



We'll sniff out more green for your business.

The smell of success is right under your nose when you go with ProSource One. Every product and service you need to grow your corner of the world to its greenest potential is available from us. We see things differently — so that you see better business.

Welcome to a Greener World


www.prosourceone.com



CIRCLE NO. 113

SYSTEMIC STROBILURIN - BENTGRASS AT 240%

To protect longer,
you have to work from the inside.

A close-up, artistic photograph of several grass blades. The blades are illuminated from the side, creating strong highlights and deep shadows, which emphasizes their texture and structure. The background is dark, making the grass stand out.

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.

Off The Fringe

Continued from page 20

phalt — a path in from the main road, and two driveways for the only two houses on the course. After three hours we call it a day. We deserve the rest just like the course. Tomorrow we'll be busy once again.

The turf management part of me is starting to feel impatient, but at the same time a wiser part of me knows that 14-hour days are again only a few short weeks away.

Friday greets the mid-Atlantic with an expected high temperature of 37 degrees. I'll have a two-thirds crew today to help with the grinding, oil changing, ball-washer painting and shop reorganizing. Luckily, there is enough of that right now to keep them all busy for an eight-hour day.

The busy work is plentiful right now, and once the weather breaks a little we can get outside and attend to the trees.

In the transition zone, we could have almost any kind of weather pattern, and we are at the mercy of whatever Mother Nature throws our way. One thing I do know is that on this particular Saturday morning, I am able to enjoy the luxury of sleeping in.

The opportunity to recharge your batteries is a rare gift for a greenkeeper. Accept that gift when you can.

Black is superintendent of Twin Shields GC in Dunkirk, Md.

Un-Bear-Able

CANADIAN SUPERINTENDENT BATTLES BRUINS

By James E. Guyette

A situation at the Sparwood GC in Sparwood, B.C., is creating a "grizzly" situation for superintendent Rod Uhl. During the spring and fall, ursine invaders make almost nightly forays onto the nine-hole course.

Weighing up to 1,000 pounds, the marauding grizzlies are particularly partial to the pins — frequently snapping them in two like toothpicks.

"They pick up the scents of everyone who grabs the flagsticks, and the bears are rubbing up against them to leave their own scents," Uhl says.

The bears make the rounds of other course features, too, targeting distance markers and anything else they can get their huge paws on.

"They dig the cups right out, and they also dig-up our irrigation heads," Uhl says. Recently, "the majority of the practice course mats were flipped over, and one of them was shredded." The mat mayhem is especially puzzling because they're made of synthetic materials.

It's hard to figure out why the



PHOTODISC

bears like the course. Insects aren't prevalent because of the rural region's rugged climate, and "we have a very stringent garbage control program" to eliminate other bear-type treats, Uhl adds.

A barking dog is no solution, as a canine could quickly become a snack. And applying typical bear repellents to the pins won't work because any product that the bears find foul is going to end-up on the hands of members lining up their putts. "I can't have my golfers getting *that* on themselves," Uhl says, noting that the bears' mischievous attraction to the links remains a vexing mystery.

Uhl seeks advice from those who've had bear problems. He can be reached at sparwoodgolf@netscape.net.

Guyette is a free-lance writer from Cleveland.

The Major Challenge Is Back

Good news for you golf fanatics: The Major Challenge is back. If you have a hunch about which Tour players will dominate the Majors this year, here's a chance to play out that hunch and win prizes.

John Deere and *Golfdom* have again joined forces to present the second annual Major Challenge, an online fantasy golf competition for superintendents and other turfheads who want to test their luck against colleagues around the world.

The object of the contest is simple, says Mike Scaletta, advertising manager for Deere's golf/turf division. "You pick the six players you think will score best in each of the four Major tournaments and their combined stroke score is your score in the Challenge," he says. "You can change players and tinker with your team any time up to the day before each event. It's fun, and it's free."

The Major Challenge contest events are, of course, the Masters, U.S. Open,

British Open and PGA Championship. An all-expense paid trip to the John-Deere Classic to play in the Pro/Am awaits each winner of those events. The John Deere Classic will be held at the Tournament Players Club at Deere Run in September in Silvis, Ill.

You can register online now by visiting www.majorchallenge.com/golf. Contest information, complete rules, eligibility, standings, stats and player information are also available on the site.

