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# Hole of the Month

HOLE NO.

**12**

RIVER BEND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

As one of the premier private clubs in the Washington, D.C. area, River Bend Golf & Country Club has been perfecting the membership experience since it first opened back in 1961.

Located near the Potomac River, River Bend hosts over 160 club tournaments annually for golfers of all skill sets on its 18-hole championship course. Wanting to treat members to a new set of challenges, course representatives met with world-renowned golf architect Keith Foster, the mind behind the redesign of many of the "Top 50 Golf Courses in the U.S.," to develop a "Master Plan" that would outline the course's complete renovation just in time for its 50th anniversary.

Among River Bend's new challenges is Hole #12, which is designed to tempt long-ball players into going for the green off the tee in order to rebound from an oft mishandled Hole #11. But those who fail to clear the elm trees and fairway cross bunkers on this slight dogleg left bring other challenges into play, like agonizingly steep green-side bunkers.

Tom Lipscomb, Superintendent at River Bend Golf & Country Club, realizes the importance of properly maintaining his newly renovated course, and has chosen to use Segway® fungicide first in his treatment rotation to ensure that Pythium does not emerge. "We selected Segway as one of our mainstays for control of Pythium Root Dysfunction," says Lipscomb.

And because Segway stops Pythium at all stages, Lipscomb is confident in his turf's ability to meet the standards of River Bend's members. Lipscomb, who also uses Talstar® to control Annual Bluegrass Weevil and Billbugs, says his team feels good knowing Segway can take on the elements. "We sleep easier at night knowing that Segway gives us the protection our turf needs to survive the heat and humidity of the Mid-Atlantic region."

## HOLE STATS

Distance: 305 yards, Par 4

## THE TURF

Greens/Fairways: 007 Bentgrass

Tees:  
Penn-Trio Bentgrass



To learn more about the Segway and Talstar products, visit [www.fmcproolutions.com](http://www.fmcproolutions.com).



▶ GREAT FALLS, VA



Tom Lipscomb, Superintendent at River Bend Golf & Country Club, with his dog, Copper.



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:



One of the most useful, practical benefits of membership in a professional association is the opportunity to network with peers, no matter what occupation we are talking about.

Because of current economy concerns I know many of you might not have been able to make it to Orlando for the Golf Industry Show, however, thanks to networking you might be able to find out something that one of your luckier colleagues learned at a seminar or during breaks or at a reception.

Of course that means that you have to get together with those folks somewhere, somehow. How about getting the lowdown at a local chapter meeting? I have to admit that a large percentage of my turf and business management education came via one-on-one or small group conversations in the 19th hole after a chapter meeting and/or round of golf.

I know superintendents are very sensitive to being away from the workplace these days, but somehow you have to convey the value of the problem solving knowledge and turf tricks you learn from your fellow superintendents. You don't even have to be gone all day. Most chapters offer registration fees for meeting, lunch and/or golf so you can attend the parts of the day that fit your schedule.

Or worst case, you go after work and just have a beer with the guys and gals after the golf round is over. You still get the latest news and information and you haven't missed work. So it can be done, if you want to make it a priority to stay in touch and up to date. Funny, how we find the time to do the things we really want to do.

Sometimes you pick up practical tips and solutions to a problem and sometimes the value in interacting with your peers is to find out you really don't have it as bad as someone else and the grass isn't always greener down the road. Here are a few tidbits from recent round table discussions, dinner table and 19th hole encounters:

■ Since overtime and regular time have been trimmed from budgets along with freezing wages and cutting bonuses, several superinten-

## 19th Hole Networking

BY JOEL JACKSON



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dents are working with employees to provide as flexible work schedules as possible, so they may pursue second jobs or share child care duties with a working spouse.

■ At a club that has frozen wages for three years they are embarking on a multi-million-dollar clubhouse renovation. Imagine the staff morale at that club.

■ A superintendent gave his golf and finance committee members a staged tour of his equipment fleet complete with posters showing purchase date, annual repair costs with the mileage equivalent of an automobile's lifespan. Who keeps a car for 700,000 miles? It was something they could relate to. They are now looking at a lease plan to begin replacing 7- to 10-year-old mowers and tractors.

■ At another course complaints on turf conditions began building after last year's harsh winter. The superintendent produced a spreadsheet comparing the maintenance budgets for the past 10 years. He was able to show the correlation between the steadily increasing cutbacks and the ability to maintain conditions to their expectations. Champagne tastes and beer budgets don't mix.

Quantifying the value of networking is not an easy task when budgets have to be trimmed. It is a fluid and unique opportunity at our events, but it has proven to be invaluable to the most successful members of our profession. You have to be willing to join in, make yourself available, ask questions and learn to listen.

Networking sounds like a new-age buzzword, but really it's just fellowship and camaraderie all dressed up in new clothes. To take advantage of networking all you have to do is show up!

---

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



# YES

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CAN I SAVE TIME AND MONEY? IS INTERFACE THE BEST FUNGICIDE FOR LEAF SPOT? DOES INTERFACE BLOW AWAY THE COMPETITION ON DOLLAR SPOT? SHOULD I MAKE INTERFACE THE CORE OF MY TURF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM? CAN I USE INTERFACE TO MANAGE MY RESISTANCE ISSUES? FOR SNOW MOLD, DOES INTERFACE GIVE ME FASTER GREEN UP THAN THE COMPETITION? IS INTERFACE TURF QUALITY BETTER THEN I PRODUCE AND EMERALD?  
DOES IT HAVE THE ADDED BENEFIT OF STRESSGARD™ FORMULATION TECHNOLOGY? WILL USING INTERFACE® FUNGICIDE HELP ME SLEEP AT NIGHT?

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**INTERFACE**®  
Intelligent Turf Management

**T**he DMIs (De-methylation Inhibitors) are an important group of turfgrass fungicides that have been around since the late 1970s and early 1980s. As a group DMIs control a broad spectrum of turf diseases caused by several foliar and root pathogens. The DMIs are often referred to by their mode of action as sterol biosynthesis inhibitors (SBIs).

Sterols are found in plants, animals and humans and are important components of cell membranes, helping to provide proper permeability and fluidity. Cholesterol is a sterol that is a vital component found in animals and humans, while ergosterol is the primary sterol present in cell membranes of fungi. Cholesterol and ergosterol are similar in their function. Given that ergosterol is absent or found in minor amounts in plants, it is a primary target to exploit with antifungal products whether natural or synthetic.

The DMIs are systemic fungicides that, depending on the fungicide, are either locally systemic or xylem mobile — thus the relatively long disease control they provide as a preventative application. Be cautious when applying DMIs to creeping bentgrass and bermudagrass greens in the summer when there are prolonged periods of high temperatures. There have been reports of turf injury with DMI applications under summer stress.

It is possible for some diseases, like dollar spot, to develop resistance to the DMIs. The resistance occurs gradually. In general, resistance initially appears as a reduction in the length of control. In contrast, resistance to benzimidazole fungicides occurs quickly with a rapid loss of control. The relative slow rate of resistance buildup to DMIs is due to the need of the fungus to accumulate several mutations along the sterol biosynthesis pathway.

Cross-resistance can occur among the DMI fungicides and with benzimidazole and dicarboximide fungicides. The fitness or how the resistant fungi survive in the wild in the absence of the fungicide may vary. It appears that the fungal population may shift partially back to a proportionally more sensitive or wild type population over time in the absence of the DMIs. In

## A concern for the DMIs

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



IT IS POSSIBLE FOR SOME DISEASES, LIKE DOLLAR SPOT, TO DEVELOP RESISTANCE TO THE DMIS.

contrast, benzimidazole resistance is highly fit. The population will rarely, if ever, shift back to a wild-type population. To minimize or slow the potential resistance, apply DMIs judiciously and avoid excessive rates and applications.

Besides being described according to their mode of action, the DMIs are referred to by their chemical structure as triazoles (metaconazole, myclobutanil, propiconazole, triadimefon) and pyrimidines (fenarimol). In addition to the fungicides, the plant growth regulators (PGRs) paclobutrazol is a triazole, while flurprimidol is a pyrimidine.

Both paclobutrazol and flurprimidol have demonstrated fungicidal activity in suppressing certain diseases, including dollar spot. Both PGRs are effective in regulating growth and have the added benefit of suppressing annual bluegrass in creeping bentgrass. Originally, these products were applied once or twice during the growing season for annual bluegrass control.

Currently, paclobutrazol and flurprimidol are being applied on a regular basis through the growing season to control/manage annual bluegrass on greens. Generally, these programs consist of applying paclobutrazol or flurprimidol on a two- to three-week basis through the growing season at a relatively low rate and then gradually increasing the rate during the fall. In general, this type of program (or similar programs) have been successful and are growing in popularity.

The concern I have — and it needs to be balanced against the positive (annual bluegrass control) — is are we putting a whole class of fungicides (DMI) at a greater risk for resistance by frequently applying these PGRs?

---

*Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Golfdom's science editor and a professor from The Ohio State University, can be reached at danneberger.1@osu.edu.*





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STORY AND  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SETH JONES,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# THE BET'S ON

# Rhett

After a six-month stint as interim CEO, GCSAA names Rhett Evans as the man to lead the association into the future.

