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Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

News briefs

Rees Jones receives GCSAA's "Old Tom Morris" Award

The son of a famous architect who has gone on to create a successful and famed career for himself is the recipient of GCSAA's 2004 Old Tom Morris Award. His name is Rees Jones, and he's the son of Robert Trent Jones Sr., who also won the award in 1987. In fact, Rees Jones is the first second-generation winner of the award since it was created in 1983.

Jones has designed or renovated more than 100 courses throughout his career. His designs include Pinehurst No. 7, Haig Point Club and Nantucket GC. He's also known for his remodeling work at Bethpage Black, Torrey Pines, The Country Club at Brookline, Hazeltine National, Baltusrol, Congressional and Pinehurst No. 2.

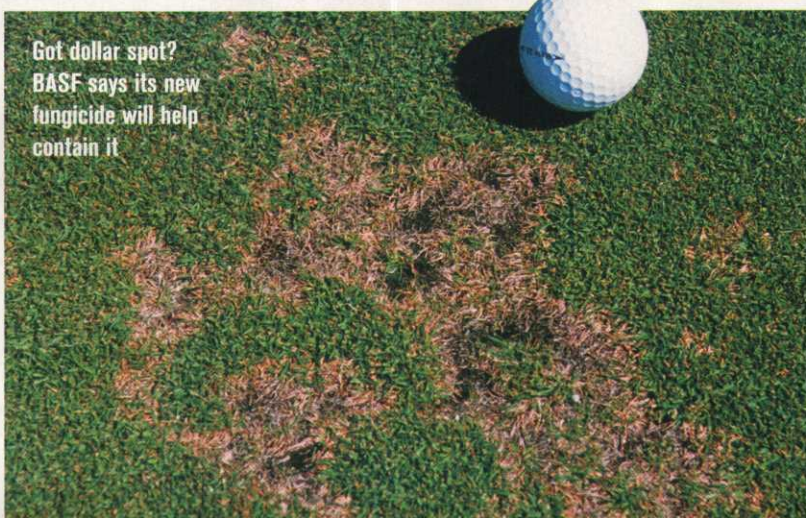
The award will be presented to Jones in February during the GCSAA Conference & Show.

Old Collier honored by Florida council

The Old Collier GC in Naples, Fla., has won a top environmental award from the Council for Sustainable Florida. Old Collier, previously recognized as one of the nation's most environmentally sensitive new golf courses, won the top award in its field for environmental stewardship from the Council, whose awards competition recognizes organizations, institutions and individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership by integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into their own policies and practices.

With resourceful management of water as a primary concern, Collier Enterprises used seashore paspalum, a salt-tolerant grass, on the entire course. It's the first golf course in the world to irrigate with brackish

Briefs continue on page 14



BASF PROFESSIONAL TURF & ORNAMENTAL GROUP

Emerald Approved

FUNGICIDE CONTROLS DOLLAR SPOT AT LOW RATES

BASF Professional Turf received registration for its Emerald fungicide after two years of negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to bring it to market.

The registration agreement was signed July 21, paving the way for BASF to tout the chemical's dollar spot control, something the company's representatives have been talking to superintendents about since the GCSAA show last February.

Boscalid, the active ingredient of Emerald, is classified as an inhibitor of respiration within the fungal cell. BASF says it's effective because it deprives the cells of energy and essential building blocks for different cellular components.

Emerald is formulated as a

70 percent water dispersible granule and is applied at low rates (0.13 to 0.18 ounces) in two to four gallons of water per 1,000 square feet. BASF says Emerald gives long-term control of dollar spot when applied at 14- to 28-day intervals.

Steve Potter, superintendent of Woodholme CC in Pikesville, Md., tested Emerald last year on two fairways. Potter says he was impressed with how long only one application of Emerald was able to control dollar spot.

"With Emerald, I can come in during extremely high pressure months, make one application and ride it out for 42 days," Potter says. "In midsummer, when people are playing seven days a week, that [extended time] means a lot."

My Hat Collection

THE RIGHT HEADGEAR FOR THE RIGHT SITUATION

By Jim Black

It's interesting to me to see the kinds of things people collect over the course of their lives. My mom collects things pertaining to hummingbirds — such as figurines, wind chimes and stained glass. My mechanic Junior Brady has a collection of collections — everything from cigarette packs and logo golf balls to whiskey decanters and old tractors.

I enjoy collecting old books. The title or subject matter of the book doesn't matter to me. I just like the musty smell and the way the books look on the shelf.

I also have a collection that I'm sure I share with many a superintendent — a hat collection. Now, this isn't your ordinary, everyday collector's collection that is looked at but never touched. It's what I would call a "functioning" collection that's put to use on a daily basis.

At any given time of the day, I can be seen wearing a different hat from this collection. Although it's a bit of a pain to have to change them so often, I've accepted the fact that it comes with my position.