So log on, sign up, have fun and win.

Waiting Is the Hardest Part

MORAN NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF YALE GC – FINALLY

By Anthony Pioppi

Mike Moran will celebrate his 20th anniversary at Yale University GC in style. He was finally named superintendent of the course after serving in an interim role for nearly two years.

They say good things come to those who wait. Moran waited, waited and waited to be appointed superintendent. He was named the official superintendent of the course in December. It was also a nice 50th birthday present for the superintendent, who turned the half-century mark the same month.

Moran was chosen out of a group of five finalists that were culled from a national search by a committee made up

of Yale alum, members of the school's athletic department and people involved with the course, said Thomas Beckett, Yale's director of athletics.

According to Beckett, part of the reason Moran was chosen for the job was "his knowledge of the Yale GC and his passion for what the golf course is all about."

Moran takes over at a time of positive change at the acclaimed Seth Raynor design, which opened in 1926. It is finally receiving attention from the school after years of neglect. Architect Roger Rulewich is in the midst of a bunker renovation scheduled to be completed by fall, including the reinstatement of a number of bunkers filled in over the years. Plans are underway to improve drainage on at least three holes.

As part of union regulations of which he is a member, Moran will no

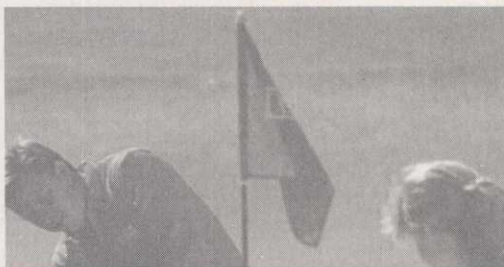
"I'm going to miss the labor stuff, but now I'll have time to train and improve the professionalism of the golf course"

MIKE MORAN
SUPERINTENDENT
YALE UNIVERSITY GC

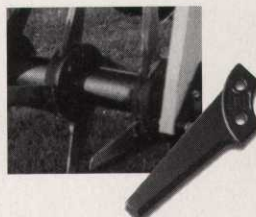
longer be able to perform jobs of the rank and file — including operating machinery — unless in a teaching or testing capacity.

"I'm going to miss the labor stuff a little bit, but now I'll have time to train and improve the professionalism of the golf course," Moran said.

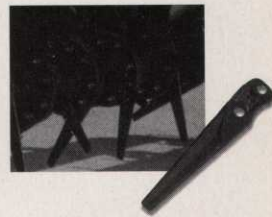
The golf course has nine budgeted positions, four or which are for 12 months and five for nine months. During the summer, help from the school's dining halls augment the crew. The void left by Moran's elevation will also be filled.



Shattertine®



Sportstine®



Finetine®

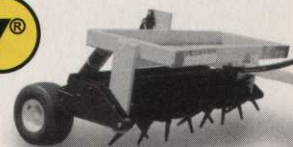
AerWay® offers low cost, low maintenance, long lasting options for all your turf aeration needs!

A Full Family of Tines - AerWay® offers you customized aeration options for your greens, tees, fairways and roughs.

Effective Deep Tine Action - goes to the heart of soil problems by relieving compaction. This results in strong root growth and outstanding drought resistance.

AerWay® Advanced Aeration Systems are cost effective - a complete range of sizes and styles starting at under \$3000.00.

AerWay®



**AerWay® - Effective Aeration
When You Need It - Where You Need It!**

for further information call **1-800-457-8310**

Advanced Aeration Systems

www.aerway.com aerway@thehollandgroupinc.com

Off The Fringe

A License to Drive ... and Pitch and Putt

IT'S HIGH TIME THAT GOLFERS

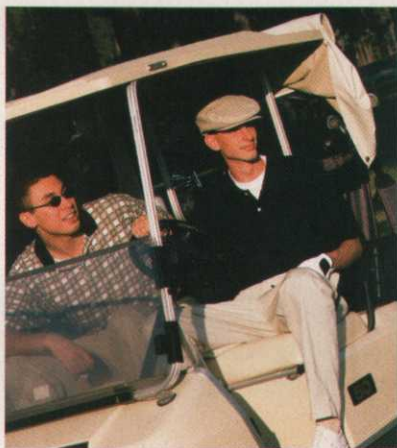
LEARN THE RULES

By Anthony Pioppi

It was an epiphany of sorts. Not really hit by a bolt of lightning, but shocked just slightly, like the time in sixth grade when I accidentally touched the inside of an empty foot-light socket in my junior high school auditorium.

