

## Off The Fringe

# Cast of Characters

YOUR SUMMER IS PROBABLY A LOT LIKE MINE

By Jim Black

**A**hh. The mid-Atlantic winter chill is beginning to give way to longer, warmer days and the promise of the coming season. I'm also reminded, by the excessive ringing of my phone, of the onslaught of seasonal job seekers, looking for something to do in exchange for a little pocket change and gas money.

Oh sure, they all seem great when they walk in the door — full of energy and eagerness to be the best employees ever. But once the first couple weeks go by, reality sets in.

One by one they come into your office and sling the proverbial knapsacks off their shoulders,

spilling all the contents of their personal issues on your desk. After they get hired and are somewhat

comfortable in their positions, they all of a sudden can't really do exactly what you need them to do, or work exactly the hours you need them for, but could you please pay them exactly on time anyway?

I'm sure this is a staff we can all relate to. Its members whine about using a shovels with no seats, put away broken equipment without telling anyone for fear they will get in trouble, expend more energy to avoid work than actually doing any, and etc, etc.

That said, here's a sample of anyone's summer crew at Anybody's Country Club and Golf Course:

**Tardy Daley** — Tardy is somebody who lives two miles away from the club and can't help but be five minutes late for work and 10 minutes late from lunch daily.

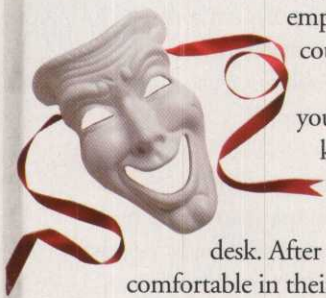
**Phil Divots** — He's the topdressing applicator. After you set the topdresser to "light-frequent," Phil thinks that not enough sand is coming out, so he changes it to "heavy-quarterly." As a result, you wear out three grinding stones and two extra drag mats.

**Harry Vetch** — The spray technician, Harry will overdose the back left corner of No. 5 green with 2, 4-D, thinking he can control the oncoming annual onslaught of goosegrass. Nothing will grow there and you will have to blame it on heavy foot traffic.

**Nick Wyres** — In charge of anything related to irrigation, he will have to redig the malfunctioning sprinkler head in the back left of the No. 6 green seven times until you realize he wasn't careful enough when he dug it up in the first place.

**Hank Ford** — Retired union worker who always has a better idea on how to do something and spends countless hours convincing everyone he is right.

**Russell Feathers** — He has a very hard edge along with a



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## Quotable

**"Bayer is a basic manufacturer. What we do is bring new technology forward. And shame on us if we don't bring new technology forward."**



— Dan Carrothers, vice president of Bayer Environmental Science's Chipco Professional Products.

**"Beavers are not always our friends."**

— Buck Workman, certified superintendent of Cateechee GC, discussing how the animals contribute to his Audubon International Certified Signature Sanctuary course despite the fact that they occasionally take down memorial trees on his course.

**"If we stay in Lawrence, (Kan.), we have to say that in 10 more years we'll probably look at this again because that's what good businesses do."**



— Mike Wallace, past president of the GCSAA and certified superintendent of Fairview Farm GC in Harwinton, Conn., on the relocation issue.

dry wit. The rest of the staff will have countless complaints about him, but he's really harmless. It's amazing to see how easily grown men get their feelings hurt.

**Mai Hiro** — Armed with nothing but good intentions, Mai is the puppy dog of the staff who's always trying too hard to be the big problem-solver. His overenthusiastic initiative is usually counteracted in a negative way by his general lack of turf knowledge.

With any amount of dumb luck, maybe one of your walk-ins this year will have a little more experience than just, "I know that you need to spread the roots out on a potted plant before you put it in the ground."

I could go on with this topic, but you'll have to excuse me: My phone is ringing again.

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

## Off The Fringe

# Computer Modeling Helps Make Case for Tree Removal

IT'S NOT CHEAP, BUT IT COULD BE WORTH IT

By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

**S**cott Robinson, vice president of Toronto-based ArborCom Technologies, suggests superintendents consider using computer modeling to help make the case for tree removal when talking to green committees.

Robinson's company created a computer-modeling program five years ago that graphically shows green committees how much shade a green receives during a day.

ArborCom plots the position of the green and the trees that surround it. Then the program creates a three-dimensional model of the green

complex. Entering the longitude and latitude of the golf green, which allows the computer to calculate exact sun angles as it crosses the sky, allows the software to show how shade moves across the green during the day.

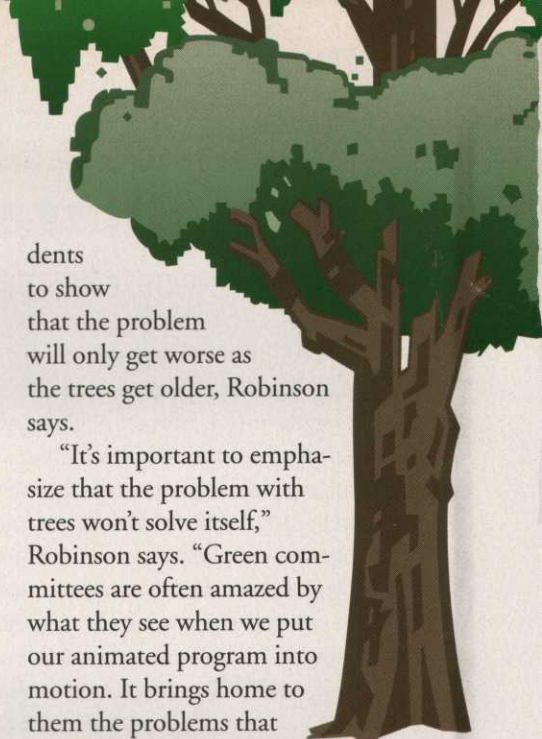
It then calculates how many hours different sections of the green remain in the shade, Robinson says. This gives superintendents additional ammunition when they explain why certain trees need to be removed.