At 6 a.m., I can be seen wearing my "boss" hat. A crimson red 10-gallon Stetson, it sets me apart from the crew members in their baseball caps, and at the same time gets their attention while I'm giving out their assignments. I usually put this hat back on after lunch when it's time to reassign everyone to the afternoon tasks.

I make my morning spin around the course wearing the "boss" hat, scouting the course and crew. Usually, I will come upon one of my staff members who needs to talk to me in private about something important to them, be it business or personal. That's when I put the Stetson away and don my "counselor" hat — a soft, nonthreatening fedora that lets this person know I'm willing to listen to whatever it is they need to talk about.

Once this personal dilemma is taken care of, I head back to my office and change into my "worker" hat. This, of course, is a baseball cap with the club logo on it. It shows that I'm a company man who's always willing to pitch in and do whatever it takes to get a job done. I can be seen putting this hat on again in the early afternoon in an effort to help finish up anything that needs to be done before the day's end.

At mid-morning, it's time to put on my wide-rimmed felt "business" hat with the leather braid on it to meet with the course owner. I'm not really fond of wearing a hat for doing business — it somehow seems unprofessional. The problem is that by now I'm on my fourth hat of the day and my



hair is so messed up that I need to wear one.

When lunchtime rolls around, I can put on my "friend" hat and hang out with the guys for a while. This one is a bright-orange floppy hat with the Baltimore Orioles logo on one side and the Lite beer logo on the other.

In the early afternoon, I have to briefly put on my "lawn-care professional" derby and talk with one of the golfers about what could possibly be the problem with his lawn.

"Yes, I will try to answer as best I can without giving an all-out prescription," and "No, I will not have time to swing by your house and have a look-see. Sorry."

When the day's work is done, I get to change into my favorite hat of all — my "dad" hat. This, of course, is a collection unto itself depending on the day of the week and what we have going on together. Sometimes it's a coach's hat, and sometimes it's the beanie with the propeller on it when we get goofy. No matter which hat comes out of this subcollection, it reminds me of what matters most.

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

Quotable

"Superintendents will spend hours deciding on a mower, yet will hire people in 10 minutes. The machine might cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 and will last 15 years. You pay a person \$20,000 or \$25,000 a year. That's 10-to-one, the person over the machine. It's important to take a lot of care in choosing and training people."

— Ray Davies, director of agronomy for CourseCo, on hiring.

"It's my most memorable moment in golf."

— Golfing fan John Yates, who received three stitches on his head after being hit square by a Tiger Woods' shot during the Buick Open.

"Welcome to Royal St. George's, where agronomy goes to die."

— The first paragraph of a British Open preview story, written by Brian Murphy of Scripps Howard News Service.

PHOTODISC

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 12

and saline water and the first to landscape with indigenous plants that are 100 percent salt-tolerant.

"The plan was to design a golf course that would co-exist harmoniously with the environment," said Tim Hiers, certified superintendent of the course. "We are particularly proud of this award because our use of paspalum grass has proven to produce a remarkable playing surface for our members while, at the same time, providing a vital tool for managing water, one of southwest Florida's most valuable natural resources."

Daniel Island receives "Building with Trees" Award

The Daniel Island Co., developer of the 4,000-acre island town and Tom Fazio course in Charleston, S.C., received one of 10 national "Building with Trees" awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Live oaks, sycamores, red maples and elm trees play a huge role on the course.

"Saving the magnificent trees on this island has been a priority from Day One," said Matt Sloan, Daniel Island's chief operating officer.

According to its original routing, many of the trees were subject to removal. But the developer and designer Tom Fazio worked together to revise the design and saved 80 percent of the trees originally marked for removal. Many of those trees now form the natural corridors of the parkland course.

RISE to the Occasion

GROUP HAS GROWN AND EVOLVED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

By Keelan Pulliam

As a volunteer, active participant and a member of the board of directors for the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) for nearly nine years, I've watched the organization grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the professional products industry.

Created in response to the need for chemical manufacturers and other interested groups to collaborate on regulatory and legislative issues specific to the business, RISE has grown to become a resource for manufacturers, formulators, distributors, end-users of our products and various classifications of associated members.

RISE was established as a volunteer organization, relying on the hard work and support of individuals and member companies, and the success of RISE today still depends on this. I believe any company serving the needs of the specialty marketplace has a responsibility to give back — not only financially but also personally by committing time — through industry associations and organizations.

For instance, I encourage everyone on the Syngenta Professional Products team to participate actively in national, local and state associations and organizations. Stewardship is an important initiative at Syngenta, and nearly every Syngenta Professional Products employee is engaged in stewardship activities.

