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JUNE 2004 • VOLUME 60 • NO. 6

Here's to Dad



38

Michaud Has Made His Mark

The down-to-earth superintendent thought he reached his career pinnacle at Pebble Beach. But then he came to Shinnecock Hills, site of this month's U.S. Open.

By Larry Aylward



70

Bridging the Biostimulant Gap

The heated debate over efficacy may finally be reaching the end.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

76

It's Academic The Dog Days of Summer (Patch)

Reducing turfgrass stress and promoting healthy root development are keys to controlling the difficult disease.

By Mike Boehm
and Joe Rimelspach



46

Best of the Best?

Many architecture aficionados insist that Shinnecock Hills is the most complete design in the world.

By Geoff Shackelford



cover story

BY LARRY AYLWARD AND

FRANK H. ANDORKA JR.

In honor of Father's Day, six industry individuals pay tribute to the fathers who helped shape their lives.

24

About the cover

Maryland photographer Edwin Remsberg met Andrea Bakalyar and her stepfather John Merryman at the family farm in Upperco, Md., to snap the cover photo.

columns

- 8** **Flagstick**
A Hickory-Sticks History Lesson
- 10** **Pin High**
You'd Never Know He's a Big Shot
- 23** **Shades of Green**
Owners Must Lead On Environment
- 52** **Designs On Golf**
The Odd Couple of Architecture?
- 88** **Out of Bounds**
Softball

departments

- 12** **Big Picture**
- 15** **Off the Fringe**
- 20** **Hole of the Month**
- 87** **Classifieds**

80 Evapotranspiration

Offers superintendents more irrigation control.

By Alan Clark

News with a hook

- 15** **A New Building for an Old Friend**

82 Living the 'Pure Life'

Some American superintendents have discovered Costa Rica to be an enchanting place to tend turf and pursue other interests.

By Anthony Pioppi



53 TurfGrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest for turf managers discusses whether seashore paspalum can maintain the same green speeds as TifEagle. See pages 53-69.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Larry Aylward EDITOR 440-891-2770 larryward@advanstar.com
Frank H. Andorka Jr. MANAGING EDITOR 440-891-2708 andorka@advanstar.com
Geoff Shackelford CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877 geoffshackelford@aol.com
Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971 jlgrn@aol.com
Anthony Pioppi CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 860-344-8895 apioppi@earthlink.net
Mark Luce CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044 mluce@earthlink.net
Dave Wilber CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 916-630-7600 dave@soil.com
Dr. Karl Danneberger CHIEF SCIENCE EDITOR danneberger.1@osu.edu
Lisa Lehman CORP. CREATIVE DIRECTOR 440-891-2785 llehman@advanstar.com
Kim Traum SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER 440-891-3175 ktraum@advanstar.com
Mike Klemme CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284 mike@golffoto.com
Sue Porter EXECUTIVE EDITOR 440-891-2729 sporter@advanstar.com
Vernon Henry CORP. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-826-2829 vhenry@advanstar.com
Lynne Brakeman WEB EDITOR 440-891-2869 lbrakeman@advanstar.com

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

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American Society of Irrigation Consultants 111 E. WACKER,
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GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Larry Aylward EDITOR 440-991-2770
larryayward@advanstar.com

Frank H. Andorka Jr. MANAGING EDITOR 440-991-2708
fandorka@advanstar.com

Geoff Shackelford CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877
geoffshackelford@aol.com

Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971
jjm@aol.com

Anthony Pignipoli CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 860-344-8895
apioppi@earthlink.net

Mark Luce CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044
mluce@earthlink.net

Dave Wilber CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 916-630-7600
dave@soil.com

Dr. Karl Danneberger CHIEF SCIENCE EDITOR
danneberger.1@osu.edu

Lisa Lehman CORP. CREATIVE DIRECTOR 440-991-2795
llehman@advanstar.com

Kim Traum SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER 440-991-3175
ktraum@advanstar.com

Mike Klemme CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284
mike@golffoto.com

Sue Porter EXECUTIVE EDITOR 440-991-2729
sporter@advanstar.com

Vernon Henry CORP. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-826-2829
vhenry@advanstar.com

