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# Off The Fringe

## MOVIES *Continued from page 9*

calls I've been on where people tell me they have a water leak," Petersen says. "Then they tell me they're watering seven days a week. And I tell them, 'You don't have a water leak. You've saturated your ground so much that you think you have a water leak, but you don't.'"

The event, organized by Rain Bird's Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd, featured a screening of the finalists' films in front of a live audience.

"The filmmakers in this year's competition have genuinely expressed the importance of efficient, effective and responsible use of the Earth's most precious resource by using the creative and personal power of film in an original and compelling way," said Dave Johnson, Rain Bird's corporate marketing director. "Rain Bird strives to deliver an influential platform where filmmakers like these six finalists can raise awareness of the important issues surrounding water conservation so that others will be inspired and take their own personal action."

Pope also had a good word for Rain Bird, in addition to the filmmakers.

"Rain Bird sets an example of corporate progressiveness, which is just so vital at this time," she said. ■

## WELL-TAUGHT *Continued from page 10*

ditioning has become too extreme, Zontek says he's fine with that. "People say to me, 'Stan, when will it end?' I hope it never ends because it's job security."

Speaking of which, the bet here is Thom Nikolai is secure in his job as turfgrass professor at Michigan State University. That's because the man can outright teach.

You know someone is a top-notch presenter when you can pay attention to him/her for almost two hours. That's Nikolai, who spoke on a variety of subjects, including green speed. "I don't think speed kills," Nikolai said when discussing green speed. "Speed doesn't kill — ignorance does."

While Nikolai was a hit, so was Nick Hamon, Ph.D., and director of development and technical service for Bayer Environmental Science, who gave a presentation on sustainable development. Hamon provided a fascinating presentation on what's coming to the industry in that regard.

The assistants also got to hear longtime John Deere engineer Ron Reichen present on, "Details of Bedknife/Reel Composition." As Matt Armbruster, John Deere Golf's marketing manager said when introducing Reichen, "Ron has forgotten more about this subject than I'll ever know." Reichen's the type anybody would want to listen to and learn from. ■



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# Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 13 | The Rim Golf Club | Payson, AZ



# Month

## Hole Stats

**Distance:** 581 yards  
**Par** 5

## The Turf

**Fairway:** Ryegrass and  
Kentucky bluegrass  
**Green:** Providence bentgrass

At 5,000 feet above sea level, The Rim Golf Club is not your typical Arizona course. Most of the state's courses are surrounded by sand, cacti and arid conditions with low turfgrass disease pressure. The Rim faces mountain conditions that torment its turf, including snow, oppressive heat, elk stampedes and torrential rains.

"People don't expect our course to face much turf disease because Arizona is dry," said Justin Ruiz, the course's certified superintendent. "But weather conditions often create perfect storms that create lingering, humid heat and disease pressure."

Ruiz, who's worked at The Rim for four years, controls disease in this unique climate using preventive applications of Trinity<sup>®</sup> and Insignia<sup>®</sup> fungicides. "I begin applications in spring to protect against what's going to hit," he said. "Heat stress begins in May, then streams of monsoon-like rain pour across the course from July to August."

Ruiz guards against summer patch from late April to August using Trinity at 2 ounces per 1,000 square feet 28 days apart. "The disease wiped out entire fairways in the past, so it's crucial we get ahead of the danger," he said. "Trinity definitely does its job to carry us through the summer patch threat."

To relieve turfgrass stress on The Rim's greens, Ruiz applies Insignia at 0.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet. "During our wet season, Insignia protects against a broad spectrum of diseases," he said. "Preventive applications give us thorough control to the point that we do not see disease outbreaks."

By keeping the turf disease-free, Trinity and Insignia allow golfers to focus on their game and hole 13's surrounding scenery, including a mammoth rock formation called "The Elephant Rock."

"Club members are noticing the difference in turf quality," Ruiz said.

"We've gotten a lot of compliments this year. They are amazed by how healthy the turf is."

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





**N**ormally, I'd give thanks for having a turkey on Thanksgiving Day, but there are too many turkeys out there that don't pass inspection and are bad for our economy, quality of life and the health and vitality of the green industry.

We've had to put up with so many turkeys, past and present, that it's hard to remain positive. (I just know there will be a report out soon on the dangers of pumpkin pie that will put a fork into the normally happy feast.) I jotted down a list of some of these turkeys.

■ **Montreal Protocol:** The ozone layer will continue to shrink and expand like it has done for ages — and Mother Nature will continue to produce more ozone-depleting compounds annually than man. Geopolitics has replaced geosciences. Asia, Latin America and other developing regions will be allowed to continue to pollute at the expense of American agriculture and the green industry while methyl bromide gets banned from golf courses. It's not scientific and definitely not fair when you consider how little golf uses methyl bromide for fumigation compared to other industries.

■ **Global Warming (aka Climate Change):** As a geology major, I continue to struggle to get my head around the notion that man-made exhaust fumes are creating a planetary crisis. The fumes may be creating local air pollution, but that's about it.

If I challenge Al Gore and others on man's ultimate influence on the Earth's atmosphere, I'm labeled a denier. A friend recently opined, "Suppose all the cap and trade, rules and regulations, green energy, etc., do work and they start lowering temperatures. What is the magic temperature number and who gets to decide for the whole planet?"

Who knows? The point is no one knows. There are no guarantees of a static earth. In the geologic past, it has gone from very tropical in places like Pennsylvania (what do you think created the coal deposits?) to the ice ages to modern times where volcanoes still smolder, Yellowstone's geysers still boil, and earthquakes still level our cities. I radically maintain

## These Turkeys Have Ruined My Appetite

BY JOEL JACKSON



I STRUGGLE TO GET  
MY HEAD AROUND  
THE NOTION THAT  
MAN-MADE EXHAUST  
FUMES ARE  
CREATING A CRISIS

that the sun and our place in the solar system will dominate our climate for eons to come.

■ **Cap and Trade:** A stepchild of climate change. If the turf and trees are already sequestering carbon, why should the government charge a fee to the companies that are big carbon emitters to buy theoretical rights to acres of sequestration? It's happening. You can't tell a CO<sub>2</sub> molecule where it must go to sequester. For all that nonsense, the companies will raise their rates and prices to consumers, so it's a lose/lose proposition in the end, except for big government.

■ **EPA and Water Sense:** Conserving water is practical and logical. If every man, woman and child was educated about conservation, we wouldn't need half the laws on the books, of which few are ever enforced like watering restrictions. But now Big Brother is planning to issue nationwide numbers on lawn size, irrigation cycles and nutrient levels for nitrogen and phosphorus. One size fits all — in America?

To heck with all the state best management practices that have been researched, written and published based on local knowledge and real-life experience. Regulation by computer model is alive and well. And whatever happened to private property rights?

■ **In Conclusion:** I hate to say it, but because more people — golf folks included — haven't stepped up to the plate in large enough numbers and loudly endorsed and become certified in practical, voluntary best management practices and cooperative sanctuary programs, our politicians and bureaucrats might be carving up our turkeys for us.

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

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In the northern United States, winter's arrival brings its own set of disease problems. Depending on a location's latitude and elevation, an assortment of snow mold diseases can occur. One of the more prevalent snow molds is microdochium patch, caused by the pathogen *microdochium nivale*. This snow mold is rather unique in that a snow cover is not required to cause disease.

In the United Kingdom, where snowfall is rare, microdochium patch, or as it is often referred to as fusarium patch, is the most chronic and severe disease that golf course superintendents and their crews face on their golf courses. In the United States, the disease can form under snow cover prevalent in the upper Midwest and Northeast and is often referred to as pink snow mold.

The more prevalent host for this disease is *Poa annua*, especially when grown in shaded, wet or north-facing areas. Other hosts include creeping bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Young, juvenile or lush turf going into winter is more susceptible than mature stands. Often, conditions under green covers are ideal for microdochium patch. Covers are often used to protect newly seeded turf or promote a more succulent turf. It's important to monitor and make a fungicide application if necessary under these covers.

Microdochium patch symptoms initially appear as a yellowing of the infected turf area that progresses rapidly to a reddish-brown color. The disease progresses, producing circular

patches that are tan or whitish in color with often a pinkish border. These patches range in size from several inches to 2 feet in diameter. If conditions are favorable and the disease pressure severe, these patches will eventually coalesce into large blighted areas.

The pathogen is active under cool, wet conditions when temperatures range from freezing to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Given this



## Winter Brings Fusarium Patch

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



IF CONDITIONS  
ARE FAVORABLE,  
MICRODOCHIUM  
PATCH CAN OCCUR  
THROUGH ARKANSAS  
AND TEXAS

range, the disease can occur from late fall through mid-spring. In late winter or early spring when abundant moisture is present, the pathogen spores can be spread along drainage patterns, and easily moved by mowers producing a streaking pattern. It's during this period the disease can be confused with other diseases like cool-temperature pythium or anthracnose.

Although springtime streaking on *Poa annua* greens can be confusing, the appearance of microdochium patch on bermudagrass or ultra-dwarf bermudagrass can be surprising. If conditions are favorable, although normally unlikely, microdochium patch can occur through Arkansas and Texas. Fortunately, the *microdochium nivale* spore type is easily recognized through microscopic examination.

Culturally, superintendents should continue mowing until top growth ceases in the fall. This is especially important with Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass.

Long-matted turf tends to be more severely affected with this disease. In the spring, disturbing infected sites through raking or mowing will limit disease activity. Although snow cover is not a prerequisite for disease development, installation of snow fences to limit snow drifting on greens and tees will help reduce the disease severity.

Several fungicides and a combination of fungicides are effective for microdochium patch control. Timing the preventive application is the most difficult aspect of control, considering the snow could soon be flying.

*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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