

# Golfdom

MARCH 2007 • VOLUME 63 • NO. 3

# Wanted: Water Technicians

32

## Changing of the Guard

Will the new Democratic majority hinder golf businesses?

By David Frabotta



46

## The Right Path

While an architectural challenge, properly planned cart paths are beneficial to a golf course's design and operation.

By Bruce Allar



66

## What Lies Beneath

Historic trends should direct proactive pond maintenance programs.

By David Frabotta



# Artight ology

## cover story

BY LARRY AYLWARD

Superintendents turn to irrigation companies to help them conserve freshwater.

# 38

### About the cover

Art Director Kristen Morabito gathered images from Medio Images, Dynamic Graphics and iStock International Inc., put them in her artistic blender and created our cover.

## columns

- 8 **Pin High**  
The Forecast Is for Global Warming
- 26 **Shades of Green**  
Say It Like It Is ... in the Textbooks
- 28 **Designs On Golf**  
A Potpourri of Putting Greens
- 52 **Turf M.D.**  
Spring Could Bring Agronomic Issues
- 72 **Out of Bounds**  
Kung-fu Fighting

## departments

- 6 **We've Got Mail**
- 10 **Big Picture**
- 12 **Off the Fringe**
- 24 **Hole of the Month**
- 68 **Leaders**
- 71 **Classifieds**

### Online Exclusive



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

- ▶ If you love America, then you should boycott Citgo.  
By David Frabotta

## 12 Show Your Stripes

Is there artistry in those lines in the turf?  
Or do they just cause aggravation?

By Jim Black

## 13 Eye of the Tiger

If he wants to be a successful architect, Woods needs to see how the designing greats did it.

By Anthony Pioppi

### Turfgrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest for turf managers discusses the future of perfect turf in an article by Ted Steinberg, author of "American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn." See pages 55-64.



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# We've Got Mail

■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

## Work/Life Balance Strikes a Chord

I must admit, it's not often that a piece in any golf business magazine moves me enough to read it a second time, let alone cut it out. But that is exactly what I did when I read your December column, "When You Comin' Home, Dad?" (Pin High).

It's easy for all of us, from superintendents to sales reps, to get immersed in our jobs and neglect those who are most important to us. I feel like I do a good job balancing my job and my family, but it sure lends perspective to what is most important.

My stepdaughters are only going to be this age once, so I feel like it is important to spend quality time with them when I can. I know the next time I come home from a long day and they want me to spend time in the backyard practicing pitching softballs, I will be right out back with them.

I hope your piece hit home with many more people as well.

**Rick Ellis, Superintendent**  
**Muncie Elks Country Club**  
**Muncie, Ind.**

The "When You Comin' Home, Dad?" column had nothing to do with mowers, fertilizers, pesticides or politics, but it was just as important.

I, too, have a wife, two boys and a dog. My best times are when my wife teaches a night class at a local university, which makes it boys' night out for us.

Time marches by so fast. Every day is a gift; that is why they call it the present.

**Rob Kloska, Superintendent**  
**The Jupiter Island Club,**  
**Hobe Sound, Fla.**

I enjoyed your December column and your reference to "The Cats in The Cradle." It's easy to get caught up in work. I retired after this golf season after 30 years so I could do other things and play more golf with my wife, etc.

I had a good run, but one knows when the time is right for a change.

**John Monson, Retired Superintendent**  
**Long Prairie Country Club**  
**Long Prairie, Minn.**

Thank you for the article, "When you Comin' Home, Dad?" I understand your struggle with balancing work and family. I, too, just got home last night from a four-day trip to two wonderful little girls. I was exhausted, but I became fully energized when they ran up to me with open arms. All the worries of the week were gone instantly.

**Shane M. Barney,**  
**Marketing Manager, T&O Products**  
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## Prose to Live By

Joel Jackson's "Ode to the Superintendent" (January, p. 22) is the greatest poem I've ever read. I look forward to his column (Shades of Green) every month.

**Jeff Huelsman, Certified Superintendent**  
**WCI Communities**

**We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to David Frabotta at [dfrabotta@questex.com](mailto:dfrabotta@questex.com), or fax to 216-706-3712. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.**

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**I**t was 55 degrees and sunny in north-east Ohio on Dec. 30. I drove around town with the car window down. I saw a guy riding his bike — and he was wearing shorts for cryin' out loud.

Did I say it was Dec. 30, a day that's supposed to be as cold as Jimmy Buffett's cooler in this part of the world? Did I say it was northern Ohio, where it has been known to snow 100 inches a year? Did I say I'm beginning to believe there's something to this global warming stuff?

And I believe in my heart — and my head — that we should all be concerned about it.

I know some of you think I've been sitting in the sun too long if I'm worried about global warming. You think I've bought into this Al Gore-inspired garbage just because of one "unseasonably warm" day in northern Ohio. But it's not just one warm December day in northern Ohio that has convinced me that global warming is a threat. It's also not Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," which I haven't even seen (but plan to).

There's a bunch of stuff going on that lends credence to global warming. Did you hear about the enormous ice shelf, about 40 square miles in size, that broke away from an island in the Canadian Arctic? Researchers aren't sure how it happened, but they say it could be another sign the Earth is heating up because of an atmospheric increase in carbon dioxide we cause by burning coal to light our homes and burning gas to drive to and from to work every day.

It was also recently reported by the World Meteorological Organization that 2006 was Earth's sixth-warmest year on record. Global temperatures have risen 0.7 degrees Celsius since 1900.

At the Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show last December, keynote speaker Lonnie Thompson, a world authority on paleoclimatology and glaciology, gave a matter-of-fact presentation on climate change. Thompson, a senior research scientist at the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University, astonished attendees with his research findings.

Thompson, who knows the topic of global warming like Dick Vitale knows college hoops, showed photos of the world's great glaciers. They all have one thing in common: They're melting.

## The Forecast Is for Global Warming

BY LARRY AYLWARD



CAN YOU IMAGINE  
THE GREAT COASTAL  
GOLF COURSES,  
FROM PEBBLE  
BEACH TO  
BALLYBUNION,  
SWALLOWED UP BY  
THE SURGING SEA?

During his presentation, Thompson displayed two photos of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. One photo, from 1912, showed Kilimanjaro in all its frosty glory when 12.1 square kilometers of ice covered its summit. Another photo, taken in 2000, revealed that only 2.6 square kilometers of ice remained on the mountain.

Regarding those melting glaciers, where do you think all that water will go? The oceans will expand and change the landscape dramatically, Thompson predicts. Can you imagine the great coastal golf courses, from Pebble Beach to Ballybunion, swallowed up by the surging sea?

Please don't confuse me with some crackpot doomsayer. I'm just going with what the world's top scientists — people who know far more about this topic than you and me — say about climate shift. Many of them agree Earth is heating up like a charcoal grill on the Fourth of July.

Of course, global warming comes with a slew of \$64,000 questions. Is it a new phenomena or is it cyclical? Is trouble right around the corner, or is it 1,000 years away?

I don't know the answers. Does anyone?

I do know one thing, however: Don't dismiss global warming as something political... just another issue Democrats and Republications argue about. And don't write it off as something "that won't happen in my lifetime." There's a chance you'll be required to do your part to help combat global warming in your lifetime.

Back to the weather in northern Ohio, which has changed a tad since late December. On Feb. 15, it was a biting-cold minus 12 degrees. A day earlier, I shoveled a foot of snow from my driveway. I didn't see anybody riding a bike on those days.

But I still believe there's something to this global warming stuff.

*Aylward can be reached at 216-706-3737.*



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# The Big Picture

THE NUMBERS THAT SHAPE YOUR BUSINESS

## TIDBIT OF THE MONTH

### There's More Than Maple Syrup in Vermont

Although lack of snow was a bit of an issue for winter sports fans this winter, golf is definitely on the upswing in the Green Mountain State. Among the more interesting projects in this tidy Northeast state is the new Jay Peak Resort Golf Course in Jay, Vt., a Graham Cooke design that will be augmented by an expansion of the neighboring ski resort. Slated for a spring opening is the Stowe Mountain Club, a Bob Cupp design located within a \$220 million resort expansion called Spruce Peak. Also set for a spring debut is the Cupp-designed Stowe Country Club, an all-new 18-hole course at Stowe Mountain Resort. For details on these and other golf projects around the United States, visit [www.golfconstructionnews.com](http://www.golfconstructionnews.com).



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### Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!

Already more than a dozen candidates have formed exploratory committees for a presidential run in 2008, and more are expected during the next year. We asked *Golfdom* readers: If you could vote for any one of these candidates in the general election, who would get your vote?

Hillary Clinton	13%
John McCain	29%
Barack Obama	14%
Rudy Giuliani	35%
It will depend on the debates	9%

### Who Should Make the Most Money?

*Golfdom* recently asked readers: Who do you think should be the highest-paid employee at a golf course? Here's what you had to say, based on 616 responses.

- Club/general manager: **52%**
- Superintendent: **46%**
- Pro: **2%**



### Golf Rounds Played

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

REGION	DEC.	Y.T.D.
<b>New England</b> ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT	421.1%	1.3%
<b>Middle Atlantic</b> NY, PA, NJ	249.8%	-1.3%
<b>East North Central</b> MI, OH, IN, IL, WI	308.0%	-2.2%
<b>West North Central</b> ND, MN, SD, NE, KS, IA, MO	50.3%	0.1%
<b>South Atlantic</b> WV, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA	12.0%	3.5%
<b>Florida</b>	-0.7%	3.2%
<b>East South Central</b> KY, TN, AL, MS	29.6%	-0.2%
<b>West South Central</b> OK, AR, LA	-10.1%	1.6%
<b>Texas</b>	-8.2%	2.3%
<b>Mountain</b> MT, ID, WY, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM	-10.8%	2.5%
<b>Pacific</b> WA, OR, AK, HI	0.5%	0.9%
<b>California</b>	0.4%	1.0%
<b>TOTAL UNITED STATES</b>	11.8%	0.7%

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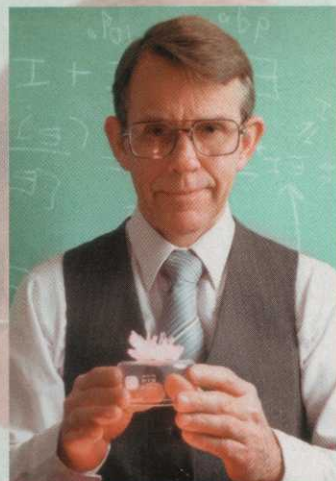
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Franz's monumental discovery will be formally recognized on May 5 when he is inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Franz joins other agricultural industry leaders, including John Deere, Eli Whitney and George Washington Carver, in the hall, which honors "the women and men responsible for the great technological advances that make human, social and economic progress possible."

**Golfdom salutes Mr. Franz.**



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