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# John Hadwick

## Superintendent *of the* Jackrabbit Run Golf Club

**J**ohn Hadwick is the son of a son of a superintendent. The certified superintendent's late father, Joe, was superintendent of the Country Club of Lincoln from 1952 through 1983. His grandfather, Charlie, was superintendent of Jefferson City (Mo.) Country Club from 1912 to 1962. Hadwick's siblings are also involved in the business, as is his son, Shane, who works at Riverside Golf Course in Portland, Ore.

John 55, has spent more than 28 years at Jackrabbit Run Golf Course, formerly Grand Island Municipal Golf Course, in Grand Island, Neb. It can be assumed that golf course maintenance is in the Hadwick family genes.

**Golfdom:** What do you like most about your job?

For one, every day is different. I like working outdoors. There's also more than one solution to get the results you desire. I also like the people around me in the industry, including golfers.

**Golfdom:** How have you learned to deal with the pressures of your job?

Networking has always been a great way for me to deal with job pressures. I also get great support from my wife of 35 years. Family members in the industry are also been a tremendous asset.

**Golfdom:** In 50 words or less, describe a good day at work.

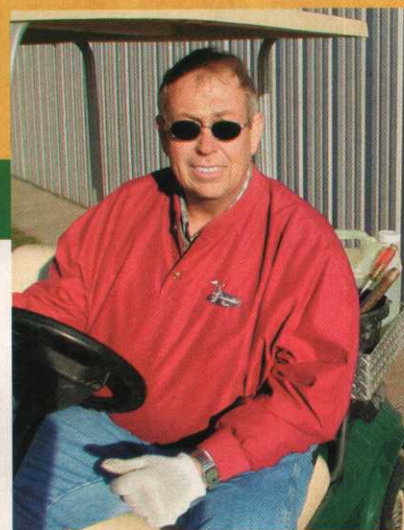
A good day is a normal day. It usually starts by 5 a.m. I do course checks prior to the crew arriving and spend time with my assistant to plan the day. Early mornings are spent assisting the crew with skilled tasks. Mid-days are spent doing administrative tasks. Late afternoons and evenings are spent doing chemical or fertilizer applications, and irrigation programming and checks.

**Golfdom:** What is the most important issue facing superintendents today?

Keeping golf an affordable recreation.

**Golfdom:** Finish this sentence: "The best thing that could happen to the golf course maintenance industry would be ..."

... better-educated golfers in regards to expectations in relation to the price they pay to play.



**Golfdom:** What's the best advice anybody ever gave you?

I don't think I've ever had any cases of best advice. Virtually all the advice I've received in the industry has been good.

**Golfdom:** What's the best advice you ever gave someone?

It's an old adage about not becoming complacent: "If you're not moving forward, you're moving backward."

**Golfdom:** Who are the three most influential people or groups in the golf course maintenance industry and why?

Steve Mona, CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, because of his national exposure. Bill Bieck, president of the Nebraska Golf Course Superintendents Association, because of his influence on our state level. And family members in the industry because of their influence on me.

**Golfdom:** If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?

Tom Osborne, the former University of Nebraska football coach and current Nebraska congressman. He's a stand-up guy.

**Golfdom:** What is your favorite movie(s)?

All of the old Clint Eastwood movies.

**Golfdom:** What do you eat for breakfast?

Eggs — when I eat breakfast. ■

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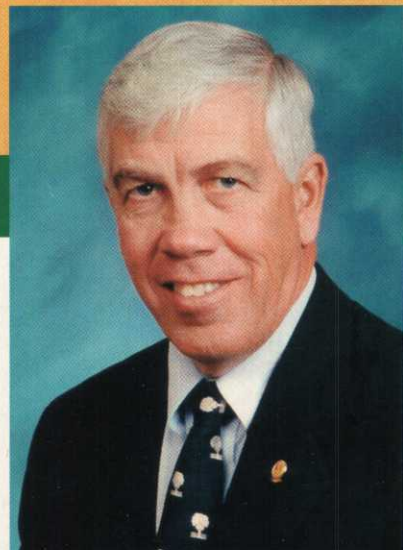
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# Ed Fischer

## Superintendent *of the* Old Elm Club



**G**olf course maintenance is more than a job to Ed Fischer. It's a living, breathing livelihood that enriches his days. So it's no wonder that the 59-year-old Fischer has been a superintendent for 36 years and counting. The certified superintendent of the Old Elm Club in Highland Park, Ill., for more than 24 years says of his profession, "It has the greatest group of people for which anyone could hope to be associated."

**Golfdom: What do you like most about your job?**

I like being outside and working with nature. The members I work for at Old Elm are the greatest, and they enjoy the golf course that my crew and I provide them. But what I like most about my job are my fellow superintendents.