Although we are competitors, individuals from all different companies have come together through RISE to defend the issues that are key to our industry's success. This is a small industry, so working together on significant issues across the business is critical. RISE doesn't have a large association staff, so it depends on volunteers. RISE has been pleased with the commitment from so many companies who supply top-quality, skilled individuals to work on committees and serve on the board. Volunteers are the core to the success of RISE, but the decreasing availability of volunteers due to tight economic conditions, consolidation of companies



Keelan Pulliam

He Missed the Dirty Work

About five months after taking over the head superintendent position at The Course at Yale, Mike Moran returned to the first assistant position in early May.

Moran had been the acting head superintendent since he was tapped for the top slot last December.

The 20-year Yale veteran said his decision to once again hold the "Master Gardner" position — the title given

to the assistant superintendent by the union that represents the school's golf course workers — was a simple one.

"I just found I missed the golf course too much. I missed being out there," Moran said. "I had good support from above and below."

The Yale union contract forbids the superintendent from performing any tasks on the golf course, including

operating machinery, other than for instructional purposes. Yale has already begun interviewing for the superintendent position. Moran was chosen from a pool of more than 60 others who applied for the job.

According to Peter Pulaski, Yale director of golf operations, the school supported Moran's decision. "As we got into the golf season, Mike didn't like the idea of not being able to keep his hands in the dirt," Pulaski said.

— Tony Pioppi

and other pressures is a concern. RISE remains optimistic, however, that volunteers will continue to get the job done.

RISE has changed its approach over the years as the issues and needs have changed. For instance, there is more activity at the local level than ever before, and this has been increasing for the past three to four years. The advent of the Internet has aided this evolution, giving antipesticide activists more effect at the local level.

Legislatively, RISE has stopped or positively affected many proposed bills at the federal and state levels that would have negatively affected the industry over the years. For example, RISE has saved industry product registrants about \$4 million in state registrations fee increases this year in conjunction with other industry associations.

Taking a longer-term view, the industry will have to look at the duplication of associations and organizations serving our specialty markets. In the short term, more cooperation is needed to avoid these duplications and to ensure a common voice on the key issues. But with the consolidation, which will continue to occur at all levels, there is continuing pressure to cut expenses or volunteer outlays.

Our industry has to work closer together for efficiency. RISE is trying to provide an atmosphere whereby industry groups can do that. At the same time, it must keep in mind

that the industry, which includes manufacturers, distributors, formulators and users, has specific needs to be addressed. So it is key that we work together to maximize the financial and human resources available.

What I have found in the professional products business is there is a passion about the industry. We all want to support the industry and leave it better than we found it. We want to contribute to the success and growth of the overall business.

RISE will continue to meet the needs of its membership and will use its members' resources and energy to focus on critical issues in the industry. But one problem we've had year after year is we've seen many of the same individuals step forward, so RISE will need to find a way to reach out to all members to ensure the best talent and knowledge is available.

The past seven years as a RISE board member have been rewarding and fulfilling. I look forward to continuing my personal involvement with the organization. I have the utmost confidence in and respect for Allen James, RISE president, and his staff, as well as the board of directors and committee members. Most importantly, I'm excited to be a part of the organization and this industry during this time of evolution and growth.

Pulliam, group head of Syngenta Professional Products, is leaving the RISE board of directors this month.

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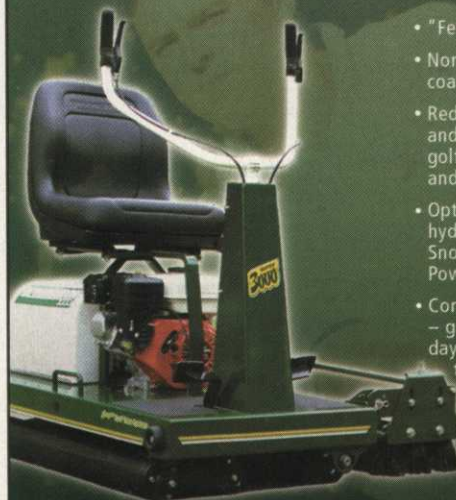


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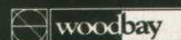
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Off The Fringe

Ain't No Golf Course High Enough? Oh, Yes There Is

By Andrew Penner

Their fairways flirt with the clouds and their greens lay covered in snow and ice for much of the year. What the world's highest golf courses lack in oxygen, they make up for in, well, altitude.

So where is the highest golf course in the world? Interestingly, the former record holder, the Tuctu GC in Peru — which was located a nose-bleeding 14,335 feet above sea level — has recently been abandoned and lays overgrown and indistinguishable in dense vegetation. The new champion? The La Paz GC in Bolivia. Still, at nearly 11,000 feet, a sign at the club should read (no joke): "Acclimatized Golfers Only."

Here are a few of the world's loftiest layouts:

La Paz GC, La Paz, Bolivia: elevation 10,800 feet.

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain GC, Yunnan Province, China: elevation 10,000 feet.

