

A close-up, artistic photograph of grass blades, rendered in a monochromatic blue and white color scheme. The blades are shown in various orientations, creating a sense of depth and texture.

That's the power of a systemic. Xylem to tip, Heritage® is the only systemic strobilurin that protects each and every blade of grass, including new growth. Broad-spectrum disease control protection from the inside, that lasts up to 28 days against all four major classes of fungi and the six major turf diseases. Heritage works from the inside so your turf looks good outside. Call 1-800-395-8873 to contact your local Syngenta sales representative and learn more about Heritage.



www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com

Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product. ©2002 Syngenta. Syngenta Professional Products, Greensboro, NC 27419. Heritage® and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

Twenty years ago Tom Doak was awarded the chance of a lifetime. The New York-born golf course architect received a postgraduate scholarship from Cornell University to

study some of the world's finest golf courses in the British Isles. To today's golf fanatics, this may sound like one of those died-and-gone-to-heaven trips.

Doak, who graduated from Cornell, was 22 at the time. He spent nearly a year abroad. What he saw and learned were vital to his training. "It was a fabulous experience," he says.

Twenty years later, Doak has not forgotten that consequential trip. But "not forgotten" in this case is not about reminiscing about the experience. "Not forgotten" is about giving back *for* the experience.

Last month, two college students that study landscape architecture — George Waters and Philippe Binette — went to work as interns for Renaissance Design, Doak's Traverse City, Mich.-based architecture firm. "I decided to set up an annual internship program through my company in the hopes of giving students of golf design the same opportunity I had," Doak says.

About 70 people applied for the internships, which surprised Doak, who didn't expect that many to be interested. That number may also astound some of Doak's peers, who wonder why anyone would want to work for him.

It's no secret that Doak is considered a rebel in some circles. Their disdain for Doak goes back to a book he wrote in 1996, *Tom Doak's Confidential Guide to Golf Courses*. Some architects say Doak dissed their design work in the book, and others say his criticism of some courses was unfair and unwarranted. They could stand someone like Donald Ross assessing their work, but not some young whippersnapper named Doak.

Doak realizes he ruffled some feathers and knows that grudges are still held against him. He doesn't apologize for what he wrote, but he seems to have learned something along the way. Doak says he's put down his pen to let his work, which has been described as "retro-classical," do the talking.

"I always thought the only way I could

Give Doak Credit for Giving Back

BY LARRY AYLWARD



SAY WHAT YOU
WILL ABOUT THE
CONTROVERSIAL
ARCHITECT, BUT
GIVE HIM CREDIT
FOR TRYING TO HELP
THE ARCHITECTS OF
TOMORROW

differentiate myself from the others was to point at things in particular and say, 'I would do this and not that,'" Doak says. "But that was done to differentiate me. It wasn't meant to take anybody else down. But I'm much more circumspect about criticizing other people's work now."

Surprisingly (or maybe not), Doak is not a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Some say he hasn't applied for membership because he knows some members don't want him in the group because of his outspokenness. Doak says he hasn't applied because he wants his membership to be about his work, not his controversial reputation.

"I've done 15 courses now," says Doak, whose Pacific Dunes design in Bandon, Ore., is recognized as one of the world's great modern layouts. "I want to apply and have it be about my work."

Doak says he's tired of reading stories that label him a controversial person. But he welcomes stories that label him a controversial architect. "At this point, I'd like people to concentrate on what I'm designing, which is the main reason I'm not writing much anymore," he says.

Doak says it's the architects who don't know him who are the ones who speak negatively about him. If they knew him, Doak says, they wouldn't think he was aloof or insincere.

One thing's for sure, Doak has made a name for himself. But like him or not, give him credit for giving back to the industry at a time when the profession has put the brakes on new designs.

Say what you will about Doak, but recognize his efforts to help the golf course architects of tomorrow get a jump-start on their careers. Doak knows just how good such an experience can be.

Aylward, editor of Golfdom, can be reached at 440-891-2770 or larryward@advanstar.com.



OFFICIAL
GOLF COURSE
EQUIPMENT
SUPPLIER



~ 8 ~

This picturesque par 3 is made possible by the John Deere 2500A Tri-Plex Greens Mower. Excelling at both the straight cut and the cleanup cut, the 2500A's handiwork is easy to see.

Just make sure you use enough club.



Your golfers could probably care less. But you should know that no tri-plex greens mower performs quite like our new 2500A. A patented off-set cutting design eliminates "tri-plex" ring and gives your operators excellent visibility to the cutting units. We've also put in a new radiator system with stronger cross flow tubes to increase cooling performance. An enhanced lift/lower assembly increases the response to lifting and lowering reels. A new in-tank fuel pump allows for more reliable fuel delivery to the carburetor. And a new seat increases operator comfort and reliability.

To see one on your course, call your local John Deere Golf & Turf One Source distributor or 1-800-537-8233.

CIRCLE NO. 118

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF
ONE SOURCETM



JOHN DEERE

A photograph of a golf course green with a sand trap and trees in the background. The green is well-maintained and the sand trap is a light brown color. The trees are mostly deciduous with some autumn-colored leaves. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Hole of the

■ No. 12
Olympia Fields CC
Olympia Fields, Ill.

Month

The Weather and the U.S. Open

If it's dry and the course is hard, the field can count on a difficult test. If the course is wet and the greens are soft, the field may score lower than what the USGA is accustomed to seeing for a U.S. Open. That's the prediction made by Dave Ward, superintendent of Olympia Fields CC's North Course, which hosts the second Major of the year this month. "Weather will be the big determining factor," Ward says.

The 458-yard, par-four 12th hole (pictured here) is the course's signature hole for the back nine. However, the nines are being switched for the tournament, and the 12th hole will play as the third hole. The hole requires a blind tee shot over a hill to a narrow fairway that shifts to the left of the tee. The shot must be hit left or the player will not have a shot into the small, elevated and severely sloped green.

Ward says the greens will stimp around 12 feet, give or take 6 inches. He'll be careful not to make them any faster. "Anything over 12.5 feet, and our greens would be pretty much unputtable," Ward says.

Deere is the exclusive equipment supplier to Olympia. Also, remember to play the John Deere Major Challenge.

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

www.johndeere.com



JOHN DEERE



Maybe they don't understand what it means to cut a green to the width of a quarter. But you certainly do. And no walk-behind greens mower does it better than our B Series Walk-Behinds. From adjustable handlebars to efficient grass catching, our B Series walks are without peers in their category. We also have large mufflers for lower sound levels. Bedknife-to-reel knobs allow for easy adjusting. And a forward mounting pivot point to minimize operator effect on the cutting plane. To see them in action on your greens, call your local John Deere Golf & Turf Distributor. Or dial toll-free 1-800-537-8233.

CIRCLE NO. 119

JOHN DEERE GOLF & TURF
ONE SOURCETM



Do you have a written job description that clearly defines your responsibilities at your club? Regardless of your title, I'd bet 90 percent of you don't. But you should have specific written guidelines from your employer that detail what is expected of you.

There is a universal reason why superintendents don't usually have clearly written job descriptions. Most club members or owners don't understand what you do or how you do it. All golfers know is the result they want — a perfectly conditioned golf course every day.

That might be their high-minded wish, but it is often just wishful thinking unless each club is realistic about how well-equipped the superintendent is to deliver the goods.

An easy catch-all job description that reads well in the clubhouse goes, "The superintendent shall be responsible for the maintenance and grooming of the golf course to meet the expectations of the members. He shall report to the green chairman." Heck, you knew that when you were college freshmen or rookie crew members. The devil, of course, is in the details.

Let's focus on water — the most important resource that superintendents manage. People are important, too, but without an adequate supply of water, you can forget about all the rest. The recent drought cycle has put water issues on the front burner. Superintendents manage the water, but they shouldn't have to worry about securing an adequate water supply in the middle of a blistering summer heat wave. That job must fall to the owners and members.

After all, superintendents come and go, but the consumptive-use water permits, local politics and watering restrictions stay forever. Superintendents are the people responsible for applying the water judiciously and making sure the irrigation system is calibrated correctly, runs efficiently and is maintained properly. The owners should be the ones giving superintendents enough money to make sure the job can be done properly.

Where in the job description does it say superintendents shall be responsible for lobbying legislators, county and city commissioners, and water-management district officials to write and administer realistic water regulations? The ques-

Going Beyond Your Job Description

BY JOEL JACKSON



I OFTEN WONDER
WHERE THE LEVEL
OF MAINTENANCE
IN THE GAME
WOULD BE IF
SUPERINTENDENTS
HADN'T TAKEN
LEADERSHIP ROLES
IN REGULATORY
POLITICS

tion also extends to other legislative issues as well, such as pesticide and fertilizer regulations.

I seldom hear of owners/members leading the charge for fairness and common sense in these matters. They complain to superintendents when the grass is brown, but they aren't down at city hall fighting bureaucrats for an extra gallon of water for the course.

Somehow superintendents or their associations are expected to do the heavy lifting for them at their own expense and risk of time away from the job (which can be costly if problems occur while superintendents trudge to the state capital). Some clubs understand superintendents simply can't do it all, but most don't.

If you weren't so conscientious, you could simply tell your owner or green committee that it's not in your job description to perform these necessary tasks. Then you could sit back and let the owners unite to fight the politicians and regulators to ensure the best interests of their businesses are served.

The nature of superintendents, however, is not to complain. To this end, they battle tooth and nail to do whatever it takes to deliver the best conditioned golf courses they can. I call this insanity the survival instinct. After all, superintendents understand their jobs are on the line and will be blamed for poor course conditions.

I often wonder where the level of the game would be today if superintendents decided not to take leadership roles in regulatory politics — a job for which they were never trained, for which they don't have the financial or political clout and that definitely falls outside their job description. My own sense is that the state of the golf course maintenance industry would be

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



Is Your Course

Golf courses face new demands to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The good news is that courses should be able to manage the changes without too much difficulty

BY BRUCE ALLAR

After word came down last year that golf courses would face new demands to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a common first reaction was apprehension. Course owners and their superintendents worried that the updated ADA guidelines, announced in September 2002, would place costly burdens upon them. But the news so far should be an anxiety-reliever: Compliance may turn out to be neither difficult nor expensive.

