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Continued from page 70

installed. They determined that intermittent play disruption was permissible for a reasonable time frame in order to install the system all at once.

Shonk took a different approach because the project at Princess Anne was a total renovation. Because many members join a country club just for the golf, taking the golf course out of play generally meets with significant resistance. However, to achieve the ultimate goal of the project, the Princess Anne staff determined that closing the course was the most appropriate thing to do. The Club negotiated with local area golf courses to allow members to play at those facilities during the project.

Since taking the course out of play also takes a toll on operational revenues, Shonk justified a \$1-million operational impact and contingency fund to offset losses in revenues.

From management's perspective, the superintendent must fully engage in the

project from the beginning. Lager explains that Martell had an active role in identifying vendors for renovation services, communicating progress to club members and vetting contractors. While the final decision on vendors was mutual, Lager says Martell's insight was invaluable to gaining the club's approval.

As a project progresses, many club managers seek their superintendents' full attention to it. This means the superintendent might need to separate himself from the day-to-day operations of the course. Lager explains that the superintendent must be responsive to the contractor to ensure the project progresses on time.

To see timely completion of a renovation, Shonk says management must provide the superintendent the authority and resources to carry out the project. For the superintendent, this comes with a fair amount of autonomy as well as accountability. Shonk says projects progress more smoothly if superin-



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tendents have a reasonable amount of decision-making authority.

Likewise, Shonk says the superintendent must be accountable by providing comprehensive overviews or explanations for costs incurred outside the scope of the original contract. There should be a shared understanding between the superintendent and management that unexpected costs will, by their very nature, come up. However, providing appropriate explanations and documentation ensures everything remains totally transparent.

The bottom line: Positive interaction between the superintendent and club management is an important factor in the success of a renovation project. Having a clear understanding of expectations will ensure all parties are working toward ideal renovation results.

While management's expectations can be numerous, having superintendents provide club management with renovation facts,



appreciating club management's many considerations, and being the eyes and ears on the ground are elements that are universal for any successful renovation project.

Lloyd von Scheliha can be reached at lvonscheliha@rainbird.com.

The Princess Anne Country
Club embarked on a golf
course renewal project just two
years after opening a new
clubhouse that replaced the
original historic building.



Turf M.D.

THE DOCTOR IS IN THE HOUSE

ata collected through observing, sampling, recording and storing are the foundation for integrated pest management (IPM). These data provide the basic knowledge necessary for pest-management decisions. As the old adage goes, "Data are the basis of knowledge, and knowledge is power."

The tools we use to gather information vary from low to high technology. Basic data collection is getting out on the golf course and critically looking for pest signs. Observing for insect, weed or disease signs is called scouting.

The classic data collection examples pertain to insects. Simple tools for insect sampling include using cup cutters and soap flushes periodically at various locations on the golf course to observe and sample insect pests. Recording the date, location, number and stage of development then can be plotted geographically across the golf course, providing a wealth of information. In IPM this is called mapping. Pests primarily occur in clusters, and rarely uniformly across an entire area of the golf course. By mapping the location and number of insects across the golf course, pest control strategies can be targeted to the specific area.

Mapping has applications for weeds and diseases. For example, crabgrass does not normally occur uniformly across a golf course. It is a C4 plant that requires high light intensities and temperatures. Intuitively, crabgrass should be more prevalent in high-temperature areas — around a cart path and in an open, dry area — while less likely in a tree-shaded rough. The knowledge gained from this observation can result in a pre-emergent herbicide rate adjusted higher under favorable conditions, and lowered or eliminated in less-favorable conditions.

The data on pest number and developmental stage gathered on subsequent dates then can be used in association with temperature, which is the driving force for all biological reactions and can serve as a great predictor for insect and weed development. Growing degree-days (GDD) is the most common calculation or tool used to quantify temperature as a predictor. GDDs have no associated units,

Routine Data Form the ABCs of IPM

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



AS THE OLD ADAGE
GOES, 'DATA ARE
THE BASIS OF
KNOWLEDGE,
AND KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER'

so they mean little by themselves. However, as you begin a daily accumulation from a given start date (normally the first of the year), the running accumulated total is associated with specific stages in pest development gathered from scouting. The power in the association of GDD with pest appearance and development is control strategies targeted at specific biological developmental stages.

Disease prediction is more assumptive in nature. Similar to GDD, temperature and other weather data such as leaf wetness, relative humidity and rainfall can be used to predict the likelihood of disease outbreaks. The one missing aspect in these models is accounting for the presence of the pathogen. However, disease predictive models alert golf course superintendents to the potential and likelihood of disease occurrence.

