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# Golfdom

JUNE 2006 • VOLUME 62 • NO. 6

At 33, Eric Greytok prepares to host his second U.S. Open, this time at storied — and sometimes unforgiving — Winged Foot Golf Club.

BY THOMAS SKERNIVITZ

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### About the cover

Connecticut-based photographer George Ruhe took this portrait of Eric Greytok.

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### Water Tight

Colorado golf courses face complex rules and regulations dating back many years when it comes to irrigation privileges.

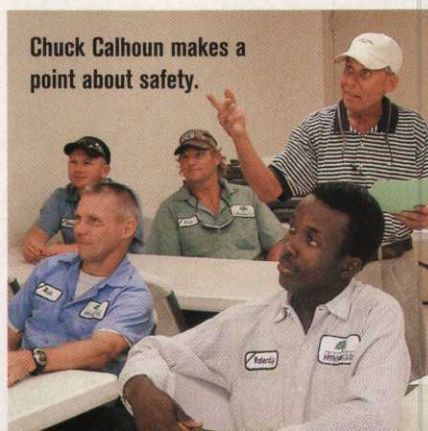
By Anthony Pioppi

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### Safekeeping

Florida superintendent Chuck Calhoun has implemented a strict program to keep his employees out of the danger zone.

By Larry Aylward



Chuck Calhoun makes a point about safety.

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### Online Exclusive



Read this story only at  
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onlineexclusive](http://www.golfdom.com/onlineexclusive):

- A Cup of Tips: Superintendents Erick Holm and James Bade offer suggestions on how to cut a mean cup.



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## EDITORIAL STAFF

**Larry Aylward** EDITOR IN CHIEF 216-706-3737 [laylward@questex.com](mailto:laylward@questex.com)  
**Thomas Skernivitz** MANAGING EDITOR 216-706-3758 [tskernivitz@questex.com](mailto:tskernivitz@questex.com)  
**Geoff Shackelford** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877 [geoffshackelford@aol.com](mailto:geoffshackelford@aol.com)  
**Joel Jackson** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971 [tlgm@aol.com](mailto:tlgm@aol.com)  
**Anthony Pioppi** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 860-344-8895 [apioppi@earthlink.net](mailto:apioppi@earthlink.net)  
**Mark Luce** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044 [mluce@earthlink.net](mailto:mluce@earthlink.net)  
**Jim Black** CONTRIBUTING EDITOR [greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com](mailto:greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com)  
**Karl Danneberger** SCIENCE EDITOR [danneberger.1@osu.edu](mailto:danneberger.1@osu.edu)  
**Lisa Lehman** CORP. CREATIVE DIRECTOR 216-706-3732 [llehman@questex.com](mailto:llehman@questex.com)  
**Carrie Parkhill** ART DIRECTOR 216-706-3780 [cparkhill@questex.com](mailto:cparkhill@questex.com)  
**Mike Klemme** PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284 [mike@golffoto.com](mailto:mike@golffoto.com)  
**Lynne Brakeman** WEB EDITOR 216-706-3753 [lbrakeman@questex.com](mailto:lbrakeman@questex.com)

## CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

600 SUPERIOR AVENUE, EAST  
SUITE 1100  
CLEVELAND, OH 44114

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF



American Society of Irrigation Consultants P.O. BOX 426  
ROCHESTER, MA 02770; 508-763-8140; WWW.ASIC.ORG

## GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

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American Society of Golf Course Architects 125 N. EXECUTIVE DR.,  
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## BUSINESS STAFF

**Patrick Roberts** PUBLISHER 216-706-3736 [proberts@questex.com](mailto:proberts@questex.com)  
**Jen Oaklief** ADMIN. COORDINATOR 216-706-3751 [joaklief@questex.com](mailto:joaklief@questex.com)  
**Natalie Lepien** PRODUCTION MANAGER 218-279-8836 [nlepie@questex.com](mailto:nlepie@questex.com)  
**Rhonda Sande** PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 218-279-8821 [rsande@questex.com](mailto:rsande@questex.com)  
**Jessica Borgren** CIRCULATION MANAGER 218-279-8858 [jborgren@questex.com](mailto:jborgren@questex.com)