Take it from Sam Samuelson, the certified superintendent who maintains the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex, a 36-hole city-owned complex in Sacramento, Calif. The courses,

including an Alister MacKenzie championship-length layout, have already implemented accessibility programs to all parts of the courses for disabled players.

"The funny thing about all this is that so many superintendents are scared about what they'll have to do to comply with the ADA and, to be honest, it's hardly changed anything for us," Samuelson says. "The biggest problem superintendents have is fear. Once you get over that fear factor, it really doesn't affect you."

Haggin Oaks' MacKenzie course, which opened in 1932, was renovated in 2000. That's when the ADA specs were applied to make the course completely accessible. The other 18 holes (one nine opened in 1952 and the other in the early 1960s) are also called "accessible" by Haggin Oaks largely because the

ARTVILLE

Accessible?

flat terrain in the area allows cars to get on and off tees easily. Also, tight curbing of cart paths was avoided, and bunkers were built with fairly flat entrance and exit points for disabled golfers, who generally hit the ball from moveable seats in their cars.

Five single-rider cars are available for disabled golfers who show up to play at Haggin Oaks. They are shuttled among the three courses as demand dictates.

Morton Golf, which operates the shop and teaching programs at the courses, also runs some programs for disabled golfers, according to Samuelson. As an added service, it's planning to print up a booklet marking any areas on the courses or throughout the Haggin Oaks' complex that might present accessibility problems for disabled players. The booklet would be distributed to disabled golfers when they register for rounds.

"The positives far outweigh the negatives," Samuelson says. "To see the smile on some of these faces when you give them accessibility — it's a wonderful thing."

Not all newly constructed or renovated courses must follow the Haggin Oaks lead, making nearly every playing area accessible to disabled golfers. While some of the details of compliance are yet to be worked out, early signs indicated that course architects and superintendents will be able to manage the changes without too much difficulty.

The rules

The U.S. Access Board, an independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ACCESSIBLE GOLF

disabilities, issued its new guidelines, published in the *Federal Register* on Sept. 3, 2002, to "serve as the basis for standards to be adopted by the Department of Justice for new construction and alterations of recreational facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act." The ADA was passed and signed into law in 1990. But the Access Board later took up modifications for several recreational categories including swimming pools and spas, boating facilities, amusement parks and, of course, golf courses.

Gary Robb, president of the National Al-

Continued on page 40

At least 5 percent of practice tees on golf courses must be made accessible to disabled golfers, according to new guidelines.

Is Your Course Accessible?

Continued from page 39

liance for Accessible Golf, headquartered at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., and affiliated with the National Center on Accessibility, helped spur modifications on golf courses.

"Golf was one of the major ones we started to champion, mostly because of my interest in and passion for the game," Robb says. "I've always thought it a game that can be inclusive for people with disabilities."

Robb says that golf course clubhouse areas, buildings and parking lots were covered by the original ADA when it was passed 13 years ago. The new standards apply to the courses themselves. He describes them as "pretty easy to comply with" and says they're designed to make golf

possible for persons with spinal cord injuries, muscular disorders and other disabilities.

"Individuals with mobility impairments have to be able to get on to fairways, tees and greens — basically so they can play the game like anybody else," Robb says. "It's pretty easy to design courses that way."

Key points

An advisory group to the Access Board began discussing guidelines for golf playing surfaces back in 1993. It took nearly 10 years for the recommendations to crawl through the bureaucracy. "They are still not legally enforceable standards until the Department of Justice turns them into regulations," Robb says.

He adds, however, that golf courses under construction or making modifications in the interim will likely be judged on their use of the "best available information" should they be challenged on their compliance, which is his way of recommending that the guidelines be followed from September 2002 forward.

The guidelines apply to new construction and any major alterations to existing courses such as new greens or adding a tee box. (A major alteration would be a total remake of an element on the golf course.) Any public course is affected, as are all private courses that open themselves to corporate outings or nonmember functions. Here are some key points:

- An accessible route, a minimum of 48-inches wide, must run throughout the golf course and also connect to the car rental area, bag drop, practice tees and greens, and other course amenities. The route need not be paved, but it must be "usable by golf cars." Regular cart paths can be part of the accessible route.

- For holes with two teeing areas, one must be accessible. For holes with three or more tee boxes, at least two must be usable by golfers in "mobility devices," which are often single-player cars. The forward teeing area must be accessible "regardless of the number of teeing grounds per hole." Disabled players must be able to drive their golf cars onto tees and hit their balls from the cars.

- Space must be provided for the mobility devices to enter and exit all greens. These special cars were determined to cause "little or no damage to the putting green surface," according to the Access Board report. But it did not spell out whether courses must allow the

Continued on page 42



Single-rider cars, such as Club Car's 1-PASS, are a hot topic when it comes to accessible golf. Club Car says its vehicle causes no damage to greens, tees or other sensitive areas on the course.

