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Hole of the

■ No. 18, East Course
Winged Foot Golf Club
Mamaroneck, N.Y.



Month

Go East, Young Man

At Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., it's usually the West Course of the 1923 A.W. Tillinghast design that gets all the attention. After all, the West Course has hosted four U.S. Opens and countless other memorable tournaments (including the 2004 U.S. Amateur last month).

But students of the game and golf course architecture say the East Course is in some ways just as challenging, as embodied by the 384-yard par-4 18th hole. Nicknamed "Taps" because it's the final march to the clubhouse (and perhaps because it marks the mournful end to a difficult round of golf), golfers will find many points of interest, including the mammoth bunker guarding the left side of a challenging green.

Long hitters should favor the left side of the fairway to take advantage of favorable forward bounces, and members recommend that golfers read the green carefully because of its subtle breaks.

Golfdom's Hole of the Month is presented in partnership with:

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JOHN DEERE

MIKE KLEMM

Todd Hamilton, the unflappable champion of Britain's Open Championship at Royal Troon, said he played "ugly golf" to win the Claret Jug. By most American golfer standards, he also played on an ugly golf course.

But one man's ugly is another man's utopia. One of golf's amazing paradoxes is the expensive pilgrimages Americans make to Great Britain to play Scottish golf courses. But once home, they prohibit architects from building such aesthetically challenged golf courses in *their* backyards.

When did English rose gardens become models for golf course architecture in America? Instead of low wind-cheating, ground-hugging shots that carom off the humps and bumps of grassed-over sand dunes, Americans began hitting shots over trees and ponds on courses that look like cemeteries.

I'm not sure where the American fetish for "all green, all the time" began. Unfortunately, it may be impossible to go back. Most American golfers grew up only knowing that version of the game and anything less verdant than a botanical garden with the consistency of a pool table seems to be a cause for concern.

As I look back over the past two months, I can't help but recall the rainbow of turf colors at Troon and Shinnecock Hills. The swirling blend of purple, tan, straw yellow, gray, brown and sometimes light green was a sight to behold. I wonder if American golfers were gagging at the gorse or captivated by the competition. I will claim the latter from the vantage point of an armchair superintendent, but I would be less than honest if I didn't say I was squirming in my chair during both those telecasts because the turf looked like it was under incredible stress.

I admit that I've been "taught" to expect 7,000 yards of unblemished emerald green turf on a golf course. On more than one Sunday, I watch in empathetic agony as putting surfaces wilt and appear near death in the afternoon sun. It's an instinctive reaction from having lost grass as a superintendent and having hosted PGA Tour events, only to have golfers expect my course to be open for resort play the next day. But for sheer golf drama nothing beats a player plying his skill against the rub of the green on an undulating, firm and fast golf course.

A 'Pretty' Ugly Situation for Golf

BY JOEL JACKSON



I'M NOT SURE
WHERE THE
AMERICAN FETISH
FOR "ALL GREEN,
ALL THE TIME"
BEGAN

While the conditions at Shinnecock were perhaps too far over the top on the last day, the contenders all played the same conditions. Retief Goosen played the course as he found it. The same can be said for Hamilton at Troon and Ben Curtis at Royal St. George's in 2003. I'll guarantee you they weren't concerned about color. They were only focused on results. It is infinitely easier for a golfer to adjust his game to the current course conditions than for the superintendent to adjust 150 acres of turfgrass to the whims of golfers.

Why can't American golfers accept that challenge? We could save more water and use even less chemicals and fertilizers than we already do. What do immaculately manicured curbs, cart paths and landscaped tee sign complexes have to do with golf anyway?

It seems the intent of a lot of our courses is to become a cover story in *Better Homes and Gardens*. The reason for having golf courses compete to see who is the prettiest is that selling real estate around the clubs has forced superintendents to blend the golf courses to look like the members' own private property. When flash and window dressing obscure the core values of the game, which is creative shot making, then we have issues — and we may have already started down that slippery slope. We will also know the end is near when 99 percent of TV golf is played on lush, green courses.

As long as Americans only perceive style over substance as the essence of golf courses, they will never be satisfied with playing Royal Troon. They will only want to play "perfect" parkland courses that rob the game of its flavor and interest.

That, my friends, is a truly ugly situation.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, retired from Disney's golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.



HOW QUICKLY WILL YOUR TURF RECOVER ONCE THE SNOW IS GONE?



A snow mold and winter disease program for early spring green-up.



WINTER STRESS LEADS TO SPRING HEADACHES

Bayer Environmental Science offers a full line of industry-leading fungicides to help you protect your turf from destruction caused by the winter decline complex of diseases.

The deterioration of turf quality during the cool season, known as winter decline, is caused by the interaction of disease and stresses. Turfgrass becomes stressed as snow cover, high moisture and low temperatures weaken it, making the turf plant more susceptible to cool-season diseases that cause additional weakness. Disease then causes more vulnerability to stresses, which in turn leads to more disease, and the stress-disease-stress cycle continues. By the time temperatures rise and the snow melts, superintendents are often faced with widespread winter decline when preparing their courses for spring play.

Bayer fungicides provide the protection turf needs to survive winter challenges and emerge healthy and green in the spring.

WINTER DECLINE CHALLENGES

A variety of cool-season diseases and stresses can weaken turf and cause early spring turf damage.

Snow Mold

Gray and pink snow mold, the main contributors to winter turf injury, are caused by several fungi that thrive on cold, wet turf. Snow mold damage appears as patches of dead turf; repair can take months.



Cool-Season *Pythium*

Cool-season *Pythium* root rot is difficult to recognize and often mistaken for other diseases. It causes stunted growth, rotting of turf roots and turf that is

thin and slow to recover, even when temperatures rise in the spring.

Anthracnose

Basal rot and foliar blight anthracnose thrive on weakened turf. Basal rot, the more prolific of the two, first appears



in March but is active through November on *Poa annua* and creeping bentgrass. First signs of infection include irregular patches of orange-to-yellowing turf (also known as winter anthracnose). But basal rot is difficult to detect in the early stages and once the disease is visible, the battle is already lost; prevention is key.

Other Winter Stresses

Harsh winter weather can cause as much injury to turf as disease. Early exposure to below-freezing temperatures will damage turf that hasn't hardened-off, while turf left exposed to cold and windy conditions loses moisture, leading to further damage. Frost kills foliage and may cause curling, browning or blackening of leaves.

Control Challenges

A fall fungicide program is crucially important since it is counted on to keep turf disease-free throughout winter, when colder weather and snow cover make applying chemicals nearly impossible.

Because of its complex makeup, snow mold control requires a number of fungicides, and tank mixes usually contain one or more of the three most effective products: 26GT®, PCNB and chlorothalonil.

While superintendents have always had to deal with the phytotoxic effects associated with PCNB use, they also must consider EPA restrictions, which have limited chlorothalonil applications.



PROVEN SOLUTIONS FOR WINTER DISEASES

Bayer offers the fungicides you need to manage winter disease and ease turf's transition from cool weather to warmer temperatures.

26GT Fungicide has been the foundation for effective snow mold control for more than 20 years. Trusted by superintendents



for fast, effective brown patch and dollar spot management, 26GT also provides the most effective, broad-spectrum snow mold control when used in tank mixes with other products.

26GT also is an effective alternative to chlorothalonil.

ProStar® Fungicide offers proven control of gray snow mold.

Incorporating different chemistries into regular fungicide



applications is necessary to reduce risk of disease resistance.

But when it comes to a superintendent's snow mold control program, applying new fungicides can be an unwelcome risk. That's why ProStar, a time-tested fungicide for gray snow mold control, is an effective addition to any program. An excellent tank-mix partner, ProStar exhibits none of the turf phytotoxicity associated with PCNB. Plus, applying ProStar with 26GT will ensure season-long control of the complete snow mold complex, without affecting turf growth.

Bayleton® Fungicide prevents and controls important fungal diseases, which are part of winter decline, including anthracnose



and pink and gray snow

mold. This proven, trusted product works systemically, providing residual control for up to 28 days. Bayleton also is a versatile tank-mix partner with other fungicides for broad-spectrum disease control.

