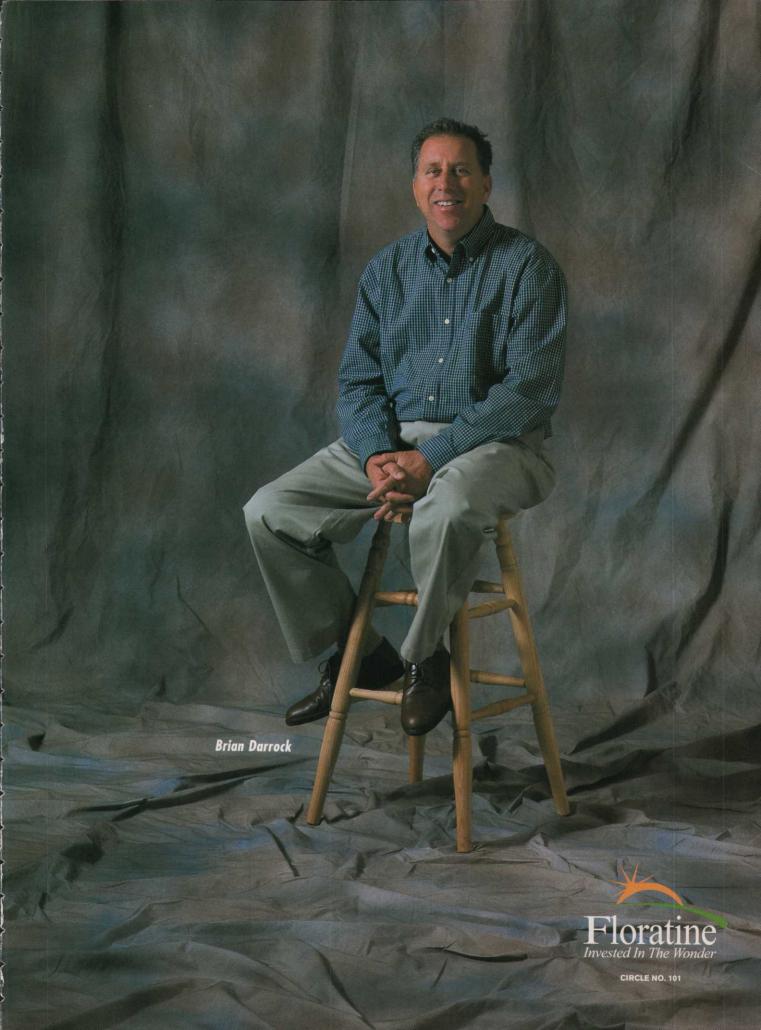
"When I started as a superintendent, I used a lot of different products to formulate my own recipe for healthy greens but had limited success. I tried Floratine for a couple of months and had great results. I've been a Floratine customer ever since," he says.

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We are invested in the success of the Keepers of the Green.









## 60 The Ugly Truth **About Phytotoxicity**

It's not a big problem, but it can turn your beautiful golf course into a wasteland of brown turf if it happens. Experts offer common-sense tips to avoid the problem By Frank H. Andorka Jr.



## **Dry Measures**

Superintendents must manage the agronomics and politics that come with drought restrictions. By Larry Aylward



## **Real-Life Solutions Righting A Wrong**

It was a bad idea to grass the new fairways at Apache Stronghold in Arizona with a cool-season mixture of turfgrass. So it's back to bermuda to get the award-winning course back on track. By Shane Sharp



## On the Horizon

Basic manufacturers plan to bring new fungicides to market soon and to continue their R&D efforts.

**By Peter Blais** 



## cover story

BY LARRY AYLWARD

It takes a lot of blood. sweat, tears and planning to prep your course for the member-guest, the club championship and other events.

#### About the cover

Akron, Ohio-based illustrator Leo Michael drew up this crew to work on our cover course.

## columns

- Flagstick Jots & Scribbles From Atlanta
- 22 Pin High There's No Place Like Lawrence
- 27 Shades of Green Doing Turf Grads A Major Disservice
- Designs On Golf What Jones Said. What I Think
- 94 It's Academic PGRs Have Become Vital for Turfgrass Care

106 Out of Bounds Scorecards

## epartments

- 4 **Events**
- Letters
- The Big Picture
- Off the Fringe
- Hole of the Month
- **Real-Life Solutions** Doing Double (and Sometimes Triple) Duty
- 95 Company Line
- 104 Classifieds

## **Show Business**

We came, we saw and we conquered. Now we're filing our report on what went down at the Big Show in Atlanta. By the Golfdom Staff



NOV 1 1 2003

#### **Getting It Straight**

Nufarm manufactures the post-patent glyphosate her thing the CRENOTITY UNIVERSITY company does not manufacture Prosecutor, a private-label herbible S tributed by LESCO. These errors were made in a chart accompanying the "Generics Generate Competition" article in the February issue (page 42).

