

Golfdom

OCTOBER 2004 • VOLUME 60 • NO. 10



24

A Way of Life

Paul Emling has transformed Arcadia Bluffs image with a golf course maintenance program based on his genuine appreciation for the environment.

By Larry Aylward

42

Of Salmon and Superintendents

The issue of water and water rights in western Washington is as hot as any issue out there, and it's not going away anytime soon.

By Ron Furlong

36

Up With the EPA

How one superintendent embraced the agency's strict standards to strengthen his course's environmental image.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.

Pat Blum,
Colonial Acres
Golf Course



46

Strings Attached

Joe Hills has found that fishing line is a great and ecological way to rid a golf course of geese.

By Anthony Pioppi

53

Biopesticides Bazaar

If you're looking for alternatives to vary your pest control options, here are some good places to start.

Doing the Right Thing



77

In the Rough

Golfers' expectations for improved turf have extended to the rough. Mower manufacturers are responding to superintendents' needs with better machines.

By Larry Aylward

82

Late Is Good, in this Case

Fall fertilization is vital to maintaining healthy turf year-round. Superintendents offer tips on how to do it correctly.

Compiled by Larry Aylward

special section

This month, *Golfdom* reports on matters affecting the environment in a five-story section. Check out the "On the Environment" logos for stories featured in the section.

24-53

About the cover

Michigan photographer Ronald Muszynski took this photo of Paul Emling in the fescue rough at Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club.

News with a hook

14 Get Ready to Pay More
for Fertilizer

55

TurfGrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest for turf managers discusses biological control of turfgrass pests, among other topics. See pages 55-71.

columns

- 8 **Flagstick**
Cheers & Jeers;
Autumn Edition
- 10 **Pin High**
A Healthy Paul Jett
Looks to Next June
- 22 **Shades of Green**
Mother Nature
Still Rules in Golf
- 54 **Designs On Golf**
Most Architects
Don't Bite, Really
- 74 **Public Opinion**
Raising the Bar?
Just be Careful
- 92 **Out of Bounds**
R/C Airplanes

departments

- 12 Big Picture
- 14 Off the Fringe
- 20 Hole of the Month
- 84 Company Line
- 86 Leaders
- 91 Classifieds

Pretty Girl.



Excellent Sales Rep.

Welcome to a Greener World.

It's time you met our excellent sales force. ProSource One is a first-rate supplier of plant protection products, fertilizers and seed.

We carry all the major brands, including our own proprietary Proforma line of premium fertilizers. But even more important, our customers appreciate our knowledgeable sales reps who keep up with all the newest product offerings, to provide the technical expertise and practical solutions they're looking for.

Isn't it time you got to know ProSource One?



Prevent damage from Canada geese.

A new visual bird repeller that uses uv light to scare geese.



Uniquely painted blades scare geese with uv light. Wind driven blades repel geese in ponds. Covers up to one acre area.

\$69each
JWB Marketing
Call: (800) 555-9634
www.scarewindmill.com

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

- Larry Aylward** EDITOR 440-891-2770 larryward@advanstar.com
- Tom Skernivitz** MANAGING EDITOR 440-891-2708 tskernivitz@advanstar.com
- Geoff Shackelford** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877 geoffshackelford@aol.com
- Joel Jackson** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971 figrn@aol.com
- Anthony Pioppi** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 860-344-8895 apioppi@earthlink.net
- Mark Luce** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044 mLuce@earthlink.net
- 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
- Vernon Henry** CORP. EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-826-2829 vhenry@advanstar.com
- Lynne Brakeman** WEB EDITOR 440-891-2869 lbrakeman@advanstar.com

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS
7500 OLD OAK BLVD.
CLEVELAND, OH 44130-3609

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF



American Society of Irrigation Consultants 111 E. WACKER,
18TH FLOOR, CHICAGO 60601; 312-372-7090; WWW.ASIC.ORG

GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

- Jim Barrett**, ASIC
JAMES BARRETT ASSOCIATES
- Pat Blum**
COLONIAL ACRES CC
- Joe Boe**
CORAL OAKS GC
- Jerry Coldiron**, CGCS
LASSING POINTE GC
- Bill Coore**
COORE & CRENSHAW
- David Davis**, FASIC
DAVID D. DAVIS ASSOCIATES
- Tripp Davis**
TRIPP DAVIS AND ASSOCIATES
- Michelle Frazier**, CGCS
BOSTON HILLS CC
- Charlie Fultz**
SHENVALEE GOLF RESORT
- Dean Graves**, CGCS
CHEVY CHASE CLUB
- John Gurke**, CGCS
AURORA CC
- Steve Hammon**
TRAVERSE CITY G&CC
- Jim Husting**, CGCS
WOODBRIIDGE G&CC
- Robb Dillinger**, CGCS
MUNIE OUTDOOR SERVICES
- Jim Loke**, CGCS
BENT CREEK CC
- Walter Mattison**
(IN MEMORY)
- Steve Merkel**, CGCS
LANDSCAPES UNLIMITED
- Bill Montague**, CGCS, MG
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- Don Naumann**,
SIERRA PACIFIC TURF
- Jim Nicol**, CGCS
HAZELTINE NATIONAL GC
- Steven Numbers**
WESTFIELD CC
- James Simonini**
ROBERT TRENT JONES II
- Bobby Weed**
WEED GOLF COURSE DESIGN

ASSOCIATIONS

-  **American Society of Golf Course Architects** 125 N. EXECUTIVE DR.,
SUITE 106, BROOKFIELD, WI 53005; 262-786-5960; WWW.ASGCA.ORG
-  **Golf Course Superintendents Association of America**
1421 RESEARCH PARK DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3859; 800-472-7878;
WWW.GCSAA.ORG
-  **Golf Course Builders Association of America**
727 "O" STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68508; 402-476-4444;
WWW.GCBA.ORG
-  **National Golf Course Owners Association** 291 SEVEN FARMS DRIVE,
SECOND FLOOR, CHARLESTON, SC 29492; 843-881-9956;
WWW.NGCOA.ORG
-  **Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment** 1156 15TH ST. NW,
SUITE 400, WASHINGTON, DC; 202-872-3860; WWW.PESTFACTS.ORG



POWERFUL²

Dual systemic fungicide works as a curative and a preventative.

RELENTLESS²

Starts working immediately and lasts up to 30 or more days.

CONTROL²

Controls over 30 fungi including dollar spot.

SysStar fungicide works twice as hard, on more sites, with more modes of action than any other fungicide on the market.

inside the plant to protect it from root tips to plant tops. Don't waste another season with a single action fungicide. Get the

Dual Systemic action is the key. This powerful systemic action works from

SYS X STAR^{so}

powerful dual systemic action of SysStar – and get it on the double... ()².

The *dual systemic* fungicide for turf, landscape and ornamentals. 1-800-621-5208.

Calibrated Seed and Fertilizer in a Roll

Rapid Uniform Turf Establishment

Natural Weed Suppression

Minimal Risk of Erosion or Leaching

Fast and Simple Installation

Quickly Ready for Play

Make Green

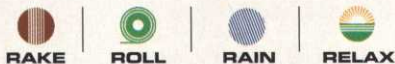
Make Green

Make Green

BLUEYELLOW PROFESSIONAL

The Smartest Way to Make Green.

Koch Cellulose
BlueYellow is a registered trademark of Koch Cellulose LLC



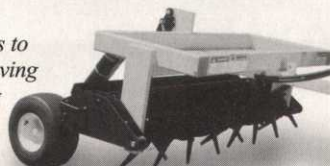
www.blueyellowpro.com • 800-667-3268



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® - 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

Golfdom

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
Danielle Gundling CIRC. LIST RENTAL 440-891-2655 dgundling@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

CORPORATE



Joe Loggia PRESIDENT & CEO
David W. Montgomery VICE PRESIDENT - FINANCE, CFO & SECRETARY
Alexander S. DeBarr EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Annie M. Callanan EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Daniel M. Phillips EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Scott E. Pierce EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Eric I. Lisman EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT
Adele D. Hartwick VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER & CONTROLLER
Francis Heid VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLISHING OPERATIONS
Steve Morris VICE PRESIDENT, MARKET DEVELOPMENT
Rick Treese VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Golfdom does not verify any claims or other information appearing in any of the advertisements contained in the publication, and cannot take any responsibility for any losses or other damages incurred by readers in reliance on such content.