Compass™ Fungicide, a Strobilurin fungicide, delivers disease protection



through a revolu-

tionary mode of action. Offering broad-spectrum control, Compass effectively controls anthracnose, pink snow mold and many other diseases at low-use

rates. Plus, Compass provides excellent turf safety. Use Compass in a tank mix for increased broad spectrum control and improved turfgrass quality.

Chipco® Signature™ Fungicide provides proven control for cool-season *Pythium* root rot and includes recommendations



for anthracnose control on its label. In trials conducted at Cornell University, Chipco Signature was applied to *Pythium*-inoculated

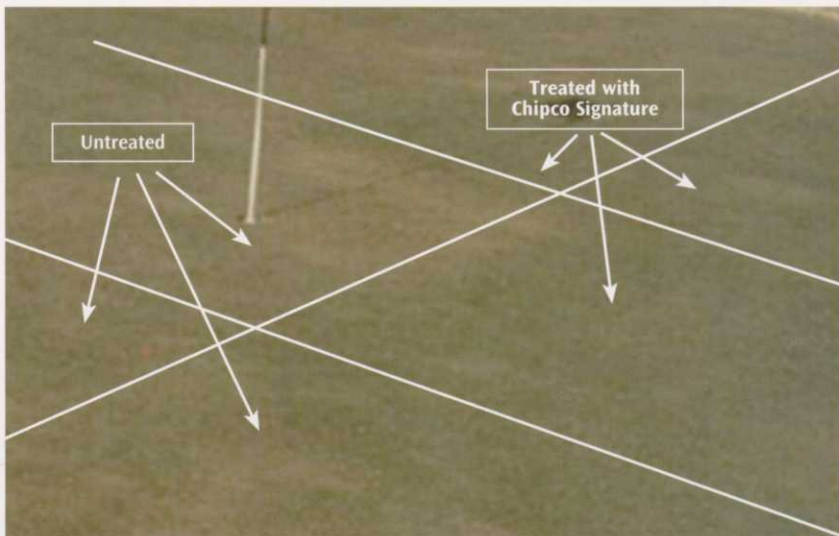
turf from late September to early October, at 14- and 21-day intervals. According to Dr. Eric Nelson, plant pathologist at Cornell, "Chipco Signature is actually one of the better materials we have tested for cool-season *Pythium* root-rot control."

And Chipco Signature tank mixes also provide effective control against basal rot anthracnose.

Basal Rot Prevention with Chipco Signature

Basal rot anthracnose is difficult to detect and thrives on weakened turf, making plant health a necessity for disease prevention.

Chipco Signature's ability to improve turf health is unmatched, and its label's recommendations for anthracnose control make Chipco Signature an ideal partner in a fall snow mold tank mix for basal rot prevention. Follow-up applications of Chipco Signature in early spring allow turf to recover faster from winter stress, making it less susceptible to basal rot infection.

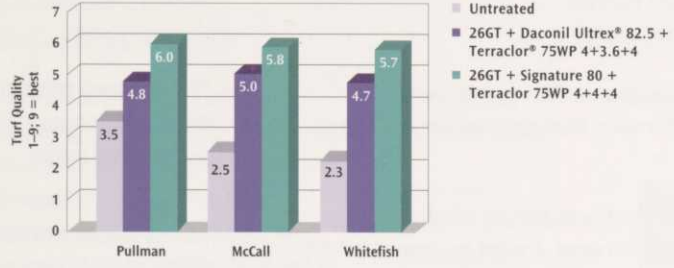


CULTURAL PRACTICES FOR WINTER DECLINE MANAGEMENT

While fungicide applications are an important component of any disease prevention program, other strategies also should be adopted to avoid disease outbreak over the winter. Any effort at preventing winter decline should include the following cultural practices:

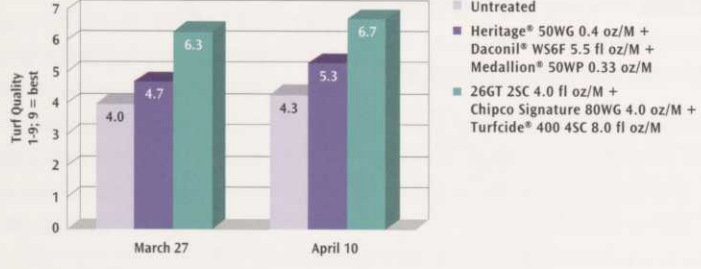
- Avoid heavy nitrogen applications in late fall.
- Mow grass during late fall to reduce canopy buildup.
- Prevent large drifts of snow through the use of snow fences and landscape plantings.
- Improve drainage, increase aeration and improve sunlight exposure where feasible.
- Reduce compaction by restricting walking and snow sports on important turf areas.
- Repair snow mold damage by raking affected patches and lightly fertilizing in early spring.

Winter Decline/Turf Quality



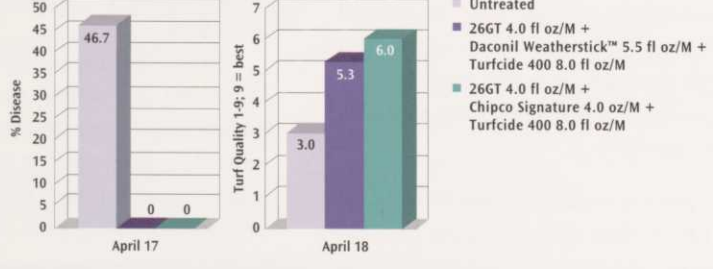
Washington State University
Pullman, WA
Application – 12/1/00
Evaluation – 3/1/01
McCall, ID
Application – 10/26/00
Evaluation – 4/30/01
Whitefish, MT
Application – 10/26/00
Evaluation – 4/30/01
HCO00F10

Winter Decline/Turf Quality



University of Wisconsin
Creeping bentgrass/
Annual bluegrass
Application:
Heritage+Daconil+Medallion
on 11/17/2001
26GT and Turfcide 400
on 11/17/2001
Chipco Signature on
10/31 and 11/17/2001
EAV01F33

Snow Mold Management/Turf Quality



University of Minnesota
Gray (*Typhula*) snow mold
Creeping bentgrass
Application:
10/22/01 + 11/12/01
Turf Quality:
1-9; 9=best
EAV01F39

WHATEVER YOUR PROGRAM, CHIPCO SIGNATURE WILL IMPROVE IT.

While fall programs for cool-season diseases vary by region and disease pressure, studies prove that, regardless of the tank-mix combination, adding Chipco Signature (at the 4-ounce rate) improves turf vigor and quality as turf transitions out of winter (see data charts above). And, applying Chipco Signature will lessen the phytotoxic effects associated with PCNB usage, including root damage and turf browning.

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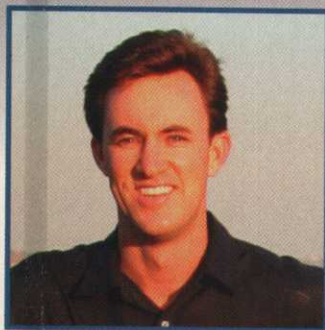
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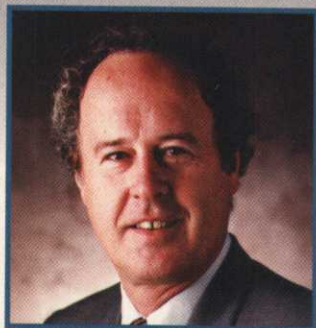
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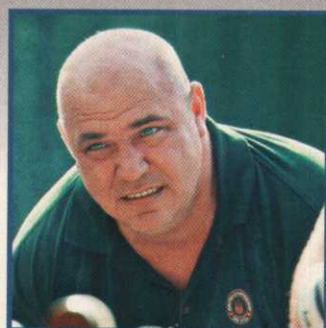
Geoff Shackelford
Design Author & Critic



Dr. Joe Vargas
Michigan State University



Dr. Karl Danneberger
Ohio State University



Jay Rehr
Former Augusta National Golf Course
Chief Mechanic

Hosted by Golfdom's Pat Jones

Thursday, September 23 • 1-4:30 p.m.
Pesticide Recertification Session

or

Tips and Tactics in Equipment Maintenance

Jay Rehr - former Augusta National Golf Course Chief Mechanic

Friday, September 24 • 8 a.m. - Noon
Poa Annu Management

Dr. Karl Danneberger - Ohio State University

Art & Science of Bunker Design and Renovation

Geoff Shackelford - Design Author & Critic

New Disease Trends

Dr. Joe Vargas - Michigan State University

Career Survival Skills for Today's Superintendent

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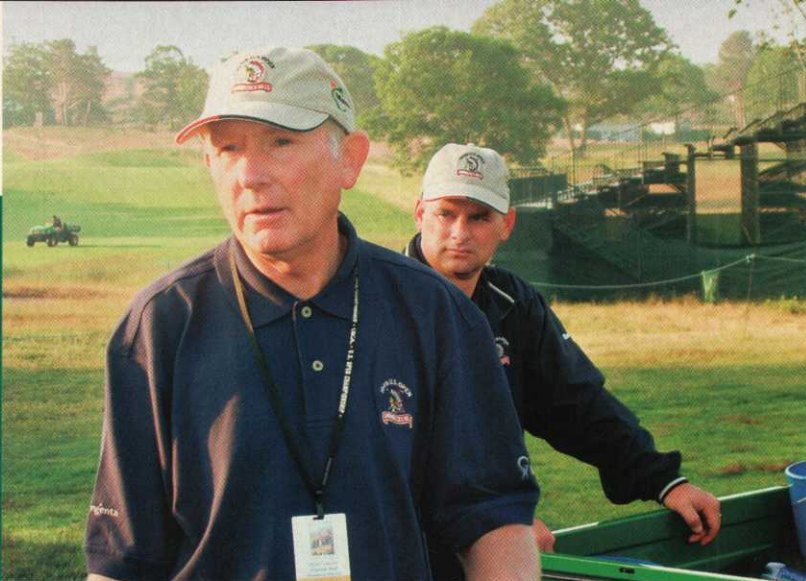
Foreign

They came from distant lands to volunteer
on Shinnecock's golf course maintenance crew for the U.S. Open.

They left with intimate memories



Aid



STORY AND PHOTOS BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

Standing in the middle of the 18th fairway at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Dave “D.J.” Crawford cranes his neck, squints his eyes and peers skyward at the low-flying helicopters whirring across the hazy morning sky. The sun hasn’t been up long in Southampton, N.Y., but Shinnecock is already buzzing with excitement. That’s because golf’s big-top extravaganza — the U.S. Open — has come to town.

It’s the final day of practice before the first round of the tournament. The normally spacious Shinnecock is crowded with huge, white corporate tents and colossal, shiny grandstands. Golf fans, who have come to see Tiger, Ernie and Lefty play one last tension-free round before they put on their game faces, swarm onto the historic course like carpenter ants invading a picnic.

