



J.D. Credit Announces Beautifully, Brutal Par-5 Finalists

Long and forced carries, water, muscle bunkers, forests, wetland and gorgeous vistas are among the features of 16 par-5 holes named as regional finalists in the John Deere Credit competition for the Most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America.

The regional winners were chosen from par-5 entries throughout the United States and Canada by a panel of judges that includes Jeff Babineau, editor of *Golfweek*; Pat Roberts, publisher of *Golfdom*; Joe Passov, architecture editor for *Golf* magazine; and Gary Van Sickle, golf editor for *Sports Illustrated*. The judges rated the holes based upon their difficulty as well as their scenic qualities.

The par-5 finalists, alphabetically by region include:

Region 1 – Western United States

Breckenridge Golf Club, Breckenridge, Colo., Hole 8, 580 yards

Colbert Hills Golf Club, Manhattan, Kan., Hole 7, 600 yards

The Club at Pradera, Parker, Colo., Hole 18, 575 yards

Region 2 – South-central and Northwest U.S.

Classic Club, Palm Desert, Calif., Hole 18, 564 yards

Indian Wells Golf Resort, Indian Wells, Calif., Hole 14, 519 yards

The Links at Bodega Harbour, Bodega Bay, Calif., Hole 5, 506 yards

Region 3 – North-central U.S.

Sutton Bay Golf Club, Agar, S.D., Hole 1, 669 yards

The Harvester Golf Club, Rhodes, Iowa, Hole 18, 565 yards

Tournament Club of Iowa, Polk City, Iowa, Hole 17, 640 yards

Region 4 – Northeast U.S. and Gulf Coast

Butter Brook Golf Club, Westford, Mass., Hole 7, 554 yards

Shell Point Golf Club, Fort Myers, Fla., Hole 13, 577 yards

The Ledges Golf Club, York, Maine, Hole 18, 618 yards

Region 5 – Eastern United States
Atlanta Athletic Club, Duluth, Ga., Hole 18, 576 yards;
Creek Club at Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, Ga., Hole 12, 569 yards
True North Golf Club, Harbor

Springs, Mich., Hole 8, 562 yards
Region 6 – Canada (excluding Quebec)
Blackhawk Golf Club, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Hole 7, 575 yards
For more information, visit www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles.



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We Can All Learn a Lesson From This Kid ... This Very Cool Kid

Several weeks back, we received an e-mail from Patrick Wake, the golf course superintendent of Palmetto Dunes Resort in Hilton Head, S.C. The message was about Wake's son, Logan, and a good deed that Logan did. Wake sent along an accompanying story about Logan that appeared in the local newspaper.

"This is about a boy and a good deed, not about him being my son," Wake wrote.

After reading this, you'll wish Logan was your son.

Logan celebrated his eighth birthday earlier this year. He told his Dad he didn't want any presents for his birthday because he already had plenty of toys. But there was an intangible gift that he had his heart set on and it had to do with helping others.

Logan, who loves horses, said he wanted to have a birthday party to support Heroes for Horseback, a nonprofit organization that allows disabled children and adults the chance to ride and care for horses. Logan held his party and his friends and their parents brought money to give him — for his gift to Heroes for Horseback.

Logan then visited the ranch where the kids involved with Heroes for Horseback go to ride. Logan wore a plaid shirt, jeans and a black cowboy hat. He presented a \$350 check to the organization. Logan met the kids and watched them ride.

"Logan has a heart bigger than most people I have ever met," Patrick says. "Needless to say, we are very proud of what he did." ■

— Larry Aylward, Editor in Chief



Eight-year-old Logan Wake (center) made his family, including mom Kathryn, dad Patrick and sister Reilly, proud.

"BASF Summit" — Continued from page 10

You can bet the BASF researchers — as well as researchers from most all of the chemical companies — are spending their time in the future *now*, inventing the pesticides of tomorrow.

Much of what the gentlemen spoke about pertained to agriculture. But as golf course superintendents and other turf managers know, a lot of the money spent on agricultural research by chemical companies to create products can trickle down to the specialty markets in due time.

Kast, who studied chemistry at the University of Stuttgart, Germany, and obtained his doctorate in 1978, called plant biotechnology "the innovation of tomorrow" in agriculture during his speech, "The Future Is in the Genes." Kast said BASF has decided to invest heavily in the segment.

"We have roughly \$1.5 billion invested in research and development," he said, noting that BASF's R&D focuses on helping farmers increase yield, improve efficiency and protect crops against pests and diseases.

