

## Got a Beautifully Brutal Golf Hole?

If your golf course includes a hole where players boast after carding a bogey or finishing with the same ball they hit from the tee, John Deere Credit wants to showcase it

in a search for the Most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes in North America.

"The Most Beautifully Brutal Golf Holes is an effort by John Deere Credit to salute the outstanding efforts of course owners, managers and superintendents for creating memorable experiences for players," says Steve Knutson, director of golf and turf leasing for John Deere Credit.

Golf course superintendents, architects, owners and builders can nominate the most Beautifully Brutal Par 4 holes on their courses until May 15 and Par 3 holes until July 15. A Web site, [www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles](http://www.JohnDeereCredit.com/BrutalGolfHoles), complete with contest rules and details, has been created to accept nominations. Simply upload a photo of the nominated hole explaining what makes it beautifully brutal.

Nominations will be collected from five regions in the United States and one region in Canada (excluding Quebec). ■



**"Woodward"** — *Continued from page 16* because outgoing CEO Steve Mona was doing such a good job. He inquired about the position the same week Mona announced he'd be moving on to lead the World Golf Foundation.

"It's the next progression in my career," Woodward says. "I like challenges, and it's going to be a great experience."

The appointment might come as a surprise to many who have witnessed Woodward's satisfaction in working at Torrey Pines. After spending a day with Woodward in late March, he appeared to be a guy who found his niche. In just three years, Woodward became a pillar in the community. He sat on the board of The Friends of Torrey Pines, a business task force that raised \$3 million for renovations that helped bring the Open to the historic golf course. He revamped the fee structures for the Balboa Park and Mission Bay golf courses to make them more profitable — to the tune of \$3 million more in revenue — in spite of death threats from residents who feared their beloved community treasure would become unaffordable. But Woodward didn't blink.

All the while, he led negotiations

to bring high-profile golf tournaments to the city. He's currently talking to the Ladies Professional Golf Association and IMG to bring the Samsung World Championship to Torrey Pines in 2009 and 2010. If he succeeds, Torrey will host its usual PGA Tour event (Buick Invitational), a USGA event (U.S. Open), the Callaway Junior World Championship and the Samsung LPGA event in a 17-month span.

Now Woodward is gearing up for the two largest professional events of his life: hosting a U.S. Open and transitioning power to lead the professional association that has guided his career.

Good thing he knows how to multitask. The GCSAA knows it, too. It also knows how to support its own message. Mona dedicated his tenure to raising the professional status of superintendents. He also said that his successor should come from the golf industry. The board of directors couldn't have supported that message any stronger than appointing one of its own to lead the GCSAA.

Woodward will still get a U.S. Open under his belt, and something tells me it won't be the last time that you'll find him behind the ropes. ■



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# Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 12 | Southern Hills Country Club | Tulsa, Oklahoma



PHOTO BY: MILLER BROWN



# Month

## Hole Stats

Distance: 458 yards

Par 4

## The Turf

Green: A1 and A4 Bentgrass

Fairway: U-3 or Astro Bermudagrass

As host of 14 major championships and the upcoming 2009 U.S. Amateur, Southern Hills Country Club is a historic gem and a golfer's fantasy.

Golf legends Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer have called the course's 12th hole one of America's greatest par fours. Its right-to-left sloping fairway demands a precision drive down the slight left dogleg onto a blind landing area.



A second shot, made with a long to middle iron, must careen past water and sand bunkers onto a well-banked green. Even the pros are likely to bogey. But the real challenge of outsmarting the course's obstacles falls on certified golf course superintendent Russ Myers.

"Tulsa's mid-America climate can be as unforgiving as the course's hazardous slopes and slants," Myers said.

Unlike other regions that enjoy transitional seasons between freezing and sweltering, the city's flat, arid landscape offers little variance between climate extremes.

"We may experience 30 days of ice cover, then get hit with two and a half months of straight rain and then dry heat," he said. "I have to trust my experience, not the forecast, to keep the greens in championship shape."

Myers is no stranger to managing tournament turf. He trained at Augusta National Golf Club, has participated in 23 majors and PGA Tour events and worked as Card Sound Golf Club's head superintendent for eight years in Key Largo, Fla.

When Myers was faced with an outbreak of *Pythium volutum* on the greens at Southern Hills, he turned to monthly applications of Insignia® fungicide at a rate of 0.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet to keep the disease at bay.

"Insignia is an absolute staple in our rotation," Myers said. "It is an effective preventive treatment and works well to cure infection that's been exasperated by spouts of damaging weather."

To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit [www.betterturf.com](http://www.betterturf.com).

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

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**R**epeat after me: Playing golf is a game. Operating a golf course is a business. By any standard of common sense, balance sheet analysis and tax revenue records, it becomes clear that golf is big business — about \$76 billion worth to the national economy. Here in Florida, it's worth about \$5 billion to the state's economy, and it employs 72,000 people. For an industry that contributes so much, there are a lot of restrictions, especially when it comes to water.

Water restrictions are an industry challenge. What other industry or business has been so severely and unfairly targeted to cut back a key resource?

Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association Past President Richard Staughton told me the state requested industries, municipalities and utilities to cut back water use 10 percent in light of the devastating drought this past year. Once the emergency drought order was lifted, the net effect was a 90 percent cutback for golf. And this totally outrageous treatment is being levied on a water-using industry that consumes only .85 percent of Georgia's water resources. Why is this happening?

It all goes back to the public perception that golf is a big water user. That isn't opinion; that's an unvarnished assertion coming from a water management district staff person. When asked why a 2.3 percent water user like golf in south Florida was being cut back 45 percent when the industry already was acknowledged as efficient water managers compared to most consumers, the response was, "But golf courses are so visible!" Say what? Visible doesn't mean irresponsible. If visibility is the criteria for holding golf to a tougher standard than everyone else, then I'll give you visibility.

Visible is the broken head gushing wasted gallons from municipal road medians. Visible is the homeowners association sprinkler system running during or after a rainstorm. Visible is the county commission's approval of a new water park during a drought. Visible is residential irrigation running on the wrong days and wrong times of day during drought restrictions. Visible is the newspaper article stating that the

## Perception Becomes Regulatory Reality

BY JOEL JACKSON



IT ALL GOES BACK  
TO THE PUBLIC  
PERCEPTION THAT  
GOLF IS A BIG  
WATER USER

local wastewater treatment plant is dumping 300 million gallons of "lightly treated" effluent into the Atlantic ocean every day.

The biggest water wasters, due to their overwhelming numbers and ignorance of proper turf and landscape management, are homeowners. In Florida, public supply consumes 30 percent of the area's water, and 50 percent of that is used on outdoor irrigation. So how can government effectively enforce water restrictions on the general population? It can't. So politicians focus on "visible" industries like golf, which people love to attack on a number of fronts.

All I ask is that the people responsible for regulation of water use publish a pie chart showing the major water-user groups in the newspapers. They don't have to pat anyone on the back or point any fingers, just label the water-user groups: agriculture, public supply, industry and commercial, power generation, recreation and private self supply (private well). In Florida, golf is approximately two-thirds of the recreation total. The numbers will speak for themselves.

Another number I learned recently was that a typical golf course recharges the surficial water table to the tune of about four times more water than it pumps to irrigate. In an urban setting, I would think that would be a great positive contribution to water conservation.

Certainly during emergency drought conditions, every water user, including golf courses, must practice good water management to contribute to conservation. Forcing golf to cut back by disproportionate amounts does not save significant amounts of water. It only jeopardizes the businesses and local economies we're trying to protect.

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



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**T**he folks at Augusta National have asked for your help. Yep, the days of Hootie are definitely long gone.

At last month's Masters, Chairman Billy Payne talked about the club's new "global initiative" to "grow the game internationally and get more youngsters excited about golf and the lifelong lessons it teaches."

So to kick off this ambitious idea, the club televised its popular par-3 contest on Wednesday to show that a pee-wee course can be extraordinarily cool.

During tournament play, the club let the kids of patrons in free. They even added social networking features on [www.masters.org](http://www.masters.org). Payne reasoned, and rightfully so, that Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts believed a great Masters experience would get people excited about the game of golf.

Unfortunately, they then had to play the par-3 contest and the Masters, which probably didn't get people too excited about the game.

The folks at ESPN drew a huge rating for the par-3 contest, but a scene involving kids running around and damaging greens probably failed to inspire many parents or kids to play golf. Superintendents and club committee types probably came away less likely to suggest closing the course once a week to host a family-only Easter egg hunt in the name of growing the game.

Those of us who had not been to the Masters the past few years had no idea that this great little Wednesday affair had transmogrified into PGA Tour Day Care's version of a cotillion coming-out party. Instead of white gloves, we got way too many pre-kindergarten kids in white jump suits turning Clifford Roberts' dream course into Romper Room.

And they wonder why ol' Cliff kiboshed the membership application of a guy with six kids.

Anyway, things got worse for the future of golf when the big tournament started. The last threesome took five hours and 10 minutes to finish the first round in the dark. Things digressed to 5:37 Friday. And that was with-

## A Bad Execution of Good Intentions

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



AUGUSTA NATIONAL  
IS HURTING ITS OWN  
CAUSE BY MAKING  
THE MASTERS  
A TORTURE TEST

out lost balls and less than 100 players on the course.

By Sunday, the redesigned Augusta National had so badly messed with the heads and games of the world's best, that it took the last twosome five hours to finish after the wind kicked up. And that's playing in a field of 45 on a beautifully conditioned course.

This is not the way to grow the game.

Sadly, as well intentioned as the club is in its outreach efforts, it's only doing more damage unless it restores the excitement of the Masters to its place as a celebration of the game. No one in their right mind is going to take up golf watching a torture test.

Because watching the world's best struggle only makes people wonder: If they can't do it, how can I?

As determined as Payne seems to be, he's going to have to decide if protecting par is worth sabotaging his efforts and the greatest sporting event in the world. So far, the club seems hellbent on making the flat bellies struggle so it can get the last laugh. But is it really that fun to have most of the country talking about how you messed up a great thing?

If you watched the Masters and agree, tell Payne yourself. The club's Web site offers a page to sign up and share your comments at [www.masters.org/ggw/en/index](http://www.masters.org/ggw/en/index).

You can also take this opportunity to share success stories or make pleas for setting new environmentally and common-sense driven maintenance practices.

The Augusta leaders say they want to hear it and share the best ideas with the golf world. I believe them. I'm just not sure they know how to lead by example.

*Shackelford can be reached at [geoffshac@aol.com](mailto:geoffshac@aol.com).*



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**A**mino acids are the building blocks for proteins. A total of 20 amino acids exist that are combined into various lengths (peptides) to form proteins. In humans, nine of the 20 amino acids are considered essential. Athletes will add extra protein or amino acids to their diet as supplements to add muscle. But plants do not need supplemental amino acids because they can make all of the amino acids on their own starting with nitrate or ammonium.

Structurally, amino acids contain an amine group (NH<sub>2</sub>) and a carboxyl group (COOH). The carbon where these two groups are attached is called the alpha carbon. The third component, the side chain which can vary in structural complexity, is also attached to the alpha carbon. The side chain is the differentiating structure of the amino acids.

Amino acids occur as one of two optical isomers. A visual analogy for optical isomers is that your left hand is a mirror image of the right hand, but the two hands can't be superimposed on each other. The amino acid optical isomers exist on one of two forms referred to as L and D. Almost all amino acids that exist in proteins are of the L form.

Although the major importance of amino acids is in the formation of proteins, they can serve as a chelating agent for micro-nutrients and as a base for certain herbicides. For example, the amino acid glycine with methyl phosphonate forms the herbicide glyphosate (Meister, 1999). Additionally, amino acids can be oxidized to urea and carbon dioxide as an energy source.

Since amino acids can be oxidized into urea, they are used as a nitrogen source in some turfgrass fertilizers. Amino acids only can be taken up by the plant as a single amino acid or peptide. Amino acids that are linked together like dipeptides (two amino acids) or larger peptides can't be taken up by the plant directly.

In organic fertilizers that contain chicken feathers, sea kelp or other sources of protein

## The Attributes of Amino Acids

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



THESE PROTEIN  
BUILDING BLOCKS  
ARE ESSENTIAL  
TO TURF HEALTH

that are not completely hydrolyzed, then the plant depends on soil microbes to break down the protein for nitrogen utilization. The nitrogen is then mineralized and used by the turfgrass plant.

Given that single amino acids can be taken up by the plant readily and that partially hydrolyzed proteins (dipeptide or larger) are not taken up until microbial activity occurs, the analogies of "quick-release" and "slow-release" types of amino acids have been applied. On some fertilizer bags that contain amino acids, the terms "free" and "fixed" are used and are probably analogous to "quick" and "slow," respectively.

Amino acids are immobilized by coming in contact with surfaces with considerable electrical charge. In laboratory studies, amino acids are often fixed to charged membranes. In nature, amino acids can become fixed to soil particles like clay that have a charge.

Organic fertilizers containing amino acids that are in the form of partially hydrolyzed proteins have slow-release characteristics. A quick-release form of nitrogen may be needed or added to the product to get the initial nitrogen response.

Single peptide amino acids can be applied and taken up by the turfgrass plant. However, their efficiency is still being studied. To enhance the response time, amino acids (single peptides) are best applied as a foliar application to minimize the potential for being fixed to a clay particle.

Amino acids are essential to healthy turf, just as they are to human beings.

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