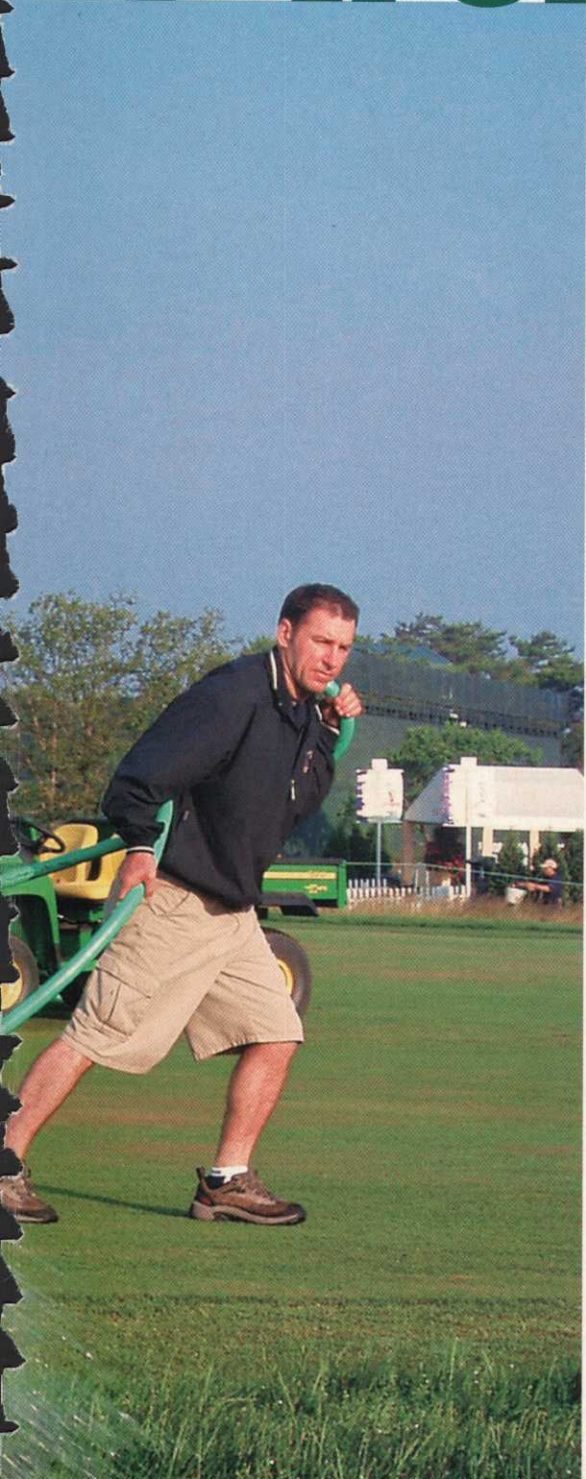
One wonders what the tall, slender Crawford, who hails from the Channel Islands, is thinking while he watches the circus-like activity unfold around him. Crawford, a volunteer on Shinnecock’s golf course maintenance crew for the tournament, wears a look of awe on his face as he takes in this spectacle of a sporting event.

“It’s definitely bigger than I thought,” the ruddy-faced Crawford says of the U.S. Open, which seems to grow more enormous each year. “It’s just huge. Absolutely huge.”

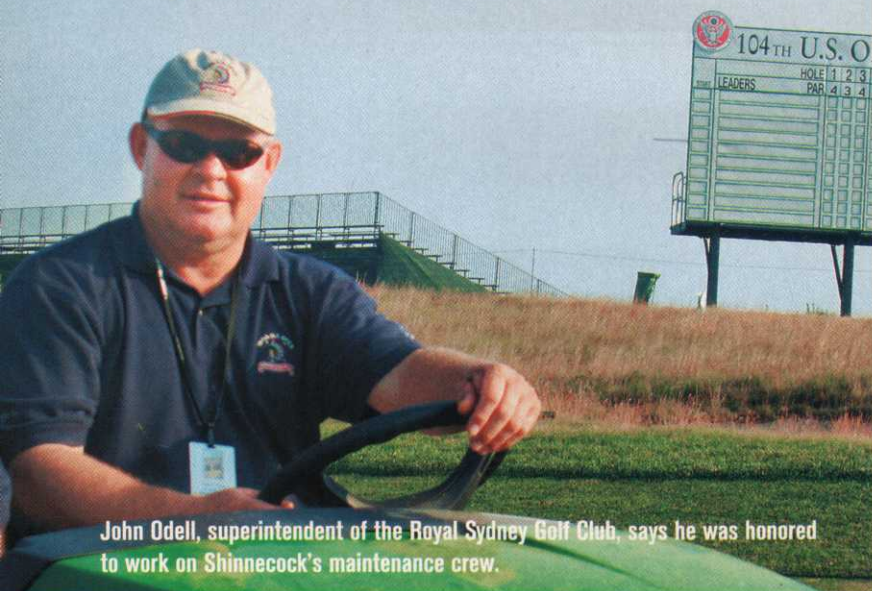
Crawford, 58, is the course manager for Royal Jersey Golf Club, an esteemed course on the Channel Islands, which are located in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy, France. He’s one of about 10 international volunteers who traveled great distances to be part of Shinnecock’s beefed-up maintenance crew, which also includes about 60 American volunteers. Many of the international volunteers spent their own money to travel to New York. Several trekked 12,000 miles from Australia. Others are from South Africa and Canada. They have one thing in common: They are here to experience the thrill of one of the world’s great sporting events.