**Golfdom: How have you learned to deal with the pressures of your job?**

When I was younger I didn't do a good job of handling the pressures of the job. Over the years I have learned that whatever happens today, there is always tomorrow. I step back, take a deep breath and think things out. If things get really bad, I spend a couple hours on my Harley and I'm a new man.

**Golfdom: In 50 words or less, describe a good day at work.**

Sunrise on a Donald Ross gem, and watching my crew members do their thing to get the course ready for the day's activities. Playing golf with three fellow superintendents and enjoying their good company. Watching the sun set on another great day.

**Golfdom: What is the most important issue facing superintendents today?**

The environment.

**Golfdom: Finish this sentence: "The best thing that could happen to the golf course maintenance industry would be ..."**

... for environmentalists to understand that superintendents aren't the bad guys. We love the environment, and we want to protect it as much if not more than they do.

**Golfdom: What's the best advice anybody ever gave you?**

Be yourself, don't forget your friends, use your ideas, and help and support your friends when you are able.

**Golfdom: What's the best advice you ever gave someone?**

If you have a problem, take a step back, think about it and use your common sense to solve it. And don't be afraid to ask your colleagues for help.

**Golfdom: Who are the three most influential people or groups in the golf course maintenance industry and why?**

The United States Golf Association and the PGA Tour are one. The tournaments we see on television every week show a golf course that a superintendent has worked very hard to peak for that week's event. Our owners or members see those events and expect those same conditions every day of every week.

Our local university researchers. We all want the best solutions for the problems we encounter on a daily basis, and they work hard to give us those answers.

We the people who mentor young assistants or interns are another influential group. The future is in our hands. The experience that we give to our assistants and interns is invaluable.

**Golfdom: If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?**

Arnold Palmer, who's my hero. There isn't another person who means more to golf. His father was superintendent, and his brother is a superintendent. He's a man of class and sincerity.

**Golfdom: What is your favorite movie?**

Any movie starring John Wayne.

**Golfdom: What do you eat for breakfast?**

Orange juice and a banana. ■

"The future is in our hands.  
The experience that we give to  
our assistants and interns is invaluable."





# Roger Kisch

## Superintendent *of the* Southview Country Club

**R**oger Kisch recently celebrated his 39th anniversary as superintendent of Southview Country Club in West St. Paul, Minn. So we know Kisch is at least 39 years old, but he won't let on how old he really is. "I do not give out that information," he says.

Kisch is also an inventive superintendent. He likes to tinker and gadget around and fix things. "I'm always looking for a better way to do things," he says.

Recently, Kisch helped invent a quirky-looking mowing system that combines three 21-inch rotary mowers. National Mower, a St. Paul-based mower company, is manufacturing Kisch's invention, called the I-Gang 3 rotary mowing system.

**Golfdom:** What do you like most about your job?

Creating an awesome golf course.

**Golfdom:** How have you learned to deal with the pressures of your job?

I'm fortunate to be married to the horticulturist of the club. Kathy and I work together every day and she helps me deal with the day-to-day pressures.

**Golfdom:** In 50 words or less, describe a good day at work.

A beautiful day in June, the water system worked the night before, my crew shows up on time, and the greens are just the way I want them.

**Golfdom:** What is the most important issue facing superintendents today?

More and more regulations.

**Golfdom:** Finish this sentence: "The best thing that could happen to the golf course maintenance industry would be ..."

... someone creates a method to eradicate *Poa annua*.

**Golfdom:** What's the best advice anybody ever gave you?

Family first, and then the job.

**Golfdom:** What's the best advice you ever gave someone?

It only takes one "oh, no" to erase all them "attaboys."

**Golfdom:** Who are the three most influential people or groups in the golf course maintenance industry and why?

Joe Vargas of Michigan State University. He's a good teacher. Jack Butler, my first instructor at the University of Illinois, got me started in the turf world. Last but not least, my fellow superintendents who help me with day-to-day advice.

**Golfdom:** If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?

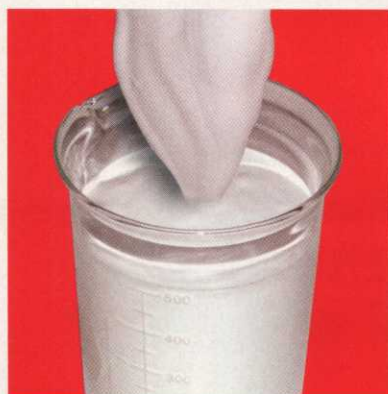
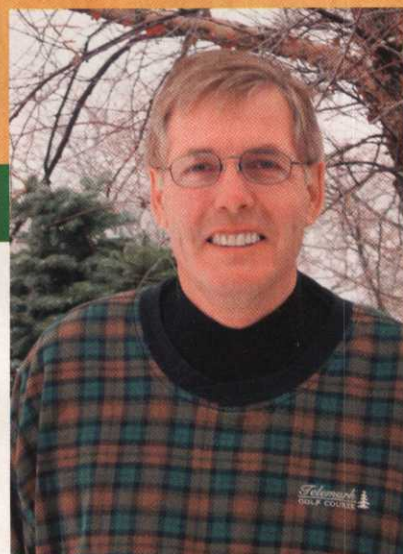
My wife Kathy.

