

Daddy: Have you heard of Michelle Wie?

Lily: I don't think so.

Daddy: Last question. What's the most important thing a golf course superintendent has to do?

Lily: (With almost no hesitation). Make the greens quick. (The girl has been listening at the dinner table. This is the same answer my boss would have given, by the way.)

Lily: Oh, Pop, I know a good question you should ask me.

Daddy: What?

Lily: What movie do I want to see that I've never seen before and should have by now?

Daddy: OK. What movie do you want to see that you've never seen before and should have by now?

Lily: "The Wizard of Oz"!

Daddy: Thanks, honey.

Lily: Do you think any dinosaur eggs survived, and there might be dinosaurs that are going to hatch soon and they might walk the earth again?

Daddy: Unlikely.

Lily: But possible?

Daddy: Possible, I suppose.

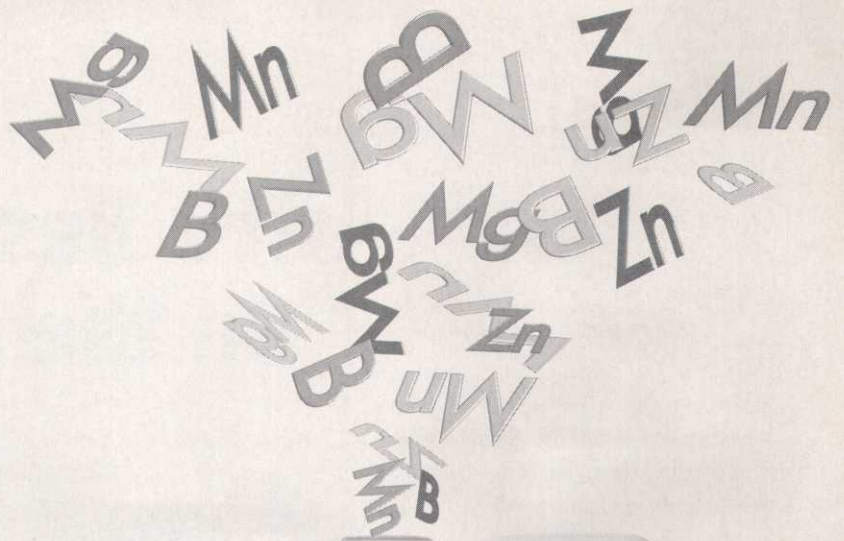
I'm not exactly sure what conclusions to draw from her answers, except to say that perhaps your children may not know as much as you thought they did about your job in regards to some things. But in regards to others, they may know a heck of a lot more than you gave them credit for.

Although I hold out a small fraction of hope that Lily will follow in my footsteps and become a superintendent, my money is on paleontology.

I should also mention that my 6-year-old daughter will *not* be watching "Pre-historic Planet" again until she turns at least 10.

Flesh-eating ants devouring baby dinosaurs! What kind of father am I? ■

Contributing Editor Ron Furlong is superintendent of Avalon Golf Club in Burlington, Wash.



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A common saying is that 50 percent of putting greens are overwatered. Although an anecdotal statement, I tend to believe it, especially when viewing greens management in a global perspective. Reducing the potential for overwatering — and the odds are good that many of you are overwatering — should be a priority for every golf course superintendent heading into the summer months.

Hand-watering, accomplished by a well-trained staff, is one method to avoid overwatering. In some instances, it is not uncommon to shut off a green's irrigation system and hand-water entirely during the summer. Actually, hand-watering should be considered if you have isolated shade or problem greens where there's the potential for excessive moisture.

Now, if 50 percent of greens are overwatered, does that mean 50 percent are watered correctly? I don't know. But a common trend, especially at high-end golf courses, is to keep greens as firm, fast and dry as possible.

That said, is it possible to be too dry — resulting in detrimental effects to the turf? Research suggests that drying can be beneficial to turf going into and through the summer stress periods. From a physiological perspective, carbon partitioning (carbohydrates) increases to a greater extent in roots under moisture stress than nonstressed plants. Over longer periods of drought stress, carbohydrates accumulate in stems and leaves promoting quicker recovery (DaCosta and Huang, 2006).

Morphologically, root-growth activity is enhanced deeper in the soil profile when surface soil drying occurs (Huang, et al., 1997). Although many of the experiments done with plant responses to moisture stress are done under what most turf managers would consider extreme moisture stress, beneficial effects occur with a low degree of moisture stress.

In studies where root activity increases at deeper depths with surface drying, moisture is present at these deeper depths. In an irrigation study done in Texas, multiple creeping bentgrass cultivars were subjected to one-, two- or four-day irrigation schedules with the total

It's Best to Water On the Dry Side

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



REDUCING THE
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amount of water applied the same for all treatments (Jordan, et al., 2003). The data revealed that reduced frequency produced a healthier plant under putting green conditions.

Given the above research and other similar findings, a deep and infrequent irrigation from an agronomic standpoint is beneficial to overall turfgrass health. The rootzone profile is moistened deeper in the profile and also allows for the benefit of surface drying.

Additionally, under extended periods where rainfall is lacking and salt accumulation is a concern, deep irrigation helps move or keep the salts deeper into the rootzone.

Watering is a complex and often controversial topic, with the impact of wetting agents, root depth, pests, soil type, water source and water availability influencing irrigation practices. However, acknowledging these factors, and given the space limitations of this column, here is my broad view of watering:

In humid temperate regions, check for moisture stress during the morning hours. General signs of moisture stress include the lack of dew patterns, wilting, rootzone materials crumbling or dry to the touch when checked with a soil probe, and baseline moisture stress levels determined by moisture sensing devices. If watering is required, water those areas by hand preferably. Follow up with moisture checks of the rootzone. Timely rainfall events should suffice for a natural deep and infrequent irrigation.

Should an extended drought occur or you are in area of minimal rainfall, periodic deep irrigation treatment is needed.

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Golfdom's science editor and a turfgrass professor from The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.

Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Jason Carleton is the new golf superintendent for the Fred Couples Signature Course, The Rise, in British Columbia. Carleton most recently was superintendent of the Greywolf Golf Course in Panorama, B.C.

KemperSports appointed **Joe Wisocki** as general manager and director of golf of Chambers Bay, the soon-to-open, links-style golf course, located just outside of Tacoma, Wash.

Tom Trammell is the new director of agronomy for the Doral Golf Resort & Spa, A Marriott Resort. Trammell most recently was superintendent at Tiburon Golf Club, a 36-hole facility in Naples, Fla.

Thomas Hildreth was named superintendent at Crane's Landing Golf Club at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort in Illinois. Hildreth was superintendent of Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, Ill.

Irrigation pioneer **Edwin J. Hunter** (1917-1998) was named the 2007 recipient of the Golf Course Builders Association of America Don A. Rossi Award for his significant and long-lasting contributions to the sport of golf.

PGA Tour veteran **D.A. Weibring** and his Dallas-area Golf Resources Group were named architects for a multimillion dollar redesign of the TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas golf course.

Dow AgroSciences named **Saumya Verma** as its sales representative for the turf and ornamental market in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and eastern West Virginia.

Jerry Corbett joined Quali-Pro as technical services manager. Corbett will lead research and development efforts in product combinations and formulation innovations for its post-patent brands.

Rain Bird named **David Behrmann** as the global marketing manager for its golf business unit. The former software marketing director for Intel Corp. is responsible for developing strategic and operational direction for Rain Bird Golf.

Frank Warden was hired as golf sales manager for the Southeast region for The Toro Co.

Thomas Hill is the new communications manager for BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals. He will manage advertising and public relations.

Ewing Irrigation, Golf & Industrial hired **Robert Womac** and **Kevin Scott** to its golf sales team. Womac and Scott will serve golf industry professionals in Georgia and Florida.

Profile Products LLC added **Keith Rose** to the DryJect LLC team as a territory manager for the state of New Jersey. The company also hired **Jeff Langner** as its executive marketing assistant.

The Foundation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America ushered in new leaders for 2007. **David Pillsbury**, president of PGA Tour Golf Course Properties, was elected chairman. **Bob Wood**, president of Nike Golf, was elected vice chairman/treasurer. Added to the board for three-year terms are **Herbert V. Kohler, Jr.**, chairman, CEO and president of Kohler Co.; GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer **Mark D. Kuhns**, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.; and **Victoria Martz**, ASGCA, vice president, senior golf course architect and director of environmental design for Palmer Design Co.

Terry Baller, who was a staff golf course architect at IMG, joined Gaylord Sports Management as the director of golf course design.

John Deere Golf & Turf One Source™ celebrated its top territory manager, **Greg Goudeau**, and its distributor of the year, Georgia Turf & Tractor, at the Golf Industry Show in February.

Chris Farrell joined Bayer Environmental Science as a field sales representative in south and central Ohio serving the golf market.

Absorbent Technologies added **Michael Harowitz** to its sales team. He will be working the Southeast region.

Redexim Charterhouse's distributor of the year in 2006 was Luber Brothers, and its distributor parts department of the year was Lawn & Golf Supply Co. The company also recognized its top 5 distributor salesmen: **Garth Kovenor** of Reynolds



Warden



Pillsbury



Wood



Farrell



Harowitz



Kisner

Turf, **Craig Schleider** of Malvese Equipment, **Steve Hesser** of Lawn & Golf Supply, **Wes Mathany** of Turf Professionals Equipment Co., and **Timmy Brent** of Luber Brothers.

BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals appointed **Karl J. Kisner** as marketing manager. Kisner previously served as senior marketing manager for BASF Professional Pest Control.

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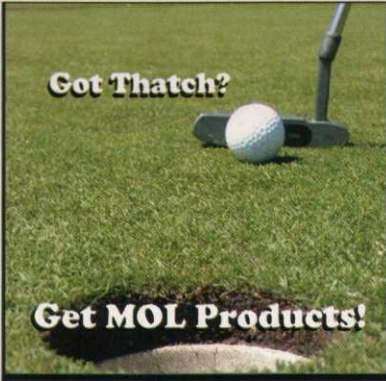


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Requests for Proposals

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The City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation requests proposals for the development, operation and maintenance of an 18 hole golf course and ancillary facilities at Ferry Point Park, The Bronx.

All proposals must be submitted no later than Friday, September 7, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. All interested parties are urged to attend a site tour at Ferry Point Park on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, contact: Jeffrey Shatz, Project Manager or Anthony Macari, Revenue Architect, Parks & Recreation, Division of Revenue and Concessions, 830 Fifth Avenue, the Arsenal-Central Park, Room 407, New York, NY 10021, call (212) 360-1397, or e-mail to jeffrey.shatz@parks.nyc.gov and anthony.macari@parks.nyc.gov. The Request for Proposals can also be downloaded at www.nyc.gov/parks.

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Kurt Vonnegut

James was a buddy whose wife worked the graveyard shift while we drank beer and watched kung fu movies. A couple of months ago, one of the people we had utmost respect for — a curmudgeonly scribe of the sardonic and the absurd — died after slipping and falling. As Kurt Vonnegut himself would have said, “So it goes.”

We shared many nights waxing philosophical about the meaning and wonder in Vonnegut’s books, whether the technological fears of “Cat’s Cradle,” the foolishness of war in “Slaughter-House Five,” the simple beauty of small-brained creatures in “Galapagos” or the relative efficacy of critics categorizing Vonnegut as a science-fiction writer.

We argued at length about the books, which was the best (I fancied “Cat’s Cradle”; James liked “God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater”), the worst, and the funniest (“Breakfast of Champions” for me, and “Wampeters, Foma & Granfalloon” for James).

Vonnegut served as our cultural guide, illustrating the cravenness of the powerful, demonstrating the necessity of questioning authority, documenting the horror of organized slaughter, and regaling us with stories the high-school history books left out. He might have made us more cynical than 17-year-olds need to be, but his ability to hold on to hope in the middle of a world

AN AMERICAN LITERARY LEGEND DIES, BUT HIS LEGACY

WILL NEVER PERISH BY MARK LUCE



gone wrong seemed a tacit endorsement of our youthful idealism.

On Feb. 9, 1995, Kurt Vonnegut came to Lawrence, Kan., to give a talk called “How to Get a Job Like Mine.” James drove up from Salina, and like giggly schoolgirls, we took our seats and watched Vonnegut perform his trademark routines. Laughter ruled the evening.

Driving to the Eldredge Hotel bar afterwards, I was a bit bummed out, wondering aloud if I had outgrown Vonnegut. Maybe those ideas of his were great to the kids, but the notion of hope rang quietly on my graduate-student ears. James would have none of it, claiming that a guy who continued to write books that appealed to disenfranchised and dissociated youngsters may be a one-trick pony, but it’s a pony we need.

He also told me of his dream of sending Vonnegut a package in the mail — a

pack of Pall Mall’s (Vonnegut’s brand as an unrepentant smoker) and a note that simply said, “Thanks for the books.”

Sitting in the bar, our heads snapped when Vonnegut walked in with a couple of student-event types. I excused myself, ostensibly to use the rest room. Instead, I slunk down the stairs, plunked \$3 in quarters into the cigarette machine and yanked the handle for Pall Mall.

I politely intruded Vonnegut’s party, dropping the smokes on the table, and saying only, “I think this is your brand. Thank you for everything.” And I walked back to our table.

When we spoke after Vonnegut’s death, James and I recounted that evening. James, who tells anyone remotely literary this story, said his son Max had asked if I remembered the story. James assured Max that I did, and he didn’t hesitate to repeat that I had stolen his bit. So it goes.

So again, Mr. Vonnegut, thank you for the books and everything.

Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo., where “Cat’s Cradle” is required reading for the sophomore English class he teaches.

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