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# Golfdom

OCTOBER 2006 • VOLUME 62 • NO. 10



# 24

CourseCo's Ray Davies walks the talk when it comes to golf and the environment.

BY LARRY AYLWARD

## About the cover

Photographer Tracey Prever captured a bright-eyed Ray Davies on a recent California morning.

## 10 Stewards of the Earth

Toro's first symposium rallies the troops for responsible irrigation.

By Larry Aylward

## 38 Burgeoning Biofungicides

Some products could prove to be valuable preventives.

By Anthony Pioppi



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By David Frabotta



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**W**hy are second chances worth giving? Because so often — more often than not, I'd like to think — the people who receive second chances are sincerely grateful for them.

Take Alan Andreasen, for instance. Just five years ago, he was an over-50, down-and-out and out-of-work superintendent with a bleak future. "I was washed up and over the hill," the burly Andreasen says in his husky voice.

But thanks to a second chance, the 62-year-old is now a successful and award-winning certified superintendent for CourseCo, the Petaluma, Calif.-based golf course management and development company. And Andreasen is more thankful than anyone will ever know for receiving another chance.

Andreasen has Ray Davies to thank for that chance. Davies, director of golf course maintenance and construction for CourseCo, picked Andreasen off the superintendent scrap heap in 2001 and gave him the job as golf course superintendent at Los Lagos Golf Course and Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course & Driving Range in San Jose, Calif.

It would have been understandable if Davies had hired some young hotshot superintendent for the job and left Andreasen's career to the dogs. But the noble Davies took a chance on Andreasen, believing he could succeed.

Andreasen had left his previous job several months before as superintendent of a golf course in the Mohave Desert. But it wasn't an amicable split and Andreasen didn't have another job. Andreasen, who began his golf course maintenance career in the 1970s, couldn't even get a job with the local Kmart's garden nursery. He "bounced" from job to job, even working for the U.S. Census Bureau for \$10 an hour.

Davies, who has known Andreasen for about 25 years, knew of his plight. Ironically, Davies had worked for Andreasen for a few years in the early 1980s as his assistant superintendent at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif.

But Davies didn't just hand the job to his old boss. There were some stipulations. Davies told Andreasen he had to learn new skills if he

## Making the Best of a Second Chance

BY LARRY AYLWARD



ALAN ANDREASEN

ISN'T OF THE WARM

AND FUZZY TYPE,

BUT EVEN HE

ADMITS HIS IS

A HEARTWARMING

STORY

wanted to work for CourseCo. He told him the profession was much more complex than it was when Andreasen had started, and he had to comprehend its new demands. The job wasn't just about growing grass anymore, Davies said. It was also about being a teacher, a communicator, a politician and an environmentalist, not to mention an adequate computer user.

For years, Andreasen had resisted being all these things. But now he knew what was at stake — a chance to get back into the game at a great position. He knew he had to shed his skin and become a "modern" superintendent.

He has done so. And Andreasen has received formal and informal recognition from his peers for his efforts. Earlier this year he was named the overall winner of the 2005 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards and was also the recipient of a Turfgrass Excellence Award from the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association. Recently, Davies promoted him to superintendent of the Green River Golf Club in Corona, Calif. "He's a star right now," Davies says.

The praise is wonderful, but Andreasen will tell you that the life experience of having his career resurrected is what he cherishes most. And he knows it never would have happened if he didn't seize a second chance.

Andreasen isn't of the warm and fuzzy type, but even he admits his is a heartwarming story. But it's not over. Andreasen is now counseling others in the profession who are in the same stale position he once was.

He wants to see them get second chances so they too can try to turn their careers and lives into "modern" success stories.

*Aylward can be reached at [larryward@questex.com](mailto:larryward@questex.com).*



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# The Big Picture

THE NUMBERS THAT SHAPE YOUR BUSINESS

## TIDBIT OF THE MONTH

### Carolina Back on My Mind



After a bit of a lull, large-scale golf projects are active again in the Tar Heel state. Among the most promising are Laurelmor in Darby, a 6,000-acre development that features a Tom Kite-designed course and perhaps another 18; the 390-acre Plantation Ridge at Glassy in Gowensville, with more than 400 housing units and a course designed by Jackson Golf on tap; the Nicklaus-designed 12 Oaks Country Club, the centerpiece of a 600-acre project near Holly Springs; the 773-acre River Oaks in Pittsboro, a Toll Brothers' effort with an Arnold Palmer design; and a massive remodel of Lake Toxaway Country Club by Kris Spence. For details on these and other golf projects around the United States, visit [www.golfconstructionnews.com](http://www.golfconstructionnews.com).

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### What Should We Do With Them?

There are millions of illegal immigrants working in the United States and in the green industry. What should our country do with them?

**4%** Apprehend them and arrest them.

**52%** Apprehend them and send them back to their home countries.

**27%** Apprehend them, make them pay a fine and show them how they can become legal citizens.

**17%** Do nothing. Let them stay here and work.



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Golfdom's survey based on 139 responses

Golfdom

## Golf Rounds Played

The percentages below represent the change in number of rounds played in July 2006 compared to the number of rounds played in July 2005.

REGION	JULY	Y.T.D.
<b>New England</b> ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT	-2.5%	-2.9%
<b>Middle Atlantic</b> NY, PA, NJ	-2.4%	-1.5%
<b>East North Central</b> MI, OH, IN, IL, WI	-2.4%	-0.4%
<b>West North Central</b> ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO	-3.5%	2.4%
<b>South Atlantic</b> WV, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA	1.9%	4.0%
<b>Florida</b>	0.8%	2.6%
<b>East South Central</b> KY, TN, AL, MS	1.0%	0.1%
<b>West South Central</b> OK, AR, LA	0.3%	3.2%
<b>Texas</b>	2.6%	4.5%
<b>Mountain</b> MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM	-1.0%	4.1%
<b>Pacific</b> WA, OR, AK, HI	-1.3%	0.4%
<b>California</b>	-3.0%	0.6%
<b>TOTAL UNITED STATES</b>	-1.4%	1.4%

GOLF DATATECH

## Hazard Pay

According to fatality statistics, the following jobs rank as the most dangerous in the country. Golf course maintenance workers didn't make the list, but they sure have a hand in some of the professions that did.

1. Fishers and fishing workers
2. Logging workers
3. Aircraft pilots
4. Structural iron and steel workers
5. Refuse and recyclable material collectors
6. Farmers and ranchers
7. Electrical power line installers/repairers
8. Driver/sales workers and truck drivers
9. Agricultural workers
10. Construction laborers

Source: Bureau of Labor







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# Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

## Business briefs

### PCNB on the Way Out?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that most uses of Pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), an organochlorine fungicide used to treat snow mold on turf, have been found ineligible for reregistration. This means that fungicides containing PCNB will no longer be available to treat turf if EPA's recommendation takes effect. The EPA's determination is part of its plan to re-evaluate existing pesticides to ensure they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. The EPA announced a public comment period for on its Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) for PCNB. Comments had to be received on or before Oct. 2.

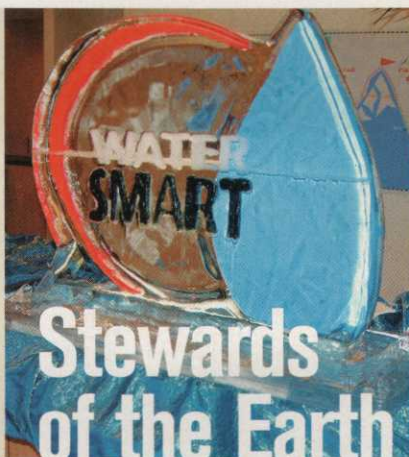
### Sifford Named Old Tom Morris Winner

Charles L. Sifford is the recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's most-prestigious honor — the Old Tom Morris — for helping to integrate golf beginning in the 1960s. The 2007 Old Tom Morris Award will be presented at the Feb. 27 opening session of the 2007 GCSAA Educational Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show at the Anaheim Convention Center in California. The GCSAA also selected Pinehurst Resort to receive its 2007 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

### Scott Coming "Home" to Nicklaus

After almost a decade of managing the PGA Tour's agronomic services, Jon Scott returns to Nicklaus Design to head its worldwide agronomy efforts.

"Coming back to Nicklaus Design is like returning home after an extended time  
*Briefs continue on page 16*



## TORO'S FIRST SYMPOSIUM RALLIES THE TROOPS FOR RESPONSIBLE IRRIGATION

By Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief

**P**hil Burkart opened his talk with the bad news about freshwater — that it's disappearing from the face of the Earth.

"The lack of freshwater will be mankind's most serious challenge in the 21st century," said Burkart, the vice president and general manager of Toro's Irrigation Division. "Accelerated population growth, pollution and climate change are likely to produce a drastic decline of fresh water in the coming decade."

Without ample water supplies to irrigate our green space and crops, most everyone stands to lose, Burkart said.

"Without water, our children and grandchildren can't run, play and wiggle their toes in the grass," he added. "Golf balls can't roll up and stop on lush fairways. And somehow it just doesn't seem

right to have to take your kids to a baseball game played on Astroturf."

Burkart, the opening speaker at Toro's first WaterSmart "Success Without Excess" Symposium held in July at Toro's Riverside, Calif., facility, wasn't trying to demoralize the almost 200 people in attendance with such negative statements. In fact, Burkart was trying to do the opposite. Toro organized the event for the leaders and stakeholders in water conservation to rally the troops to conserve water in light of its impending deficiency.

"We believe it's time to step up and meet the challenge and find a new way for watering techniques," Burkart said. "There are many irrigation stakeholders who are enjoying incredible success as a result of offering water-saving irrigation programs and strategies."

With that, Burkart turned over the program to a host of speakers, including Mary Ann Dickinson, executive director of the California Urban Water Conservation Council, a non-profit organization composed of urban water supply agencies, environmental groups and other entities interested in statewide water conservation in California.

Dickinson recited more troubling statistics regarding water shortage and efficiency. "More than 1 billion people lack access to clean, drinkable water, and many children are dying from water-borne diseases as a result of a lack of water treatment," she said.

An array of speakers participated in the event from different facets of the vast irrigation industry, including Sandy Clark, the certified golf course superintendent of Barona Creek Golf Club in