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## Off The Fringe

# Lawn Tractor Goes Long Way in Cutting Medical Expenses

**W**hile little Parker Shoun was making noise around the house in his fire engine, the Triangle Turfgrass Association was making an even louder statement with something else on four wheels.

Superintendents and industry members from the Raleigh, N.C., area raised \$56,065 in a raffle of a John Deere LT 150. The money was donated to benefit Parker, the 2-year-old son of Raleigh Country Club Superintendent Michael Shoun.

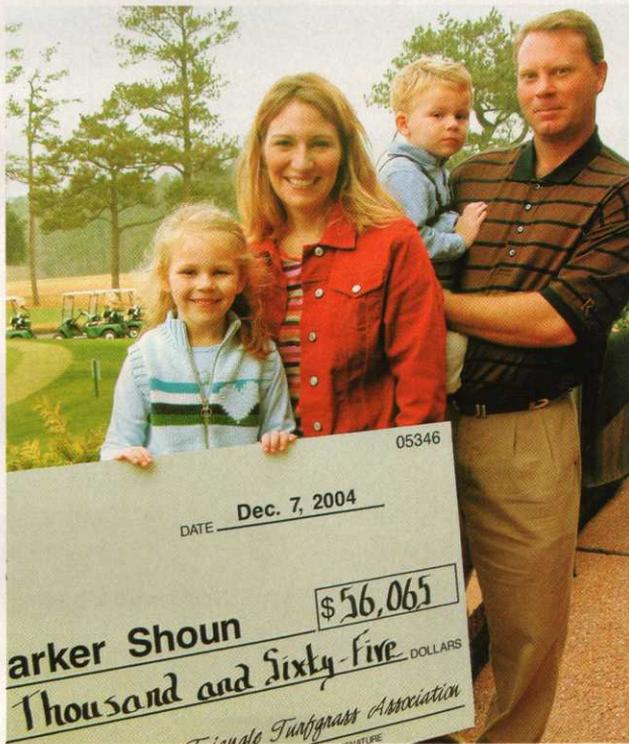
"This is just overwhelming," Michael Shoun said after the check presentation at the club. "We can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for the difference you have made in Parker's life. And in our lives."

Born with an inability to hear, Parker underwent cochlear implant surgery during the summer. The total cost of surgery, therapy and specialized schooling is expected to run between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Parker's doctors and parents are encouraged by early results, although introducing Parker to the world of sound has presented a headache or two of its own for his mom and dad.

"He's had this little fire engine he loves to ride for a long time," Shoun said. "Since he's had the surgery and he's discovered that the buttons make noise, well, it's all we hear. Before that you could yell in his ear at the top of your voice and it wouldn't register."

Ed Wheeler, an employee of Harrell's Inc., won the raffle and immediately re-donated the prize, which had been offered by Revels Tractor Co., to the fund-raising campaign. The tractor may go back into a 24-hour raf-



The Shoun Family (from left): Macie, 5, Holly, Parker, 2, and Michael Shoun, superintendent of Raleigh (N.C.) Country Club.

file during the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association and USGA Regional Seminar at Pinehurst, N.C., in March, meaning the \$56,065 price tag could go even higher.