The power in predictive models for pests is they can be used locally, but they also can be used nationally and globally. For example, pest predictive Web sites like Weed Alert developed for the United States and Greencast for the United States and the United Kingdom provide information on the risk of pest occurrence.

Data collection is often tedious, time consuming and (some say) even boring. But an advantage often overlooked in data gathering is the routine nature of the process. Whether you walk the golf course, have a staff member scout, or look at an informative pest Web site each morning, it is the routine that keeps you focused on potential problems that arise during a busy and often distracting day.

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.



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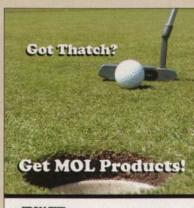
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Leaders

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Blake Garrett is the new golf course superintendent of The Oconee Course at Reynolds Plantation (Ga.) The Rees Jones-designed course hosted the PGA Cup in September. Garrett joins Reynolds Plantation after 11 years in golf course maintenance. Most recently, he served as superintendent at the FarmLinks Golf Course in Sylacauga, Ala.

Brent Mecham, a Colorado water conservation specialist and long-

Company

time irrigation instructor, was named Irrigation Association industry development director. Mecham will lead the Irrigation Association Education Foundation and guide the effort to streamline curriculum development.

Dominik Naughton is the new director of Golf at Mirage City Golf Club, an 18-hole championship course located at the JW Marriott Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

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Out of Bounds

SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

starstruck

s a teenager, I absolutely loved the band Blondie, even if I thought that lead singer Deborah Harry (and blonde, to boot) was named Blondie. Whether the rap fest that was "Rapture," the naughty word in "Heart of Glass" or reggae hints of "The Tide is High," the songs gave rise to a harmless, but serious crush on an older woman who could play it soft or rock it out.

Fast forward to 1997, a cocktail party before a big concert in Lawrence, Kan., the following day to honor William S. Burroughs, then the grand old man of American Letters. Standing in a kitchen, trying to wear my journalist hat, I'm approached, in turn, first by Michael Stipe of R.E.M, asking where the silverware is (it wasn't my house, so I just started pulling open drawers), and then, trumpeted by angels, Ms. Harry, who's looking for a place to smoke a cigarette. I gladly escorted her to the porch.

Though I had interviewed some famous folks before and met several others, this one was different. I figured the best approach was just to get the fawning out of the way. "You know, your music meant a lot to a young boy growing up in Kansas," I stuttered. The response: "I hope it didn't include too much perversion." Ummm.



MEETING FAMOUS PEOPLE CAN

BE AWKWARD, ESPECIALLY IF YOU

ACT LIKE A GIDDY SCHOOL GIRL

BY MARK LUCE

The conversation went uphill from there and the next night backstage I got a "Hello, darling" and the rock version of the air kiss.

I write this not to name drop, but to pose a question: What do you do when you meet someone famous? I would contend that what I did with Ms. Harry was a mistake. I should've just talked to her like a normal person because, well, she's just a normal person, and so is everyone else famous that you meet. Some you may find to be unbelievably friendly if you don't act all wide-eyed. Others you may find to be insufferably lame and

egocentric, at which point, one simply recedes into the background. One must always keep in mind, though, that meeting such folks doesn't mean you're cool, it means you might have cool stories.

My biggest story yet, without question, was meeting President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at a Rose Garden ceremony. I had a great line rehearsed about my generation and restoring faith in government. Of course, I choked in the presence of the two men, offering but a handshake and a weak "It's an honor, sir."

Through the years I have been lucky enough to meet a handful of folks who would qualify as famous, many from artistic and literary circles. But I have not, like *Golfdom* Editor in Chief Larry Aylward, been playfully knocked around a bar by Pipino Cuevas, the former welterweight champion who fought Thomas "Hitman" Hearns.

I also have never met George Brett, the former Royals third baseman who was my undisputed boyhood hero. He lives here in Kansas City, and I am sure someday I will run into him somewhere.

Here's what I shouldn't say, but probably will anyway: "I named my cat after you when I was seven."

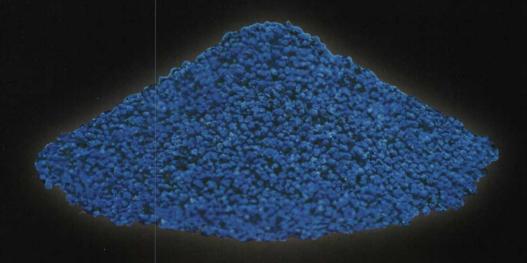
Mark Luce is a freelance writer in Kansas City, Mo., where he really isn't stalking George Brett.

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