Again, while Kast's statements are agriculture related, superintendents might get an idea of how biotechnology could affect them in the future.

Paul Rea, director of BASF's specialty products department, provided a business overview of his department. Rea, who has a master's degree in business from the University of Sydney, Australia, said BASF and other chemical companies need to reinforce to the general public that their products are environmentally safe when used correctly.

"There's an opportunity to continue to reinforce the positive impact our products have in the marketplace," Rea said. "The industry, overall, has to push it and recognize the positive role these products play in enhancing those green space environments. ... It's a message we have to keep on plugging." ■

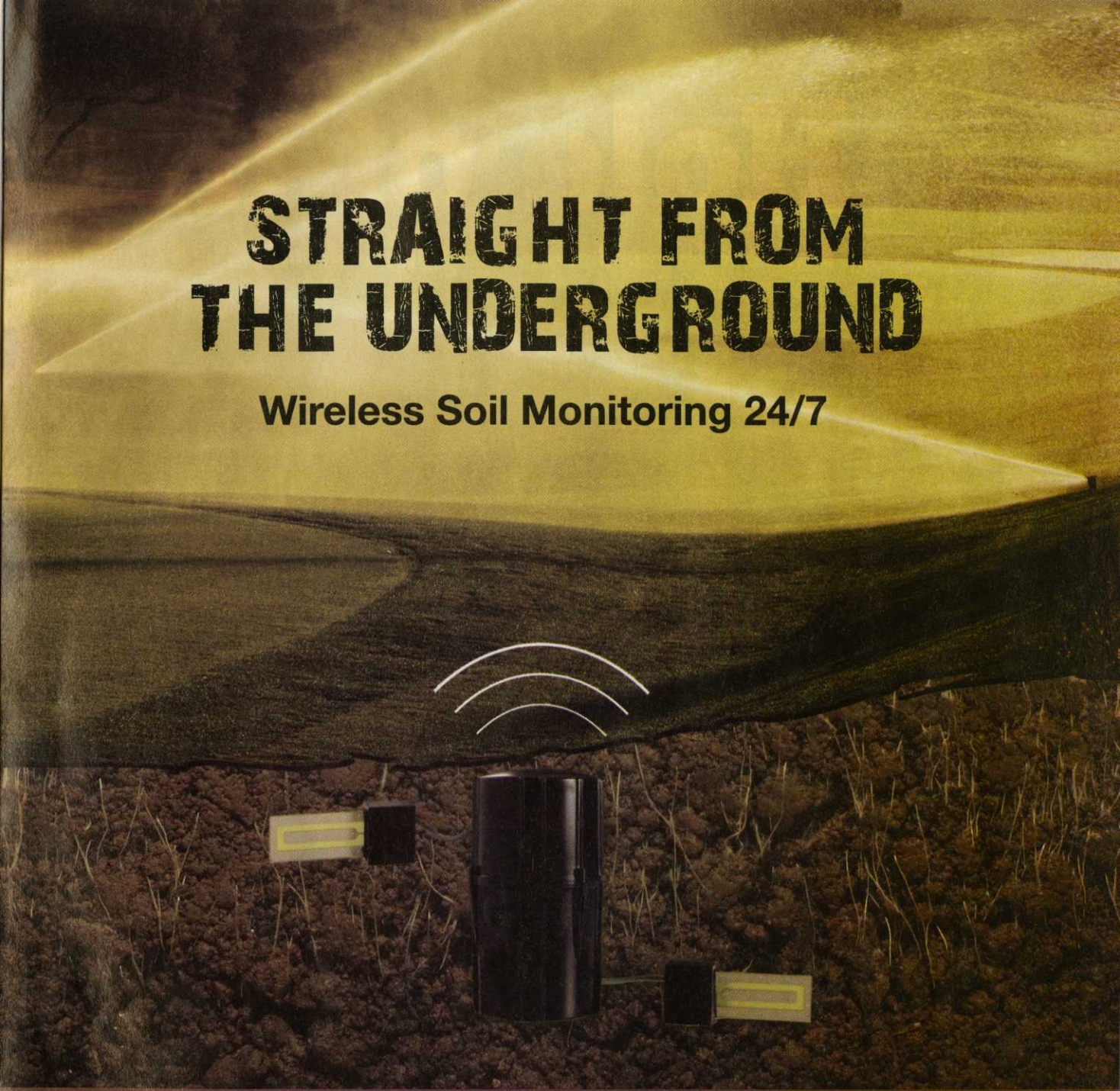
Quotable

"I'd like to caddy for my son, Jeff, on the Nationwide Tour a little this summer and maybe do some other things I haven't had the opportunity to do all these years."