## Quotable

**"We know enough to know that we don't know everything."**

— Todd Ingraham, director of golf for Bunker Hill Golf Course in Brunswick, Ohio



**"My pro doesn't have anything to do with my course. He sells Mars Bars,**

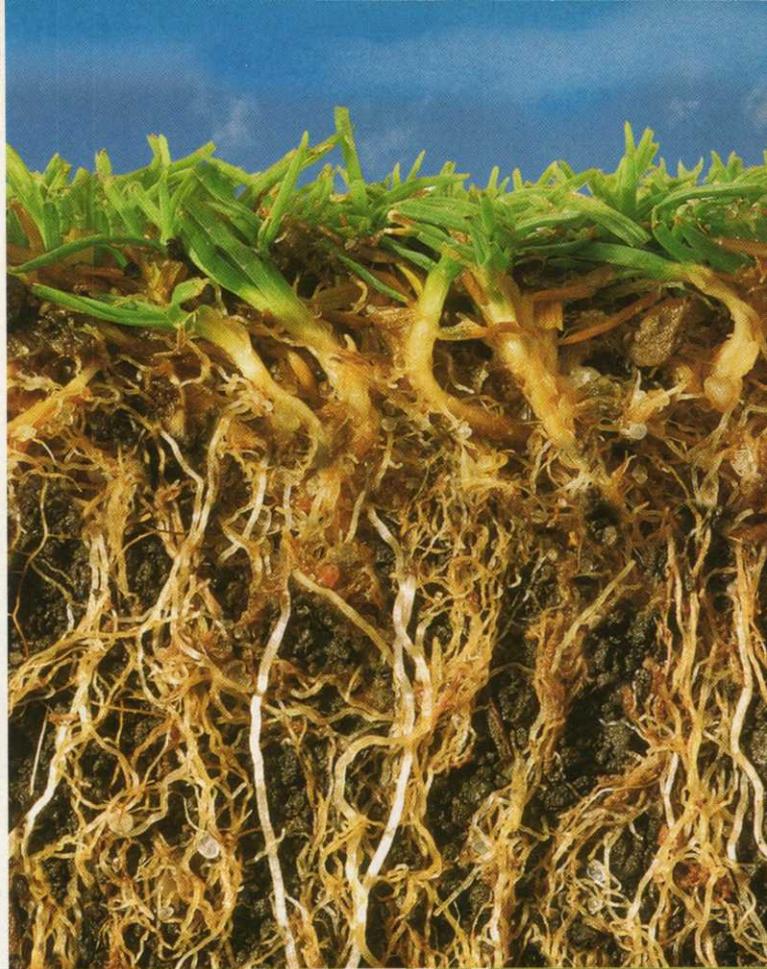
**drinks and shirts. He's pretty good with that."**

— An Australian superintendent commenting on the superintendent-pro relationship at his course Down Under. (What's the message when you read between the lines?)

**"It looks like somebody who works — and not at golf."**

— Jon Jennings, certified superintendent of the Chicago Golf Club, describing what his golf game looks like. (We can all relate.)





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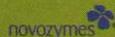
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# Off The Fringe

Continued from page 14

adds GCBA President Jeffrey Harstine. "We won't be able to please everybody."

The main purpose behind the project is to educate GIS attendees, specifically superintendents. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) had pondered the idea of building an indoor green for several years and finally submitted a formal plan in October 2003.

"Our goal is to find some part of the golf course to highlight at every Golf Industry Show and to provide a learning experience for our members," says Jeff Bollig, the GCSAA's director of communications.

"There are many superintendents who have been involved in construction elements," adds Chad Ritterbusch, executive secretary of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). "However, many have not. And many others will have the opportunity to become reacquainted with the process."

The GCSAA had no trouble finding willing partners in the ASGCA and GCBA. The architects, led by Tom Fazio

and Tom Marzolf, designed the green. And the builders, behind Harstine and Tommy Sasser, have donated myriad funds and supplies and will handle much of the construction on the show floor before handing the baton to the superintendents for green maintenance.

"The builders," says Marzolf, vice president of the ASGCA, "are really the big story in terms of they're making it happen. They're going to have all the materials delivered and they're going to supply the manpower to physically build it. ... If you were building a green on a golf course, you could expect something like this to cost \$50,000."

Although none of the associations is putting a price tag on the project, Harstine says the GCBA has collected between \$12,000 and \$13,000 in

member donations.