# SERIALS 39

News with a hook

**Baseball Manager?** 

14 Superintendent or

# TurfGrass Trends

## **Events**

#### SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

#### APRII

#### 15 Central California GCSA Monthly Meeting

Paso Robles, Calif. www.californiagcsa.org

#### 17 Western North Carolina Turfgrass Association and Carolinas GCSA's Educational Seminar

Hickory, N.C. www.cgcsa.org

#### 17 Florida GCSA Monthly Meeting

Naples, Fla. www.floridagcsa.com

#### 23 GCSA of New England Monthly Meeting

Chatham, Mass. www.gcsane.org

#### 24-26 Hydro Turf Planters Association's Annual Conference

Bay St. Louis, Miss. www.htpa.org

#### **28 USGA Regional Meeting**

Honolulu www.usga.org

#### 29 Maine GCSA Monthly Meeting

Arundel, Maine www.mgcsa.com

#### MAY

#### 2 GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Drainage — Application and Design

Orlando www.gcsaa.org

#### 2-6 American Society of Irrigation Consultants Annual Conferece

Asheville, N.C. www.asic.org

#### 2-4 Oregon GCSA Annual Meeting

Agate Beach, Ore. www.ogcsa.org

#### 5-7 Urban Wildlife National Conference

Nebraska City, Neb. www.arborday.org

#### **5** Low Country GCSA Monthly Meeting

Hilton Head, S.C. www.cgcsa.org

**5** Golf Course Managers of Cape Cod Monthly Meeting Franklin, Mass. www.gcmacc.com

## **6-7** University of Arizona Field Day and Seminar

Tucson, Ariz. www.cactusandpine.com

#### 6 Iowa GCSA Equipment Demo Day

Iowa City, Iowa www.iowaturfgrass.org

#### 6 Rutgers University Turf Research Golf Classic

Hillsborough, N.J. turf.rutgers.edu

## 12-15 Second International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage

Phoenix www.uscid.org

#### 13 Central Texas GCSA Monthly Meeting

Spring Branch, Texas www.ctgcsa.org

#### 16 Cactus and Pine GCSA Affiliate Meeting

Scottsdale, Ariz. www.cactusandpine.com

#### 17-21 American Society of Golf Course Architects Annual Conference

Pittsburgh www.golfdesign.org

#### 18-20 California GCSA Annual Meeting and Golf Championship

Monterey, Calif. www.californiagcsa.org

#### 19 Minnesota GCSA Monthly Meeting

Houston, Minn. www.mgcsa.org

#### **20** Palmetto GCSA Monthly Meeting

Pawleys Island, S.C. www.cgcsa.org

#### 21 Gulf Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting

Panama City, Fla. www.gcgcsa.com

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.

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



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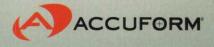


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## We've Got Mail

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

#### American Golf Fires Back

We were disturbed by the misinformation and negative conclusions in Shane Sharp's article about American Golf Corp. ("American Golf at the Turn," January). We hope American Golf's customers, club members and employees will dismiss Sharp's unwarranted criticism and cavalier inferences.

By Sharp's own admission, he has little experience playing our courses. More importantly, he mentioned no unpleasant experiences of his own. It may surprise him to know that more than 12 million rounds are played at our courses annually. Certainly, the "dozens of e-mails" he has received in the past year don't resemble the "majority of the golfing population" he contends are dissatisfied [with our service].

To make a case against American Golf based on such meager and unreliable evidence is as unfair as it is irresponsible, especially given that Sharp has no direct experience to substantiate it. American Golf greatly values guest and member feedback and actively solicits it through annual surveys, customer satisfaction programs and comment cards. The high level of dissatisfaction that Sharp presumes would hardly be ignored by a company that strives to exceed the needs and expectations of its guests, members and landlords.

Sharp points to positive features of American Golf in his article - that the company employs more superintendents than any other golf-based corporation in the world, it invests a great deal in education for its superintendents and that a number of American Golf-operated courses are in excellent condition. What he neglected to discover was that American Golf makes a great effort creating a career path for superintendents and assistants. In light of these facts, it is disconcerting that Sharp would choose to draw only unfavorable conclusions. This is a disservice to our company and your readers.

Craig Kniffen
Executive Vice President,
Maintenance and Construction
American Golf Corp.
Frisco, Texas

#### Thanks for the Jump-Start

I've been carrying around the equivalent of a 5-pound bag of fertilizer for the last five years. Sounds strange? In layman's terms, the "bag" is my stomach. After reading a *Golfdom* article about getting into shape ("Getting Into Shape, September 2002), I realized that a lot of the things in the article were about me. I was sluggish at work, had no energy and no idea where to turn.

I then decided that diet and exercise had to be a part of my life if I was to continue to have a long life. I had been on blood pressure medicine for the past year.

I started to exercise and eat healthier. I'm happy to say that I've gotten rid of almost 30 pounds in two months. I went to the GCSAA conference in Atlanta and never gained a pound. I wore clothes that I had not had on in three years. I worked out every day in the hotel. To my surprise, there were a number of superintendents doing the same. I have a tremendous amount of energy every day, and I hope to attain my goal of losing 50 pounds by the end of the golf season.

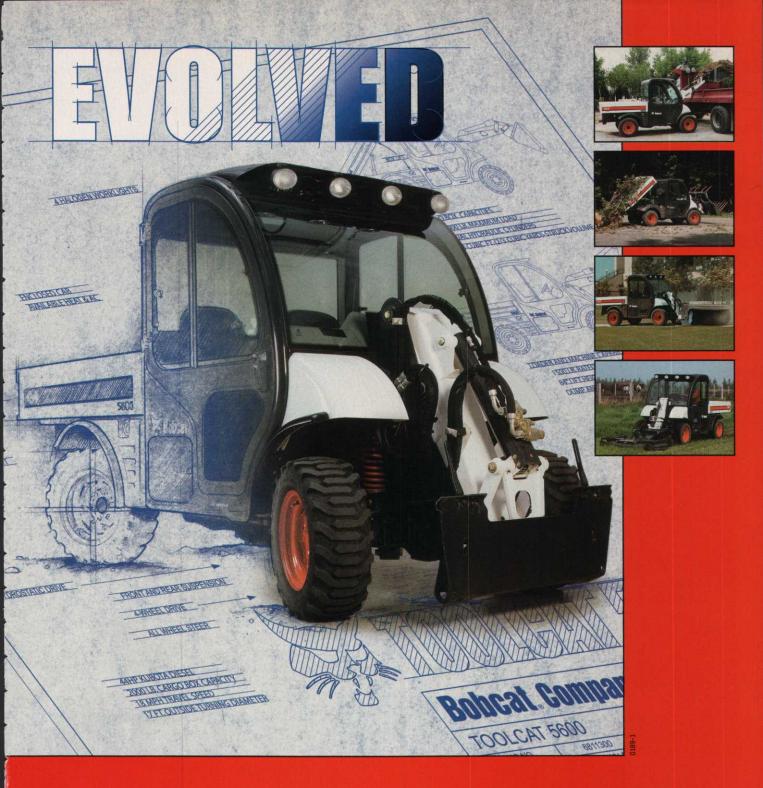
Thanks for giving me the jumpstart that I needed.

Rick Tegtmeier Certified Superintendent, Elmcrest CC Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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ongtime readers may recall that I annually return from the GCSAA Conference & Show with indecipherable notes jotted on napkins, business cards, my forearm, etc. This year's big event in Atlanta was no exception. But with the help of that brilliant guy from A Beautiful Mind, I was able to decode my pile of useless scribbles into the following insightful (not) and in-depth (hardly) report on the 2003 show.

#### Atlanta didn't stink

OK, let's just say it at the top: My fears that Atlanta would be a lousy site for the show were largely unfounded. The convention center was good, the hotels were closer than expected and the bus system actually worked well. Nobody was mugged. Even the weather cooperated.

It was as if the ghost of Scarlett O'Hara hovered over the event to ensure that our visit to Tara would be as pleasant as peach pie and we'all would want to come back again *reeeaaaal* soon. Well, frankly Scarlett, we don't think so.

#### **Great expectations**

Exhibitors — the folks who pay the light bill for the association by ponying up for expensive booths — left the show pretty much happy. Most told me the show exceeded their expectations. Despite the lowest total attendance in years, suppliers felt that quality attendees made up for weaker traffic.

#### Staff of greatness

Big-time kudos to the GCSAA staff members for putting something extra into the management of the show. They knew this show would be under a microscope given last year's logistical problems (picture 1,000 angry people standing in line for badges) and concerns about the site and economy. But the execution was flawless and by week's end staff members sported weary smiles that seemed to say, "Whew! We dodged a bullet."

