

Pursell offers Hope

David Pursell, CEO of Pursell Technologies, presented GCSAA CEO Steve Mona with pencil-drawn portrait of Bob Hope during the show. For 10 years now, Pursell has created pencil-drawn portraits of some of golf's best characters and presented the originals to the GCSAA. In 1994, with a drawing of Old Tom Morris, Pursell began the annual tradition. This year he chose golf enthusiast Hope.

"When we were considering prospective subjects for this year's drawing, Bob Hope was at the top of the list," Pursell said. "He helped make golf a popular sport, which benefits us all today."

Ford on Toro

The Toro Co.'s group vice president, Tim Ford, said by industry insiders to be a possible successor to longtime Toro CEO Ken Melrose, spoke with *Golfdom* during the show. Here's what he had to say:

Golfdom: John Deere has launched

its OneSource distribution initiative, and Jacobsen is re-energizing in the market. What's your strategy to compete?

Ford: Our competitors are good, tough companies. We think our bundling of products and great service is the right strategy for us. As for OneSource, only time will tell. We believe in depth, not breadth.

Golfdom: We've heard suggestions that Ken Melrose may retire soon. What's his legacy going to be when that day comes?

Ford: What he's created at Toro is, frankly, remarkable. He's been focused on results, accountability to the customer and creating a culture of respect for our employees. Because of that, Toro is a fun place to work. People don't come in worrying about whether they have jobs or not.

Here's to you, Mr. Robinson

The annual GCSAA Golf Championship is a place for both competition and camaraderie. In the Championship Division, played under normal gross

scoring by serious low handicappers, the pursuit of the cup is intense. This year, under fabulous but demanding conditions in San Diego, Tommy Robinson of Ravinia Green Country Club in suburban Chicago, emerged victorious. Congrats to him.

And finally, a few notes from the GCSAA front

Attendance for the show was 19,317, up 1,153 from last year's total of 18,164 in Atlanta, which was to be expected. But exhibitors were down — 675 exhibitors covered 245,000 square feet of floor space, down slightly from the 701 exhibitors and 245,200 square feet of floor space last year.

Also, Mark J. Woodward, certified superintendent of Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses in Mesa, Ariz., was elected GCSAA president. ■

Frank H. Andorka Jr., Larry Aylward, Lynne Brakeman, Curt Harler and Pat Jones contributed to this report.

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Experienced superintendents realize there are vital components to consider in fungicide rotation programs.

MARY CORCORAN

Spin Control

Proper fungicide rotation is crucial to a sufficient disease-management program, experts say

BY LARRY AYLWARD,
EDITOR

On occasion, superintendents must play the roles of spin doctors — not of the political kind, but of the fungicide kind.

Many turf experts suggest that fungicides be rotated in disease-management programs so turf afflictions such as dollar spot will not become resistant to the chemicals. Rotating fungicides takes some technical savvy.

What are the key factors to consider when rotating fungicides? And how many fungicides should be rotated?

Indeed, there's a method to the madness when it comes to the practice. Experienced

superintendents realize there are vital components to consider in fungicide rotation. Of course, location and weather have a dramatic impact on their programs.

An important point to remember, says University of Kentucky turfgrass professor Paul Vincelli, is that systemic fungicides, which are absorbed into turf, are at a greater risk for resistance than contact fungicides, which remain on a plant's surface and do not penetrate.

John Carlone, certified superintendent of the Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, N.Y., says the biggest key to consider when rotating fungicides is to rotate chemical groups, such as benzimidazoles, sterol inhibitors (DMIs), dicarboximide and strobilurins. "Then the

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Spin Control

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mode of action is rotated, which is the best defense against resistance," he adds.

If modes of action aren't rotated, a turf disease could become resistant to an entire line of products in a chemical group, not just one brand, Vincelli notes. "If there's a resistance to one DMI, there's a resistance to all DMIs," he adds.

Bryan Tipton, certified superintendent of Sutton Bay in Agar, S.D., is interested in the two different resistant-management theories offered from respected turf professors Joe Vargas of Michigan State University and Houston Couch of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Vargas doesn't believe superintendents need to rotate fungicides to control dollar spot and other diseases, and says superintendents should use the same class of chemicals on diseases such as dollar spot until the disease begins to resist it. But Couch believes fungicide rotation is an essential part of resistance management.

Tipton says he's taken "a little of what both men say" and adopted their philosophies in his disease-management program.

"From experience, I like what Vargas has to offer," he says. "Couch tends to want to rotate fungicides more frequently, which I think may cause resistance to fungicides at a faster pace than sticking with one fungicide and using it until there is a full resistance.

"It's a difficult subject, and both Dr. Couch and Dr. Vargas have good points when addressing the issue."

Tipton also says that treating disease preventively instead of curatively allows larger amounts of fungicide into the environment, which helps diseases build resistance to the chemicals. "The fewer applications that are made, the better the fungicide will perform," he says.

Timing is everything

Vincelli, who spoke about resistance management at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Show in December, noted that proper timing of chemicals, as well as adequate coverage and application rates, are crucial components of sound

disease-management programs within fungicide rotation.

Carlone adheres to a 14-day spraying schedule on greens beginning in late April until early October. "I rotate fungicides depending on the time of year and what disease I expect to be most prevalent at the time," he says.

Carlone notes that he adheres to an 18- to 21-day spraying schedule for tees and fairways in April and May and again in September and October. He sprays tees and fairways every 14 days in June, July and August.

"I've been burned with outbreaks more than once trying to cut corners or save dollars."

JOHN CARLONE
THE MEADOW BROOK CLUB

"I will often spot spray as necessary on greens, tees and fairways throughout the growing season," he adds.

Carlone also advises superintendents to mix adjuvants in spray tanks with contact fungicides to achieve better coverage and performance.

Right stuff

Carlone says chlorothalonil offers the best broad-spectrum control. Terry Bonar, certified superintendent of Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland, says chlorothalonil is the fungicide he uses most on greens, tees and fairways.

But Bonar adds that he sprays chlorothalonil weekly on greens at a lighter rate than recommended.

"We only spray seven-tenths of an ounce per 1,000 square feet, and the recommended rate is between 3 ounces to 5 ounces," he adds. "But we get good control with it."

Bonar believes the low rate is effective throughout the playing season because he begins his disease management program in mid-April. That's early, considering that the snow could fly in northeast Ohio around that time. Bonar begins the program by spraying greens with 2 ounces of iprodione per 1,000 square feet before switching to the low rates of chlorothalonil.

Carlone suggests superintendents use systemic and contact fungicides in their programs. He advises superintendents to check labels and recent research to make sure they're using fungicides that are rated "highly successful" against the diseases they're treating. For instance, Carlone says he would never use a triadimefon in July to control brown patch because it's not the best choice for that disease at that time of year. On the other hand, as Bonar points out, triadimefon provides excellent control of anthracnose and fairy ring.

Bonar, who says he treats mostly for dollar spot, also realizes that seven-tenths of an ounce of chlorothalonil won't work on brown patch.

"We do get some brown patch if we get a long run of hot, humid weather," he says. "Then we spot spray for it."

Carlone says he rotates nine different fungicides for turf diseases other than pythium. With pythium, Bonar says he rotates a mefenoxam and a propamocarb.

"But we only spray for pythium when conditions warrant — when it's hot and humid," he adds.

Carlone says he's satisfied with the new technology that basic manufacturers have introduced in the past few years to battle turf disease. He's particularly impressed with the class of strobilurins, which provide extended control at low use rates.

While fungicide rotation is a bit of an art in addition to a science, Carlone warns that superintendents don't want to get too cute with their treatment programs.

"Honestly, tricks don't work with diseases," he says. "I've been burned with outbreaks more than once trying to cut corners or save dollars." ■

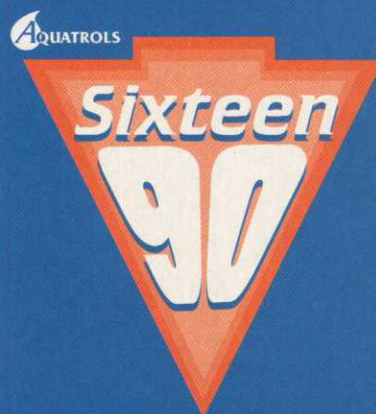
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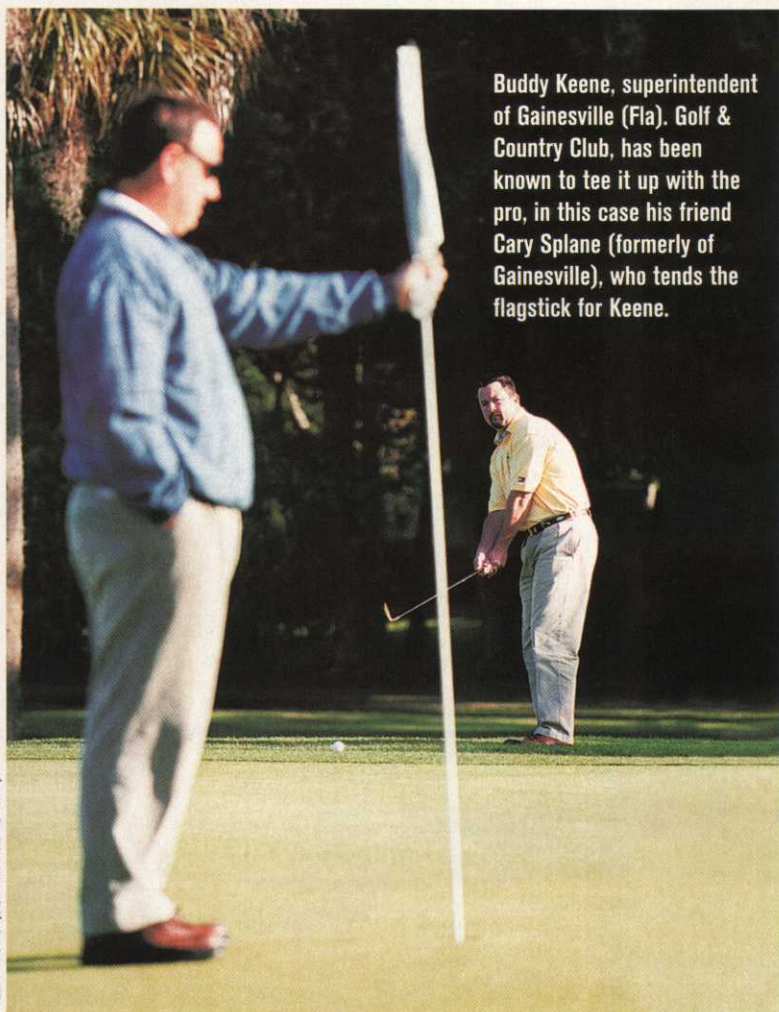
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We Can Work It Out

Life is short and there's no time for arguing about aerification with the pro. So here are several tips to improve your relationship with him or her



Buddy Keene, superintendent of Gainesville (Fla.) Golf & Country Club, has been known to tee it up with the pro, in this case his friend Cary Splane (formerly of Gainesville), who tends the flagstick for Keene.

BY RON FURLONG

Occasionally, I've thought of the relationship between a pro and the superintendent as similar to that of a baseball umpire and manager.

The umpire represents the pro, who calls the game and sets the rules. The manager represents the superintendent, who just wants a fair game called and an atmosphere created to try and do his job to the best of his ability. The image of the superintendent kicking sand on the pro's shoes and throwing his hat down in disgust is a hard one to shake.

Maybe this isn't fair, and certainly it's not always the case. However, in many instances it is indeed an analogy that rings somewhat true. It's probably a DNA thing — a predetermined path each personality is set upon based on trillions of incidents of chance, making each person into what they will become.

I grew up with a kid, let's call him Tom (his real name is Joe, but let's call him Tom), who ended up becoming a pro. While Tom's path ultimately led to the pro shop, mine directed me to the maintenance building. Why? Good question, and I've pondered it a fair amount recently.

Tom and I were similar in many ways. We

loved sports and grew up playing them all side by side. Whether it was hockey, golf or baseball, we were there together. However, early on an interesting fork came up in our mutual road, which led us to take the first of many separate paths in life.

Tom chose wrestling in the fall, while I took to basketball. I never thought anything of it at the time, but now I find it rather interesting. Wrestler — pro. Basketball player — superintendent. Hmmmm ... Could there be something to this?

A wrestler tends to be somewhat assertive and wants conclusion quickly, while a basketball player may tend more toward passiveness and seeing more of the long-term goal. A basketball game draws out over a great length of time, while a wrestling match is over quickly. Reminds me a bit of trying to talk about the long-term benefits of aerification with some people.

Hmmm ...

All of this nostalgia about old Tom has led me to ponder even more the relationship of the pro with the superintendent, and the personality that each brings to the table. I'm fortunate to have a great relationship with the pro at my club, and I know many superintendents who are just as fortunate. I also know of a few on

the other side of the spectrum that are — for one reason or another and certainly not to cast any blame either way — not quite as lucky.