Tzzzzzz... What the...!?

This time the little jolt came while standing on the 17th tee of the local muni. About 30 feet below lies the 10th green and on this fine afternoon, four players were putting out on that very green, their golf carts parked no farther than a couple paces from the putting surface. While this in itself was out of line, the fact they had to negoti-



EYEWIRE

ate the vehicles around a veritable obstacle course of yellow rope, stakes and trees to get where they were was no accident. Or was it?

Up until then, I had always assumed 90 percent of the people on golf courses who are doing what they shouldn't just don't give a rats back


porch about the course. My conclusion was reached after a couple of decades playing the game, two years on a golf course grounds crew and more than a few occasions taking the role of ranger on the aforementioned layout.

For some reason, a modicum of patience had worked its way into my demeanor and rather than fire off my usual harsh words of disgust at the four offenders, I took a rather tactful approach.

"Gentlemen," I said in a voice loud enough for them to hear without a hint of anger, "those carts don't belong there. Could you move them back behind those ropes, please?"

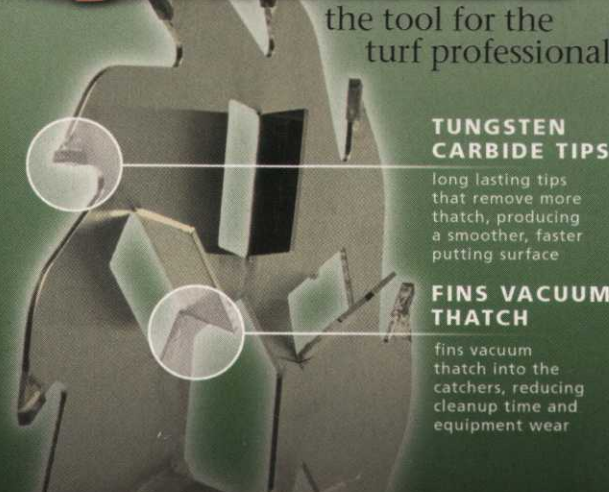
Well, tie me to an anthill and smear me with Ho Hos, the reaction from the four was nothing short of astonishing. Two immediately sprinted to their carts and moved them back to a reasonable parking distance, and they all practically

every master has his tools



dynaBLADE

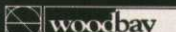
the tool for the turf professional



TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TIPS
long lasting tips that remove more thatch, producing a smoother, faster putting surface

FINS VACUUM THATCH
fins vacuum thatch into the catchers, reducing cleanup time and equipment wear


1 800 661 4942
www.greensiron.com
woodbay@greensiron.com



Drive for show putt for dough

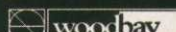
greensIRON 3000

For a smooth and consistent path to the cup



- "Feather Touch" operation
- Non-slip rubber coated drive roller
- Reduces recover time and inconvenience to golfers after aerifying and top dressing greens
- Optional Eaton hydrostatic or Snow-Nabstedt Power Transmissions
- Consistent green spread – green to green and day to day ... just like the tour events!
- Turf ventilator and broom attachments

1 800 661 4942
Toll Free
Email: woodbay@greensiron.com
www.greensiron.com



fell over each other spouting words of genuine, yes, *genuine* apology.

Over the years, more than one of my playing companions have disagreed with my low opinion of golf course miscreants. Those friends have argued eloquently, and not so eloquently, that the players who do not take care of the golf course are, in most cases, guilty of ignorance rather than of malice.

"How can you say that?" I would ask them under cross-examination giving an example. "What about the old-timers around here who were playing the game years before Noah needed to build himself a boat? They never fix a pitch mark."

"They don't know they are doing anything wrong," my friends would tell me. "No one's ever shown them the error in the their ways."

I have a proposal to correct this, which follows along many of the lines of other golfing countries such as Swe-

den. Under this plan, players are not allowed onto courses until they have passed golf's version of a safe driving test. There will be no grandfather clause. If you don't have a license to drive, pitch and putt, you will not play golf. It's as simple as that.

Once golfers learn the etiquette of the game — including such talents as fixing ball marks; when and when not to replace divots; good cart driving techniques; and why it's not an insult to let a faster group play through — they can tee it up anywhere.

I suggest the regional PGA section and the regional superintendent sections coordinate the classes that will be taught by golf pros and superintendents for a fee, of course. Along the way, prospective golfers will gain an appreciation for not just the game and its rules, but also for the people who take care of the courses on which they play. They'll come to understand *why*

it is important to fix a pitch mark or fill and level divots.

The dual teaching program will also foster increased communication and goodwill between pros and superintendents — both of whom will also learn to appreciate a little more what each other does.

Once certified golfers are let loose on the links, rangers will have it easier as well since all players will be well-versed in what and what not to do. Rangers will be able to skip the polite and gentle reminders to move golf carts or speed up play. Instead, BAM! To the moon Alice or Andy or whoever else breaks the law. Three strike law? Nah.

If the educational process works, I can even envision a world where rangers will not be needed one day. Now wouldn't that be something?

Pioppi is a free-lance writer from Middletown, Conn.

PAY LESS. CLIMB MORE.



Get the most out of your budget while out-mowing all competitors on steep hills and banks. Try the new 8400—the next generation of National.

- A lower center of gravity and hydrostatic drive make the 8400 the King of the Hill
- The 8400's 15" overhang is the best in the industry—dramatically reducing hand-mowing time
- All-new electric clutch gives you perfect reel and ground speed, allowing you to slow down to cut the tough spots while maintaining a high quality cut

It's time to demo the next generation of National. Call 888-907-3463 today.



SINCE 1919

www.nationalmower.com

WE CAN'T MAKE YOUR GOLFERS PLAY BETTER, BUT WE CAN MAKE THEIR DIVOTS GREENER.



We've been playing the green grass game for a long time. And now we've got it down to a system that makes your grass even greener. Introducing Flowtronex Integrated Water Management™. The IWM System handles all your golf course water quality and distribution needs by linking fertigation, pH control and filtration components to the highest quality, pre-assembled pump station in the industry. To find out more about how to make your grass greener and your life easier, call 1-800-786-7480 or visit www.flowtronex.com.



FLOWTRONEX™

No One Makes Your Life Easier. No One.

© 2002 Flowtronex PSI, Inc.

CIRCLE NO. 118

They have grown together like a devoted couple. You listen to Gregg Guynan and you get the impression that he and O'Bannon Creek GC were made for each other. Guynan mentions the word "commitment" often when talking about the track.

On March 18, Guynan celebrates his 26th anniversary as superintendent of O'Bannon Creek in Loveland, Ohio, near Cincinnati. The course opened a year before the 49-year-old Guynan arrived in 1977. They were both babies to the business then.

If Guynan has his way, he'll stay at O'Bannon for the rest of his working life. He's like one of those throwback baseball players ("Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?") who longed to play for the same team for his entire career and did.

Which brings us to the topic of longevity in the golf course maintenance business. These days, it's not that hot of topic when you consider that the average superintendent stays at the same golf course for about seven years.

But there's something to be said for longevity, as Guynan's career attests. He's successful and happy at O'Bannon. He knows he could probably make more money at another course, but that's not the most important issue to him. As the Beatles song says, "Money can't buy me love."

But there are also two sides to this street. While Guynan wants to stay at O'Bannon because he loves it, he knows they (his bosses and the members) must *want* him to stay. In essence, longevity is about achieving personal goals as much as it's about maintaining solid interpersonal relationships.

So if you desire to stay at your course for more than the norm, you're wise to listen to Guynan's recipe for longevity. Its ingredients have to do with personal satisfaction and respect for others. And even if you're not looking to stay at the same course for 20 years, you can learn a lot from Guynan's philosophy. Here are his secrets for staying power:

The Secrets to Staying Power

BY LARRY AYLWARD



GREGG GUYNAN
KNOWS A THING
OR TWO ABOUT
ACHIEVING
LONGEVITY IN
THIS BUSINESS

Look for a course that's you.

"It's important you look for a course that fits your style and needs," Guynan says. "I'm a project-oriented type of person. What I enjoy most is building something new on the course. That's exactly what this course needed when I came here — there were a lot of unfinished projects.

"That's also what will help keep me here," he continues. "We've got projects planned for the next 10 years."

Work with what you're given.