— Fred Klauk, the certified superintendent who recently retired from TPC Sawgrass after 23 years and a superintendent for more than 30 years. (GCSAA)

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Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 6 | South Course, Oakland Hills Country Club | Bloomfield

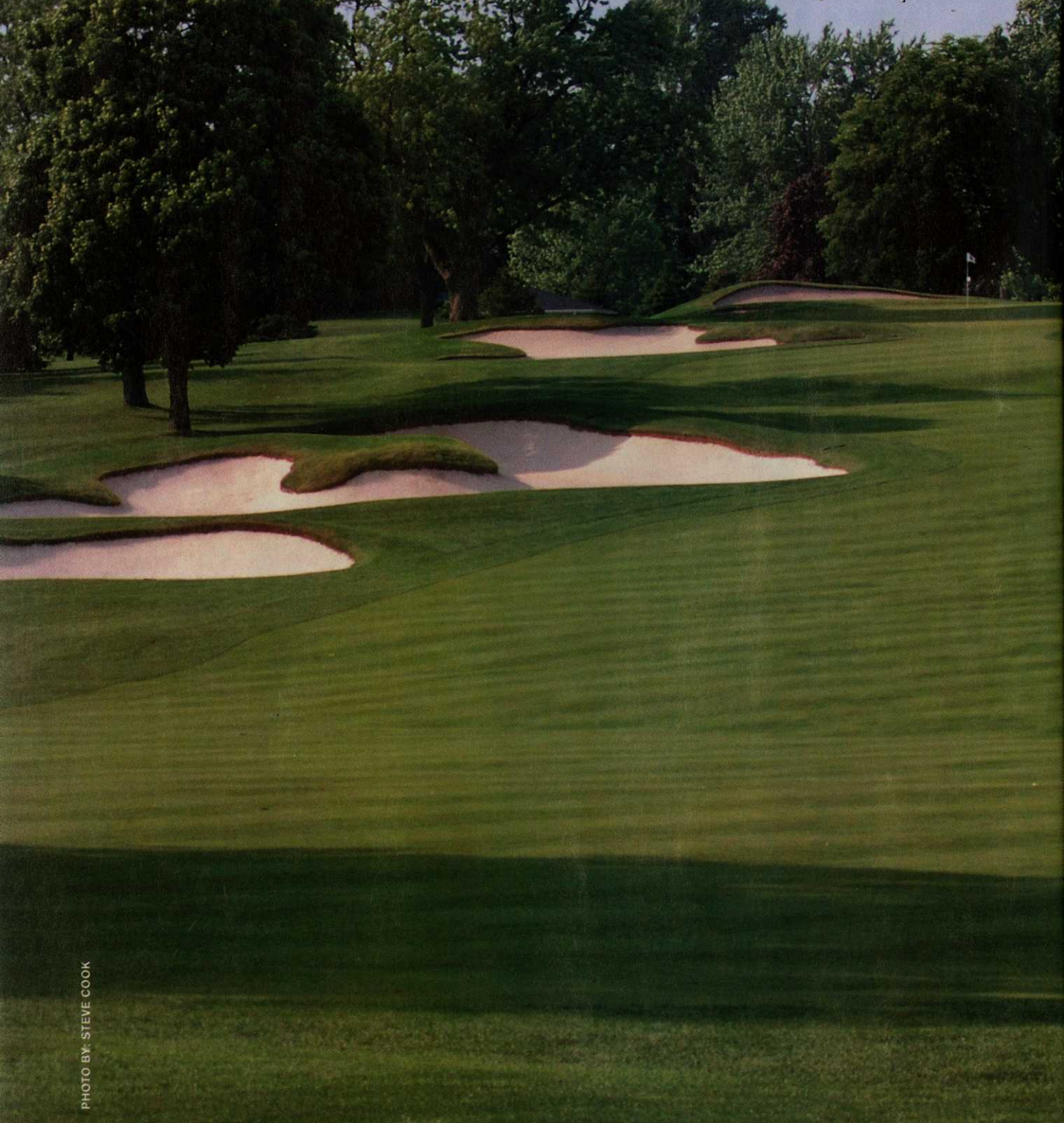


PHOTO BY: STEVE COOK

Month

Hills, Mich.