## ADVERTISING STAFF

**CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS**  
 600 SUPERIOR AVENUE, EAST, SUITE 1100  
 CLEVELAND, OH 44114  
**Kevin Stoltman** ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER [kstoltman@questex.com](mailto:kstoltman@questex.com)  
 216-706-3740 FAX: 216-706-3712  
**George Casey** NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER [gcasey@questex.com](mailto:gcasey@questex.com)  
 216-706-3752 FAX: 216-706-3712  
**Michael Harris** REGIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER [mharris@questex.com](mailto:mharris@questex.com)  
 216-706-3755 FAX: 216-706-3712  
**Leslie Montgomery** ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE [lmontgomery@questex.com](mailto:lmontgomery@questex.com)  
 216-706-3756 FAX: 216-706-3712  
**Brian Olesinski** ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE, CLASSIFIED [bolesinski@questex.com](mailto:bolesinski@questex.com)  
 216-706-3757 FAX: 216-706-3712

## MARKETING SERVICES

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**P**lace yourself in an illegal immigrant's tattered shoes for awhile. Take a walk in them and imagine that you're living and working in this country. How does it feel?

I bet you're scared. I bet you're lonely, too. And I bet you're wondering where your life will lead you.

Truth is, you can't put yourself in an illegal immigrant's shoes. As much as you would like to empathize with him, you have no idea what he's going through.

If you employ Mexicans and Hispanics on your maintenance crew, you've probably been watching the immigration debate with a keen interest. There are roughly 12 million illegal immigrants, about half of them Mexicans, believed to be living and working in the United States. No doubt some of them are working on golf course maintenance crews. I wonder how many superintendents realize they're employing illegal immigrants?

If they don't know, they had better find out. The GOP-led House of Representatives has already passed a bill that would not only make it a felony to be an illegal immigrant, but make it a felony to offer aid to an illegal immigrant. Pretty harsh, huh?

Consider this bill for a moment, though, and imagine that it's the law. Would you turn in a hard-working Mexican, who also happened to be an illegal immigrant, to save your own behind?

This bill puts the onus on employers to come clean — or else. Must our government leaders resort to such a threatening means?

There's no doubt our country is in need of immigration reform. Improvements must be made to better detect who's coming into the country and why. But our lawmakers must remember this is also a human-rights issue, not just a numbers issue. Illegal immigrants may not wear silk ties, but many of them bear purposeful souls.

Most of these illegal immigrants come to America to escape poverty and are in search for better lives. When I say better, I don't mean riches. These people immigrate to the United

## Walking With Illegal Immigrants

BY LARRY AYLWARD



WOULD YOU  
TURN IN A  
HARD-WORKING  
MEXICAN, WHO  
ALSO HAPPENED  
TO BE AN ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRANT, TO  
SAVE YOUR OWN  
BEHIND?

States to make a meager \$8 an hour. But that's a much more livable wage than the \$2 an hour they would make in their home countries.

In the last several years, many golf course superintendents have hired immigrants, mostly from Mexico and other Hispanic countries, to work on their maintenance crews. Many superintendents work through the nation's H-2B visa program to secure documented seasonal workers.

I've never met a superintendent who didn't rave about Mexican and Hispanic employees' work ethics. I've also heard many superintendents say they are thankful for Mexican and Hispanic workers because they're willing to do jobs that many Americans aren't — like get up at 5 a.m. on Saturday and go rake bunkers and whack weeds for several hours.

The golf course maintenance industry owes these people its support. This is no time for the industry to turn its back on them.

Again, the nation needs to do something to get a handle on illegal immigration. We need to improve security at our borders as a safety precaution from terrorism. But let's not criminalize all of the the illegal immigrants who came here to escape poverty in the process. Let's give them a chance at legalization while they're here. They came here out of hope. Let's not take that away from them.

So don't support the insensitive bill passed by the House. Please support a mandate that is more compassionate. Let's let the illegal immigrants know that we understand their plight and want to assist them.

We may not be able to walk a mile in their shoes, but we can sure walk with them.

