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Turfgrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest looks at wetting agents and monitoring techniques for the annual bluegrass weevil. See pages 35-39.

Online Exclusive



Stop by the *Golfdom* Daily at www.golfdom.blogspot.com to read our interview with Dr. Frank Wong, who recently accepted a job with Bayer in Washington, D.C. Why did he move across the country? Would you believe it's a love story? It is, and you can read it on the blog. Also, in July the *Golfdom* staff will be reporting live from Husqvarna and Bobcat demos, as well as from the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic.

Don't 23 Be a Target

Superintendents must help outsiders grasp the environmental benefits of the golf course.

BY CHRIS SORRELL



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As plant health gains traction in the industry, superintendents gain knowledge on the subject.

By Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, CGM



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Art director Carrie Parkhill hits the mark with her choice of this bullseye image, courtesy of iStock International Inc.

The above photo celebrates the environmental efforts at Stone Creek GC, where David Phipps is superintendent.

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Dr. James B. Beard, director and chief scientist at the International Sports Turf Institute, looks at professional turf's future and its humble beginnings. By Ron Hall



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After four years, Parker and I are on a first-name basis. Parker — a Jehovah's Witness — visits me about once a month, always on a Saturday. He's always in a black suit, Bible in hand. He always brings a different friend along with him.

My neighbors might think I'm weird for giving him the time to talk to me about his beliefs. But I like Parker, even though I'm not really into his message. I like that he's so passionate about his beliefs that he feels compelled to knock on a stranger's door.

I'm intrigued by passionate people — even when they interrupt my golf watching. (I think somehow Parker knows not to knock during any of golf's majors, thankfully.) It doesn't matter if the topic is religion, politics or bentgrass greens — when a person is passionate about a topic it draws me in.

When I first read this month's cover story, written by superintendent Chris Sorrell, I knew what I was reading was written with passion. In my mind, Sorrell was furiously pounding the keys to his computer as he wrote the piece. The first draft of his story was titled "Come Out Swinging," if that gives you an idea of the fury I'm talking about. By the end of the story, I was ready to fight someone... or at least angrily jaywalk.

I didn't necessarily agree with everything he was writing, but it's not about agreement. I was drawn in by his passion for defending his industry against the close-minded.

Sorrell argues that superintendents need to be proactive and aggressive when it comes to close-minded environmentalists. His piece — which I hope you enjoy, or at least agree is written with passion — begins on page 23.

I'm sure some *Golfdom* readers will disagree with a few of the ideas Chris is espousing. But that's good. That's also passion.

It's apathy that's the enemy.

Don't get me wrong, I understand that misplaced passion has caused wars, deaths and destruction. But properly directed passion is what changes the world for the better.

Chris is a hard-working superintendent at

I'm Pro-Passion, Anti-Apathy

BY SETH JONES



IT DOESN'T MATTER

IF THE TOPIC IS

RELIGION, POLITICS

OR BENTGRASS

GREENS — WHEN

A PERSON IS

PASSIONATE

ABOUT A TOPIC IT

DRAWS ME IN.

Eagles Ridge Golf Club in Curwensville, Pa. I've only met him in person once, at the 2011 GIS in Orlando. Since he sent me this story, I've also published a few of his writings on the *Golfdom Daily* blog at www.golfdom.blogspot.com. One was titled "The Sharp Park Drama Makes My Head Want to Explode."

Yeah, Chris always seems to write with a little anger. I like that.

What are you passionate about?

I'm passionate most of all about my family. My wife and I are expecting our second child in October. I'm also passionate about Kansas basketball, live music and recently... this magazine.

When people have passion, it gives them zest. That makes me want to listen, like to my religious friend Parker.

If you are passionate about something in our industry and want to write about it, send me an email (sjones@questex.com) and tell me your idea. It doesn't have to be a fully formed story yet. It might be something we could eventually publish in the pages of *Golfdom*. I want to promote a diverse audience of superintendents and their voices — although please keep in mind that pages are limited and we can't publish everything.

But no one knows the industry better than you, and I always enjoy hearing what a passionate superintendent has to say about his or her industry. I'm also interested in creative ways superintendents are solving problems. Odds are if it interests you, it interests me, and I want to hear about it.

And just like when my Jehovah's Witness pal Parker stops by, I'm all ears. Let's talk about your passion.

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Off The Fringe

Golfdom Archive to be Available Online

What would Herb Graffis, founder of *Golfdom* magazine, think about this?

The entire catalog of *Golfdom* — from its inception in 1927 to this issue — will soon be available in a searchable online database. The project is a collaboration with Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) and is already taking shape now at <http://tic.msu.edu>.

"*Golfdom* has long served the golf course professional, and having the complete back run available online will provide a comprehensive look at operations and maintenance practices reaching back into the 1920s," Pete Cookingham, head of Michigan State University Libraries' TIC, says. "This project will enable Turfgrass Information File users to search or browse thousands of articles, and link to the digital copy. *Golfdom* copies have been handed down like inheritances, and now that wealth can be available to all."

"As a collector of *Golfdom* back issues myself, I find this project extremely exciting," says Patrick Roberts, *Golfdom*'s publisher. "We're very proud of the *Golfdom* brand, and what it has meant to the industry over the years. I think readers will appreciate being able to go back and find old articles, many of which are still pertinent today."



Superintendents listen and learn at the 2010 Syngenta Business Institute.

Opportunities Abound for Supers, Assistants

The golf season is in full swing, but professional development opportunities later in the year for superintendents and assistants are beckoning now.

To only name a few, the Syngenta Business Institute, the Green Start Academy, and our own *Golfdom* Summit are currently taking applications.

The third annual Syngenta Business Institute is a four-day program designed to grow the professional knowledge of superintendents and assist them with managing their courses. The event takes place Dec. 5-8 in Winston-Salem, N.C. Superintendents can fill out the application by visiting www.greencastonline.com/GolfMarketIndex.aspx?market=2.

For assistant superintendents, the sixth annual Green Start Academy, co-hosted by John Deere Golf and Bayer CropScience, takes place Oct.

5-7 in Clayton, and Fuquay-Varina, N.C. The event features lectures, round-table discussions, networking and best practices exchanges. Assistants can apply for the event at www.BackedByBayer.com/GreenStartAcademy.

And we would feel remiss not to mention our own event, the first ever *Golfdom* Summit for superintendents, hosted at the Pinehurst Resort in the Village of Pinehurst, N.C., Nov. 13-15. Superintendents can apply by visiting www.GolfdomSummit.com or by scanning the QR code on the next page.

Though turf professionals are busy with the season, previous attendees promise the events are worth the time.

"(The Syngenta Business Institute) delivered a unique and vital educational experience," Tom Breiner, superintendent at Fiddler's Elbow CC in Far Hills, N.J., said of last year's event.



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