Hole Stats

Distance: 387 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Green: Bentgrass & Annual Bluegrass

Fairway: Bentgrass & Annual Bluegrass

Ben Hogan deemed the South Course at Oakland Hills Country Club "the monster" after winning the 1951 U.S. Open with a 7-over-par score. Created by Donald Ross in 1918, the course design flows seamlessly from hole to hole along strategically plotted long and short drives that force gutsy shots.

The 18-hole course is one of the game's most treasured tournament venues, having hosted 15 major championships. In August, the 90th PGA Championship will be the first major

tournament to grace the newly renovated grounds, which were completed by Rees Jones in 2007. His father, design legend Robert Trent Jones, renovated the course in 1950.

Known to fuel a player's frustration and rally spectators to shouts, the two-tiered putting surface at Hole No. 6 demands an accurate short iron landing onto a 12 yard-wide terrace. Cautious golfers often shoot deep and land on an out-of-play fairway, while daring players shoot the shorter tee and risk landing in one of six bunkers.

But the real tournament battle begins with turf in the early spring and summer when conditions are prime for snow mold and dollar spot.

"Preparing for a tournament is the ultimate disease-management motivator," said Steve Cook, the club's golf course manager since 1997.

Cook, a certified golf course superintendent and master greenkeeper, applies Emerald® fungicide to the South Course greens and fairways at a rate of 0.13 ounces per 1,000 square feet in the spring and fall to prevent snow mold and dollar spot during tournament season. He also plans to expand his treatment program to the club's North Course.

"With one spring application of Emerald, we get control until the end of July and are able to save the club money," he said. To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.

Emerald fungicide provides unprecedented dollar spot control for up to 28 days with a single application on virtually every major turf species in every region of the United States. For more information, contact your distributor or BASF at www.betterturf.com.



GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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The Chemical Company

stamp out Gray Leaf Spot in perennial ryegrass

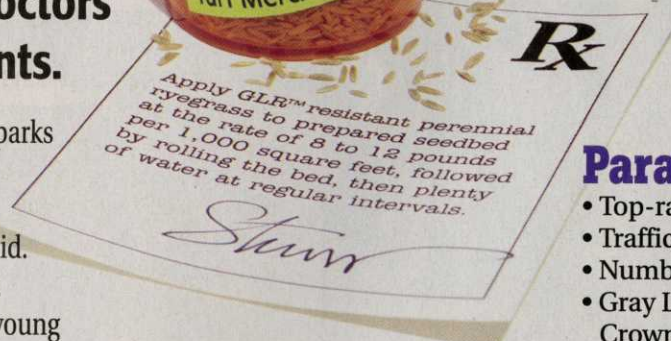
Prevent the dreaded *Pyricularia grisea* (for which there is no cure) by planting new, Gray Leaf Spot resistant ryegrasses developed by doctors for Turf Merchants.

Even the best home lawns, parks and golf courses have Gray Leaf Spot in late summer when days are hot and humid.

Gray Leaf Spot isn't pretty. It strikes quickly, affecting young ryegrass seedlings first with gray-to-brown lesions, often contorting tender blades into fishhook shapes. With prolonged hot, humid weather, large, mature turf areas can be lost to this dreaded disease.

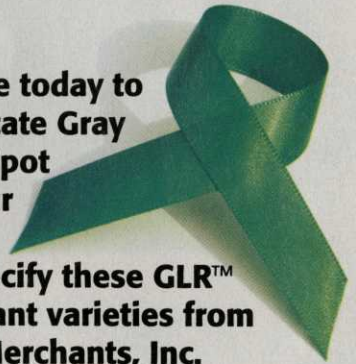
In existing, older ryegrass turfs, Gray Leaf Spot can be addressed by applying a preventive fungicide, but once the pathogen has developed, little or nothing can cure it.

It's prudent to take precautions.



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Shades Of Green

OPINION

I typically write about the political and operational issues facing superintendents, but this month I thought I'd have a little fun at the movies. So here goes:

Indiana Spackler and The Curse of the Fastest Greens: Bill Murray reprises his role as Carl Spackler, who has since shaved and become a GCSAA member. Spackler trades in explosives for education. Admittedly not as hilarious as the original, but clueless club members still provide plenty of comic relief for insiders.

Iron Man: The story of a former golf course superintendent turned turf equipment salesman. Our hero must adjust from the caterpillar-eat-grass world of turf management to the dog-eat-dog world of sales quotas, constant travel and endless solicitations from local chapters in need of sponsors.

Sleepless in Seattle: Superintendent vents fears and anxiety on national radio call-in show about hosting an upcoming member-guest tournament. A reporter does story about superintendent stress syndrome. They fall in love and start up a superintendent support group with offices in the Empire State Building.

Sixth Sense: Supernatural tale about a turf student who sees dead grass (it's everywhere). The student ends up working for a veteran superintendent, played by Bruce Willis. Using the kid's special talents, Willis corrects problems before they happen. Nevertheless, Willis' career is dead. The club wants to take it to the next level.

Titanic: A new fungicide developed by Gen-X scientists combats snow mold but does not protect against ice damage. Can the young lab rats prevail against corporate heads who want to market the flawed product?

As Good As It Gets: Obsessive-compulsive disorder can't sabotage this superintendent. Special event goes off without a hitch. Weather cooperates. Crew goes above and beyond. Members publicly praise superintendent at reception. A fantasy sure to delight the whole family.

I Am Legend: The biography of Old Tom Morris. Young Tom, played by Daniel Radcliffe of Harry Potter fame, invents turf management in a pre-academic world. Old Tom, played by Sean Connery, is a master club maker

If the Silver Screen Turned Green ...

BY JOEL JACKSON



WITH A LITTLE
THEME MUSIC AND
A BALLAD BY
CELINE DION, THESE
PARODIES COULD
BE AS GOOD AS THE
ORIGINALS

and top golfer, although he must still use the club's rear entrance.

The Bucket List: Superintendent roams a 54-hole golf complex one weekend on a front-end loader slated to be junked for parts. Looking for projects, he works through the nights rebuilding tees and bunkers. But the tractor blows a head gasket and cracks the engine block, sealing its fate to the scrap heap. Moral of the story: It's better to wear out than rust out.

2001: A Turf Odyssey: "Hal," the irrigation computer, shuts down the entire system when the superintendent tries to override the ET rate. While the turf dies, Hal illogically maintains the prime directive from the water management district. Superintendent and crew save the day by hand watering with hoses until the rainy season starts.

When Harry Met Sally: Romantic comedy about two superintendents who meet and fall in love at the Golf Industry Show. When fuel prices get so high that long-distance dating is impossible, the couple must decide where the grass is greener. Funniest bit is when Harry and Sally browse a Lesco truck and she fakes an orgasm over latest biostimulant on the market.

Ocean's Eleven: Former superintendent Denny Ocean builds an 11-hole golf course in Las Vegas using money from a casino heist by his brother Danny. The course does not meet USGA qualifications for handicaps, but it does provide faster rounds to help grow the game. The brothers find it is a great way to launder stolen money.

The Dirty Dozen: 12 pin placements during major events that shocked the golf world. Hidden cameras in this docu-drama reveal the sadistic elation of committee members as professionals three and four putt greens. The superintendent is forced to go into the witness protection program.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is executive director of the Florida GCSA.

For every industry member who was pleased to see Golf Digest's extensive coverage imploring greater environmental stewardship in golf, there were just as many who rolled their eyes and said, "Welcome to the party."

Or worse, a surprising number of readers heaved their magazines across the room and wrote angry letters about politicizing their beloved monthly dosage of instruction. Yep, Golf Digest was flooded with hate mail for delving into "politics," even though a close reading reveals that the magazine devoted its coverage to golf's environmental impact and future outlook. (Go to GolfDigest.com/editorsblog to read some of the vitriolic stuff the magazine received.)

There's no question that, at times, the green movement gets out of hand. And that's coming from someone who fully subscribes to doing everything we can to conserve water, preserve wildlife, protect wetlands and, in general, leave the next generation with a world in better condition than we found it. But if you read the Golf Digest package or my story on the subject in this issue (page 43) and my interview with John Barton on the *Golfdom* Web site, you're probably mumbling something about having had enough of the lecturing.

The modern-day environmental movement relies way too heavily on guilt to prompt people to act instead of asking simple questions such as, "Wouldn't it just be wise to do the right thing, whether or not global warming is real?"

Too much guilt and fear mongering will drive people to rebel, and that's what we saw with Golf Digest's package — even though it was well done and equitable. It did not matter what was said; a segment of the American public just doesn't want to hear it anymore. That select demographic is older, crankier and getting more selfish by the day.

The bottom line is that architects and superintendents must embrace the green movement for their own survival, and many already have. It's coming to a golf course near you. You will be expected to make it part of your business plan. Or else, they're going to start a new club committee charged with watching every move

Get Smart — About the Environment

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



IT'S TIME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CONSERVATION

you make and monitor every chemical you administer.

In other words, embrace the movement to cut them off at the pass and ensure your place in the golf business. Make this your issue and make yourself relevant or, even better, in complete control of the situation.

That might not appeal to your senses, but I know one thing from talking to superintendents: You are conservationists at heart. You probably won't be at the next Green Peace fundraiser or handing out leaflets for the National Resources Defense Council, but as trustees of these vastly complicated environmental settings known as golf courses, you know that conservation will carry the day.

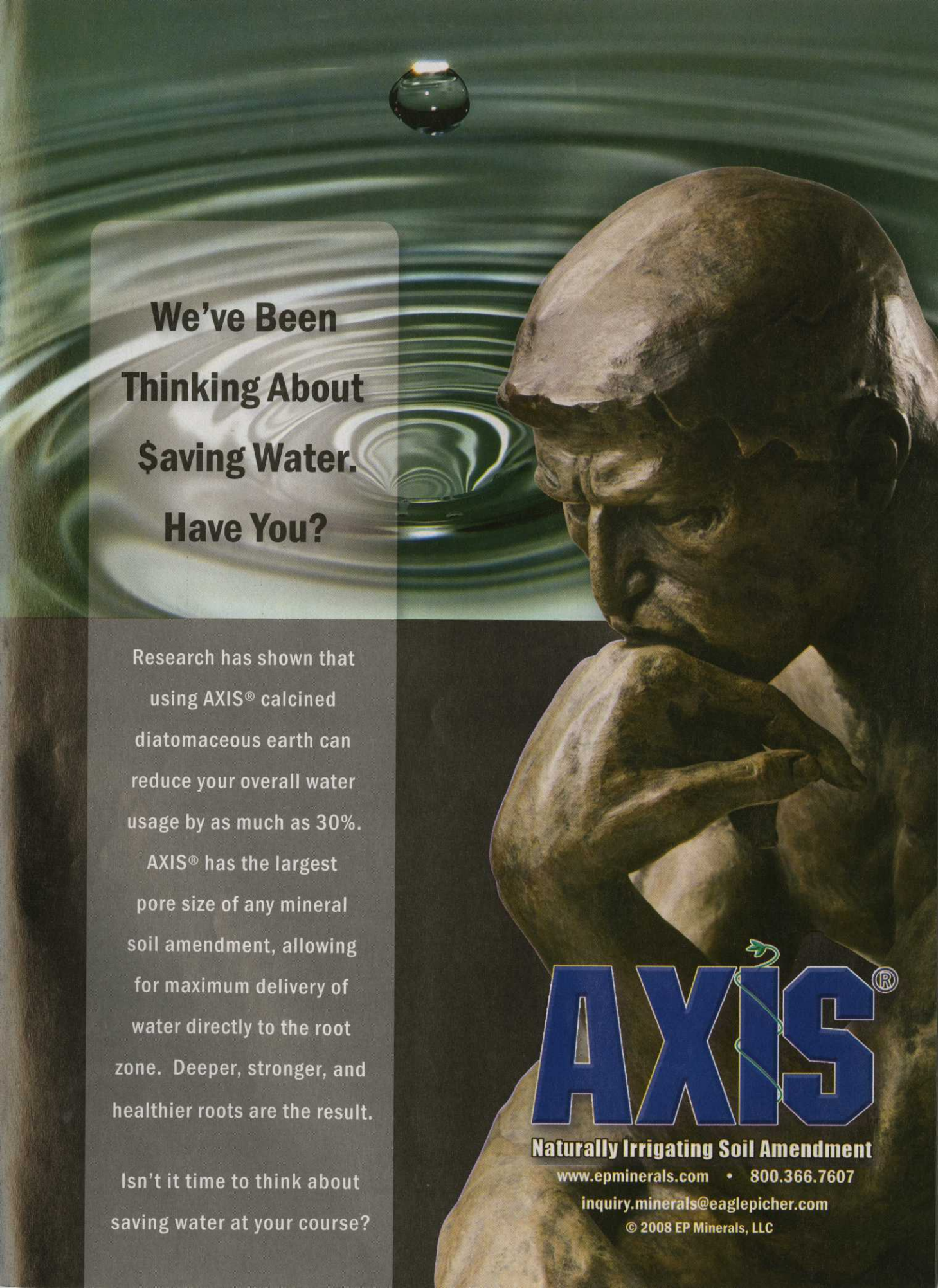
You've known this for a long time, but the conservationist label is not nearly as sexy to golfers. Yet conservation is really at the heart of the environmental movement, only minus the fear and guilt.

