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## Golfdom adds to staff

Beth Geraci has been named senior editor of *Golfdom*, officially joining the staff on March 29th.

Geraci has worked as a professional journalist for more than 15 years, including six years as a writer for the *Chicago Tribune*.

A graduate of Allegheny College and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Geraci began her career as an editor at a newswire service in Washington, D.C., where she edited and distributed press releases from the White House and congressional leaders. She went on to become the community news reporter at the *Jackson Hole Guide* newspaper, winning two national feature writing awards. Her other ex-



perience includes working as a book editor in Chicago and as a professor of business communications at Cleveland State University.

"Beth has the right combination of education, experience and enthusiasm," Seth Jones, *Golfdom's* editor-in-

chief, says. "I'm excited for her to get out and meet this fantastic industry. I know *Golfdom's* readers are going to enjoy working with Beth as much as I do."

"I'm excited about joining the Questex Media team as senior editor of *Golfdom*," Geraci says. "I'm looking forward to working with everybody and making my own contributions to the company."

Geraci can be reached at 216-706-3756 or [bgeraci@questex.com](mailto:bgeraci@questex.com). ■

### To the people at *Golfdom*,

Thank you for the publication of the quote from Judy Rankin's GIS keynote, regarding golf design and the importance of nine hole courses to the game. She caught both the prejudice toward nine hole courses and the benefit of them in a busy world. We hope that we can continue to do the industry proud with our management/maintenance practices and commitment to the spirit and growth of the game.

Sincerely,

**Mark W. Renner**  
President, Argument Golf Course  
New Glarus, Wis.  
[www.argumentgolf.com](http://www.argumentgolf.com)

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\*See Poa control at [pbigordon.com/katana](http://pbigordon.com/katana)



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\*Not labeled for residential turf. Pending California registration. 01171



# Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

**13**

THE AZALEAS COURSE AT DANCING

Located upon the sacred grounds of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, The Azaleas Course at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club is one of the finest examples of southern beauty golf has ever seen.

Designed by Tom Fazio and Jerry Pate, two of the golf world's most distinguished course visionaries, The Azaleas is the stuff of legend. Soon after opening, Golf Digest placed The Azaleas on its list of "Top 10 New Upscale Public Golf Courses," and later named it one of "America's 100 Greatest Public Courses." *Golf Magazine* called the Azaleas "The Augusta You Can Play," and the publication's former Senior Editor, Brian McCallen, declared it Mississippi's, "Greatest asset since Elvis came of age in nearby Tupelo."

The Azaleas features four Par 3s, none tougher than Hole #13. At 206 yards, it's a solid test of a golfer's long iron abilities. Described as "visually intimidating," Hole #13 challenges players with a front bunker that can wreak plenty of havoc on a scorecard. Adding to the course's repute, Golf.com described Hole #13 as a "color copy of Augusta's 6th – a downhill Par 3 with double-tiered greens and a front bunker."

Josh Quinn, Superintendent for Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, uses Echelon® herbicide to keep The Azaleas looking worthy of its outstanding reputation. "With Echelon, I love that I can get both pre and postemergence control of my four most problematic weeds: *Poa annua*, crabgrass, sedges and kyllinga."

And because it does so much in a single application, Quinn knows he can rely on the power of Echelon each and every year. "I definitely feel like I'm killing two birds with one stone when I use Echelon as a fall application. I'm able to eliminate sedges and kyllinga for the final time and prevent winter annuals like *Poa annua*, all with one application."



Josh Quinn, Superintendent for The Azaleas Course at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club.



To learn more about Echelon herbicide, visit [www.fmcprosolutions.com](http://www.fmcprosolutions.com).



# RABBIT GOLF CLUB ► CHOCTAW, MS

## HOLE STATS

Distance: 206 yards, Par 3

## THE TURF

Greens: Penn A-4 Bentgrass

Fairways: 419 Bermudagrass

Tees: MS Choice Bermudagrass



Scan this tag with the Microsoft Tag Reader app on your smartphone to nominate your course for Hole of the Month.

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



**W**e have a Ticked Off column in our local paper where folks vent about things that tick them off. Sometimes people sound off on trivial matters. Other times, they opine about larger issues where protocols are ignored and special interests trample common sense and fairness. Into this milieu we plunge, because I'm ticked off.

I'm ticked off that 99 percent of the media stories about water quality lately seem to automatically cite runoff from fertilizer applications as one of the leading causes of the slimy, toxic, suffocating algae blooms fouling our rivers, lakes and bays.

Where's the proof? I'm ticked off because I doubt many reporters or editors have really done much research on nutrient runoff from healthy turfgrass under proper management. They simply print the rhetoric of the activist groups so often that the public assumes it's true.

As a result, emotionally charged local ordinances banning the use of fertilizers during the rainy season (which just also happens to be a plant or lawn's primary growing season) have sprung up around the country — especially in Florida.

The University of Florida recently did a literature search on the fate of fertilizers and the impact of fertilizer bans. Over 140 study citations showed what most of us in the industry already know — that there is very little nutrient loss by runoff or leaching from healthy turf.

When turf gets thin and undernourished, or if people apply fertilizers too early in the spring or too late in the fall, the chances of nutrient loss are in fact greater than when fertilizer is applied to healthy turf. Thus the unintended but proven consequences of fertilizer bans can actually result in more pollution. Those facts are generally not broadcast by the media. I'm ticked off because if you stand up for sound science, the op-ed columnists call your groups heretics in favor of continuing "the pollution."

When activists are called on to supply their peer-reviewed science to justify fertilizer bans, they instead crank up the rhetoric another notch and claim our science is tainted and our land grant university scientists are colluding with agriculture

## Crank Up the Rhetoric

BY JOEL JACKSON



**WHEN ACTIVISTS  
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interests and fertilizer manufacturers. If industry sponsorships and professional association donations don't help fund turf research into the most effective and safest products and methods, who or what will? It won't be the so-called environmentalists, whose real agenda is to stifle growth and raise money with their doomsday messaging.

Fertilizer use is being so savagely and unscientifically targeted because there is seldom a single unified voice of opposition; it's the old divide-and-conquer scenario. I must admit, in most of the city and county ordinances so far, golf courses have not been subjected to bans but are directed to follow sound agronomic practices contained in our Florida Golf BMP manual.

That was the case until recently, when all three proposed drafts of a new county ordinance contained an exemption for agriculture but banned nitrogen and phosphorus use on all turfgrass from June through September. How would golf courses grow in those newly renovated greens installed in the summer "growing season" if people couldn't fertilize them?

According to a county staffer, activists were showing up in large numbers at advisory council meetings and bombarding them with demands. Activists have the time and the money to wage these wars, while we depend on volunteers to take time off to represent science and common sense at these meetings.

The BMP language is still not officially in the final draft ordinance as I write this, but it was looking more hopeful; the Everglades chapter superintendents have been meeting with county staff and commissioners and attending advisory council meetings, bringing the scientific evidence and real world practices to their attention.

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



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**N**itrogen, the fuel that drives turfgrass growth and development, is a critical component of golf course management programs. A major environmental concern with

nitrogen is the potential for nitrate pollution to ground water and surrounding bodies of water. Government/community proposals are being considered and in some cases implemented that restrict the amount of and when nitrogen can be applied. Given such limitations, can we use the technology we have to build a nitrogen program for the long haul?

Many common fertilizer products contain a quick release nitrogen source (for example, urea) and a slow release component. Within these fertilizers often the proportion of slow release is 30 to 50 percent. It is the slow release component and associated release characteristics that may provide a critical baseline for a fertilizer program under mandated restrictions.

Outside of organics, one of the oldest slow release technologies is Ureaform (UF) — the reaction of urea with formaldehyde. The reaction gives rise to methylene ureas that vary in chain length. The longer the methylene urea chain, the longer it takes for the nitrogen to be released. Various chains of methylene ureas are created when UF fertilizers are produced. The release characteristics are broken down into three classifications based on solubility in cold and hot water.

The cold water soluble nitrogen (CWSN) fraction has a high solubility. The nitrogen consists of free urea and short chain methylene ureas (methylene diurea and dimethylene triurea). Release characteristic of this fraction is rapid and similar to quick release sources.

The cold water insoluble nitrogen (CWIN) is intermediate in release. The nitrogen fraction within this group contains intermediate length methylene ureas (trimethylene tetraurea and tetramethylene pentaurea). Nitrogen release is over a period of several weeks.

The hot water insoluble nitrogen (HWIN) is composed of long chain methylene ureas (pentamethylene hexaurea and longer chains) that release nitrogen over a long period

## Something New, Something Old

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



CAN WE USE THE  
TECHNOLOGY WE  
HAVE TO BUILD  
A NITROGEN  
PROGRAM FOR  
THE LONG HAUL?

(months to years). Because of its extremely slow release characteristics, a large percentage of this fraction is undesirable in most fertilizer programs. On many fertilizer bags the WIN (Water Insoluble Nitrogen) percentage is a combination of the CWIN and HWIN. Commonly, an effective UF-type fertilizer should have an activity index (AI) value greater than 40. A value less than 40 reflects a high percentage of HWIN.

Since UF fertilizers are dependent on soil microbial activity to break the chains, temperature is important in release. Microbial activity usually occurs at soil temperatures above 50° F, and as temperatures rise activity increases. One of the reasons urea is needed with WIN is to provide an initial response, especially in cool spring temperatures.

Returning to nitrogen restrictions, is there a benefit to applications of WIN products with an AI of less than 40? If we build our soil/root-zone levels up with long chain methylene ureas (HWIN) do we build a potential nitrogen soil bank that will be released continually under optimum growing conditions for years? Do we, over time, develop a baseline release that applications of quick release forms now become supplemental in nature?

I don't know the answer to these questions, but looking back to the 1980s we saw superintendents slash nitrogen rates — in some cases below one pound per 1,000 square feet per year — for several years with no detrimental effect on turf quality. I wonder how much of the “nitrogen reduction” was buffered by decades of applying UF fertilizers.

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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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# The Reinvention WOODWARD

of MARK

In this industry exclusive, Mark Woodward, former CEO of the GCSAA, talks for the first time about his resignation from the association, his new position with Landscapes Unlimited and his 13 painful days in the hospital.

When Mark Woodward pulls up in his white company truck, I need a double-take to confirm that this really is him.

He looks a lot different from the last time I saw him back in June of 2010. He's about 40 pounds skinnier, the re-

sult of a dedication to the P90X workout craze. He has a new goatee, something he grew for the heck of it while he was unemployed. *And in general, he's faster with a smile.*

Woodward leads me into his Scottsdale, Ariz., office and we sit down. He just left a USGA meeting and seems excited to be back in the golf game. He talks about the new dog he and his wife just bought (a cross between a golden retriever and a poodle known as a goldendoodle) and about how good it is to be back near his family and grandchildren.

I ask him if he's ready to begin, and then I push record.

*Continued on page 22*