Copper Creek GC, Copper Mountain, Colo.: elevation 9,700 feet.

Mt. Massive GC, Leadville, Colo.: elevation 9,680 feet.

Telluride GC, Telluride, Colo.: elevation 9,500 feet.



Breckenridge GC, Breckenridge, Colo.: elevation 9,324 feet.

The Lodge GC, Cloudcroft, N.M.: elevation 9,200 feet.

Gulmarg GC, Jammu & Kashmir: elevation 7,000 feet.

Vialatta GC, Sestriere, France: elevation 6,677 feet.

Incline Village GC, Incline Village, Nev.: elevation 6,500 feet.

Tignes GC, Tignes, France: elevation 6,300 feet.

Edgewood Tahoe GC, Lake Tahoe, Calif.: elevation 6,200 feet.

Kananaskis GC, Alberta, Canada: elevation 5,000 feet.



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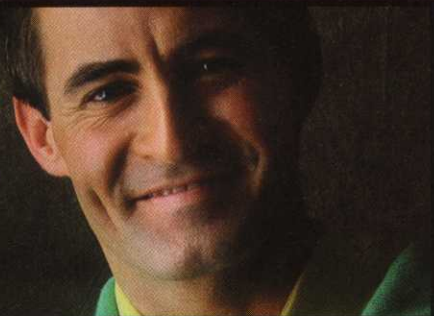
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Responsible Industry
for a Sound Environment

My friend had an early July date with the Ocean Course at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina. But about two weeks before the big meeting, his date up and canceled on him. My jilted friend was told that the course's greens were ill. Badly. Again.

It was just last year that the Ocean Course, one of Pete Dye's most spectacular designs, regrassed its greens as part of an overall renovation. But in mid-June the course announced it was shutting down for the summer for another greens regrassing. The Tifeagle bermudagrass greens the course planted last year fizzled fast—like the Detroit Tigers in May.

From a business point of view, this is not good news for any course, let alone one of the greatest resort courses in the world. From an image standpoint, the news had to be a tidal wave of embarrassment for the Ocean Course. The talk in the golf world went something like this, "Now what's wrong with the Ocean Course's greens?"

Not surprisingly, the superintendent who oversaw last year's greens renovation is no longer at the course. The course also has a new director of golf, Roger Warren, who began his post in April. One might think that Warren wouldn't want to talk turf in light of the Ocean Course's situation. A lot of guys in his position would issue the standard "no comment" to avoid talking about the matter.

But that's not the case at all with Warren, who spoke to me candidly about the Ocean Course's problem greens and what the course is doing to repair them. OK, maybe the heat isn't on Warren as much because he's new to the course, and he has nothing to do with the Tifeagle tank job. Hence, he's more comfortable talking to the media. But give him credit for not avoiding the limelight, which in this case is *not* flattering, and talking about what's wrong.

Warren probably realized that a "no comment" on the matter could fuel more speculation about it. And speculation has a tendency to spin the rumor mill.

Warren took the high road, which was the right thing to do. He talked openly about what happened, and he didn't try to spin anything.

What happened was the Tifeagle didn't tran-

No 'No Comment' from Ocean Course

BY LARRY AYLWARD



GIVE ROGER
WARREN CREDIT
FOR NOT AVOIDING
THE LIMELIGHT,
WHICH IN THIS
CASE IS HARDLY
FLATTERING

sition back in the spring after the *Poa trivialis* overseed died out. "If we would have left the golf course open, we would have had people basically playing on sand and dirt," Warren says.

What caused the Tifeagle's demise was a combination of things, including a greensmix that led to a life-in-the-fast-lane percolation rate that proved deadly for the turf. "The water was moving through very fast, and the root structure couldn't absorb the water at the rate it needed," Warren says. "The turf couldn't hold any nutrients. So it was always under stress."

It was a bad decision to go with the greensmix, which was not the standard 80-20 (80 percent sand and 20 percent organic) formula, Warren says. That fateful decision rested mainly on the shoulders of the course's superintendent, who Warren says was dismissed for several reasons.

To fix the greens, the Ocean Course reseeded them with a new and untested variety of seashore paspalum called OC03, which stands for "Ocean Course '03." One might think the Ocean Course, after two mishaps in one year, would play it conservative in this department. While using seashore paspalum isn't akin to a devil-may-care roll of the dice on a Vegas crap table, it's somewhat venturesome. The straight-up Warren acknowledges that. "There's some risk associated with this," he says.

Warren says the greens could've been resodded with bermuda, and the course could've reopened by Aug. 1. But he says the right thing to do "for the long-term vitality and reputation" of the course was to reseed the greens with paspalum.

Like this controversial matter needed a point man that didn't play the "no comment" card when asked a question, the Ocean Course needs some good news for its greens. Here's hoping paspalum provides it.

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