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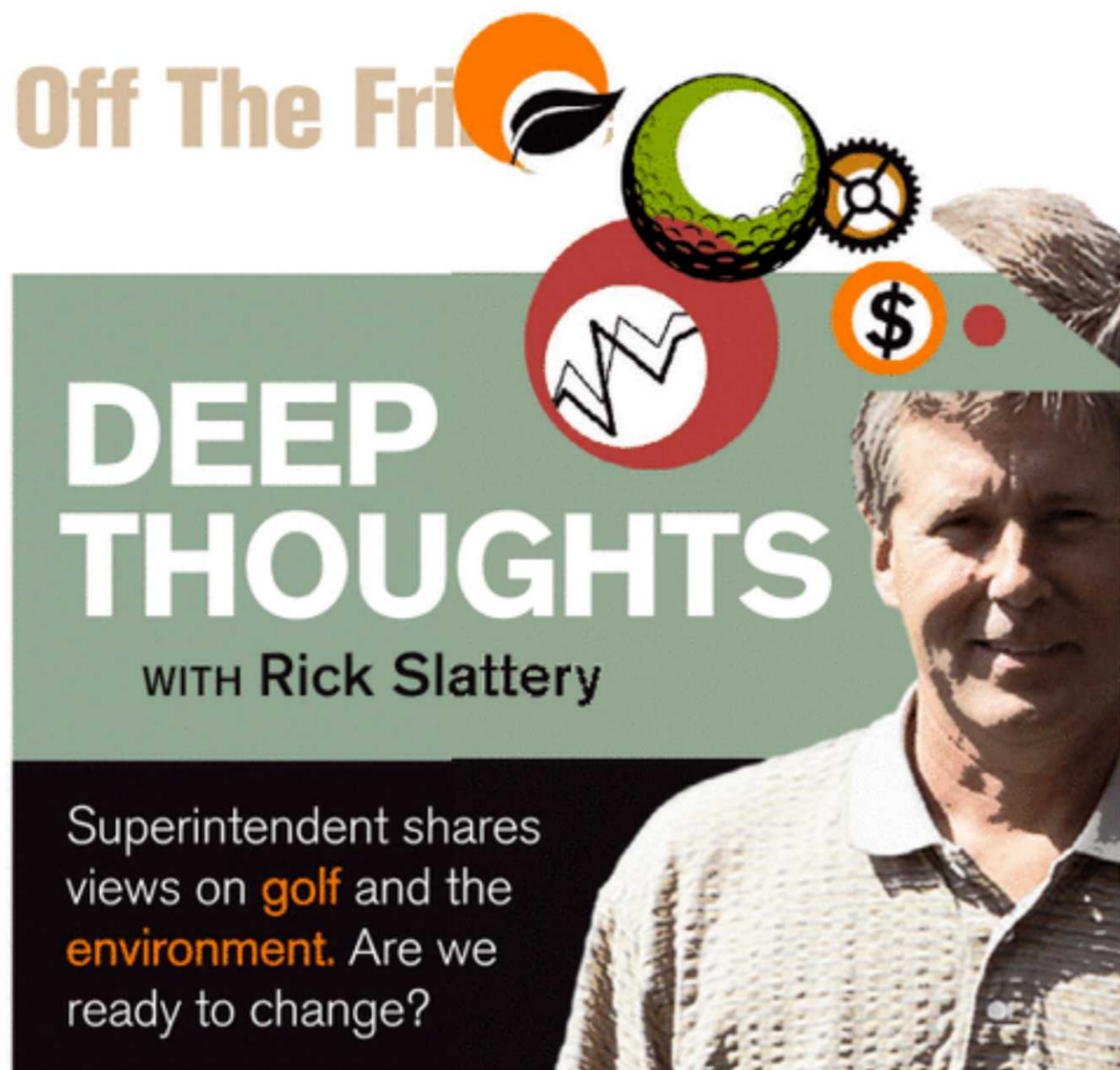
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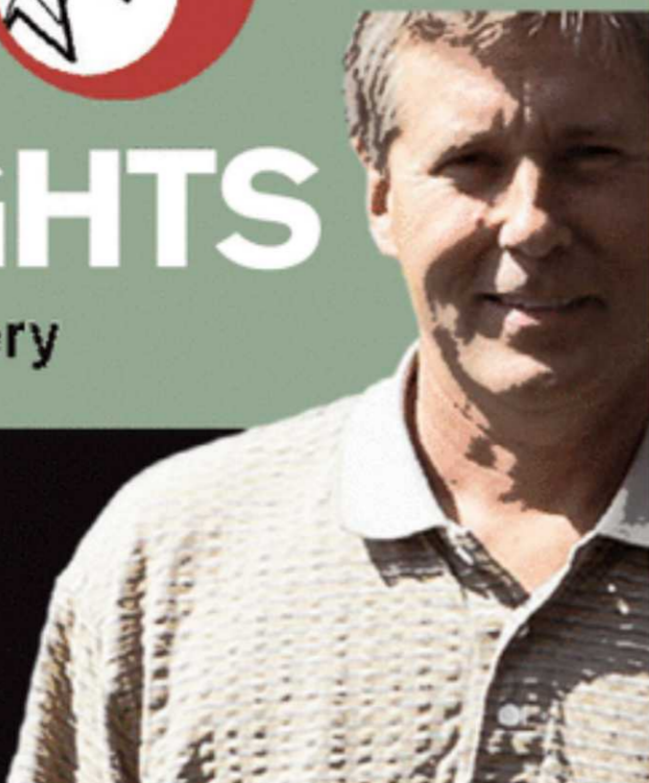