Guynan advises a superintendent not to stomp his foot and throw up his hands if the green committee rejects his pitch for more money to complete a project.

"I've always been willing to work with what I've been given without complaining," he says. "As a whole, superintendents have to be efficient people or they don't last very long."

Learn to pinch pennies.

"I always watch what I spend," Guynan says of his maintenance budget. "We do a lot of projects in-house. We did our own fairway irrigation system for a fraction of the cost of what it would cost a contractor to do. It's a challenge for me to see how far I can stretch a dollar."

Take care of your crew members.

You're the boss, but you don't have to rule with an iron fist, Guynan says. Let crew members have fun in their jobs and empower them so they feel like they're important. In turn, they'll respect you and most likely stick around for more than a summer.

"You have to make the job enjoyable for

Continued on page 30

Continued from page 29

them,” Guynan says. “I think I’ve done a pretty good job of that. A big part of my longevity here is that I’ve had good people working for me.”

Do the right thing.

“I don’t always do what [members and committee people] ask me to do because I know it’s not the right thing to do,” Guynan says.

For instance, if a few members bark at Guynan to cut the greens shorter to make them faster — and it’s mid-July and hotter than the inside of a steel mill — Guynan won’t heed their calls.

“You just have to do what you know is right,” he says. “That’s part of the survival process — keeping the golf course alive and in good shape.”

Bite your tongue.

It’s 95 degrees, it hasn’t rained in three weeks, and you’ve been tending carefully to three of the course’s greens that are stressed to the max. Meanwhile, a green committee member is complaining to you about untrimmed grass around the ball washer on No. 9. You want to tell that committee person a few things, but Guynan advises you to bite your tongue.

“You have to learn not to speak everything that you would like to say,” he says. “You have to hold back. Sometimes the best quality is to keep quiet and listen to what the person is saying. A lot of superintendents get themselves in trouble by overreacting too quickly to a situation.”

Don’t get too low.

If the green committee has you on the ropes with a flurry of criticisms, learn to roll with the punches. Guynan says he’s come out of committee meetings after being pummeled for an hour and muttered to himself, “There has to be a better way to make a living than this.”



But he tells himself to remain positive and not to overreact about the criticism.

“I’ve learned not to react to my immediate feelings too quickly,” he says. “I’ve been in the business long enough to know when I’m doing a good job and when I’m not doing a good job.”

Take compliments to heart.

If someone pays you an atta-boy about the condition of the greens or the fairways, don’t think twice about not feeling good about it, Guynan says. Pats on the back are good for self-esteem.

“A single comment can make a huge difference,” Guynan says. “Those are the things that help keep you going.”

Try to get along with everyone.

Sometimes, a newly appointed green chairman is bound not to like you, Guynan says. But that doesn’t mean you don’t have to like him. In fact, respect that person and try to get along with him or her. You may win that person over.

“I’ve had a few green chairmen come in, and they didn’t like me,” Guynan says. “But after we worked together for a while and they understood my operation, they ended up liking me.”

“It bothers when somebody doesn’t like me, but I also realize it’s part of life. And it doesn’t stop me from trying to change that person’s mind.”

“You have to learn not to speak everything that you would like to say. You have to hold back.”

GREGG GUYNAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF O'BANNON CREEK IN LOVELAND, OHIO

Pray.

Sometimes, when life on the golf course gets to be distressing, Guynan will pray for strength and the intelligence to make the right decisions. “It has helped keep me from overreacting to certain things,” Guynan says.

Family time is quality time.

Guynan knows you’re busy, but he advises you to make time for your family and friends. You won’t regret it, he says.

“I spend a lot of time here, but I never let this job be all encompassing to my life,” Guynan says. “I have a wonderful family. I don’t get to spend as much time with them as I’d like, but it’s quality time when I do.”

“A lot of times I’ve come home, and I’m stressed out from something that’s happened here, and someone in my family will say something that takes all the stress away.”

Keep a fresh outlook.

Twenty-six years have been a blur, Guynan admits. But he’s had time to watch the course mature into a veteran track — and himself into a seasoned superintendent. He wants to keep watching and learning.

“I hope that I retire from here,” Guynan says. “This course is my baby.”

Golfdom Editor Larry Aylward can be reached at 440-891-2770 or laylward@advanstar.com.