“I’m just honored to have been accepted as a volunteer,” says John Odell, superintendent of the Royal Sydney Golf Club in Sydney, Australia.

Continued on page 28



(Left photo) Australian volunteers Bruce Kemp (left) and Mark Parker manned the heavy hoses and watered the rough during the U.S. Open. **(Top photo)** Dave Crawford came all the way from the Channel Islands to work on the golf maintenance crew’s divot repair team. American volunteer Bob York, from BASF Professional Turf, stands behind Crawford.



John Odell, superintendent of the Royal Sydney Golf Club, says he was honored to work on Shinnecock's maintenance crew.

“We’ve got guys from the top-100 courses in the world, and we’re raking bunkers. But who cares?”

GARY DEMPSEY,
NEW SOUTH WALES
GOLF CLUB, AUSTRALIA

Continued from page 27

“I’ll cherish every day here no matter what I’m doing — raking bunkers, watering rough or picking up divots.”

Mark Michaud, Shinnecock’s superintendent, welcomes the international volunteers with open arms. He’s indebted to them for traveling across the globe to work their tails off for him. Michaud also knows the volunteers will learn new things and meet new friends. “There are people here who will make lifelong friends,” he says.

Like all of the maintenance crew workers, Crawford wears a blue polo shirt and tan cap emblazoned with the Shinnecock logo. He holds a small blue bucket filled with dirt in his gloved hand. Crawford is part of a three-person crew that fills fairway divots.

It’s the first time Crawford has volunteered for a tournament of such magnitude. He is very businesslike, even while performing the menial task. He fills each divot with dirt and pats the area meticulously with his hand. He works swiftly and doesn’t talk much.

It’s amusing to see the greatest superintendents in the world performing such humble tasks on the renowned course. But Gary Dempsey, the 46-year-old superintendent of New South Wales Golf Club in Matraville, Australia, says he doesn’t care how servile or mundane the work is.

“We’ve got guys from the top-100 courses in the world, and we’re raking bunkers,” says Dempsey, who sports a long, shaggy mustache and a sunburned face. “But who cares?”

We’re pitching in. We’re not looking for glory.”

“It’s about having pride in what you’re doing,” Crawford adds. “There’s no point in doing any job unless you do it properly and well.”

Crawford arrived at Shinnecock on Sunday, four days before the official start of the tournament and one day before the first practice round. When Crawford tells others he’s from Royal Jersey Golf Club, they think he’s from *New Jersey*.

“My perception is that few people know where the Channel Islands are,” Crawford says. “I’ve had a great problem explaining to people where I’m from.”

The Channel Islands, under British rule, are home to about 162,000 people. Crawford, whose 126-year-old course is located on the island of Jersey, wrote Michaud about visiting Shinnecock, and Michaud invited him to work on the crew.

Like many of the workers, Crawford looks a tad tired from working round-the-clock the past few days. Bags have formed under his eyes. “I’ve never had them before,” Crawford announces, only half-jokingly.

Most of the volunteers bunk at Southampton College, a short walk from Shinnecock’s maintenance facility. Southampton College is no Sheraton, but the volunteers don’t mind. They’re so tired at the end of the day that they just want a place to crash. Their rooms feature two beds and a bathroom. There are no TVs, and they must share showers.

The sound of surging shower water awoke Crawford at 3:30 this morning. It wasn’t a rude awakening, though. The guys have been pumped to get to work, Crawford says.

The days take on a familiar refrain. The volunteers meet at the maintenance facility at 4 a.m. and work from about 4:30 to 8:30 a.m. They eat breakfast and some go back to the dorm for naps. They return to the maintenance facility (if they ever left it) around 11 a.m. to eat lunch, hang out or watch some golf. They eat dinner at 4 p.m. before heading back out on the course for the late-day and evening chores. Most are showered and in bed by 10 p.m.

Shinnecock looks ruggedly handsome on this morning. The golden- and red-hued rough, comprised of long fescue and

Continued on page 30

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Continued from page 28

bluestem grasses, waves slightly in the wind. The closely-cropped fairways and greens look smooth and sleek.

Shinnecock's good looks impress volunteer Sue De Zwart, superintendent of Leopard Creek Country Club in Malelane, South Africa. "It's so close to perfection, it's scary," says De Zwart, who has also volunteered at four Masters in the past seven years.

It took De Zwart 18 hours to travel from South Africa to New York. The 29-year-old, one of two female superintendents in South Africa, worked as an intern for Michaud in 1996-1997

when he was the superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links. "Mark is my mentor, and I wanted to work this U.S. Open with him," she says.

The U.S. Open is getting to be old hat for a few Australian volunteers, who tend turf at some of the finest tracks Down Under. However, the thrill of working at such an event is not gone. "You feel really privileged to be here," says Dempsey says, volunteering at his third U.S. Open.

Some of the Australians are friends with the renowned Paul R. Latshaw, the former superintendent of several great U.S. golf

Continued on page 32

Drawing Comparisons

Courses are similar, but ...

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR

It's after 6 p.m. and the wind kicks up on Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. The course's tall, distinguished rough waves in the wind.

Shinnecock's 100-person golf course maintenance staff, which includes about 70 volunteers, is busy at work on the course to ready it for Wednesday's practice round of the U.S. Open. Many of the crew's members won't finish until after dark.

Working after dark? That's something Sue De Zwart, superintendent of Leopard Creek Country Club in Malelane, South Africa, and a volunteer on the Shinnecock crew, wouldn't dare do at her course. They

don't call the course Leopard Creek for nothing.

"We can't work on the course at night because we could be attacked," De Zwart says, noting that leopards are sighted frequently on the course.

Two giraffes and one hippopotamus also live on the property. "We're used to repairing animal damage," De Zwart says.

That's not to say that Leopard Creek doesn't have anything in common with Shinnecock Hills. In fact, most all of the international superintendents who volunteered at Shinnecock during the U.S. Open said their courses bear resemblance to Shinnecock. For one, De Zwart must battle the weather at Leopard Creek and is under pressure to keep the course's greens in excellent shape, just like superintendents must do at Shinnecock and other American courses.

"Climate is our biggest challenge," De Zwart says. "We'll have temperatures in the high 90 and into the low 100s with high humidity, and we have to maintain bentgrass greens. The trick is to try to keep them hard, fast and alive."

Dave "D.J." Crawford, superintendent of Royal Jersey Golf Club on the Channel Islands, says his course is similar to Shinnecock in that it's a links-style course with creeping red fescue that's located on a windy site. A cold northeasterly wind blows through and often causes desiccation.

Royal Jersey's maintenance facility is worlds apart from Shinnecock's new digs, however. Crawford explains that his maintenance facility was actually a fort the British used to protect themselves from the French during the Napoleonic wars. The 60-yard by 60-yard facility is nearly 350 years old and

features 14-foot-high granite walls.

Gary Dempsey, the superintendent of New South Wales Golf Club in Matraville, Australia, says his seaside course is a cross between Shinnecock, Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. "It's a pretty special place," he says.

Interestingly, the "Augusta Syndrome" wreaks its havoc on superintendents across the globe, not just U.S. superintendents. When British television began broadcasting the Masters in color, Crawford says golfers saw the lush, green turf at Augusta and began lobbying for similar conditions at the courses they played.

Golfers also like fast greens in foreign places. The greens run about 11 feet at New South Wales Golf Club. By the way, the members of golf courses in countries like the Australia are also as demanding as American golfers when it comes to green speed.

"That's universal," Dempsey says of the modern-day golfer's expectations.

Interestingly, most of the international volunteers have been superintendents at their respective courses for many years. They don't jump from job to job every few years like many U.S. superintendents.

"People have asked me, 'Have you ever fancied moving on?'" Crawford says. "It has crossed my mind, and I've had opportunities to move on. But I like the environment there and the golf course."

Mark Parker, superintendent of Concord (Australia) Golf Club, says he doesn't want to leave the Sydney area because most of his family lives there.

"That's a major factor for me," says Parker, who's expecting his first child in October. "I want to be close to them."



South African superintendent Sue De Zwart wouldn't dare work after dark at Leopard Creek Country Club.