Lynne Brakeman WEB EDITOR 440-991-2869
lbrakeman@advanstar.com

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Jim Barrett, ASIC
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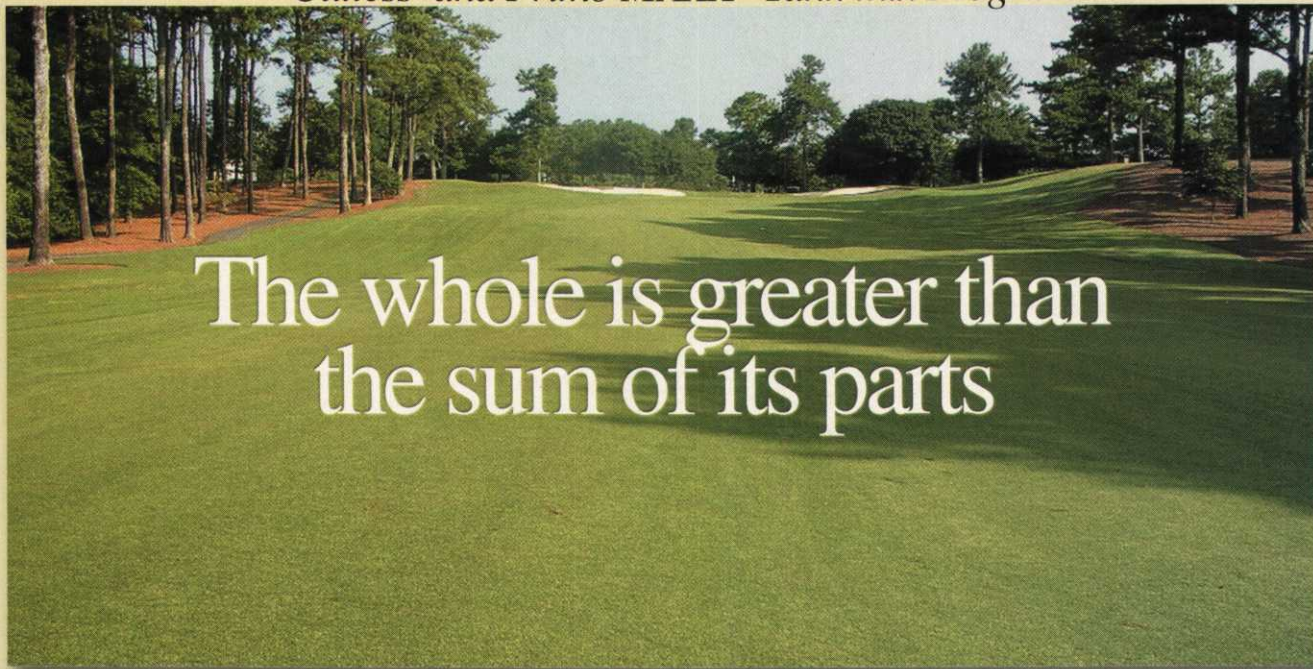
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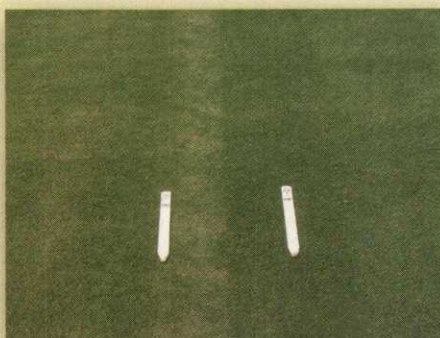
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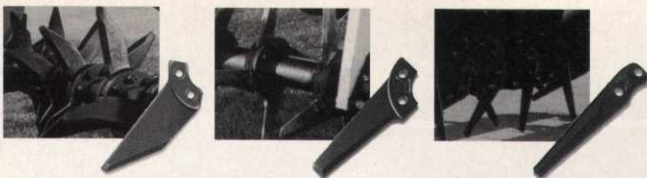


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BUSINESS STAFF

Pat Jones PUBLISHER 440-891-3126 pjones@advanstar.com
Tony D'Avino GROUP PUBLISHER 440-891-2640 tdavino@advanstar.com
Mindy Moczulski ADMIN. COORDINATOR 440-891-2734 mmoczulski@advanstar.com
Jill Hood PRODUCTION MANAGER 218-723-9129 jhood@advanstar.com
Rhonda Sande PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 218-723-9536 rsande@advanstar.com
Jessica Borgren CIRCULATION MANAGER 218-723-9356 jborgren@advanstar.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