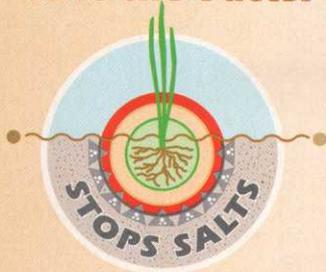
"Nearly every (builder) company has contributed toward the effort," Hetrick says. "We're trying to balance the cost of getting the dirt, the pipe and all those different things. And the majority of it is given to the association for the association purpose. That's really the underlying factor — there's nobody

**"The builders are really the big story in terms of they're making it happen."**

TOM MARZOLF

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that is going to get any marketing leverage from participating. It's all being done for the GCBA by the GCBA.

The architects originally intended to replicate a U.S. Open green from Pinehurst or Oakmont Country Club. Per the builders' advice, they scrapped the idea in favor of a unique design that suits the educational initiative.

"We're going to have three quadrants that will be at different pitches, different grids, to show easy pins, moderate pins, and pins that are borderline pins in terms of their slope or pitch," Marzolf says. "So it is not a replica green anymore. We would have been limited in how we could use the green for teaching."

Using the same rationale, at least two or three varieties of turf will be utilized — bentgrass, bermudagrass and paspalum grass. The sod will surround two bunkers and cover about 250 to 300 cubic yards of fill material that stacks between 3 and 4 feet high.

As for the weeklong timetable, materials are to be delivered Monday. Architects and builders will spend Tuesday and Wednesday rough-shaping the floor of the green. "The core of the green itself is USGA — which is drainage, 4 inches of rock layer and 12 inches of mix," Harstine says.

On Thursday, with the floor open to attendees for the first time, the builders will begin laying irrigation pipe. "The goal is to finish construction of the green by Friday morning, and Friday afternoon we're sodding the green," Marzolf says. "And by the end of the day Friday we're ready to turn it over to the superintendents association."

"The superintendents at some point in the program will take over the green and topdress it, roll it and groom it," Harstine adds.

Will the putting surface be good enough to stage a "Ryder Cup"-like putting contest, as Harstine puts it?

"I don't know," answers Hetrick. "We're going to try to get it to that stage, but if it's ridiculous, no, we're not going to have a contest. But if we can get it to where we can roll the sod out and it will stay pretty much stationary and maybe lightly sand it with something to where it has a pretty good roll to it, yeah, we'd probably have one."

Attendees won't be able to miss the indoor green. The project covers 12,000 square feet in the center of the trade-show floor, with every aisle funneling toward it. "We are thrilled that the building of the green has been placed in such a prominent location," Ritterbusch says.

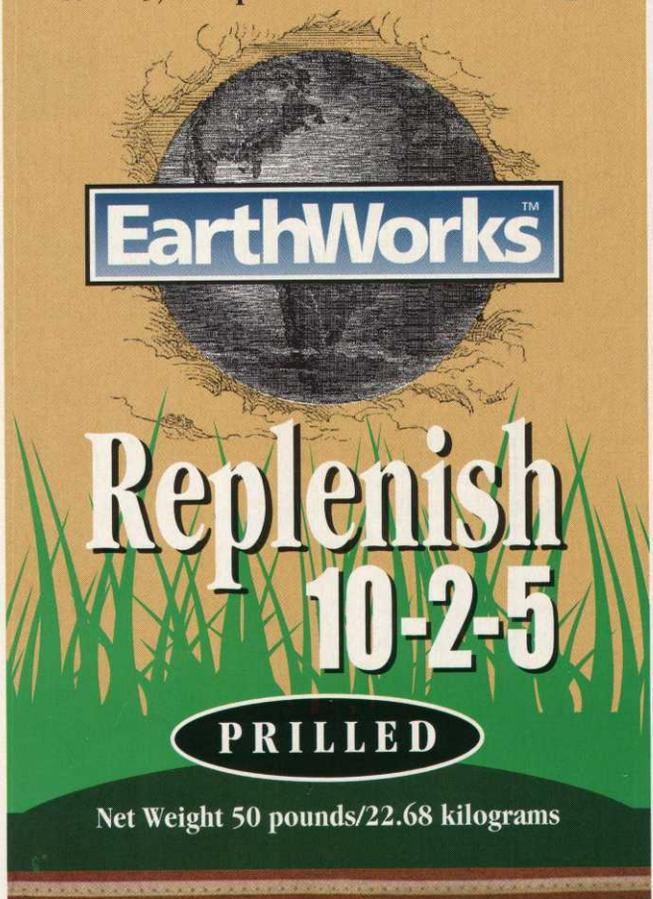
Each association will have respective "experts" present at all times in booths to provide commentary and field questions. "We'll be constructing the green right in front of everybody," Hetrick says. "There'll be discussions on cost for building a green, which ownership would be very interested in hearing."