Contact Larry Aylward, editor in chief of *Golfdom*, at 216-706-3737 or [l aylward@questex.com](mailto:l aylward@questex.com).



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# The Big Picture

THE NUMBERS THAT SHAPE YOUR BUSINESS

## TIDBIT OF THE MONTH

### Boomer Sooner

The state of Oklahoma is seeing a surge in golf development. In Broken Arrow, an "eco-friendly" course designed by Jerry Slack is part of the 800-acre Emerald Falls project. In Kingston, the state recently signed an agreement for a major redevelopment involving the Lake Texoma State Park and Chickasaw Pointe. The Chickasaw Point Resort could cost \$350 million at full buildout. For details on this and other golf projects around the United States, visit [www.golfconstructionnews.com](http://www.golfconstructionnews.com).

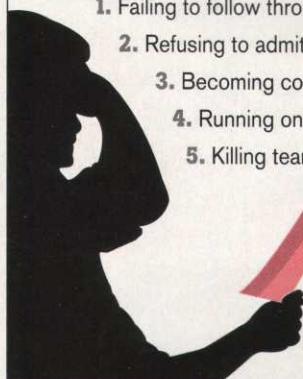
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## All the Wrong Moves

Are you looking to hamper your career? Here are five things you can do to get yourself in a fix with your boss. If you want to get fired, make sure you do them.

1. Failing to follow through.
2. Refusing to admit your mistakes
3. Becoming complacent
4. Running on empty
5. Killing team spirit



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## Golf Rounds Played

The percentages below represent the difference in number of rounds played in March 2006 compared to the number of rounds played in March 2005.

REGION	MARCH	Y.T.D.
<b>New England</b> ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT	242.4%	248.2%
<b>Middle Atlantic</b> NY, PA, NJ	51.9%	56.7%
<b>East North Central</b> MI, OH, IN, IL, WI	12.6%	19.6%
<b>West North Central</b> ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO	-15.3%	-3.0%
<b>South Atlantic</b> WV, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA	14.0%	7.0%
<b>Florida</b>	9.2%	3.5%
<b>East South Central</b> KY, TN, AL, MS	5.3%	3.3%
<b>West South Central</b> OK, AR, LA	4.5%	13.0%
<b>Texas</b>	8.1%	15.2%
<b>Mountain</b> MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM	-8.2%	4.4%
<b>Pacific</b> WA, OR, AK, HI	-11.2%	3.1%
<b>California</b>	-11.0%	8.9%
<b>TOTAL UNITED STATES</b>	4.7%	7.8%

GOLF DATATECH

Not that a pythium outbreak is anything to laugh about. That said, are you laughing enough? Craig Zabolcki, a motivational humorist, says research shows that laughter stimulates every organ in the body, reduces pain, and releases muscle tension.

## Ha, Ha, Ha!

So make sure your LPD (Laughs Per Day) is going up, not down.

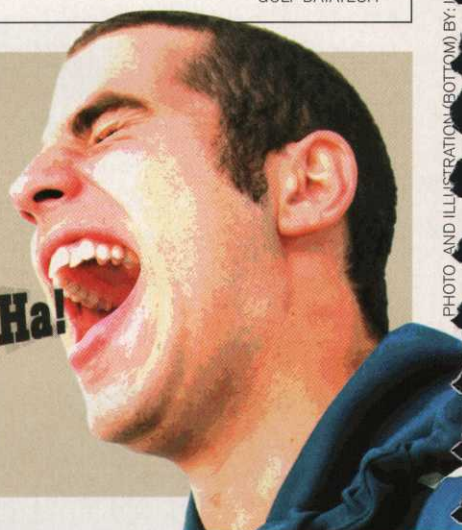


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Don Smith, President; Ted Smith, Founder;  
Bill Kenney, VP Sales and Marketing;  
Scott Taylor, Chief Engineer*



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# Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

## Business briefs

### **PACE touts use of GPS, GIS**

Global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) can and should be used in conjunction with sensors that monitor soil moisture and turf quality, Dr. Larry Stowell said in San Diego at the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute's 10th annual Turfgrass Research Seminar held in April.