7500 OLD OAK BLVD.
CLEVELAND, OH 44130-3609

Kevin Stoltman ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER kstoltman@advanstar.com
440-891-2772 FAX: 440-891-2675
Pat Roberts NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER proberts@advanstar.com
440-891-2609 FAX: 440-891-2675
Michael Harris REGIONAL MANAGER mharris@advanstar.com
440-891-3118 FAX: 440-826-2865
Leslie Montgomery ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE lmontgomery@advanstar.com
440-891-3199 FAX: 440-826-2865

MARKETING SERVICES

Linda Barrier REPRINTS (500 MINIMUM) 440-891-2701 lbarrier@advanstar.com
Dave Kenney CIRC. LIST RENTAL 440-891-3113 dkenney@advanstar.com
Subscriber, Customer Service 218-723-9477; 888-527-7008
Books, Directories, Current Issues, Back Issues, Photocopies, Microfiche, Film Copies, CD-Rom 800-598-6008; 218-723-9180

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Based on feedback from you—golf course professionals—Syngenta Professional Products has updated and enhanced GreenCast (www.greencastonline.com), the leading technology platform that provides turf and ornamental professionals with timely, credible resources to enable better agronomic, business, and environmental decisions.

The recent enhancements to the GreenCast Web site include:

- Higher-resolution and more current pest forecasting maps that are updated daily rather than weekly. The maps are more current, showing forecasts for today, tomorrow, and the next day. The resolution is higher, displaying for over 680 regions nationally, as opposed to approximately 360 regions, and

allows you to drill down to regional views displaying over 1500 separate regions.

- Improved navigation and quicker access to the information you need
- Easy to customize and navigate for information important to you and your course

The newly designed GreenCast site offers a new graphic and visual design and technology update, along with enhanced mapping tools. The expanded mapping tools nearly double the number of reporting locations at the national view and offer more than four times the number of reporting locations on the regional level with data that is more current and updated daily, offering you more in-depth access to agronomic data, while helping you obtain solutions to various pest problems.

This unique 30-year-normal disease mapping resource is designed to help you:

- Anticipate the likelihood of destructive diseases like anthracnose, dollar spot, brown patch, or pink snow mold
- Track disease pressure and plan preventive applications
- View data that shows the predictive averages of turf disease onset in your area, using historical data gathered over the past 30 years

The user-friendly GreenCast Web site is designed to provide you with easy access to valuable tools and services tailored to your specific geography and issues to help you better manage your turf, including:

- Agronomic solution suggestions
- View historical patterns of disease pressure
- Advanced disease outlooks
- Local and nationwide soil temperatures
- Scouting reports
- Updated weather reports
- Consolidated turf news and university studies

In addition to information shared among golf course professionals throughout the country, you can personalize your start page so that every



time you visit GreenCast, you will see your weather information, pest alerts, current news, and other help-

ful resources based on your preferences.

GreenCast offers invaluable tools to help you manage your turf and guide your chemical purchase and application decisions—available at your desktop 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For updated and customizable agronomic information and solutions, visit GreenCast at www.greencastonline.com.



There's a time-honored tradition in our wonderful game called sandbagging. It manifests itself in many unseemly ways, but is most often found in a player's casual comment that he's "not that good." These guys are usually found near the top of every net event leaderboard.

I, however, am not shaving the truth when I assert that I'm "not that good." The fact is I stink. However, thanks to the modern miracles of graphite, titanium and the Pro-V, I can get the ball around the course in about 100 pokes. Say what you will about what technology is doing to the game, but it's been a godsend for high-handicap schmucks like me.

That fact was hammered home last month when I found myself standing on the first tee of the Golf Club of Dublin (Ohio) awkwardly gripping a hickory-shafted brassie that probably could have been used by Francis Ouimet. Yikes.

I came to be in this unusual circumstance thanks to two old friends. The first was Dr. Mike Hurdzan, the renowned architect who hosts the annual charity event that requires players to navigate a modern course using less-than-modern equipment: wooden-shafted mashies, niblicks, gimjerts and thingacracks (OK, I made those last two up). Hurdzan's event raises funds to supply new, customized wheelchairs to deserving individuals.