#### Know when to fold 'em

The GCSAA board bagged the planned vote that would have essentially empowered it to move the association's headquarters at will. If the board's straw poll was the same as our poll, its members knew at least five of the largest

## Jots & Scribbles From Atlanta

BY PAT JONES



DESPITE THE
LOWEST TOTAL
ATTENDANCE IN
YEARS, SUPPLIERS
FELT THAT QUALITY
ATTENDEES MADE
UP FOR WEAKER
TRAFFIC

chapters had told their delegates to vote against the idea. In short, the vote was a nonstarter.

Two former board members who've seen this type of stuff from the inside essentially told me the same thing: Trusting the elected leadership is one thing, but allowing a major decision like relocation to potentially come down to a 5-4 split vote just didn't sit well with anyone. Despite this setback, rest assured that the fat lady has not sung on the idea of relocation. "The board wants this badly," said one past president. "They are determined to do it."

#### **Speaking of location**

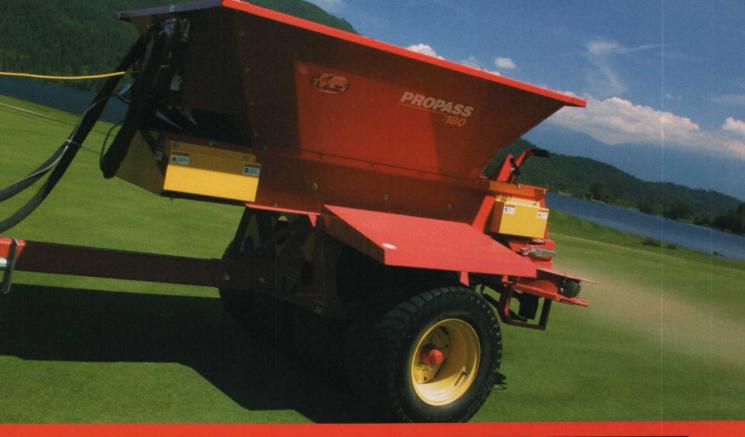
With all the talk of moving, I've been asked several times lately why GCSAA ended up in Lawrence to begin with. Well, ironically, the man who helped attract them to Kansas passed away recently. Back in 1972, Bob Billings — a visionary Lawrence developer and civic booster extraordinaire — made it affordable for the association to construct the previous headquarters next to his new Alvamar GC. Say what you will about the shortcomings of Lawrence, but Mr. Billings was a truly great man who was a great booster of the association. Our condolences and best wishes to Bev and his family as well as to certified superintendent Dick Stuntz and the whole team at Alvamar.

#### The final word

The relatively low attendance but overall success of GCSAA/Atlanta is reflective of the state of our chunk of this happy little industry. Sure, there are rough spots along the way, but the core of the market remains strong. Now it's on to San Diego in 2004. Great city, great weather, great golf courses ... does that combo equal a great conference and show? Stay tuned.

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

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THE NUMBERS THAT SHAPE YOUR BUSINESS

**Major Slow Down** 

According to the National Golf Foundation's Golf Facilities in the U.S. 2003 Edition, about 220 18-hole golf courses opened in 2002. That's down 13 percent from 2001, and down 38 percent from 2000. But NGF predicts that openings will stabilize this year.

### **Movin' Out?**

A new Golfdom online poll reveals that most superintendents are against the GCSAA moving its current headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., to a more "golf-centric" location.



**Golf Rounds Played** 

The percentages below represent the difference in number of rounds played in the month of December 2002 compared to the number of rounds played December 2001.

REGION	DECEMBER	Y.T.D.
New England ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT	-38.7%	-1.7%
Middle Atlantic NY, PA, NJ	-69.5%	-4.3%
East North Central MI, OH, IN, IL, WI	-79.5%	-5.7%
West North Central ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO	21.9%	-7.2%
South Atlantic WV, VA, DE, MD, NC, SC, GA, FL	-21.5%	-2.2%
Florida	-9.5%	2.1%
South Atlantic without FL	-39.5%	-5.3%
East South Central KY, TN, AL, MS	-17.8%	-4.8%
West South Central OK, AR, LA, TX	-2.1%	-1.8%
West South Central without TX	-28.2%	-7.4%
Texas	10.2%	1.7%
Mountain MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM	6.1%	-1%
Pacific WA, OR, AK, HI, CA	5.7%	1.9%
Pacific without CA	3%	3.2%
California	6.2%	1.5%
TOTAL UNITED STATES	-10.7%	-2.9%
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