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# Family Legacy Lives On

By Jim Black,  
Contributing Editor

Every spring the golfing world is filled with the anticipation of the season's major opening events — the Masters at Augusta National, the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass and the Shields Memorial at Glen Dale Golf Club.

What? You've never heard of the Shields Memorial?

This year marked the 31st anniversary of this mid-Atlantic event, held in honor of the achievements of identical twins Ray and Roy Shields, and their brother Bob. All proceeds from the event benefit the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland in support of scholarships and operating expenses. Since its inception, more than \$72,000 in student scholarships have been awarded.

The Shields brothers arrived on the Maryland golf scene in the late 1930s, securing locker room and lifeguarding jobs at East Potomac Golf Course near Washington, D.C. The twins soon left East Potomac to work at the Annapolis Roads Club, a nine-hole golf course with a beach club.

This year marked the 31st anniversary of the Shields Memorial, played in honor of the three Shields brothers.

They purchased the club in 1941 and, in 1945, the twins recruited their older brother Bob to help renovate it after it was neglected during World War II. In 1950, the twins leased a nine-hole club called White Flint, where they held golfing exhibitions that drew the likes of Ben Hogan and Sam Snead. The twins purchased Glen Dale Golf Club in 1958. The club was badly in need of renovation and once again brother Bob was called in to assist.

Ten years later, the brothers decided they were ready to realize their ultimate dream. They purchased a 300-acre tobacco farm in southern Maryland and carved Twin Shields Golf Club out of it, designing it from the seats of a couple bulldozers and a pan. Twin Shields is one of the finest public golf courses in Maryland.

In 1948, Bob Shields left Annapolis Roads and dedicated his career to the promotion of the role of superintendents, including a stint as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1965. Bob was superintendent of Woodmont Country Club from 1952 until his death in 1982.

Shortly after Ray Shields' death in 1980, The Ray Shields Memorial Tournament was founded. After Roy Shields' death in 1998 the tournament simply became the Shields Memorial. Here's to it living on for another 31 years and more. ■

PHOTO COURTESY: JIM BLACK



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# Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

**7**

**IDLE HOUR COUNTRY CLUB  
▶ LEXINGTON, KY**



Perhaps the most influential course architect in history, Donald Ross helped design nearly 600 courses across his celebrated career. But you'll only find one of them in the entire Bluegrass State: Idle Hour Country Club. Located in the historical district of downtown Lexington, Idle Hour boasts 7,018 yards of classic Ross construction, including what has become his signature: extraordinarily challenging putting surfaces.

Take the severely undulating green of hole 7. Named "Assault" after the 1946 Triple Crown-winning Thoroughbred owned by one of the club's members, this par 4 tests a golfer's accuracy and nerve from start to finish. Simply making it to the putting surface is no easy feat – the approach is drastically uphill and over water, and those who miss the green often end up fishing for their ball.

Charged with caring for the trademark greens and all 180 acres of Idle Hour is Course Superintendent Ben Barnes. To keep the course playing as Ross intended, Ben and his crew must contend with invaders like silvery thread moss and pythium. Finding solutions that work without damaging sensitive turf makes this an even bigger challenge for the Idle Hour team.

Ben trusts products from FMC Professional Solutions to protect critical areas like the bentgrass putting surfaces. "We've used QuickSilver® herbicide on our greens for moss control for the past two years," says Barnes. "The control of the silvery thread moss has been excellent with no injury to our desirable turf." Continues Barnes, "we also currently use Segway® fungicide in our spray programs to defend against pythium."

With effective yet highly-tolerable solutions like QuickSilver and Segway, Ben and his crew can ensure that the only trouble spots that appear on the course are the ones put there in 1924 by a true golf legend, Donald Ross.

To learn more about QuickSilver® herbicide or Segway® fungicide visit [www.fmcprosolutions.com](http://www.fmcprosolutions.com).





**HOLE STATS**  
Distance: 461 yards, Par 4

▼

**THE TURF**  
Greens/Tees: L-93 Bentgrass  
Fairway:  
L-93 and Providence Bentgrass



Ben Barnes, Golf Course Superintendent

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



Once upon a time near the dawn of time when man learned to walk upright and found he could use a stick for a club, I was a 10 handicap golfer. Thirty years later, my handicap has doubled and my driving distance has been cut in half. So it's a cause for celebration when I end up on the winning end of any tournament.

"Bartender, another Geritol please!"

I just wrapped up my annual Spring Swing through Florida, covering local chapter events. From March to May, I got to tee it up almost every week or two from Jacksonville to Naples. Throw in trips to FarmLinks Golf Club in Sylacauga, Ala., and Pinehurst Resort and some people think I'm trying out for the Champions Tour.

Trust me — age is the only number I have that qualifies me for that group.

I can sum up my current golfing ability by quoting a friend who once said of my game, "I've seen better swings on a condemned playground."

But the golf gods have been smiling on me lately. In January, I won a set of new clubs from Razor Golf in the 2009 "Pick Your Pro" contest by the International Network of Golf (ING), a golf media-based association. Razor Golf sponsored the contest and makes a line of high-quality, mid-priced clubs proving golf can be affordable to the masses.

But no golf club manufactured can help me when forced to play from the blue tees in all of these events. With my 20-plus handicap, my drives become useless in scramble events and even worse is the sheer humiliation of not reaching the fairway cut or clearing the forced carries over golf ball-gobbling hazards.

In early March, I was down to my last two golf balls in a tournament and in danger of not being able to finish the round. But things were about to change. The following week, I provided the lucky ball marker to help our team to a third-place, low-net finish. With the \$60 gift card from Callaway Golf.com, I was able to buy four 15-ball boxes of Top-

## This Silver Fox Still Has Some Game

BY JOEL JACKSON



IT'S A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION WHEN I END UP ON THE WINNING END OF A TOURNAMENT. "BARTENDER, ANOTHER GERITOL PLEASE!"

Flite Super Long, Super Straight, and Super Soft and Feel golf balls. How can I go wrong now? (By the way, you can get these same balls at Walmart, another victory for more affordable golf.)

Two weeks later, I was on my own. Tapped to play for one chapter against the other in their annual joint meeting Ryder Cup golf match. I think the host chapter figured I would be a certain loser to their guy.

Thanks mainly to my younger opponent's superior swing and distance, he kept hitting it into trouble and the Silver Fox rallied for a 4 and 3 victory. Prizes for match winners were six Titleist Pro V1 golf balls. So the golf bag is full and I'm now thinking about selling balls at the flea market on the side.

Two weeks later, playing with my tri-focal glasses, I personally had a double eagle and 11 birdies, but, alas, that was on my bird-watching list. Golf-wise, my team only shot one under. However, we never missed a beer cooler and were six for six in that category. Not a personal best but very, very close.

My last outing was at a golf media conference at Pinehurst, and even though we didn't play the venerable No. 2 course, we loved walking in the footsteps of golf history at the resort. My team came in second, and I scored another dozen golf balls. Plus I got to visit with Pinehurst's Bob Farren and meet Ben Crenshaw as a bonus. So I've got that going for me.

Ladies and gentlemen: In golf, some days you're the club and some days you're the divot.

Golf is my game. What's yours?

---

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



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**A** classic example of how we can bring change to a turfgrass population was the occurrence of bacterial wilt. It's an old story but one worth telling.

Originally selected in 1936, Toronto (C-15) creeping bentgrass became widely established on putting greens from the 1950s through the 1970s in the Midwest and eastern United States for its fine texture and high shoot density. What made Toronto or C-15 unique compared to the creeping bentgrass cultivars we have now is that it was established vegetatively, which in a large measure provided its uniform surface. A disadvantage was that each plant was identical resulting in a genetically uniform (in theory) plant population.

In the mid- to late 1970s, Toronto greens began to decline rather rapidly under late spring conditions, most noticeably in the Chicago area but throughout the Midwest and Northeast. Coincidentally — and I might be twisting history to fit my story — the severity of “C-15 decline” coincided with the release of the Stimpmeter. At the time, symptoms often didn't appear on the relatively higher cut collars of Toronto bentgrass.

Numerous reasons were put forth as the cause of the decline, but in the early 1980s Michigan State University turf professor Joe Vargas and a graduate student used an electron microscope to discover the cause of C-15 decline was a bacterium named *Xanthomonas campestris pathovar graminis* and termed the disease bacterial wilt. The rod-shaped bacterium would get into the xylem vessels, multiply and clog the water flow in the plant, which resulted in the turf plant wilting.

Bacterial wilt was difficult to control and required multiple applications of an antibiotic, which was applied in 25 times the normal gallonage that you'd use for a fungicide at night. Needless to say, this type of control program was not sustainable for almost all golf courses that suffered this problem.

The popular decision was to renovate the

## Lessons Learned From Bacterial Wilt

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



TODAY, BACTERIAL WILT REMAINS A CHRONIC PROBLEM ON *POA ANNUA* GREENS MAINTAINED UNDER STRESSFUL CONDITIONS

greens. And in doing so, I believe this was the first time methyl bromide was used on a wide scale on northern putting greens to kill the turf, sterilize the soil and kill the bacterium.

During the early and mid-1980s, there weren't many creeping bentgrass cultivars from which to choose. The most popular cultivars were Penncross.

The concern at the time was if Penncross or any seeded bentgrass cultivars would become infected. Fortunately, that didn't occur — and hasn't. The bacterium was extremely host specific to Toronto bentgrass, and actually specific to certain sod fields from which it came. Also, seeded bentgrasses by their nature are more genetically diverse.

Subsequently, a bacterium was reported by the same researchers at Michigan State on *Poa annua* and named *Xanthomonas campestris pathovar poaannua* and later marketed commercially as a *Poa annua* control. Subsequent studies at Rhode Island identified the bacterium as *Xanthomonas translucens pathovar poaannua*. Today, bacterial wilt remains a chronic problem on *Poa annua* greens maintained under stressful conditions.

Lessons that continue to be learned are that unpredictable changes occur once a turfgrass population becomes disturbed or stressed beyond what it normally has experienced.

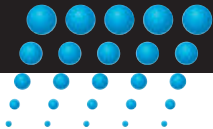
As we continue to maintain turfgrasses in environments or under conditions that are on the extreme fringes of adaptation, new and unpredictable changes will occur — and not always for the better.

---

*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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BY KEN KRIZNER, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR