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Is Your Course Accessible?

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Without Wires

Can wireless irrigation systems and all their digital doodads transform the industry?

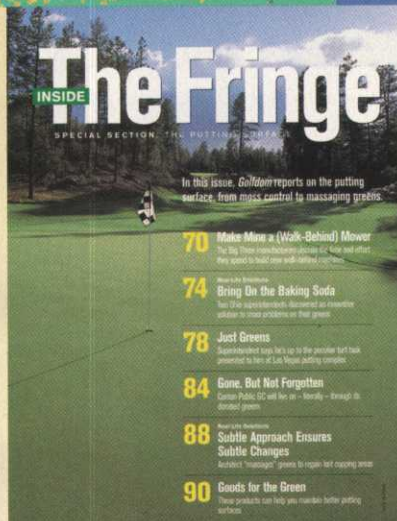
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By Geoff Shackelford



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Lisa Lehman and Kim Traum designed our vivid cover. Image by Artville.

Focusing on the "Little Guy"

The positive reaction to our March cover story, "Down and Dirty," inspired us to launch a new column that focuses on superintendents at low-budget courses who are doing more with less. Check out the debut entry on page 100.

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Golfdom

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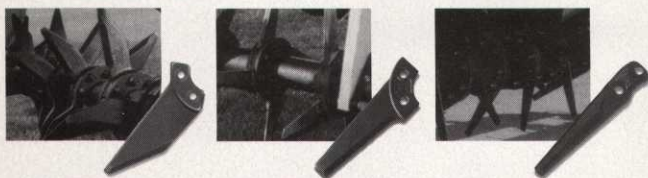
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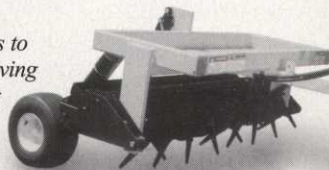
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JUNE

15-19 American Society of Agronomy's Western Chapter Soil Science Meeting
San Francisco
www.agronomy.org

15-16 Midwest Golf Course Owners Association Summer Getaway
Breezy Point, Minn.
www.ngcoa.org

16 Alabama GCSA Monthly Meeting
Birmingham, Ala.
www.agcsa.org

16 Central Illinois GCSA Vendors Day
Pontiac, Ill.
www.ci-gcsa.com

16 Central Florida GCSA Monthly Meeting
Deland, Fla.
www.cfgcsa.com

17 Cornell University Turfgrass and Ornamentals Field Day
Ithaca, N.Y.
www.hort.cornell.edu

17 Golf Course Managers of Cape Cod Monthly Meeting
Kingston, Miss.
www.gcmacc.com

18 Gulf Coast GCSA Turfgrass Field Day and Expo
Jay, Fla.
www.gcgcsa.com

18 University of Massachusetts Turf Research Field Day
South Deerfield, Mass.
www.umasturf.org

18 Everglades GCSA Chapter Meeting
Estero, Fla.
www.floridagcsa.com

19 Piedmont Turfgrass Association Monthly Meeting
Stoneville, N.C.
www.cgcsa.org

24 Maine GCSA Monthly Meeting
Cumberland, Maine
www.mgcsa.com

27 Calusa GCSA Annual Meeting
Fort Meyers, Fla.
www.floridagcsa.com

30 Minnesota GCSA Monthly Meeting
New Richmond, Wis.
www.mgcsa.org

30-July 1 Alabama GCSA Monthly Meeting
West Point, Miss.
www.agcsa.org

JULY

7 Central Illinois GCSA Monthly Meeting
Danville, Ill.
www.ci-gcsa.com

9 Central Florida GCSA Monthly Meeting
Debarry, Fla.
www.cfgcsa.com

10 Kansas GCSA Monthly Meeting
Wichita, Kan.
www.kgcsa.org

11 Calusa GCSA Chapter Meeting
Fort Meyers, Fla.
www.floridagcsa.com

15 Rocky Mountain GCSA Monthly Meeting
Larkspur, Colo.
www.rmgcsa.org

23-25 TPI Summer Convention and Field Days
Dayton, Ohio
www.turfgrassod.org

23 Treasure Coast GCSA Annual Meeting
North Palm Beach, Fla.
www.floridagcsa.com

24 Metropolitan GCSA Educational Seminar
Scarsdale, N.Y.
www.metgcsa.org

24 Minnesota GCSA Field Day
St. Paul, Minn.
www.mgcsa.org

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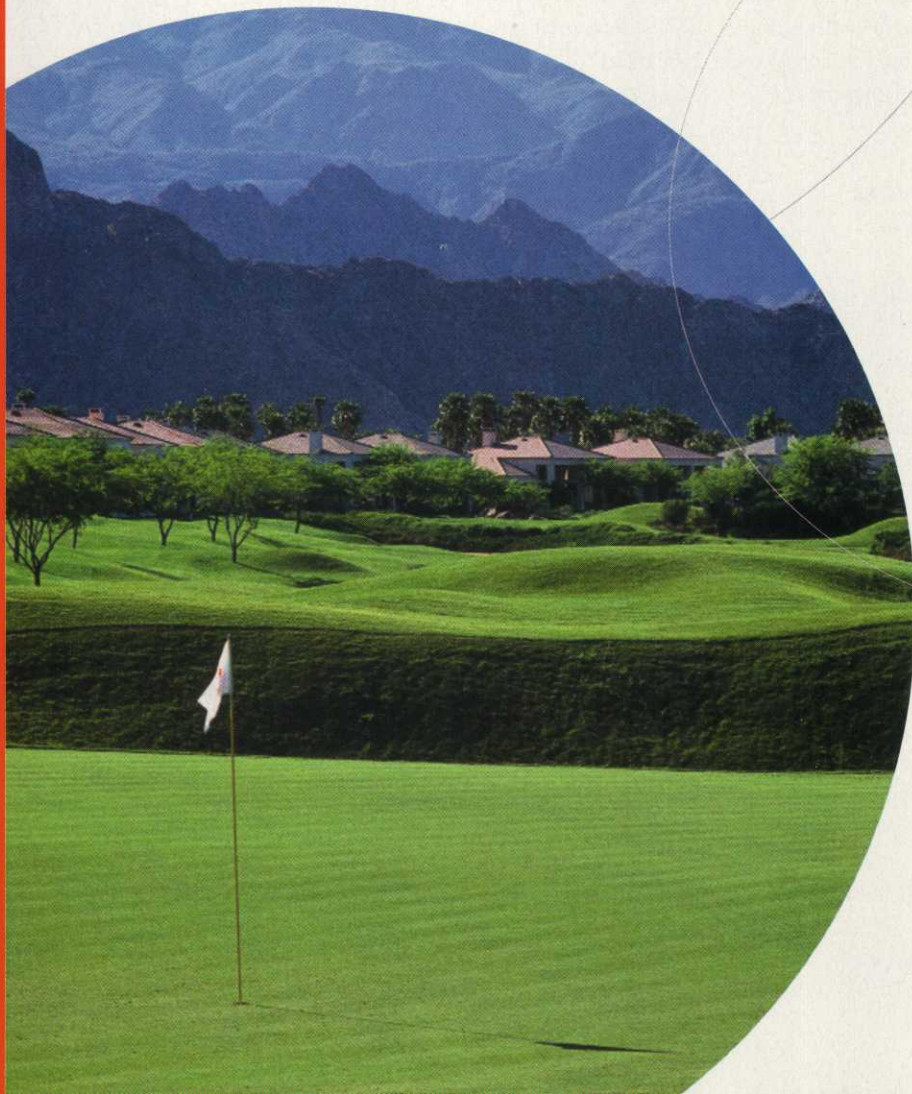
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We've Got Mail

■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Good Nutrition Fuels Good Health

Joel Jackson wrote of his concern for the health of the many dedicated people in this profession (Shades of Green, February). I wholeheartedly agree with his statements regarding our propensity to place our health second to our jobs.

Last year, I sought help for what I thought was acid reflux disease. When I got into bed, my food and stomach acid would come back up. I had to sleep in a chair for two hours to three hours each night so my food could digest before I could go to bed without problems.

This worked for a while, but the problem worsened. I really didn't want to be placed on medication. I contacted a family friend who had developed a line of nutritional products. I knew that I could trust him, and I asked him if he could help me.

He asked some questions about my diet. He explained that the high amounts of sugar and soft drinks I consumed were detri-

mental to the natural digestive process. How often in turf do we emphasize that we should treat the problem rather than the symptom? The medications that doctors would have prescribed would have treated the symptom rather than the cause.

After changing my diet and adding some of his all-natural products to my daily routine, I totally eliminated my problem in less than a week and have not even had heartburn or reflux in more than a year. The products have also allowed me to lose 50 pounds. I now look and feel the way I should for a man my age.

Why did I share this information with you? I believe our industry has people that can understand the problems we have by using information that is available. I hope that you will help educate them so we can start using some preventative maintenance on ourselves.

Brian Sarvis
River Hills Golf & CC
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

into the "yes" category and others into the "no" category. Without university or independent testing, I maintain we just don't know how well a generic compares to a name brand for the end-user.

Who of us have not used a product and have been surprised by either how long or how short we achieved control? If one tests a generic, the same variables may enter into the evaluation of generics and may cause us to be surprised by product performance. So a generic, under this testing regime, could be grossly overrated or underrated. I realize we do have a feel for how things work for our situations, but a feel is not a good thing on which to

Golfer Education Starts on TV

To Anthony Pioppi's "A License to Drive . . . and Pitch and Putt" (March), we say, "Amen." Something as simple as the PGA showing (and commenting on) the caddies repairing divots during major tournaments or a brief mention of the hours, days and months of work necessary to keep a course looking picture perfect will alert the general public that a beautiful course doesn't just happen.

Golfers, especially our young people, see damage from divots and think it's OK to walk away. The suggested commercials are great, but all of us usually tune them out. A professional or commentator discussing or mentioning something would have more impact. A cooperative effort between superintendents, the PGA and the LPGA to introduce a rule every segment would be far more effective than a commercial presenting the same information. If a professional faced the camera and explained that a golf car

base a costly and/or important chemical application.

One of the best reasons to favor nongeneric use is related to the future of turf products. Through the profits of big companies come endowments, scholarships, donations to local fundraising tournaments and the whole gamut of expenses. These promote our turf industry. We could get along without them, but it would be tough. If big companies ceased to research and develop products for the future, the ship of our profession would eventually sink — or at least run aground.

Jay Charnes
Superintendent
Harmony Landing CC
Goshen, Ky.

should never be near a green, golfers would listen.

Face it, owners, superintendents or their respective associations have the attention of the golfing public. Let's find a way to capitalize on that attention to promote our superintendents, their credibility and care of the courses.

Ken & Elizabeth Hobbs
Owners/Greenspersons/Shop
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Personnel/Tree Trimmers/Hole
Diggers/Plumbers/General Flunkies
The Eccentric Duffer
Ada, Okla.

Keep Fighting the Good Fight

March's Flagstick (A Witch's Brew of Misinformation) was right on target. I noted that the message was effectively supplemented by Joel Jackson ("Be Part of the Vocal Majority," March).

We, through The Lawn Institute, were in the midst of this from 1982 to 1992. During these years, I lectured throughout the United States and Canada on the theme of the politics of landscape horticulture.

It's never too late for a vocal majority groundswell to smother this brew of misinformation that's out there. *Golfdom* is helping to get the word out and the process started.

Eliot Roberts
Director, Rosehall Associates
Sparta, Tenn.

Got a view you'd like to share? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Frank Andorka at fandorka@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

It's All So Darn Confusing

I read with great interest your articles in February concerning generic products ("Marketing Molecules"). I've been blinded by the confusing issues associated with this topic. On one hand, the big chemical company guy says his product is better, while the little chemical company guy says his generic product is the same as the branded product.

I did learn from your information that generics are made to be virtually identical to the basic manufacturers product related to the active ingredient (as mandated by the EPA). Will the generic mix perform as well as the original? Some products fall