**Golfdom:** What is your favorite movie?

*Witness*.

**Golfdom:** What do you eat for breakfast?

Special K with berries. ■



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The turf problems that appear in summer such as anthracnose are usually preventable in the spring. According to several superintendents, April is the month to determine a proper course of action.

# Pest Control Turns at April Crossroads

Superintendents will find out soon enough what to expect from weeds, disease and insects in 2005

By Thomas Skernivitz  
Managing Editor

**S**HAKESPEARE wrote about the “uncertain glory of an April day.” Unfortunately for superintendents, there are 30 of those unpredictable days, which creates a lot more indecision than glory when it comes to picking the best spring pesticide strategies.

With winter at its midway point, superintendents are waiting and wondering how to guarantee a summer free of weeds, disease and insects. Unfortunately, that anticipation often lasts through a telltale April.

“That month of April is real critical — whether it’s going to be wet or a little bit on the dry side,” Jeff Corcoran says from Rochester, N.Y., where he is the superintendent of Oak Hill Country Club.

From the other side of the nation, Sandy Clark concurs. “I know we start looking at soil tem-

peratures in about April for some of the summer problems,” the certified superintendent of Barona Creek Golf Club in Lakeside, Calif., says.

Hot or cold? Wet or dry? With little more direction than a short-range weather forecast — April Fool’s jokes can be just as reliable — who’s to know?

“I’ll always assume for the worst weather,” says James Bade, the superintendent at Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, Minn.

By necessity, others are a little more trustworthy. “We just make sure we’re really on top of what the weather is going to do,” Corcoran says. “We see what the forecast looks like for the next seven to 14 days.”

Warm temperatures and dry weather usually discourage pests and lessen the need for preventive measures months in advance. But

*Continued on page 60*



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### **“Dollar spot has become the beast to control, particularly on bentgrass.”**

STEVE MERKEL

**Brown patch is more severe when turf is cut too low.**



*Continued from page 58*

precipitation and cold promote pests, meaning any delay to take a curative stance could, by summer, be too little too late.

“In the springtime we’re pretty much more on a curative basis,” Corcoran says. “If it’s wet and cool and nasty and I know that anthracnose can be around the corner, and if we’re aerifying at that particular time, then I might do something more on a preventive basis. But for the most part, it is curative.”

#### **‘Beastly’ turf diseases**

Several superintendents cite anthracnose as a primary concern. Other diseases mentioned are fusarium patch, pink snow mold, dollar spot and gray leaf spot.

“If you’re trying to prevent something like anthracnose or the leaf spot diseases, you better do some preventive things up front,” Clark says, “because once anthracnose takes hold, curative (measures are) very, very difficult.”

Bade uses a preventive approach with anthracnose — he’s enjoyed success with Heritage and plans on also using Insignia this spring — but he takes a less aggressive philosophy against leaf spot and other conditions.

“I don’t worry about disease as much as maybe some other guys in the spring,” he says. “We can get leaf spot pretty bad, but usually I’ll ride it out. Pink snow mold can be a problem; that’s a little more serious. We get it in the spring if it’s wet and cloudy. But if it’s going to be sunny and dry, I’ll just let that one ride, too.”



**Insects such as billbugs (above) often warrant curative treatment methods, although in the case of Japanese beetles, it’s best to deploy a preventive strategy.**

Gray leaf spot, according to Clark, is now on the radar screen in Southern California.

“It seems to have grown a little bit each year. One of our very highly rated private clubs out here has seen it in the summer in kikuyugrass. We know we’ve seen it in the fall and spring in perennial ryegrass. So, obviously, that’s a concern,” Clark says. “And that could become an issue from a cost standpoint because of the amount of ryegrass overseeding we do out here. There may be some courses that start deciding not to overseed because once you start treating 50 or 60 acres, that’s a healthy expense.”

Steve Merkel, the manager of golf course agronomy at Landscapes Golf Group in Lincoln, Neb., called dollar spot the “beast of turf disease.”

“We’re seeing that stuff active earlier in the year in cooler temperatures and also later in the year in cooler temperatures,” he says. “Dollar spot has become the beast to control, particularly on bentgrass, specifically in the western half of the Midwest and mid-Atlantic.”

As for his favorite pesticides, Merkel says: “I really like the way the new pesticides have gone lately with the ultra-low usage rates and the longer residual, particularly for fungicides. But if I had a dream product right now, it would be a fungicide that lasted longer and cost less. That would be a real Santa Claus wish for me.”

#### **Weeds (and Poa) not wanted**

Crabgrass remains a common problem — one with varied treatment philosophies.

*Continued on page 62*