So if this relationship *is* strained and not functioning as it should in a healthy, beneficial manner to all concerned, what can be done? Are there miracle steps that the two sides can take to mend the wounds?

Thankfully, I'm here to answer all of your prayers. Dr. Ron is in the house, and he's come up with 10 sure-fire, can't-miss, guaranteed solutions to all strained relationships between pros and superintendents.

And wait, there's more. Not only will I give you these 10 guaranteed solutions, I'll throw in a bonus tip at the end for dealing with an arrogant golfer. You get all of this for only \$19.95. Yes, \$19.95!

Drum roll please. Let's go Letterman-style backwards for full effect:

The Top 10 Ways to Bond With Your Pro

10 Play computer golf together. It may be the only chance you ever have of beating him or her in a game of golf. It will do both of you good to see the superintendent stick a six iron from 170 yards to three feet from the pin.

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Superintendents need to explain to pros how important aerification is to golf courses — and that it's not some devious ploy by them to mess up courses twice a year.

USGA

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9 Trade hats (literally). Have the pro don one of your square Toro or John Deere hats while you strut around in a Greg Normanish top.

8 Joke about the golfers together. Something like, "Did you see those pants?"

7 Pretend there is frost one morning when there really isn't. Keep the golfers in the clubhouse for hours during a perfectly beautiful morning, all the while insisting the greens are frozen. Then, hours later, let the pro in on the joke. It's sure to be a big hit.

6 Stop mowing. Don't mow the greens for a week and see if anyone notices. Once the pro says something about the greens stimping at 4, you can commend him on his perceptiveness. Nothing can ease a tense relationship more than complimenting someone.

5 Give golf cars the green light. Following a night of 4 or 5 inches of hard rain, don't be such a prude about golf cars. Let them out there. What harm can they really cause? Think of the revenue for once, would you?

4 Share your pickle at lunch. Sure, you'll want to eat it, but think of the bridge you can gap by offering your kosher dill to

someone. I know this one from personal experience. I offered my wife my pickle on our second date, and look at us now.

3 Clean up the pro shop. Offer to vacuum, dust and even do the windows on a weekly basis.

2 Help with lessons. Sure, you stink, but why not give it a shot? Just remember, it's all in the grip anyway. Just have them keep regripping.

1 Tell the truth about aeration. Admit the deep dark secret of all superintendents: Aeration does nothing. Tell them the truth

that it's all a sick and demented ploy on superintendents part to mess up the course twice a year. It's scary at first, but you'll feel better afterward. It's time we all stopped living this lie.

Seriously, though

OK, that's my poor attempt at humor. Here are five more that may be slightly more helpful.

5 Golf together. Obvious, but in my experience nothing can bring two people together more than the game of golf. And get out and play other courses.

4 Meet weekly. Keep the lines of communication open. If you're not meeting as a staff weekly, make sure the two of you are.

3 Team work. Try and remember you're on the same team, with the same goal in mind. Sometimes this little fact gets forgotten.

2 Listen. We're all guilty of going into situations with preconceived notions of how

people are going to act and what they are going to say. Improving one's listening skills usually goes hand in hand with improving relationships.

You know the old saying about making assumptions — and try and remember you don't know everything. Hard for some of us, I know.

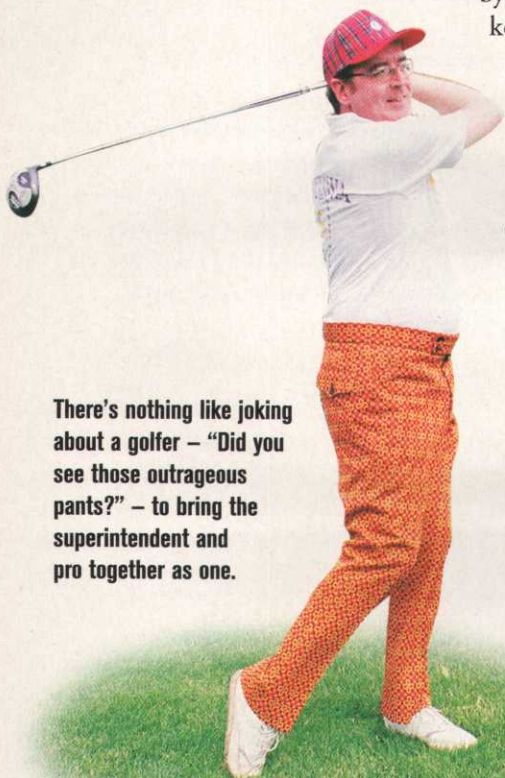
1 Improve your golf game. Sounds a little silly, but the better you are on the course, the more likely your opinion is going to be considered from an angle other than that of the superintendent and more of that of a golfer, which in the pro shop means a lot.

When I think back to growing up with my old friend Joe (I mean Tom), I recall the different paths our lives started to take as we grew older. Yet as different as we were becoming, we were still cut from the same mold. I still call him up from time to time and shoot the bull, and argue with him who was the better hockey player. And every now and then we get together and do the only thing the two of us really feel like doing together anymore, which is golfing. When he gives me 10 strokes, we usually have a good match. ■

Furlong is superintendent of the Avalon Golf Club in Burlington, Wash.



Sure you'll want to eat it, but think of the bridge you can gap by offering your kosher dill pickle to someone.



There's nothing like joking about a golfer — "Did you see those outrageous pants?" — to bring the superintendent and pro together as one.

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Editor's note: In case you've been living under a moon rock lately, this is a parody.

Strange things keep appearing in my mailbox. First it was that Hootie Johnson green committee tape. Now it's this Request for Qualifications from someone at Halliburton. Who would have thought the U.S. government's most trusted ally was about to get into the golf course business?

Since the golf construction business is slumping, I feel it's my duty to pass along this information so the best candidates can come forward and offer their services.

Request For Qualifications

For: The Links at Moon National Golf Course Project Design and Construction Observation Services.

From: The Office of the Senior Vice President, Interplanetary Leisure, Halliburton, Cayman Islands Division.

Statement of Qualifications must be returned by 4:30 p.m., April 1, to Halliburton, P.O. Box 1, Tax Shelter Haven Drive, Grand Cayman.

Project Description

The U.S. government, in conjunction with Halliburton Interplanetary Leisure, intends to build a 54-hole championship golf complex on 875,000 premium acres of the moon. The Maria section (which comprises about 16 percent of the moon's surface) consists of huge impact craters that remain well-suited for golf because of many flattish expanses ideal for the royal and ancient sport.

The unusual terrain for these three signature courses offers stunning views of the earth and sun, with, as what one golf expert has described, "the most amazing terrain on the moon for golf."

Most of the moon's surface is covered with regolith, a mixture of fine dust and rocky debris produced by meteor impacts. Samples of regolith returned by the Apollo missions have shown that this lunar hydrogen may be of use someday as rocket fuel and the perfect top-dressing for USGA greens.

Water-ice exists in several deep craters near the moon's south pole, which is permanently shaded. Therefore, irrigation for the courses is available, though it will be kept underground to

Get Thee to the Moon, Architects

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WHO WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
MOST TRUSTED
ALLY WAS ABOUT TO
GET INTO THE GOLF
COURSE BUSINESS?

avoid any problems that might occur in the minus 240 degree Fahrenheit temperature. Therefore, signature waterfalls and lakes should not be incorporated into design submission plans.

The Selene Course should be designed by a noted PGA Tour player with a surviving member of the Apollo missions. A qualified landscape architect will be provided to the winning bidder.

Routed amidst town homes starting in the low \$5 millions, the Selene Course will stretch to 43,000 yards with room to grow based on expectations that the USGA still will have not found a way to regulate the sport by Selene's projected construction start date in 2012.

The Artemis Course and the Luna Course will offer unique landscapes and views as well, traversing meteorite craters. Estate sites will start in the low \$15 millions.

Required Submittals

- A financial statement of qualification, not to exceed 15 pages, highlighting the applicant's qualifications to perform the services as described herein as well as descriptions of design intent and cost structuring goals (hint: make sure to leave a little extra built into those travel and fuel costs for your friends at Interplanetary Leisure).
- A statement of experience detailing successful use of USGA greens, signature design projects and other elements likely to help socialize the cost and privatize profits from this exciting venture.

Pre-Submittal Site Tours

There will be no pre-site visits for this project, but extensive topographical maps will be provided upon request.

Geoff Shackelford's new book is titled 'The Future of Golf in America.' For information about the book, visit www.geoffshackelford.com.