# DEEP THOUGHTS

WITH Rick Slattery

Superintendent shares views on **golf** and the **environment**. Are we ready to change?



**Editor's note:** Rick Slattery, longtime superintendent of Locust Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y., is an astute person who not only keeps up with the latest in golf course maintenance agronomics, but is well-versed in what's going on in his world, from politics to the economy to world events. *Golfdom* asked Slattery, who is on the magazine's editorial advisory board, to share some of his thoughts with readers. Slattery's column will run randomly in *Golfdom*.

In any society, there will always be groups or individuals with extreme views on various subjects. Therefore, I don't believe all environmentalists are activists, just like I don't believe all Republicans are conservative or all Democrats are liberal.

Across the country, there are countless examples of golf course superintendents who have engaged government officials and environmentalists on water shortages and other issues with very positive results. But it has always been

puzzling and a paradox to me that, as superintendents, we think of ourselves as environmentalists, but during elections we align ourselves with the political party that's considered to be anti-environment because they are the least likely to regulate or eliminate the water and chemicals we use. I think we need to send a clearer message.

In the face of the power shift in Washington, the environmental movement and increasing costs with dwindling supplies, there's going to be a new way of doing business. If our industry refuses to see what's on the horizon, it will be akin to burying our heads in the sand. It's the human condition that we don't react until there's a crisis, but in every crisis there is opportunity. Will the answers to our future be found in conservation, new and more efficient products, more precise application methods, or outright elimination of water and raw materials?

Much like the focus that's now on alternative forms of energy, this may be the perfect political climate for investment and research into new alternative means of agriculture, genetics and safer, less-costly and more available products. There will come a day, if it hasn't arrived already, when recreational agriculture will take a backseat to food-producing agriculture.

I remember in grade school, I once did a project on the premise that with uncontrolled urban sprawl the only green space left in the distant future would be largely composed of interlocking tracts of parks, cemeteries and golf courses. I still believe golf courses will be a fundamental component to the preservation of our shrinking green space, but we'll have to adapt.

Are we ready to change? ■

*Golfdom* would like to hear your deep thoughts on Slattery's view. Just send an e-mail to [info@golfdom.com](mailto:info@golfdom.com).

*Continued from page 10*

what his knowledge is," Nicklaus said. "He's a very, very intense young man who really likes what he does."

Nicklaus hired Latshaw away from Oak Hill Country Club in 2003. Latshaw had just hosted the PGA Championship and had no plans to leave Oak Hill. But then Jack came calling.

Actually, Nicklaus first contacted Latshaw's father, Paul R. Latshaw, regarded as one of the profession's finest superintendents and mentors, to see if he could recommend anyone for the job. "I

know you have a lot of young guys who have trained under you, and I'm trying to find one you think would be suitable for us to have," Nicklaus told him.

The elder Latshaw didn't think twice about recommending his son for the gig. Nicklaus interviewed Paul B. and hired him. It was clearly evident at the press conference that Nicklaus is impressed with the younger Latshaw's agronomic abilities. "He has taken this course to the next level," Nicklaus said.

Nicklaus talked about how Latshaw has wowed him with what he has done

on the course to correct drainage problems. Nicklaus admitted he wouldn't have dreamed of doing some of the things Latshaw recommended to repair those problems. "That's his background; that's his education — to be able to do those kinds of things," Nicklaus said.

Nicklaus said he's more than willing to pay Latshaw more for what he brings to the table. "But don't tell him that," Nicklaus said quickly. "It will cost me too much money."

Something tells me Jack would ante up. ■





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# Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 12 | Kalamazoo Country Club | Kalamazoo, Mich.





# Month

## Hole Stats

Distance: 207 yards

Par 3

## The Turf

Greens: Bentgrass/Poa

The 100-year-old Kalamazoo Country Club swapped private-club rigidness regarding play and membership for a simple guarantee — a welcoming atmosphere backed by quality turf.

“The greatest thing about our club is there are few rules. No tee signs, no tee times. We just play a lot of golf,” said Certified Golf Course Superintendent John Fulling.

Members feel comfortable toting their children to the club for a day of golf and activities. “We made a concerted effort years ago to be family-oriented, and it’s really helpful in these economic times,” Fulling said. “From junior golf to tennis, daycare and nature walks — we’ve got it all.”

But the course is no kids’ game. With 18 holes spanning just 6,388 yards, the layout demands mental sharpness over powerful play. “Golfers play here again and again because control is a limitless skill to master,” he said.

The par-3 12th hole is a case in point for mental vigilance. Fulling routinely changes tee-box locations, which challenges players to hit over Whites Lake, beyond bunkers and alongside tree lines.

Even Fulling, who has maintained the course for more than 15 years, encounters new threats that throw off his routine. “Anthracnose and summer patch keep me on guard,” he said. “Anthracnose is a problem on edges where mowers travel. But you can’t see the disease until it’s too late.”

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

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# From the Back Tees

■ OPINION

**W**hen I hear about the waning attendance and participation at chapter meetings and industry events, I get concerned about the camaraderie and vitality of our associations.

Members also don't hang around after meetings, shoot the bull or go out to dinner together like before. It's too bad — I think golf course superintendents deserve more regular nights out together.

I know it's tough to balance work and family, and I know that family comes first. But everyone, including spouses, needs more personal down time to relax. So having a night out once in awhile shouldn't be a guilt trip for anyone.

We find ourselves in a multi-tasking, media-blitzed information age. Folks need to have some time and space for themselves. Kids don't stick around forever and once you find yourself in an empty nest, it would be nice to have a network of friends and activities.

My wife and I only have one child — our daughter Jennifer. But we did all the stuff parents do, like providing transportation to baton, dance and piano lessons as well as YMCA Indian Princesses and Rifle Corps in high school band. We attended recitals, parades and every Friday night football game for four years. You know the drill if you are a supportive parent.

Good times. Good fun. Excitement in competitions. But there was this other thing I also had going. I was involved with my local superintendents' chapter, and almost once each month, with a few exceptions like the GCSAA conference or Florida Turfgrass Conference, we had chapter meetings. Even those were opportunities to get away from the daily routine and be exposed to new people, experiences and ideas to energize the mind.

You know the monthly agenda — business meeting, education, lunch and golf. Sometimes after golf a few of us would go out to dinner and wait out the rush-hour traffic. It was time to just be with friends and peers. We'd have some shop talk, sports talk, a few beers and a few laughs.

## Boys' and Girls' Nights Out

BY JOEL JACKSON



IT'S NOT SELFISH  
FOR PARENTS  
TO HAVE THEIR OWN  
TIME OR HOBBIES  
TO PURSUE

Nowadays, I seldom see folks hanging out after meetings. I hear about a few foursomes around the state that play on Friday afternoons rotating among their courses to talk about work and their golf games.

I know times are always changing, but I see kids so over scheduled with activities that Mom and Dad or the kids have little time for just simple fun and relaxation, and I don't mean video games. Get outside and explore. Learn how to find which way is north without a GPS.

It's not selfish for parents to have their own time or hobbies to pursue, even if it's to be alone in a boat or on a pier fishing or golfing with pals or a book club meeting. I think it's healthy for mom and dad to get away for a break now and then.

When I was a kid, we used to play a lot of pickup games of touch football, cork ball, flies and grounders, tag, hide and seek — all in the yard or side street. We didn't have to have travel teams going to other cities or now even other states to compete and have fun. That takes time and money, and time isn't something you can save up. If play dates are so good for Junior and Sissy then what about for Mom and Dad?

Lord knows kids will get enough regimentation in school, and hopefully in service for their country and the business world. Mom and Dad have had that same regimentation, now they deserve a little time to goof around doing what they like to do.

Just remember if you do get to enjoy some more "Boys' or Girls' Days or Nights Out," play responsibly and look both ways before crossing the street.

---

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



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**T**emperature is the driving force for all biological activity. It defines the optimum range for turfgrass growth. Turfgrass stress occurs outside those ranges. With summer temperatures upon us, I thought it might be a good time to look at the impact of temperature on the turf.

Solar radiation is the source of heat buildup in the turf, which helps explain why snow melts at temperatures below freezing on bright, sunny days. Conversely, the processes of transpiration and conduction/convection dissipate the heat from solar radiation, lowering the turf or canopy temperature.

We can predict turf canopy temperatures under various environmental conditions by using solar radiation, transpiration and conduction/convection. Listed below are common scenarios that occur during summer:

1. On a clear, sunny day, with no breeze (still conditions) and adequate soil moisture (for transpirational cooling), the canopy temperature will be 15 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the air temperature.

2. On a clear, sunny day, with a slight breeze (4 to 5 mph) and adequate soil moisture present, the canopy temperature will approximate the air temperature.

3. On a cloudy day with no breeze and adequate soil moisture, the canopy temperature will approximate the air temperature.

From the above scenarios, you can see the impact of solar radiation on canopy temperatures. Solar radiation can raise the canopy temperature 15 degrees F above the air temperature. On cloudy days with less solar radiation, the temperature of the canopy doesn't raise much above the air temperature.

The impact of air movement is extremely important in canopy temperatures. A slight breeze can reduce canopy temperatures by as much as 15 degrees F on sunny days. In research studies looking at the impact of fans on cooling turf, that 15-degree reduction is not uncommon.

In the previously mentioned examples, the assumption was made that soil moisture was

## Of Temperature and Turfgrass

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



**SOLAR RADIATION  
CAN RAISE CANOPY  
TEMPERATURE  
15 DEGREES ABOVE  
AIR TEMPERATURE**

not limiting and transpiration wouldn't be expected. In cases where soil moisture is limiting, the canopy temperature can well exceed 20 degrees F.

Soil temperatures can greatly affect turfgrass health during summer heat. Soil temperatures are more important in determining the health status of turfgrass plants than air temperatures. When the average daily soil temperatures exceed 70 degrees F, the potential exists for a 50 percent loss/reduction in the root system of a cool-season turfgrass, such as creeping bentgrass.

The "70 degree rule" is a good indicator that once soil temperatures reach this level, management practices — especially mechanical practices — need to be adjusted for the fact that the turf is entering the summer temperature stress phase. By knowing the impact of soil temperature on root growth, we can introduce management practices to delay the onset of root decline. Coring prior to the stress period may delay the rise in soil temperatures. At this time, nighttime temperatures might still be relatively cool. By coring, the cooler night temperatures may delay the increase in soil temperatures.

On warm-season turfgrasses, soil temperatures that average 75 degrees F can help define the start of optimum growing conditions. For example, the establishment of hybrid bermudagrass by sprigging coincides with 75 degrees.

Managing turf under temperature stress is difficult during the summer. Temperature, however, is predictable and can provide us with a few hints of what it's doing to the turf.

---

*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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# Seeds Planted for Improved Market

Times have been tough, but seed companies expect a turnaround

By Anthony Pioppi,  
Contributing Editor

**W**ell before the economy headed south, the golf course seed industry was feeling a downturn, especially the overseeding market as golf course superintendents looked for ways to save money and water.

Now with the golf course construction industry at a near standstill and with no upturn in site, the seed distributors and growers are finding ways to survive. And, for the most part, they remain upbeat about business.

"I'm always optimistic, and I'm generally right," said Bill Rose, president of Tee-2-Green in Hubbard, Ore. "I think it will be going again in 2011."

Rose has been involved with the seed business since 1951. "I've been studying it, and there are 20-year cycles," he said, adding

that drops in his business normally do not last long. Rose estimates his business is down 30 percent compared to 2007.

Murray Wingate, marketing manager for Lebanon, Pa.-based LebanonTurf, said the past two years of economic downturn have been much swifter and more significant than anyone has seen in a long time.

"That has really put the brakes on consumption," Wingate said. "So seed companies have really had to adjust. But it's a crop that comes only once a year, so you can't change production overnight."

Steve Tubbs, president of Tangent, Ore.-based Turf Merchants Inc. (TMI), estimates his business is off about 25 percent compared to 2006 and 2007. Most of TMI's sales come from one part of the golf market — overseeding.

*Continued on page 22*