If you haven't already, figure out ways to be proactive on the environmental front. Perhaps you can start writing about some of your safer modern practices in the club newsletter, or you can begin a blog documenting all of the wildlife at your course.

Whether it's for your own peace of mind and sense of job security or to quiet the cranky coots who want to see the world go down in flames because they only have a couple of years left, look for ways to preach the gospel of conservation. It's what makes sense both for the health of the game and the multi-billion-dollar industry surrounding it, but also for the common good of mankind.

Wait, there I go making you feel guilty. Ah, you know what I'm saying. End of sermon.

Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com. Visit his Web site at www.geoffshackelford.com.



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Turf M.D.

■ THE DOCTOR IS IN THE HOUSE

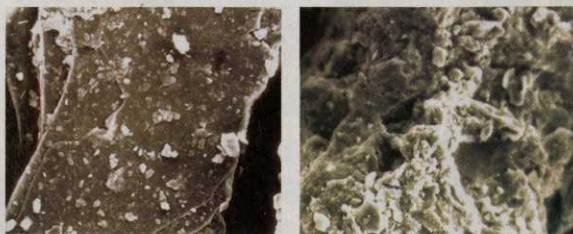
In the midst of summer, a vast majority of golf course superintendents face a chronic problem of localized dry spots (LDS) on their courses' greens and fairways. LDS is caused by a hydrophobic (water repellent) soil condition. The result is a lack of uniform soil moisture across the turf, resulting in isolated dry patches. Although LDS is commonly associated with sandy soils or greens with high sand-content rootzones, it is found across a wide range of soil conditions in agricultural settings.

In the western United States, hydrophobic soil conditions can occur over a large area of a recently burned forest. Intense heat and burning of litter and organic matter results in a waxy substance being produced that can coat soil particles or form a layer at the soil surface. The waxy substance produces a hydrophobic condition. Additionally, some soil fungi can excrete organic substances that can render the surface soil hydrophobic. These waxy and organic substances often are associated with LDS on turf.

Within the turf profile, a hydrophobic area can develop in the thatch layer or in the top inch of the soil profile. Thatch hydrophobicity normally becomes more pronounced when soils reach low moisture levels. Although there appears to be a correlation between depth and the potential for LDS, there are exceptions. The hydrophobic zone is normally in the top 1-inch of soils, but can be as deep as 8 inches (Dekker, 2004).

Left photograph: An electron micrograph of a wettable (hydrophilic) sand particle.

Right photograph: An electron micrograph picture of a non-wettable (hydrophobic) sand particle. Notice the organic coating compared to figure 1.



Summer Brings Fun, Sun and LDS

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



LDS IS FOUND
ACROSS A WIDE
RANGE OF SOIL
CONDITIONS,
ESPECIALLY
SANDY SOILS

LDS turf symptoms are similar to wilt or drought symptoms. Diagnosing whether the cause of the drought symptoms is due to LDS or a lack of water is important in treating the cause. The water drop penetration test is one method for determining the presence and location of hydrophobicity in the rootzone.

By taking a rootzone core and placing water droplets along the profile from the thatch layer through the first few inches, the presence of the hydrophobic layer can be determined. If the water droplet penetrates the rootzone profile in less than five seconds, then the hydrophobic conditions are not present. However, if the water droplet does not penetrate (remains beaded), then a level of water repellency exists that can range from moderate to severe depending on the time needed for penetration.

Maintenance practices, some based on antidotal experience, range from modifying the rootzone to applying various products. Wetting agents are the most common and effective method for treating LDS. Wetting agents reduce the surface tension of water to allow for rootzone/soil penetration. There are several wetting agents/surfactants shown to reduce LDS.

In general, a combination of wetting agents along with good management practices, including coring and proper watering, provide the best results. Because of improvements in wetting agents, LDS is much less severe on turf than it once was. However, LDS is a chronic problem that needs to be managed annually.

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.