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Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 8

from brain cancer. He was 52. Daly's love for the game of golf and respect for superintendents in the industry began during his college years when he worked on a crew at a course near his childhood home in West Des Moines, Iowa. After working as an assistant superintendent, he transitioned to the manufacturing side and held numerous positions with chemical companies including Ciba, Novartis and Bayer Environmental Science. He progressed through his career serving in roles such as field sales representative, regional sales manager, market and brand manager and director of marketing. "Mike was a thinker," said Neil Cleveland, director of the U.S. Green Business for Bayer Environmental Science and a long-time friend. "He saw things from a different point of view. You could always count on Mike to bring fresh ideas and unique solutions." ■

Quotable

"Only 18 percent of golfers have registered handicaps. So I ask you, 'Who are we building golf courses for?'"

— *Golf Course Architect Bobby Weed on the misguided direction the golf course industry has taken by building courses that are too difficult for average players.*

"It's hard to believe I was swinging a club at that age. But she certainly has my temper. ... She doesn't like for me to help her hold a golf club. She'll figure it out for herself. Sounds very familiar."

— *Tiger Woods on his daughter Sam, who recently turned 2 years old. Tiger admits Sam is a chip off the old block.*



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Off The Fringe

Looking 'Fine' and Dandy

FINE FESCUES MAKING THEIR MARK, ACCORDING TO SEED RESEARCHERS

By Ron Hall

Until recently, fine fescues have, to some extent, been the forgotten stepchild in the turf-grass picture. Bluegrasses, ryegrasses

and turf-type tall fescues have generated the most excitement regarding breeding advancements and new varieties. But these popular cool-season species now have to share the spotlight

with fine fescues. The fine-leafed, bunch-type grass, known for its cold tolerance and environmental benefits, has boosted its popularity.

"The idea of looking at alternative grasses that use less fertilizer and water is what we're looking at," said Wayne Horman, at the recent Scotts Professional Seed/Pure-Seed Testing Field Day in Rolesville, N.C. "These are attributes of fine fescues, along with their ability to survive and look good in moderate shade."

Horman, national accounts manager for Scotts Professional Seed, said golf course superintendents especially are getting the message, often taking out five to eight acres of other species and replacing them with fine fescues because of the savings to their fertilizer and water budgets.

"We're going to try to take these grasses a step further," said Horman about the breeding and selection program at the North Carolina research farm. "We're going to try everything with them."

Kevin Turner, who heads Scotts Professional Seed Oregon program, reiterated Horman's comments regarding fine fescue's usefulness. "Fine fescue is an under-utilized grass," he said.

One visitor to the field day said fine fescue is a grass that "really wants to be left alone and ignored, and generally doesn't like a lot of fertilizer, water or even a lot of maintenance."

As an interesting side note to the field day, David Huff, Ph.D., associate professor of turfgrass breeding and genetics at Penn State University, said there is confusion surrounding the identification and marketing of the various types of fine fescues, generally broken down into creeping red, chewings, sheep and hard fescues.

Huff suggested renaming the types as blue hard fescue and American sheep fescue to tell them apart and to aid architects and others when they specify a particular type of fine fescue for a project. ■



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Off The Fringe

PRIVILEGE *Continued from page 8*

sions scheduled for this day moved past us and to the gravesite of another American hero. Then we turned on our machines and got back to work, reminded that, on this most hallowed ground, we were united as a team, united as an industry and united as Americans.

The next day, many of us traded our work clothes for coats and ties to visit lawmakers on Capitol Hill. I had meetings with Pennsylvania Congressman Jim Gerlach and with aides for New Jersey Congressmen Rush Holt and Rob Andrews.

I wish I could say I left Washington feeling that our messages concerning pending water legislation, health care for small businesses and immigration labor laws were heard loud and clear. There are obviously some lawmakers who understand the issues and others who just don't get it when it comes to the contributions of our industry and the corresponding need for their support. It was a strong reminder we need to continue the education process, and that the 13th Renewal & Remembrance event can't be our last. ■

JIM *Continued from page 10*

will play somewhere around 7,650 yards. There are too many changes to list since 2002. We repositioned 18 bunkers, added 10 bunkers and added length on 12 holes.

In 50 words or less, describe how the course's greens will play for the tournament? They will be at championship speeds and fairly firm. They are bentgrass/*Poa* (until next summer), and our main goal is have them smooth. There are subtle breaks, which make them a little tricky when the speed is up.

Has Jim Nicol changed at all since the last PGA Championship?

My hair is a lighter color, and I might have mellowed some.

How do you handle the pressure that comes with staging a tournament like this? Stay focused and remain true to what the mission is.

Get some sleep and take a little time for family and friends.

You also need to depend on the lead crew members.

Who's your favorite player on the PGA Tour and why? Tim Herron is a great guy who I have followed since his high school days. He calls me "Jimmy" and gives me a cigar once in while when he is out here. Tom Lehman is also very kind but no cigars.

What will you do Sunday night after the tournament? Have a short celebration with the crew and get ready for the outing on Monday morning. I'm going to take the following weekend off (I hope) to fish and ... ■



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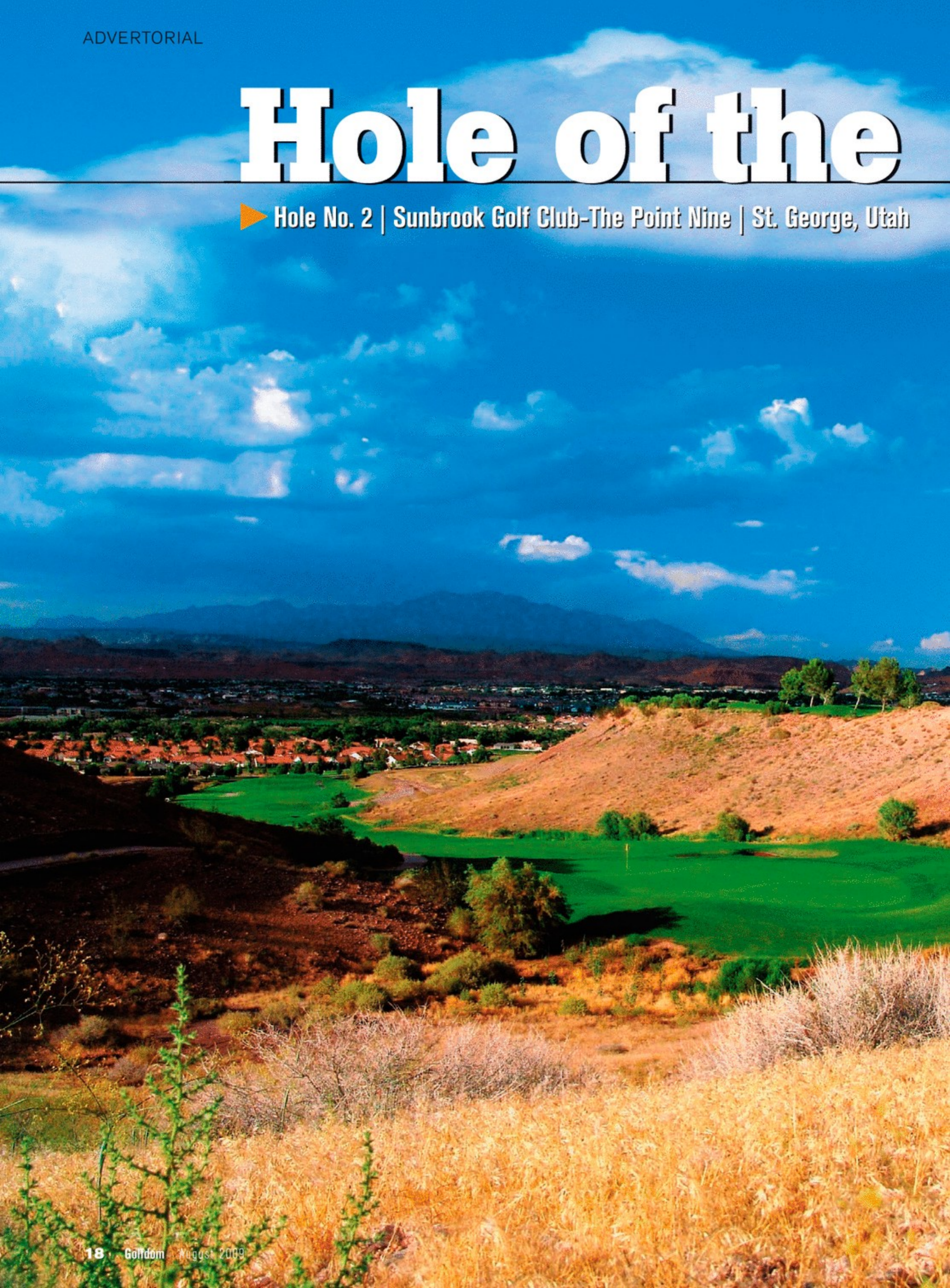


The Right Way to Treat a Tree

Mauget[™]

Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 2 | Sunbrook Golf Club-The Point Nine | St. George, Utah



Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 521 yards

Par 5

The Turf

Greens: Bermudagrass
overseeded with ryegrass

Greens: Pennncross/*Poa annua*,
SR1020/*Poa annua*

Nestled among southwestern Utah's red canyon walls and untamed foothills, 27-hole Sunbrook Golf Club offers golfers dramatic desert panoramas and hole variety. The Ted Robinson-designed course embraces the natural landscape, including sandstone cliffs, 300-year-old cottonwood trees and lava flow remnants.

"Every hole is uniquely native," said Jerome Jones, director of golf course maintenance for the city and supervisor at Sunbrook since 2001. "As a result, we've got to keep our eye out for snakes, cougars and coyotes."

Maintaining high-level playing conditions in a desert environment is not easy. "Heat is our biggest issue — 117-degree weather doesn't tend to agree with turf," Jones said. "It's tough to keep grass alive with such high temps."

The emerald-green putting surface on hole No. 2 of Sunbrook's nine called The Point is a testament to Jones and his 12-person crew's triumph over the scorching elements. Before players can appreciate Hole 2's pristine three-tiered green, they must drive both uphill and against the wind onto a narrow, 521-yard fairway.

"It's a long, tough hole with steep hills guarding both sides and very little rough to stop the ball from traveling into desert area," Jones warns.

Jones prevents disease from harming his nurtured turf by using Insignia[®] fungicide. "I'm old school," Jones said. "I prefer to avoid rapid blight and other diseases before I get them by making preventive applications. Then I don't have to worry."

For broad-spectrum peace of mind, Jones rotates applications of Insignia at a rate of 0.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet every other month.

"Insignia provides great control and is reasonably priced," he said. "It's really a one-size-fits-all solution."

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



From the Back Tees

■ OPINION

It has been a very rainy spring here at the Lake Omigosh Golf Club in central Florida. As a joke, Superintendent Duffy McDuffy began posting high and low tide times on the pro shop bulletin board.

Some of our more uptight members weren't laughing because the course was often closed to golf car traffic a couple days a week, and they could play golf only four to five times a week instead of their usual seven. Delays in early-morning start times as the crew tried to rebuild bunkers and slog around the course bred ill will among the dew sweepers who pride themselves on teeing off in the dawn twilight.

All I know is that when I came back from a four-day business trip, Orlando had gone from a minus 2.73-inch rainfall deficit for the year to a plus 7.23-inch surplus and set all-time records for the month of May.

Our watery tribulations paled in comparison to Superintendent Craig Currier's task at Bethpage Black Golf Course for the U.S. Open, though. He and the crew and the volunteers worked a miracle to part the waters and keep the U. S. Open afloat to its dramatic conclusion. Well done, one and all.

I don't know how a week of continuous rains in the Northeast and the river flooding in the Midwest earlier this spring squares with the supposed cataclysmic droughts we are supposed to be suffering thanks to global warming, aka climate change, but I'm sure the spinmeisters will come up with some reason to blame carbon dioxide and increase the cost of operating our golf course equipment.

Meanwhile, Duffy says these rains have wrecked his summer mowing, aerifying, verticutting and topdressing schedules. And, of course, soggy, closed or walking-only and cart path-only days hits the cash register at the worst time when the economy is lagging already.

Beyond golfer inconvenience is the diabolical one-two punch from Mother Nature. Too much rain screws with schedules and saturates root zones, and the cloudy days help breed fungus and algae growth. None of that concerns the golfers who wait impatiently for

Another Fine Lesson From Lake Omigosh

BY JOEL JACKSON



TORRENTIAL RAINS

AND COURSE

FLOODING REMINDS

US OF THE OLD

ADAGE THAT 'PAY

ME NOW OR PAY ME

LATER' IS TRUE

FOR A REASON

the first rays of sunshine to return to the links. So, keep up those bulletins apprising them of course conditions and your programs to keep the turf healthy.

With the mowers parked more than usual, Duffy has been cranking up the spray rig more and applying PGRs to help keep the clippings down when he gives the fairways and roughs a whack. Although the other day he said it looked more like they were harvesting kelp instead of mowing grass.

Every dark cloud has a silver lining, though. With the rains comes filling reservoirs, aquifers, ponds and lakes on the courses that had been showing 3 to 6 feet of bottom just a few months ago. Water restrictions are pushed to the back burner and we all get some breathing room on that score.

Torrential rains and course flooding also reminds us of the old adage that "pay me now or pay me later" (or as Duffy says, "... again, and again and again") is true for a reason. Golf course site selection, design elements and construction are key up-front issues that need to be addressed thoughtfully. Investing in the best possible drainage systems from surface grading and contouring to the subsurface infrastructure will save time, money and customer aggravation down the line. The same goes for any future course renovation project.

So long from Lake Omigosh where the superintendent sets his computer to The Weather Channel, the crew takes SCUBA lessons, and the members wear those \$5 lightweight Disney rain ponchos.

Joel Jackson, CGCS, retired from Disney's golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.