The program also allows ArborCom to "age" trees for a set number of years, which allows superinten-

dents to show that the problem will only get worse as the trees get older, Robinson says.

"It's important to emphasize that the problem with trees won't solve itself," Robinson says. "Green committees are often amazed by what they see when we put our animated program into motion. It brings home to them the problems that trees are causing on their turf."

Robinson warns, however, that hiring his company to create such models isn't for everyone. The cost of an evaluation is \$3,500 per site, whether it's a tee, green or fairway edge. "It's not cheap," he adds.



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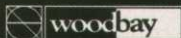
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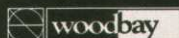
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**T**alk about pressure. At the Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show last December in Columbus, Kerry Richards was scheduled to speak before Archie Griffin. Yes, the same storied Archie Griffin who won the prestigious Heisman Trophy twice while a football star at The Ohio State University.

To make matters worse for Richards, who holds the humble title of pesticide programs coordinator at Penn State University, the mostly male superintendents in the audience were especially geared up for Griffin's address because their beloved Ohio State Buckeyes were playing the University of Miami for college football's national championship a few weeks later.

"I was stressed about the speech the night before," Richards admitted.

Who wouldn't be? Well, Richards may not have been the most popular speaker that day, but she was the most important. That's because Richards talked about potentially saving lives during her speech, "Pesticide Exposure: Now You See It, Now You Don't."

With spring in the air and summer around the bend, Richards' speech deserves to be revisited. 'Tis the season for pesticide exposure, and much of what Richards said last December should be top of mind for superintendents and their crew members as they go about their business on the greens, tees and fairways of their pest-threatened tracks.

For starters, as Richards pointed out, superintendents and their crews need to take pesticide exposure seriously. And one of the most important things to remember about pesticide exposure is absorption of chemicals in the body, she stressed.

"Different parts of the body absorb pesticides differently," she said. "The head is four times more absorbent than the hands."

Did you know that? Maybe you did but forgot about it. That's why talks like the one Richards gave are essential. Many attendees may have heard the message before, but it's important for them to hear it again so they're reminded of how important it is.

For instance, Richards noted that 97 percent of all pesticide exposures are dermal,

## A Vital Speech Worth Revisiting

BY LARRY AYLWARD



KERRY RICHARDS  
MAY NOT HAVE  
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which you probably assumed. But did you know that you should never scrub the exposed area of the skin with a brush to remove the pesticide? If you do, you run the risk of deepening the exposure to more sensitive layers of the skin, Richards says.

You probably know that wearing gloves is the No. 1 way to reduce dermal pesticide exposure. But do you know what kind of gloves to wear?

"The gloves should be unlined because lining absorbs chemicals," Richards says. "They need to be chemically resistant, and they should never be leather or cloth."

Petroleum-based gloves seem like they would be perfectly safe to handle pesticides, but beware of them. "If you get certain types of chemicals on those gloves, they'll make for part of a great Halloween costume because they'll mold right to your fingers," Richards says.

Pesticide exposure also occurs through the nose, mouth and eyes. If one of your crew members accidentally swallows a fungicide, do you know what to do? Should you tell the person to regurgitate the fungicide? Never, Richards warns.

"If it's a strong acid or alkali, it caused a lot of problems on the way down," she says. "If you bring it back up, it's going to do even more damage."

Also, never permit a worker to mix and load chemicals in a closed area, Richards notes. "When you inhale the chemical and it goes to your lungs, the blood capillaries take the chemical right into your body."

No doubt, a lot of Richards' talk had to do with common-sense practices. But a lot of us forget to practice common sense a lot of the time.

Richards' speech was a home run — or in this case, a touchdown.

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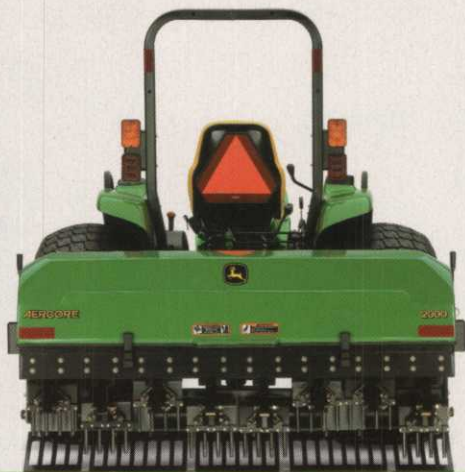
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# Hole of the

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# Month

## Ain't It Grand(e)?

Superintendent Scott Grumman speaks reverently about the par-3, 244-yard 14th hole at Grande Dunes Resort. The hole borders the Intercoastal Waterway, and Grumman says it's a wonderful backdrop against which to play golf.

"It's just a beautiful hole," he says. "It's the most picturesque on the course. You can see boats, yachts and waterskiers on your right as you play the hole, which makes it memorable."

The hole plays 244 yards from the back tee, but few golfers actually play from there because if they pick the wrong club or hit the ball to the right, their beautiful experience can soon become a nightmare. "Club selection is key," Grumman says.

Still, most golfers stop at the back tee to enjoy the view before moving up to the closer tees, where they can hit a seven-iron shot to the 8,200-square-foot green.

Don't forget to play the Major Challenge at [www.majorchallenge.com](http://www.majorchallenge.com).

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