Golfdom welcomes unsolicited articles, manuscripts, photographs, illustrations and other materials but cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping or return.

Advanstar Communications provides certain customer contact data (such as customers' names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) to third parties who wish to promote relevant products, services and other opportunities which may be of interest to you. If you do not want Advanstar Communications to make your contact information available to third parties for marketing purposes, simply call toll-free 888-527-7008 between the hours of 7:30 am and 5 pm CT and a customer service representative will assist you in removing your name from Advanstar's lists. Outside the U.S., please phone 218-723-9477.



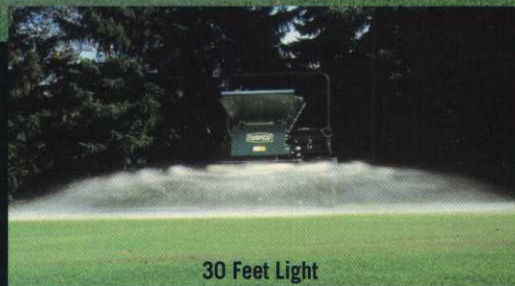
2000 National DESIGN Award Winner

AFTER 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, OUR TOP DRESSER TECHNOLOGY IS UNMATCHED.



THE WIDESPIN™ 1530 IS A GOOD EXAMPLE:

- **Guaranteed 3-year warranty.** Unmatched in the industry!
- **Patented 3-position switch.** Guarantees even application every time.
- **Patented WideSpin technology.** Top dressing that ranges from 15' heavy to 30' light—no different attachments required.
- **Adjustable angle of spinners from 0-15°.** Allows for broadcast applications or to drive the sand into the turf.
- **Galvanized hopper.** No rust or flaking paint means no-stick action.
- **A manufacturer with 40 years of turf experience.** Our knowledge brings you cutting-edge equipment.



30 Feet Light



15 Feet Heavy



When it comes to top dressing, we have been—and still are—the industry leader. If you want unparalleled performance in any top dressing application, choose the WideSpin

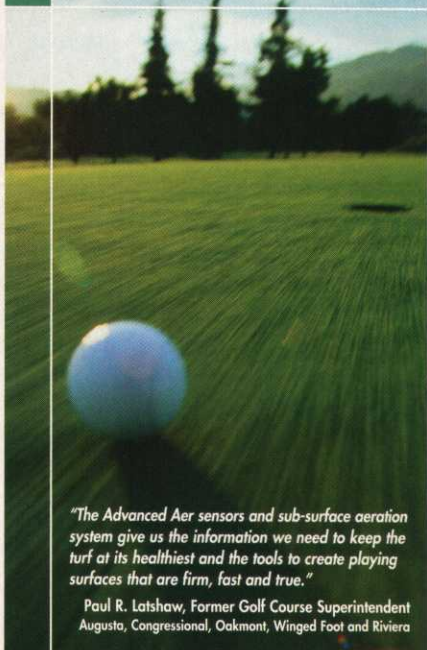
1530. For a demo or to request product information, call **1-800-679-8201** or visit turfco.com.



THE LEADER. SINCE 1961.

1655 101st Avenue NE • Minneapolis, MN 55449-4420 U.S.A.
(763) 785-1000 • Fax (763) 785-0556 • www.turfco.com

The Advanced Method for Managing Your Most Important Asset... Your Greens



"The Advanced Aer sensors and sub-surface aeration system give us the information we need to keep the turf at its healthiest and the tools to create playing surfaces that are firm, fast and true."

Paul R. Latshaw, Former Golf Course Superintendent
Augusta, Congressional, Oakmont, Winged Foot and Riviera

ADDING SCIENCE TO
THE ART OF GROWING
GREAT GREENS

Greens are the most valuable asset of any golf course. Advanced Aer's patented subsurface aeration system gives you what you need to manage both the health and playability of your greens.

The industry's premier sensor-based technology and user-friendly software provides a steady stream of real-time data, giving you a complete picture of every detail of a green's soil profile. This gives you the ability to monitor and control the optimal oxygen, moisture, temperature and salinity levels in the root zone, helping you to create and maintain truly great greens.



www.advancedaer.com
1-561-625-3301

We've Got Mail

■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

ET and the IA

In the article, "Improvement Detected in Moisture Sensors" (August), the Irrigation Association (IA) is used as a statistical source for comments made by Mike Miller of Baseline that compare the water savings associated with evapotranspiration (ET) devices with those of soil moisture sensors. Unfortunately, the statistics quoted are incorrect.

The statements infer that soil moisture is better than ET [as a method of running irrigation controllers]. The IA, however, has never published any statements about whether soil moisture or ET is better. The only statistic we have used is that Southern California trials using "smart controllers" [that use soil moisture sensors] have conserved up to 30 percent of the water.

The IA is currently working to see how both soil moisture and ET controllers do in scientific tests. This project is called Smart Water Application Technology (SWAT), and it's only arriving into the hardware test phase. We don't know how well these "smart" controllers perform today, but in a year the test results will be available. Could you please set the record straight?

Thomas Kimmel
Executive Director
The Irrigation Association
Falls Church, Va.

Farmers Know Best

I really did not know where Jim Black was going with the story (Public Opinion, July) but after reading further I had to laugh. He was 100 percent right.

I just got back from the GCSAA headquarters in Kansas, where I told them in a meeting we tend to forget where we have come from in our career field or as individuals.

My first superintendent's position was a nine-hole course in Durant, Okla., where three of the biggest amateur golf tournaments in the Mid-South Region were played. I made \$5 per hour until they realized the 80-hour weeks cost them more than paying me a salary of \$900 per month since I was the only crew member. The golf course was in-between the city graveyard and large fields with cows. Most of our 200 members were farmers so I received lots of

best-intention advice from "experts." And you know something? Their advice worked.

It turned out, they had all the experience and knowledge, and I just had to apply it to a different crop.

Joseph Hubbard
Certified Superintendent
TA Turner Construction Services
Ashburn, Va.

Just Regulate the Balls

I'd like to comment on Geoff Shackelford's article on the USGA's set up of the U.S. Open (July). I agree with what he wrote, but I would like to take it a step further: I think par is in danger of becoming obsolete.

I have hosted an LPGA tournament for the past 10 years, and advancements in club and ball technology have lowered the winning scores for professional tournaments by six to seven strokes. To compensate, superintendents are unfairly being asked to erase those seven shots with the conditioning of the golf course.

It's a very thin line superintendents are being asked to walk between fair and unfair and brown grass or green grass when faced with protecting par and the integrities of their courses despite all the improvements that have been allowed to clubs and balls.

It seems like common sense that the answer lies with [regulating] the ball and letting manufacturers do whatever they want to the clubs. Controlling that one thing would be the simplest way to solve a multitude of problems.

If the USGA doesn't start pulling the reins in, it will have to face the fact that par will become a thing of the past, like feather balls and wooden shafts. By the way, it didn't seem to bother the people who run the British Open that their champion finished at 10-under par.

Rick Slattery
Superintendent
Locust Hill Country Club
Pittsford, N.Y.

We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Larry Aylward at larylward@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130.

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN...



AFTER MIDNIGHT

Introducing two advanced premium Kentucky blues from Turf-Seed, Inc.

Midnight II. Rich, dark green-blue and compact-growing. The next generation of Midnight with improved year-round color, increased resistance to rust and mildew, improved summer performance and hard-wearing traffic tolerance.

Midnight Star. Deep, dark green. A Midnight hybrid with more seed yield for improved economy, and stubborn resistance to stripe rust.

Combine either with our elite Kentucky blues - **Moonlight, Brilliant and North Star**, or with other quality Turf-Seed, Inc. varieties to create strong, diverse blends and mixes. From the diligent research and superior breeding of Pure Seed Testing come the latest Kentucky blues, two new turfgrass solutions available from Turf-Seed, Inc.



TURF-SEED, INC.

Your Success Depends on Seed Satisfaction Guaranteed.

800-247-6910 • www.turf-seed.com
email: info@turf-seed.com • fax: 503-651-2351



WHAT OTHER FUNGICIDES DREAM OF BEING WHEN THEY GROW UP.



Insignia

F U N G I C I D E There's a reason superintendents who've tried new **Insignia**[®] fungicide from BASF are calling it "**The Outperformer**." It's because **Insignia** exceeds even their highest expectations for a strobilurin-based fungicide. **Insignia** serves as a foundation product for reliable disease control. It controls an exceptionally broad spectrum of turf diseases—far broader than **Compass**[™], for instance—offering dependable control of anthracnose, brown patch, gray leaf spot and many others. In addition, **Insignia** won't flare dollar spot the way **Heritage**[®] does. That means you won't aggravate one problem as you solve another. Best of all, **Insignia** controls key diseases for up to 28 days, reducing your labor and materials costs and enhancing your peace of mind. Contact your distributor or your BASF Professional Turf Sales Representative, call **(800) 545-9525** or visit www.turffacts.com to learn more about how new **Insignia**[®] fungicide can outperform on your course.

BROAD SPECTRUM. LONG LASTING. SUPPRESSES DOLLAR SPOT.



We don't make the turf.
We make it better.

BASF

The leaves are turning on the trees, and the frost is on the pumpkin. It's time to pay tribute to the best and the worst of 2004 thus far.

Cheers to our friends in the Southeast who, we hope, are finally drying out after a hurricane season that just wouldn't quit. As a Midwesterner, I saw a lot of tornadoes growing up, but I can't even imagine one that's 400 miles wide and lasts for a couple of days. It's hard enough running a golf course in Florida without Mother Nature dumping a zillion inches of rain on you twice in a month. Enough already.

Jeers to the public relations geniuses from Evolve Golf who decided to dump a bunch of wooden golf tees in Boston Harbor recently to "protest" how environmentally unsound the traditional pegs are. Evolve Golf makes a supposedly biodegradable tee that it claims is less harmful to mowers, reduces the spread of fungal disease (I'd love to see the group's data on this) and, of course, doesn't necessitate the killing of poor, innocent trees to manufacture.

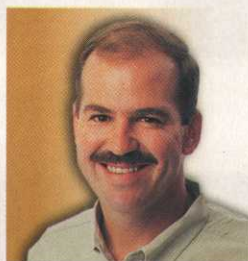
That's just fine and dandy, but why pull a stunt that gives tree-hugging environmental activists yet another reason to point an angry finger at golf? By the way, the last time I looked into it, manufacturers harvested about 15,000 forested trees a year to make golf tees. Chicago's Medinah Country Club has 15,000 trees on its grounds alone.

Cheers (in advance) to superintendents and others in the industry who get out to vote in support of the business next month. Yes, we should all vote our conscience, but we should also find out where local and national candidates stand on critical issues related to golf. Pesticides, fertilizers, water use and development issues may not be top of mind when you get into the voting booth, but — all other factors being equal — why not choose elected officials that aren't antigolf?

It's worth noting that Crop Life America, the parent organization of the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE),

Cheers & Jeers: Autumn Edition

BY PAT JONES



RISE CITED
STRONG CONCERNS
ABOUT HOW A
JOHN KERRY
ADMINISTRATION
MIGHT ATTEMPT
TO OVERREGULATE
PESTICIDE USE

took the unprecedented step of endorsing President Bush for re-election. RISE cited strong concerns about how a John Kerry administration might attempt to overregulate pesticide use.

Jeers to the GCSAA leadership for doing a poor job of communicating the rationale behind bringing the Club Managers Association of America into the ever-expanding Golf Industry Show. (For more on this, log onto our Web site and check out the Sept. 2 edition of *Golfdom Insider*.)

Normally, GCSAA goes to great lengths to make sure that all key parties — especially leading members and big exhibitors — have completely bought into a major change like this. However, I heard from people, including past association presidents and marketing gurus from large companies, who said this came completely out of the blue.

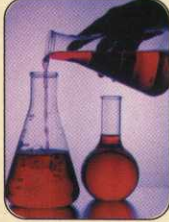
I won't debate the merits of the decision here (other than to say it was inevitable for money reasons), but the GCSAA dropped the ball on the announcement. After the "Oops, we changed our minds about relocating the headquarters" debacle, the folks in Lawrence should have done more to pave the way for this one.

Cheers and a fond farewell to one member of the *Golfdom* family who is moving on to bigger things. Frank Andorka, our managing editor, was named editorial director of one of our sister publications, *Pest Control* magazine.

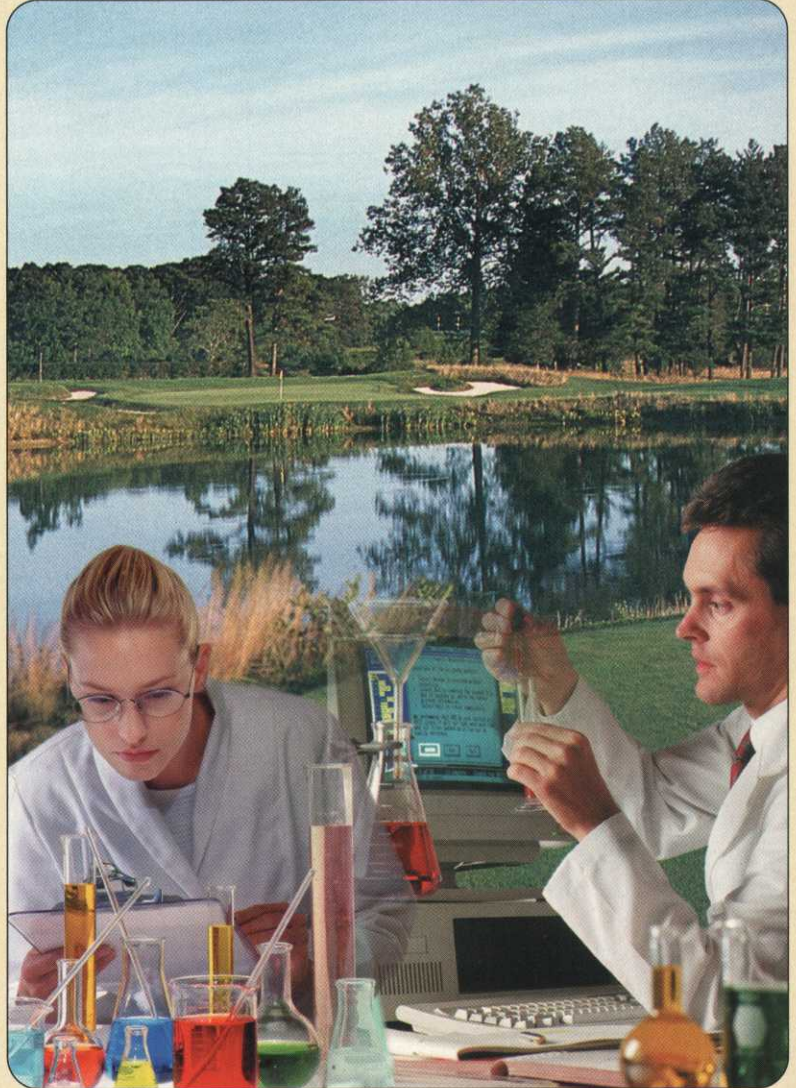
Frank was a key factor in the growth and success of our publication over the past few years, but our loss is the bug-killing industry's gain. Please join me in wishing him the best.

Publisher Pat Jones can be reached at 440-891-3126 or pjones@advanstar.com

ADVANCED AMINO ACID TECHNOLOGY



- Backed by University Research
- Contains 18 Biologically Active L-Amino Acids
- True Foliar Absorption
- Enhances Efficacy of Nutrients and Chemicals
- Provides Maximum Protection from Stress
- Produced at a Pharmaceutical Facility—ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified
- *Environmentally Safe*



Beechtree Golf Club, Aberdeen, Maryland ~ Hole #2, Par 3



1-800-925-5187 macro-sorb.com

It's only autumn, but Paul Jett is already hearing the question, "Can it happen here?" The certified superintendent of Pinehurst No. 2, site of the 2005 U.S. Open, answers the inquiry straightforwardly. "It will not happen here," he says.

The "it" we're talking about, of course, is the unfortunate matter — or debacle, as some have called it — that occurred at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in June during this year's U.S. Open. The course's extreme setup the last two days of the tournament caused enough wrangling among golfers, golf historians and golf fans that the USGA should re-examine its philosophy behind staging the tournament.

All of this, however, puts Jett in a precarious position when people, especially the media, ask him what he thinks about what happened at Shinnecock. Jett must think twice about his answers. He can't bash the USGA like superintendents less close to the matter can.

So on a recent late-summer day, Jett was understandably on guard when answering some of my questions as he whipped his tattered utility vehicle around the famed Donald Ross design. The well-tanned Jett, with his slicked-backed hair and dark wrap-around sunglasses, was also cool and composed when asking questions. (Memo to the GCSAA: Get Jett to speak at one of your seminars on "Dealing with the Media.")

"Let me put it this way," Jett said, elaborating on whether what happened at Shinnecock could happen at Pinehurst. "We're going to have a golf course on Sunday afternoon [the last day of the Open] that a resort guest will be able to play on Tuesday morning [after the Open] and be satisfied with the experience."

When asked if he thought the USGA needs to re-evaluate its set-up strategy, Jett's answer could be perceived as riding the fence. But if one reads between the lines, his answer could also be perceived as a challenge for everyone to get on board when crucial decisions are made during the tournament. Apparently, that didn't happen at Shinnecock.

A Healthy Paul Jett Looks to Next June

BY LARRY AYLWARD



**BUT THE PINEHURST
SUPERINTENDENT
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
FIELD A SLEW OF
QUESTIONS ABOUT
SHINNECOCK HILLS**

"There are a lot of people involved in the setup — USGA people, the superintendent and others," Jett said. "Everybody has to come to some sort of agreement of what it's going to be."

A lot of superintendents might be shaking in their golf shoes to host next year's U.S. Open, especially after what happened at Shinnecock this year. But keep in mind that Jett has been there before. Pinehurst hosted the U.S. Open in 1999, and Jett has an idea of what to expect.

"We've already gone through one U.S. Open where the scoring conditions couldn't have been any better," Jett insists. "So why would we want to change a lot of things? I've had no conversations with Tom Meeks (USGA's senior director of rules and competitions) or Tim Moraghan (USGA's director of championship agronomy) to indicate that we're going to do things a far cry different than we did in '99."

While it's understandable that Jett didn't want to touch the what-did-you-think-of-what-happened-at-Shinnecock questions with a 10-foot bunker rake, he did offer some neutral insights regarding the matter. Jett was at Shinnecock early in the week of the tournament but left before the event transformed from a championship golf tournament into the Daytona 500. But Jett says he understands how the course could have dried up and begun playing as fast as a NASCAR track.

"Shinnecock sits right on the ocean and has probably even a more sandy soil than we have," he said. "You could hold the water off here until next June and the course wouldn't be that hard."

Jett also said he wasn't surprised that so many golfers slammed Shinnecock for its playability. "They're the ones that had