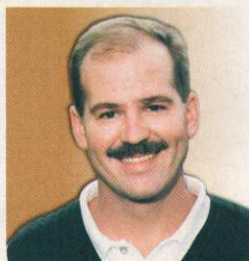
The second person behind my presence in Dublin was Wayne Horman, the professional-market seed honcho from the nearby Scotts Co. Wayne needed a really mediocre player to fill out his team for the event (which was, thankfully, a scramble) and invited me to join.

Wayne is the guy who's driving the testing and approval process for Round Up Ready bentgrass, so this was an interesting low-tech experience for someone who's trying to introduce a decidedly high-tech product to our market.

So off we went attempting to hit these antiques. In a nutshell, it was tougher than a two-dollar truckstop steak. No hacker-friendly oversized faces or cavity-backs. No

A Hickory-Sticks History Lesson

BY PAT JONES



BASED ON MY
EXPERIENCE, IT
OCCURS TO ME
THAT WHAT OUR
INDUSTRY REALLY
NEEDS IS A GOLF
COURSE TIME
MACHINE

forgiving shafts that can flex like a circus contortionist. No laser-guided putters that caress the ball gently into the hole. It was a history lesson consisting of stiff hickory, clunky steel, slick-leather grips, 2-foot divots and mounds of frustration. By the turn, we had turned more clubs into kindling than I'd seen broken in my entire life.

And, of course, it was an absolute delight.

Why? It was a reminder that golf is supposed to be a game that pits human vs. nature, requiring creativity and skill. We quickly learned the joys of punching a low two-iron in from 120 yards. And getting four attempts at an 8-foot putt was by no means an easy thing using a "10-iron" with a shaft as crooked as Boss Tweed. Pars, which are usually considered failures in a scramble, were met with cheers and high fives.

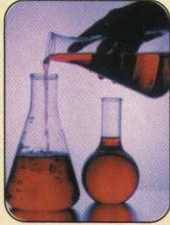
As I considered the experience on the drive home that evening, it occurred to me that all the advancements in sticks-and-balls have been matched stroke for stroke by advancements in our side of the business. In fact, as Byron Nelson is fond of pointing out, the biggest change in the game since his heyday is not the equipment, it's the conditioning of the course and the putting surfaces.

So based on my hickory-stick experience, I think what our industry really needs is a golf course time machine. All whining, Big Bertha-wielding weekend warriors who beef about course conditions could be beamed back to the days of horse-drawn mowers and unirrigated greens and left there until they beg to come back.

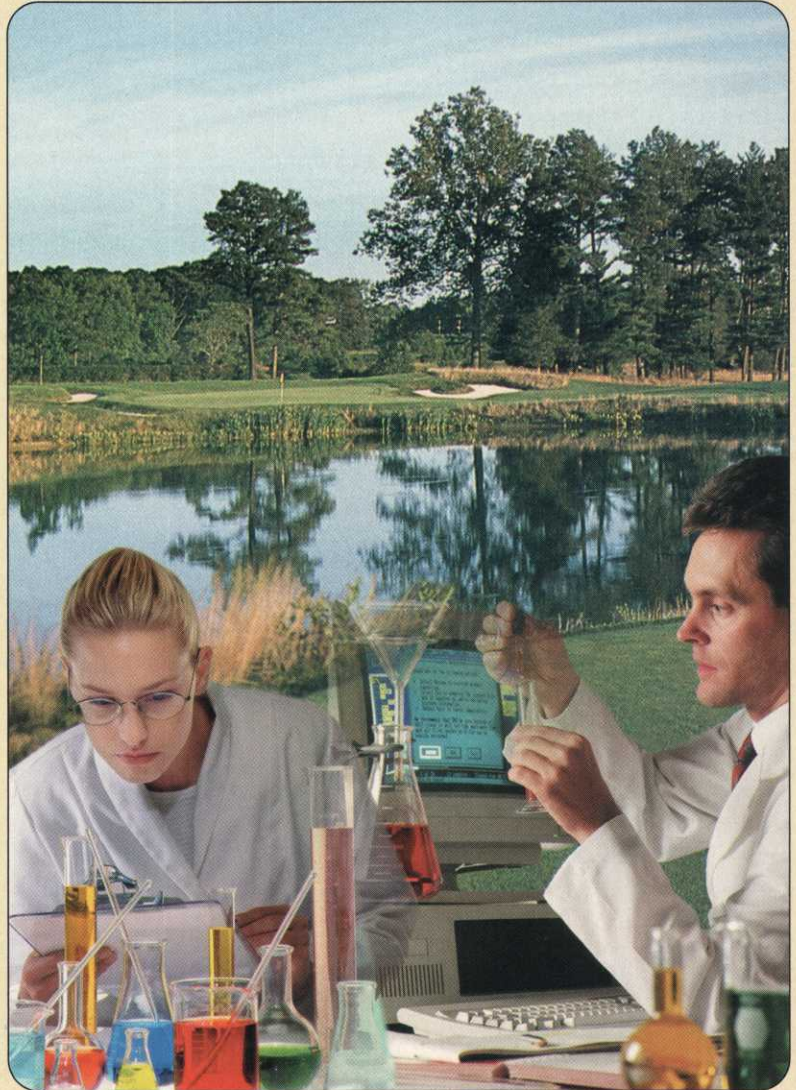
Now that would be my definition of a great history lesson.

Jones, the publisher of Golfdom, can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com.

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I spotted the big shot shortly before the conference began. His face was tan and his hair was neat. The big shot walked the room wearing a light green shirt, a yellow tie and a dark green jacket.

But there wasn't exactly an aura to the big shot's presence. He didn't swagger, and he didn't preen. In fact, the big shot didn't *act* like a big shot at all.

He chatted pleasantly with attendees of the conference. He smiled broadly. When the conference began, the big shot took a seat in the back of the room. Clearly, he wanted to blend in with everyone else.

That's Jon Scott for you.

Make no mistake. In the world of golf course maintenance, Scott *is* a big shot. The 53-year-old holds the prominent title of vice president of agronomy for competitions for the PGA Tour. He's in charge of course preparation for the PGA Tour. It doesn't get much better than that.

On a recent spring day, members of the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association (NMTMA) invited Scott to their spring meeting to present him with a prominent award — their Distinguished Service Award.

It was a homecoming for Scott, a native of Michigan, who also spent five years as superintendent at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich., from 1982-1987. Scott, who now "lives" in Ponte Vedra, Fla. (he spends about half the year on the road), says the time spent in northern Michigan as a superintendent marked a "pivotal point" in his career.

Like many superintendents looking to make strides in their careers, Scott moved around the country to gain experience and move up. He worked in the Carolinas, Florida, Maryland and Virginia. He spent a year at the prestigious Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., before joining Golfturf/Nicklaus Design as an agronomist for nine years. That was his dream job, but Scott couldn't pass up the PGA post when it was offered to him 1998.

Scott could have waxed grandly about his career during his acceptance speech for the award, but that's not him. He stood courteously in front of the crowd on the green and purple

You'd Never Know He's a Big Shot

BY LARRY AYLWARD



JON SCOTT COULD

HAVE WAXED

GRANDLY ABOUT HIS

CAREER DURING HIS

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AWARD, BUT THAT'S

NOT HIM

floral carpeting decorating the modest Holiday Inn room. He clasped and unclasped his hands as he talked. His body language, as well as the pitch and tone of his soft-spoken voice, told of a humble man genuinely thankful for the award and his career.

Scott didn't talk about himself. He reminisced about his days as a member and past president of the NMTMA. He talked about all the people that took him under their wings to get him get where he is.

"How did I get here?" he asked. "I'm nobody special. How did I get here? I got here because of the people who helped me — *all* along the way."

Later in his speech, Scott said he reached a point a few years ago where he felt obliged to give back to the industry what it had given him. He says he's trying to do that by helping others realize their goals, much like the people who helped him realize his.

"I will carry that on until I get put in the box," he vowed.

At the end of his short speech, Scott bowed to the crowd and thanked them. It was clear he was bowing *to* them, not at them.

Scott's sincere speech moved Jeff Holmes, who presented the award to Scott. Holmes, certified superintendent of Egypt Valley Country Club, spent nearly two years as Scott's assistant at Grand Traverse.

"Obviously, Jon has spent some time thinking about the things he's been blessed with," Holmes said. "He realizes he didn't get to where he's at in his career by himself. That's pretty special — because a lot of people give themselves *all* the credit."

Don't ever call Scott a big shot. He won't believe you.

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