Used together, those precision tools move turf management programs beyond IPM and beyond best management practices, according to Stowell, a PACE research director. They have proved effective in helping resolve problems that include irrigation distribution, soil moisture variability and white grub infestations, he told 145 turf managers.

A camera is an often forgotten but invaluable precision tool for documenting problems, techniques and progress toward turf management goals, Stowell said. In addition, the rise of digital photography makes it possible for turf managers to communicate easily with one another via photographic images.

### **Rain Bird's McWhirter retires**

Rod McWhirter, Rain Bird Golf's national specification manager, retired April 30 after nearly 33 years with the company. McWhirter joined Rain Bird in 1973 as a golf course irrigation specialist. He helped develop the company's golf irrigation division into one of the world's top manufacturers of products and systems.

### **Stack, Bell Labs founder, dies**

Malcolm G. Stack, 70, the founder of Bell Laboratories, died April 16 following a brief battle with cancer. Born May 9, 1935, in Manchester, England, Stack began Bell in 1974 and grew the business, which employs more than 300 people, into a leader in the pest control industry.

## Region Crawling With Six-Legged Creatures

### INSECTS THE TALK AT COASTAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

By Tom Skernivitz, Managing Editor

**T**hese are rich times for self-proclaimed bug lover Rick Brandenburg. The professor of entomology from North Carolina State University is surrounded by six-legged critters in his region. "This is bug heaven," he said of the coastal Carolinas and south Georgia.

Better yet, insects are more prevalent than ever because of pesticides that during the last dozen years have become increasingly kinder to the environment, Brandenburg said. While fish, birds, people and pets are safer today, so are many bugs.

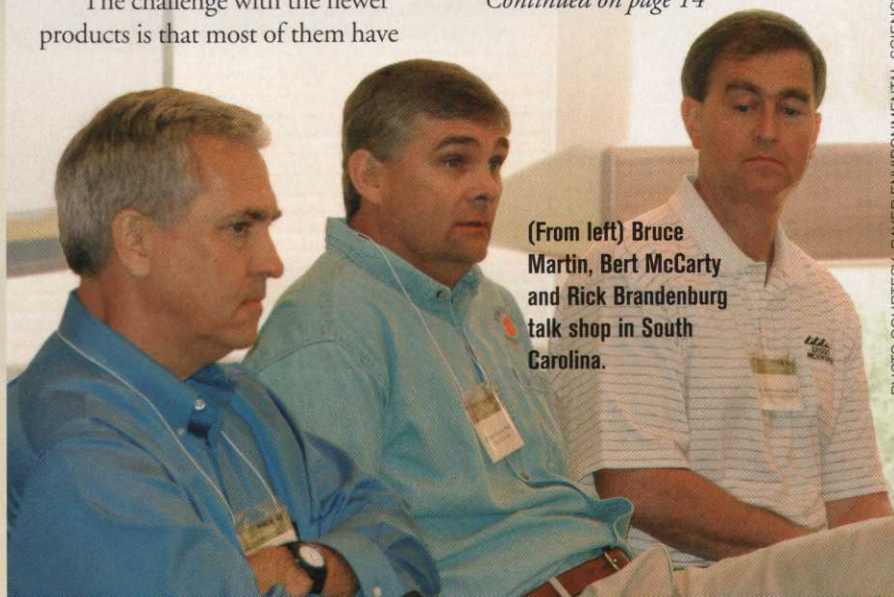
"The challenge with the newer products is that most of them have

gotten a little more restrictive in the spectrum they cover," Brandenburg said at the Coastal Research Seminar, sponsored by Bayer Environmental Science and hosted by the Country Club of Charleston (S.C.) in April. "So we have grub insecticides and mole cricket insecticides and not just insecticides. They changed a little bit. And we have to be much more accurate with the timing for them to work well. But if we do all that, these new products that we have today are absolutely excellent."

So, what's bugging superintendents most these days?

■ **Earthworms:** Brandenburg's telephone has been ringing constantly the last decade because of earthworms that have invaded putting greens, tees, home lawns and athletic fields. "We

*Continued on page 14*



(From left) Bruce Martin, Bert McCarty and Rick Brandenburg talk shop in South Carolina.

PHOTO COURTESY: BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE