

# Month

## Hole Stats

Distance: 385 yards

Par 4

## The Turf

Fairways: Creeping Bentgrass and Ryegrass mixtures

Once a private country club, The Links at Groveport dropped its exclusivity in 2005 when it was bought by the Village of Groveport, Ohio. Now a public course, The Links has lower green fees but maintains high turf-standards.

"First-time players to our course equal first impressions," said Jeff Parker, superintendent at The Links for five years. "I worried that the increasing goosegrass and yellow nutsedge on our fairways would blemish our reputation."

Fairways are a focal point at hole 17. The 385-yard, par-4 hole has a slight dog-leg right that requires golfers to hit their drives between two small ponds that line the fairway.

"Repeat golf car traffic stresses the fairway turf, allowing weeds to move in and spread," said Parker. "I worried what new golfers would think about the weeds in the fairways."

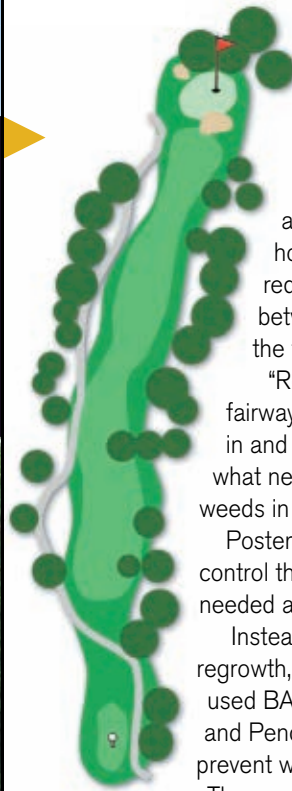
Postemergent applications seemed to control the weeds, but they came back. "I needed a long-term solution," Parker said.

Instead of watching and waiting for regrowth, Parker and his 12-person crew used BASF's new pre-emergent Tower® and Pendulum® AquaCap™ herbicides to prevent weeds from reappearing.

They applied Pendulum AquaCap at a rate of 1.6 ounces per 1,000 square feet the third week of April, followed by a split application of Tower at 0.5 ounces per 1,000 square feet in late May and late June.

"Four months after our first Tower application, we're still getting yellow nutsedge control," Parker said. "BASF's pre-emergent program is keeping our fairways clean and is an excellent new tool in our battle against weed pressure."

**To learn more about Tower® and Pendulum® AquaCap™ herbicides and BASF visit [www.betterturf.basf.us](http://www.betterturf.basf.us) and [www.basfturftalk.com](http://www.basfturftalk.com).**



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



**A**s I was sitting in the Lake Omigosh Golf Club's 19th Hole and Whine Bar recently, I contemplated my life's journey as my next birthday approaches.

Contrary to popular opinion, advanced age doesn't automatically bestow knowledge or wisdom. Hence, while you can reduce ignorance through learning, you can never change being stupid.

If you didn't pay close attention to what happened in the early chapters of your history, you're likely to repeat yourself. That can be a waste of the precious time allotted to each of us. The inescapable reality is that we each make choices every day and there will be consequences based on those decisions.

We can't control everything that comes our way in life, but we sure can decide how we face the challenges and embrace the blessings. To that end, I offer all you dirt farmers, greenkeepers, superintendents and directors of grounds out there a list of observations and signs seen along the road of life:

You know you're getting older when:

- A local chapter asks you to give a presentation on the changes you've seen in the industry during your career and the first question is, "What was it like working for Old Tom Morris?"

- The state association president you work for calls you "sir."

- You get phone calls from people asking on what day during the creation did God make golf courses.

- You began your golf course maintenance career when irrigation was done by quick couplers and snap valves, and you walked the course hand raking bunkers because there were no utility vehicles or mechanical sand rakes.

- The waitress at the restaurant asks, "What will you have, DEAR?"

- Hand mowers were the only greens mowers and fairway mowers were all-ground drive units pulled by Ford tractors.

- A twitter was a bird call you heard during the early-morning rounds on a golf course.

- Green is a political statement instead

## You're Getting Older When . . .

BY JOEL JACKSON



. . . YOU REMEMBER

WHEN YOU USED

TO TOPDRESS

GREENS WITH

WHEEL BARROWS

AND SHOVELS

of the color of healthy turfgrass.

- Politicians kiss activists' behinds instead of babies' faces.

- You remember when you used to topdress greens with wheel barrows and shovels.

- Global warming became man's fault instead of the result of the forces of nature when the last survivor of the Pleistocene Ice Age died.

- A penny saved is no longer a penny earned. Instead, it's a penny leveraged and hedged.

- Shows like "The Bachelor," "Super Nanny" and "Hell's Kitchen" replace "Cheers," "Newhart" and "Mary Tyler Moore."

- People seriously begin to think they can control the forces of nature.

- A nap seems more appealing than a night out with the boys.

- You use your red and white AARP card more than your GCSAA Gold Card.

- You now need a driver and a fairway wood on most par 4 holes.

- Vowels became extinct and you don't know what U R My BFF means.

- The atlas, dictionary and encyclopedia were replaced by Google, Bing, Wikipedia and Ask.com.

- You can carry a phone, GPS map, CD player, computer, Rolodex and camera in one pocket.

- Going to the Golf Industry Show is more about seeing old friends instead of learning new things. Of course, you always learn something new in spite of yourself.

So long from Lake Omigosh where time still flies, but to some it's beginning to look like a buzzard circling overhead.

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*Certified Superintendent Joel Jackson is Executive Director of the Florida GCSA.*



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**P**lant phosphorus is a critical constituent in almost all metabolic processes, especially those involved in energy storage and transfer. Phosphorus is most apparent in adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy that drives metabolic processes. Its greatest visual impact is on newly established turf as it greatly enhances the rate of establishment.

During this past decade, however, phosphorus applications on golf courses and lawn turf have come under attack as a water pollutant. Phosphorus is the nutrient directly associated with algal blooms that can lead to eutrophication of water bodies, resulting in dead zones in oceans, lakes and ponds.

As one would expect, the greatest concern with phosphorus pollution is in areas surrounded by or areas bordering large water bodies. The Great Lakes region is an area that has seen state laws banning the use of phosphorus for home-lawn use.

The Great Lakes consist of Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. The lakes were created more than 10,000 years ago during the last glacial age. The Great Lakes account for 20 percent of the accessible fresh water in the world. About 40 million people depend on them as a source of drinking water. The annual water withdrawal since 1940 is 2.5 percent to 3 percent while the annual renewal rate is only 1 percent from the hydrological cycle. The lakes and associated watersheds are home to 130 endangered or rare plants and animals, and more than 30,000 islands. Lake Erie, with which Ohio shares a northern border, is one of the top 10 sports fisheries in the world — producing more fish annually than the other four lakes combined.

The lakes and associated watersheds share their borders with both large urban areas and agriculture. The point-source pollution for the lakes comes from industrial waste, municipal waste and sewage overflow, while non-point pollution is from agricultural runoff (pesticides, and animal waste) and urban storm-water runoff.

It's storm-water runoff — and fertilizer

## Fact Is Phosphorus Gets a Bad Rap

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



THE AMOUNT OF  
PHOSPHORUS  
APPLIED TO TURF  
— COMPARED TO  
OTHER AREAS  
WHERE IT'S USED  
— DOESN'T EVEN  
MOVE THE NEEDLE

runoff, specifically phosphorus from turf, is the root of legislative bans. Science, however, doesn't seem to support that phosphorus lawn or turf fertilization is a source of concern. Phosphorus, when applied to turf, is in a soluble form but is quickly fixed to soil particles, and thus its primary movement would be through sediment runoff. But runoff studies have found phosphorus runoff from turf to pose little risk, similar to prairies and significantly less than that from agriculture. Additionally, the amount of phosphorus applied to turf — compared to other areas where phosphorus is used — doesn't even move the needle. Why the bans?

Unfortunately, science alone doesn't carry the day when there are emotionally charged and politically sensitive issues. It's easy to say special-interest groups, radicals and politicians looking for votes have marginalized or ignored the science.

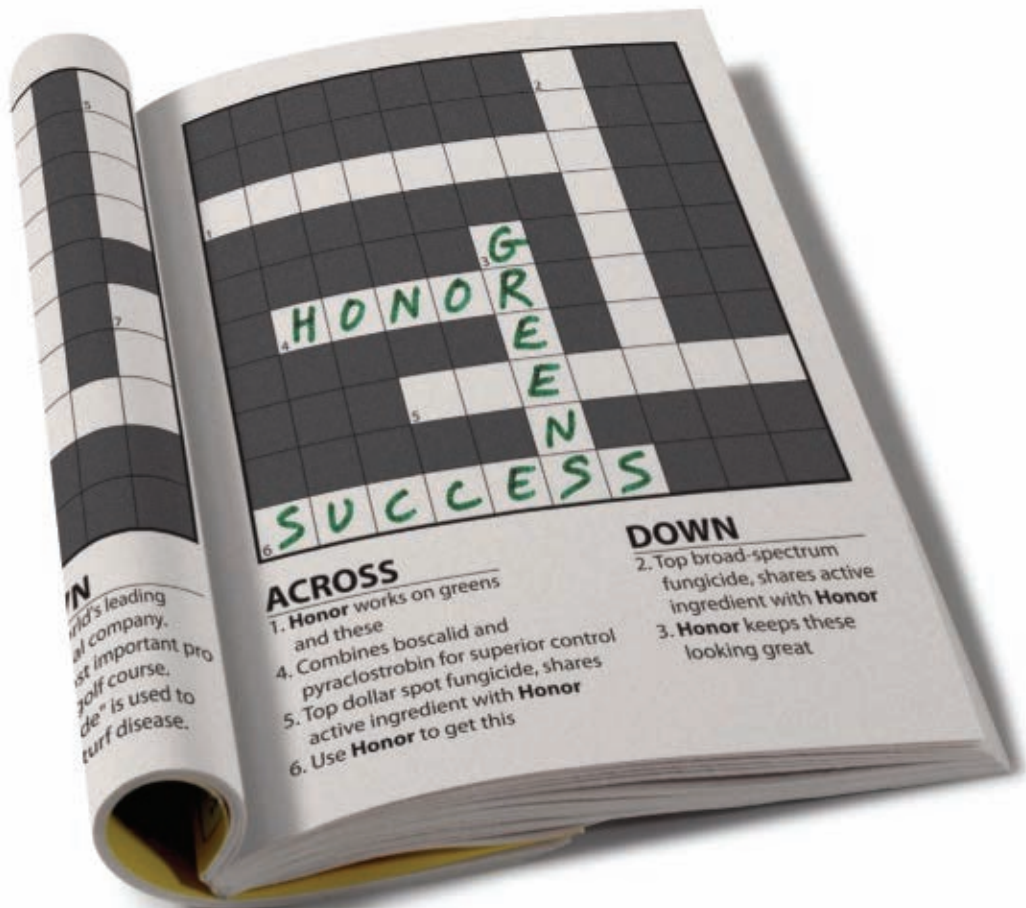
Ironically, we're quite capable of marginalizing science, too. For example, we have used phosphorus-free fertilizers for years in the golf industry because phosphorus is believed to encourage *Poa annua*, based at best on inconclusive data.

What's my take on this? I think we'll see more phosphorus-free fertilizers, those fertilizers containing phosphorus moving to a ratio of 10:1 (N:P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), and a phasing out of the 10-10-10 fertilizers for turf.

But I do wonder what will happen when these bans and reduction in turf phosphorus use are in place for several years and no appreciative change occurs.

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*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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**F**or those of you who live anywhere near San Francisco, you may not be aware of the epic battle going on between Sharp Park Golf Course and several environmental groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity.

Allow me to paint you the picture of each side of this fight.

Sharp Park is an admittedly under-maintained and poor municipal golf course, designed by uber-architect Alister MacKenzie, with an unbelievable weekend green fee of \$24 for residents. The course has several spectacular holes that border the Pacific Ocean with amazing views. It also has massive drainage problems, which is at the heart of the battle with the environmental groups.

The environmental groups are well-organized and experienced at touting their beliefs that the natural habitat of the area should be expanded, even if it means the closing of the golf course. They point to two animal species currently residing on the golf course as the underlying reason for expansion — the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog.

Here's how things have progressed. For the past five years, when the ponds of Sharp Park overflow into the fairways and roughs, the water isn't allowed to be pumped off because it might contain frog eggs. There is even discussion of hiring people to walk 50 feet in front of mowers to rescue any frogs and snakes that may be in harm's way.

The environmental groups have threatened a lawsuit against the city of San Francisco over the killing of these endangered species and are calling for a complete restoration of Sharp Park to its natural state as a coastal wetland.

In his May article on Sharp Park, *Sports Illustrated* writer Curt Sampson correctly points out a very interesting fact about the course and these species: "The little snake and big frog wouldn't even be at Sharp Park if the golf course had not been built. A seawall constructed . . . changed the water hazards from brackish to fresh. The San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog are freshwater creatures."

## No One Will Win Sharp Park Dispute

BY CHRISTOPHER S. GRAY SR.



POLITICS WILL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION IN REGARD TO MACKENZIE GOLF COURSE

The Government Audit and Oversight committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have voted to allow a motion to turn the course over to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to be presented to the full board that would, in all probability, lead to the end of Sharp Park Golf Course.

Allow me to end the suspense for all of you sitting on the edge of your seat. The motion will likely pass and the environmental groups will win . . . again.

This battle being fought between Sharp Park and the environmental groups is not about who's right and who's wrong, but more about what the politicians can allow and still be re-elected the next time the ballots are cast in the city whose motto is, "Gold in peace, iron in war."

The reality of this blatantly disturbing situation is that a compromise could be reached if the environmental groups wanted one. They don't. They know the court of public opinion is on their side, and there's no reason to shake hands and call it a draw — even if it's in the best interest of both sides and the environment. Winning is their only objective.

There are a couple Hail Mary tosses coming down the line for Sharp Park, including an investigation into making the site a historical landmark, effectively putting it out of reach of the environmental groups' arms.

In the end, no one will actually win this battle. Here's why: If the golf course does "win," the golf industry will again be branded as an environmental foe. If the environmental groups "win," we lose an Alister MacKenzie diamond in the rough that everyone could afford to play.

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*Gray Sr. is superintendent and general manager of Marvel Golf Club in Benton, Ky. His column specializes in environmental issues.*



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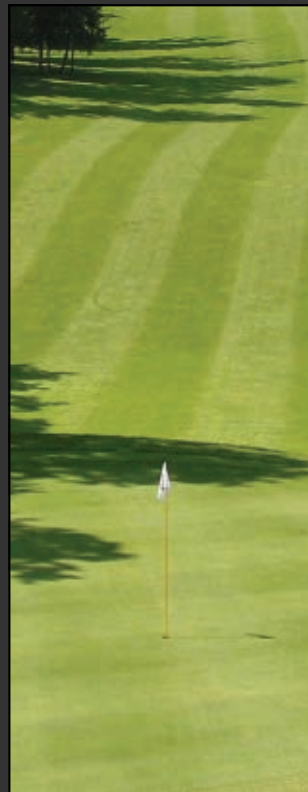
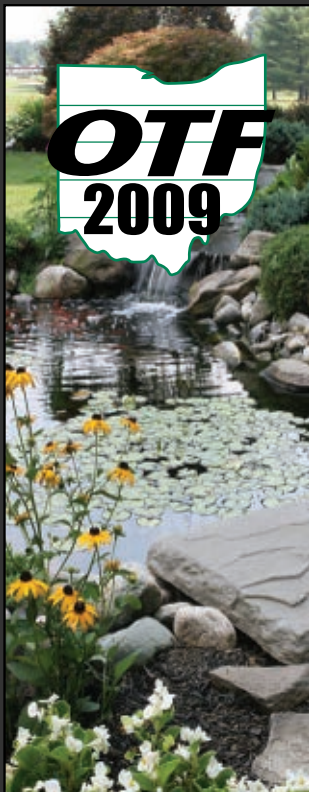


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# PART ONE Irrigation Abroad

Golf courses globally face many challenges in managing water efficiently. Australia and Scotland are two such places



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## About This Series

Welcome to the second year of "Water Wise," our special series sponsored by Rain Bird and Aquatrols. As it was last year, our goal in this three-part series, which runs through December, is to examine the world water crisis while educating golf course superintendents and other industry personnel on several fronts of irrigation.

**Part one**, titled "Irrigation Abroad," reports on golf course irrigation in other world regions, specifically Australia, the world's driest inhabited continent. We also report on Scotland's Machrihanish Dunes, where irrigation is at a minimum. Is this a harbinger of what's to come in European golf?

**Part two** of the series will examine the future of golf course design and renovation as it relates to water management. It will also feature a story written by golf course superintendent Christopher S. Gray Sr., winner of Rain Bird's Intelligent Use of Water Award last year, who offers his peers the 10 things they can do *now* to conserve water on their golf courses.

**Part three** will examine the water situations in four U.S. regions. We'll speak with superintendents from each region and get their views on present and future water issues. It will also feature results of a survey we'll conduct with superintendents across the country on water issues.

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# In Life and Golf, **Nothing Is More Important** Than Water

BY DEMIE MOORE

**N**othing is more important than water for life on earth. And not only is water vital to life, it's vital to golf — for the turf, the golfer, and the aesthetics and wildlife on the golf course.

More efficient use of water and resources affected by water is, and always has been, at the heart of Aquatrols' existence. So we are pleased to again be sponsoring *Golfdom's* Water Wise series in partnership with Rain Bird. In this and the next two issues of *Golfdom*, you'll have the opportunity to read and contribute to information about what's happening on golf courses for the more efficient use of water and its conservation.

The default perception of many is that golf courses, and the people who manage and maintain them, are excessive consumers and wasters of water. As an industry, we know most golf courses are very conscious and careful about their water use for economic as well as environmental and agronomic reasons. At Aquatrols, we know many of you who are shining examples of water-wise superintendents, and we're proud to be part of the water management program at your facilities. Still, the saying "perception is reality" tends to hold true. Hence, current per-



ceptions will influence opinions and policy until we can do something to establish a different perception.

What are we as an industry and you at individual golf facilities doing to reprogram that impression? Knowing, documenting and explaining what we're doing in a respectful manner to those who doubt is key to having a chance of changing the uncertain and negative perceptions out there. A recent New York Times article on superintendents and golf course irrigations, while still containing bits of information that some in the industry don't like, is a great example of how knowing, documenting and being able to explain what you're doing can work. As I understand it, the idea for that article didn't start with the intention of describing golf course superintendents as consultants and shining examples of water conservation specialists. But that's where it ended up, because those interviewed — with a little coaching on how to meet the press — were able to tactfully and tangibly show what they're doing. Do you know, are you documenting, and can you calmly and confidently explain what's being done at your course to use as little water as possible as efficiently as possible?

For more than 50 years Aquatrols has been supplying informa-

tion and products to help you efficiently use and conserve water by managing soil wettability. How water moves into and through soil is a vital but sometimes forgotten aspect of overall water-use efficiency. Our co-sponsor's area of expertise, irrigation system technology, is another aspect. But water use on golf courses entails many angles — from the design of the course and turfgrass selection to equipment conditions, plant growth products, playing conditions demanded and a superintendent's specific management practices.

We encourage all practitioners and suppliers to look at what you're doing today, and what you can do tomorrow to be an example, contributor, spokesperson and role model for the wise use of water, not just on the golf course, but wherever water is used.

Because nothing is more important than water. ■

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*Moore is an Aquatrols' Director, involved with Corporate Relations, Education and Training.*