## **It's been quite a journey these last 18 months for Rhett Evans.**

It was July of 2009 that Evans was named the Chief Operating Officer of the GCSAA. Evans arrived in Lawrence, Kan., via the city of Mesa, Ariz., where he oversaw a budget of \$32.5 million as the director of parks and recreation.

A little less than a year later, in June 2010, Mark Woodward, CGCS, then CEO of the GCSAA, abruptly left the association, less than two years after being hired. Evans was named interim CEO, stepping in for his old friend from back in Mesa who helped him get his COO job with the association.

A search firm — Tryon & Heideman, based in Kansas City, Mo., and specializing in CEO/executive-level and association searches — was then brought in to conduct a search for the association's next CEO.

In the meantime, staff cuts ravaged the association, including one round that cost the association 79 years of institutional knowledge in just four positions.

But through all this turmoil, some closure has finally been achieved, and the association can now look to the future. That closure comes in the form of Rhett Evans, GCSAA's new CEO and the man chosen by the GCSAA Board of Directors to lead the association into the future.

"I didn't want this handed to me," Evans said while at the PGA Show in Orlando. "We had to go through all the appropriate processes. We couldn't rush through something this big. And, obviously, I'm thrilled it's turned out the way it did."

*Continued on page 20*





“

THERE ARE NO MORE SILOS, EVERYONE IS ROWING IN THE SAME DIRECTION,” EVANS SAYS. **“THE GCSAA BRAND IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN.**

”

## GCSAA CEO

*Continued from page 18*

### The best candidate

Robert Randquist, CGCS, director of grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., and the new president of GCSAA says the reason the GCSAA Board of Directors selected Evans CEO was simple: He was the best candidate.

“Obviously, the search firm was very thorough. When we saw the scope of the work (Evans) accomplished in Salt Lake City and Mesa, it fit the criteria we set. He had experience with conventions in Mesa. His experience in dealing with allied associations is great,” Randquist says. “He was the best candidate, and that’s why we chose him.”

Evans, age 42, comes to the association with years of experience in facilities and events management, a valuable asset to an association that has seen a decline in recent years in its annual conference and trade show. As a 24-year-old Evans was the director of operations of the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, home of the Utah Jazz. After five years there, he spent five years as the director of the McKay Events Center in Orem, Utah. In 2001 he moved to Mesa, Ariz., to be the director of the city’s convention center and amphitheater. After five years in that position he was promoted to the director of parks, recreation and commercial facilities for Mesa.

In his last years in Mesa before moving to Lawrence, Evans managed the Chicago Cubs’ spring training complex, 2,600 acres of park space and two golf courses.

“Working with those professional sports organizations — the Utah Jazz, a professional arena football team and a Triple A baseball team — we had an owner, Larry Miller, who owned all of those entities... to be able to work with him really taught me a lot,” Evans says. “That was a foundation of good business principals that I learned.

“You take all of that entrepreneurial experience and go to a municipality setting (in Mesa) — that’s pretty unique. Those organizations taught me a lot. In



Mesa we had two golf courses, and that helped me learn the day-to-day operations of a golf course, and what goes into it. As I’m doing this job, I know firsthand what our members are going through.”

### A great fit

The hiring of Evans as GCSAA CEO earned an approving thumb’s-up from Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation and the former GCSAA CEO before Woodward.

Mona first met Evans at the 2004 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. At the time Mark Woodward was president of the GCSAA. Mona says, traditionally the GCSAA president brings his employer to an industry event so the employer can get a better understanding of the work involved in being president of GCSAA.

For the 2004 PGA Championship, Woodward brought along Evans, since the two were peers on the city of Mesa staff. Little did they know at that moment they were standing side-by-side with the next three CEOs of GCSAA.

“I think it’s great (that Evans was named CEO), it’s absolutely the right decision,” Mona says. “It’s a great fit for GCSAA. He’s demonstrated that over the past however-many months in how he’s handled the interim job. That’s one piece; second, there’s been a lot of turnover at GCSAA — it’s good for them to have some stability.”

Mike Hughes, CEO of the National Golf Course Owners Association, agrees



with Mona’s view.

“I think the first thing (the GCSAA) needs is stability. They’ve been through a couple of reorganizations and consolidations... they need to steady the ship,” Hughes says. “I think this was good news — good news for the GCSAA, good news for the NGCOA, and good news for the industry. I think he’ll be great. I think Rhett is a good communicator. He’s good with people; he’s a hard worker and intelligent. He’s a bridge-builder, too.”

Randquist says though the GCSAA staff might be happy to have a familiar face as CEO, that was not a consideration when hiring Evans.

“What we looked at were his qualifications, and that’s what stood out,” Randquist says. “I do think (his familiarity with staff) will help, but that was not