"People can either walk up or schedule a time," Ritterbusch says. "A superintendent or an owner or both might sit down with a golf course architect and perhaps talk about the master planning process and how that takes place." ■

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**T**he theme for this issue of *Golfdom* is “controlling spring pests.” Most of these pests you can find on your course, although you won’t necessarily find them in any

entomology book. There have been some seminars dedicated to control measures for these pests, but their life cycles are not completely understood and therefore do not allow for control in the juvenile stages. The amount of damage the adults will do to a golf course often depends on where they spent their larval stages. Here they are:

■ **Ten-toed Divot Whacker:** This pest will buzz the turf several times without making contact. However, this member of the bi-pedal class can just as often displace large amounts of turf without ever actually striking its intended target, a small white ball. The thoracic appendages of this pest are ideally suited for grasping and swinging rod-like objects like a golf club. Yet, oddly enough, they seem ill-suited for handling a sand bottle or sand scoop. Consequently this pest may leave large, jagged holes in the turf, which can provide nesting sites for the Bug-eyed Huff and Puff (see last item).

■ **Knuckle-headed Path Dodger:** Preferring soft, wet soil and turf, this pest will avoid concrete and asphalt at all costs to find its favorite rutting areas. When these wet areas are not available, this pest will search for thin brown worn-out turf areas to travel. During dry periods, when wet areas are scarce, these creatures will still find a way to sneak off well-defined travel routes and dig bare spots and pot holes especially around greens and tees. Sometimes Bug-eyed Huff and Puffs will viciously attack Path Dodgers out in the open or lay in ambush near the clubhouse.

■ **Five-Hour Round Slug:** Named for the length of time it takes to make its way around a golf course, this slow-moving pest is a target for many predators. Often defenseless but mainly clueless, this pest can disrupt the normal diurnal cycle of many of the inhabitants on the golf course, including the maintenance crew, which must wait for the slug to pass since it is a protected species. The USGA has spent lots of research dollars

## Please Pass the Bug Spray

BY JOEL JACKSON



IT APPEARS  
THAT THESE  
SLOW-MOVING  
PESTS HAVE  
EVOLVED FROM  
A STRAIN  
OF SUPER SLUGS

to try to eradicate this pest on public golf courses. However, after viewing professional golf tournaments in person and on television, it appears that these slow-moving pests have evolved from a strain of super slugs. The Bug-eyed Huff and Puff feeds on slugs.

■ **Sand Dabbler:** Attracted to sandy areas to burrow and forage, golf course bunkers are a favorite habitat of these creatures. You don’t often see them in action, but they can be identified by the variety of tracks and markings in the sand. Most organisms use camouflage or other behaviors to try and avoid being attacked or preyed upon. The Sand Dabbler has no such worry and takes no pains to hide his comings and goings. This behavior often stimulates and irritates the Bug-eyed Huff and Puff, who also inhabits these areas.

■ **Bug-eyed Huff and Puffs:** Probably the most prolific and damaging of all golf course pests. Easily angered and quite aggressive, this pest can attack without warning. While it often displays a noisy buzzing sound, it can also work silently to weaken the turfgrass. This pest can mimic the damage of all the other pests listed above. Often this pest does its worst damage when the superintendent is away from the golf course.

Recommended control strategies for these pests include communications and education, but their thick exoskeletons are hard to penetrate. Repeat applications of these measures will be necessary at regular intervals. Do not be surprised if you only get limited results. In some cases peer pressure from the colony can be effective when applied by a dominant organism.

---

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

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# Weathered the Storms

Led by its unflappable superintendent, Steve Money,  
The Country Club of Orlando rode out a string of hurricanes –  
and became a better golf course in the process

BY LARRY AYLWARD, EDITOR IN CHIEF

**S**teve Money says 2004 will go down as the most fulfilling year of his young career as a superintendent. Clearly, 2004 will go down as the most defying year of his professional life. Money dealt with more pressure than an air-traffic controller working a 12-hour shift the day before Thanksgiving.

Consider that the 32-year-old Money sold his house and relocated with his pregnant wife from Boca Raton, Fla., to Orlando, Fla., where he took the job as superintendent at the Country Club of Orlando last spring.

Consider that Money's first day on the job in mid-April at the club was the member-guest tournament, an always-stressful event for any superintendent.

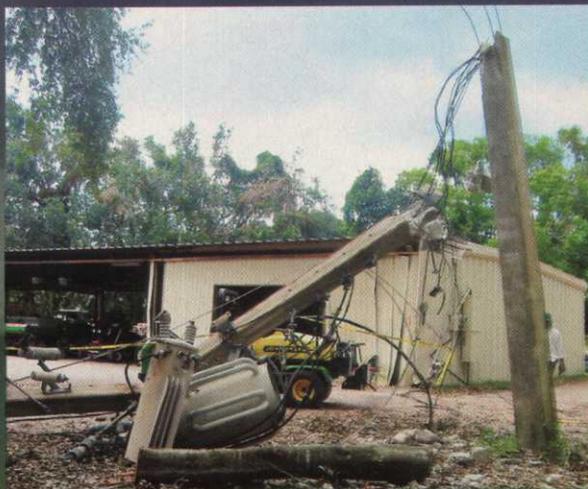
Consider that the course closed after the tournament so Money could help lead the track's \$2 million renovation.

And then there were the challenges inflicted by Mother Nature. Consider that Money had to endure the impact of not one, not two, not three, but four hurricanes in six weeks that left 40 inches of rain and nearly 400 downed trees on the course, not to mention other collateral damage.

Other superintendents would be frazzled after such a year. But the unassuming Money just shrugs his shoulders and chalks up the happenings to the lessons learned in the large class of Life 101.

When he was the superintendent at St. Andrews Country Club of Boca Raton, where the membership was demanding and the irrigation system was antiquated, Money says he thought he experienced a lot in terms of challenges.

"But this summer takes the cake," he says.



COUNTRY CLUB OF ORLANDO

"You say there's nothing that's ever going to surprise you, and then you get a summer like this."

The clean-cut Money is not complaining, though. While his modesty may prevent him from admitting it, Money is proud he was able to endure the fury hurled at him by a most-wicked Mother Nature.

"It will be very rewarding when I look back on my first year here," Money says, his piercing blue eyes staring off.

Jim Ellison, vice president of agronomy and golf course maintenance for Orlando-based Arnold Palmer Golf and a consultant at the Country Club of Orlando, says Money remained as calm and collective during the hurricanes as Peyton Manning under a heavy pass rush by a hoard of 300-pound lineman.

"You never saw his temperament change," says Ellison, who has consulted at the course for two years. "He never panicked. He was on cruise control."

**It's a gorgeous** fall day in Orlando, and Money zooms around the course in his utility vehicle. He points to two massive mulch piles under trees on the side of a fairway.

"Those are remnants from the trees that were knocked down," he says.

It's been about six weeks since the last hurricane and the course looks a tad ragged. That said, the course is in tremendous condition considering what it has been through.

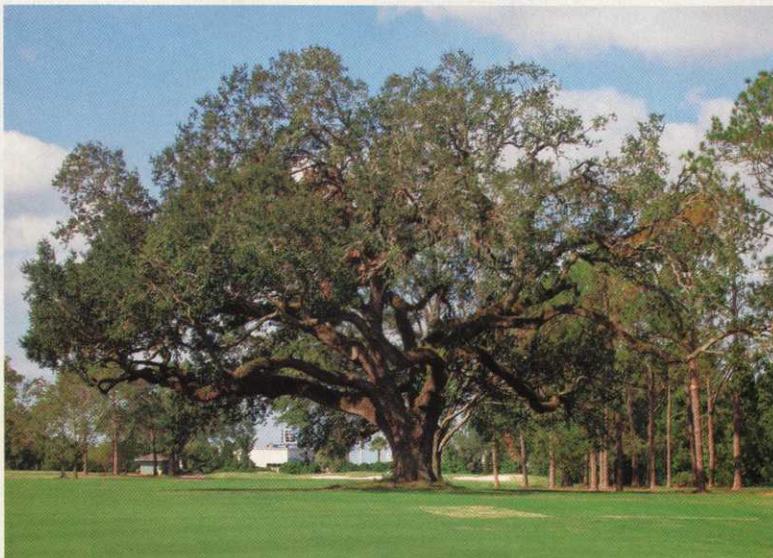
The hurricanes won't be forgotten anytime soon. They can't be. All one has to do is look upward at some of the palm, pine and oak trees on the course. Their stout branches were

*Continued on page 30*

**A downed transformer near the maintenance facility and trees snapped in half were a few of the things Steve Money and his crew had to deal with during the hurricanes of 2004.**

## Weathered the Storms

COUNTRY CLUB OF ORLANDO



LARRY AYLRARD

**(Above) A few massive trees were uprooted during the hurricanes. (Below) Fortunately, some landmark trees on the course survived the four storms.**

*Continued from page 29*

snapped like brittle twigs in the storms' fierce winds and now jut out from the trees' trunks as stubs with jagged edges.

Money jumps out of his utility vehicle and points to an expansive area on the No. 16 fairway that was washed out and transformed into a raging river caused by flooding during Hurricane Frances, the second hurricane and the most drenching of the four storms. The area is repaired now — it took about 50 trucks with 30 yards of fill each to restore it — and it's difficult to tell there was a washout.

"The water was 8 to 10 feet at its deepest point," Money says.

Orlando hadn't been hit by a hurricane in 44 years. But in six weeks — from mid-August until the end of September — the city

and the rest of Florida had enough hurricanes to last it more than 100 years.

The fast and furious Hurricane Charley, which hit in mid-August, left most of the damage as far as leveling trees, homes and buildings. Hurricane Frances, the second hurricane, was the longest-lasting storm, taking 30 hours to pass through Orlando and besieging the city with 12 inches of rain.

Hurricane Ivan was third but didn't cause much havoc in the area. (After moving out to sea, however, it later returned over the Orlando area as a tropical storm and dumped several inches of rain). But Hurricane Jeanne struck about a week after Ivan and followed nearly the same path through central Florida as Charley, dumping 10 more inches of rain.

The Country Club of Orlando was without power for 11 days after Charley roared through. The storm left trees bent and fallen throughout the city. Many homeowners couldn't get out of their driveways.

"That storm was loaded with tornadoes; it had to be," says Glen Davis, the club's past president and a member of the green committee.

Frances left the club without power for eight days. Thankfully, the power was out only 1.5 days after Jeanne struck.

Orlando was an eerie sight after Charley. The sound of humming electricity-producing generators could be heard throughout the city the morning after the storm. "It was like a ghost town," Ellison says.

The Country Club of Orlando is surrounded by neighborhoods, and the people who worked at the club were more concerned

*Continued on page 32*