

# YOUR COURSE. YOUR CONTROL. YOUR RESULTS.

The new Jacobsen® LF-550™/570™ Fairway mower assures you tournament-quality results regardless of operator.

Achieve greater control and better results across your fairways. The new Jacobsen® LF-550™/570™ features programmable controls, added functionality and simplified maintenance. Combined with Jacobsen Classic XP™ Reels, on-board diagnostics and versatility-enhancing accessories, you're assured our legendary quality of cut regardless of who's driving. Learn more, and request a demo by contacting your local Jacobsen dealer.

*The exclusive electric hydro control with programmable speed controls is pass code protected, giving superintendents control over mow and transport speeds to assure optimal FOC.*



[www.Jacobsen.com](http://www.Jacobsen.com)



PGA

PROUD MEMBER  
SportsTurf  
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



**JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company

The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to the PGA of America and The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties.  
© August 2010, Jacobsen, A Textron Company.

# Golf dom

OCTOBER 2011 • VOLUME 67

• NO. 10



## TURF ON TRIAL 14

Tired of the court of public opinion?  
In *Golfdom's* court, turf gets a fair trial

BY ANTHONY PIOPPI, JOHN WALSH  
AND ANTHONY L. WILLIAMS



## columns

- 8 Reading Greens  
The Story of Us
- 10 From the Back Tees  
Witness for  
the Defense
- 12 Turf M.D.  
Accumulating  
Stress Periods
- 36 Shack Attack  
It's Time for the  
Leaders to Lead

## departments

- 4 Off the Fringe  
GCSAA adds tenant; Withers  
is new Jacobsen president;  
Rain Bird hosts water  
conservation film contest.
- 26 Clark Talks Turf  
Clark Throssell, Ph.D.,  
discusses surface water,  
soil testing and golfer  
expectations with Brian  
Horgan, Ph.D.

## Turfgrass Trends

This month, *Golfdom's* practical research digest presents the basics on dollar spot and a look at how soils amended by biosolids could be sequestering carbon.  
**See pages 29-33.**

## Online Exclusive



Stop by [www.golfdom.blogspot.com](http://www.golfdom.blogspot.com) to see updates from the C5 turf science meetings in San Antonio; robotic greensmowers in action from Orlando; and even an update or two from Green Industry & Equipment Expo in Louisville, Ky.

16

### OPENING ARGUMENT

It's time to let go of the decades-old stereotypes of golf courses.

By Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, CGM

18

### Does Wildlife Fear the Links?

A revered Kansas course is compared to its neighboring nature preserve. By Anthony Pioppi

20

### Do Courses Care About Water Use?

How one Texas course strives for greater water efficiency.

By John Walsh

#### About the cover

Ohio-based artist Dan Andreasen created this month's courtroom drama scene, calling turfgrass to the witness stand.

22

#### ACCUSATION #3

### Do Courses Play by the Rules?

A classic Minnesota course has tough expectations — its own.

By Anthony Pioppi

24

#### ACCUSATION #4

### Are Golf Courses Rife with Pesticides?

A Florida course thrives even with restrictions from the surrounding wildlife refuge. By John Walsh

25

### CLOSING ARGUMENT

Golf is a business tied to the land. That's why we take care of it. By Anthony L. Williams, CGCS, CGM



The finest specialized equipment from around the world.

**SEAGO**  
INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT AND GOLF OPERATIONS

Contact Seago to find your nearest dealer and set up a demonstration.

800-780-9889 • www.seagousa.com  
sales@seagousa.com

The Only Pro-Active Organic Predictable & Consistent

**Premium Green**  
Silica Plus  
0-0-12  
6% Calcium  
2% Magnesium

**GRO-POWER**  
NET WT. 50 LBS. 22.7 KG

*New!*

Other Quality GroPower Products:  
Humus based fertilizer/  
soil conditioner formulations  
45% Magnesium • 35% Manganese

Over 48 products to choose from!

**GRO-POWER**  
Since 1966  
(909) 393-3744 • www.gropower.com

# Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

Seven-time winner of the national Folio Award for editorial excellence

## EDITORIAL STAFF

<b>Seth Jones</b> EDITOR IN CHIEF 785-690-7047	<a href="mailto:sjones@questex.com">sjones@questex.com</a>
<b>Beth Geraci</b> SENIOR EDITOR 216-706-3756	<a href="mailto:bgeraci@questex.com">bgeraci@questex.com</a>
<b>Carrie Parkhill</b> ART DIRECTOR 216-706-3780	<a href="mailto:cparkhill@questex.com">cparkhill@questex.com</a>
<b>Geoff Shackelford</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:geoffshackelford@aol.com">geoffshackelford@aol.com</a>
<b>Joel Jackson</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:figm@aol.com">figm@aol.com</a>
<b>Anthony Pioppi</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:apioppi@earthlink.net">apioppi@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Clark Throssell</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:clarkthrossell@bresnan.net">clarkthrossell@bresnan.net</a>
<b>Anthony Williams</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:anthony.williams@marriott.com">anthony.williams@marriott.com</a>
<b>John Walsh</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:jwalsheditor@gmail.com">jwalsheditor@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jim Black</b> CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	<a href="mailto:greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com">greenkeeperjim@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Karl Danneberger</b> SCIENCE EDITOR	<a href="mailto:danneberger.1@osu.edu">danneberger.1@osu.edu</a>
<b>Mike Klemme</b> PHOTOGRAPHY	<a href="mailto:mike@golffoto.com">mike@golffoto.com</a>

## BUSINESS STAFF

### CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

600 SUPERIOR AVENUE, EAST, SUITE 1100 CLEVELAND, OH 44114, FAX: 216-706-3712

<b>Patrick Roberts</b> PUBLISHER 216-706-3736	<a href="mailto:proberts@questex.com">proberts@questex.com</a>
<b>Dave Huisman</b> NORTHERN SALES MANAGER 732-493-4951	<a href="mailto:dhuisman@questex.com">dhuisman@questex.com</a>
<b>Jason DeSarle</b> SOUTHERN SALES MANAGER 216-706-3758	<a href="mailto:jdesarle@questex.com">jdesarle@questex.com</a>
<b>Ric Abernethy</b> BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER 216-706-3723	<a href="mailto:rabernethy@questex.com">rabernethy@questex.com</a>
<b>Kevin Stoltman</b> VICE PRESIDENT 216-706-3740	<a href="mailto:kstoltman@questex.com">kstoltman@questex.com</a>
<b>Petra Turko</b> SALES ASSISTANT 216-706-3768	<a href="mailto:pturko@questex.com">pturko@questex.com</a>
<b>Ryan Bockmuller</b> MARKETING MANAGER 216-706-3772	<a href="mailto:rbockmuller@questex.com">rbockmuller@questex.com</a>

**Amber L. Terch** PRODUCTION SPECIALIST 218-206-2129  
[Amber.terch@superiormediasolutions.net](mailto:Amber.terch@superiormediasolutions.net)

**Jamie Kleist** PRODUCTION DIRECTOR 218-206-2107  
[Jamie.kleist@superiormediasolutions.net](mailto:Jamie.kleist@superiormediasolutions.net)

**Carol Hatcher** AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT 216-706-3785 [hatcher@questex.com](mailto:hatcher@questex.com)

## MARKETING/MAGAZINE SERVICES

<b>Reprints</b> 800-290-5460 ext. 100	<a href="mailto:golfdom@theygsgroup.com">golfdom@theygsgroup.com</a>
<b>Gwen Coryell</b> CIRC. LIST RENTAL 609-275-2900 ext. 118	<a href="mailto:gwen@krolldirect.com">gwen@krolldirect.com</a>
<b>Subscriber, Customer Service</b> 866-344-1315; 847-763-9594 OUTSIDE THE U.S.	<a href="mailto:hatcher@questex.com">hatcher@questex.com</a>

## CORPORATE

**Kerry C. Gumas** PRESIDENT & CEO **Tom Caridi** EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CFO  
**Tony D'Avino** EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**American Society of Irrigation Consultants** P.O. BOX 426  
ROCHESTER, MA 02770; 508-763-8140; WWW.ASIC.ORG

Golfdom does not verify any claims or other information appearing in any of the advertisements contained in the publication, and cannot take any responsibility for any losses or other damages incurred by readers in reliance on such content.

Golfdom welcomes unsolicited articles, manuscripts, photographs, illustrations and other materials but cannot be held responsible for their safekeeping or return.

Questex Media Group LLC provides certain customer contact data (such as customers' names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) to third parties who wish to promote relevant products, services and other opportunities which may be of interest to you. If you do not want Questex Media Group LLC to make your contact information available to third parties for marketing purposes, simply call 866-344-1315; 847-763-9594 if outside the U.S. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT and a customer service representative will assist you in removing your name from Questex Media Group LLC's lists.

**GOLFDOM** (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly (12 issues per year) by Questex Media Group LLC, 306 W Michigan Street, Suite 200, Duluth, MN 55802. Corporate office: 275 Grove St., Suite 2-130, Newton, MA 02466. Accounting, Advertising, Production and Circulation offices: 306 W. Michigan St., Suite 200 Duluth, MN 55802-1610. **Subscription rates:** One year \$43 (U.S. and possessions), \$65 (Canada and Mexico) and \$98 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada for an additional \$75 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5 (U.S. and possessions), \$7 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10 (U.S. and possessions), \$14 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16 (all other countries); add \$6.50 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to Golfdom, P.O. Box 1268, Skokie, IL 60076-8268. Canadian G.S.T. Number: 840033278RT0001, Publications Mail Agreement number 40017597. Printed in the U.S.A. **Copyright 2011 by Questex Media Group LLC.** All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by Questex Media for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923, phone 978-750-8400, fax 978-750-4470. Call for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. For those not registered with the CCC, send permission request to [questexpemissions@theygsgroup.com](mailto:questexpemissions@theygsgroup.com) or 800-494-9051, ext 100.

# TWO PROBLEMS. ONE SOLUTION.

**Season-long crabgrass and grub control in one early application.** Introducing Shaw's® Turf Food with Acelepryn® and Dimension®. One early shot takes care of crabgrass and grubs for the whole season. So you can move on to other things. To learn more, contact your local distributor or call (574) 772-6275.



Shaw's is a registered trademark of Knox Fertilizer Company, Inc. Acelepryn is a registered trademark of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. Dimension is a registered trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Registration pending in some states. Check with your distributor for details. ©2011 Knox Fertilizer Company, Inc.

**KNOX FERTILIZER COMPANY**

[www.knoxfert.com](http://www.knoxfert.com)

# Off The Fringe

## Jacobsen names Withers president

David Withers has been promoted to the position of president of Jacobsen. Withers had been serving as managing director of the Ransomes division of Jacobsen, located in the United Kingdom, since January 2005, overseeing international operations for all Jacobsen brands as well as the E-Z-GO brand in Europe.

"Having worked in the golf and turf maintenance industry for over 25 years, 19 of those with the Jacobsen team, this appointment is what I have always aspired to do," Withers said. "I look forward to working with the team to grow our market share around the world and continuing to establish Jacobsen as a leader in turf maintenance products."

"This new leadership is exciting for us, our customers and the industry overall," Ric Stone, Jacobsen's vice president of sales, told *Golfdom*. "He clearly understands the needs of the marketplace and is dedicated to building strong relationships for Jacobsen."

Withers joined Textron in 1992 as a regional sales manager for Jacobsen. In 2002, he was promoted to the position of sales and marketing director before his appointment in 2005 as managing director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

Withers will succeed Dan Wilkinson, who is retiring from the company after 14 years. Under Wilkinson's leadership, Jacobsen improved its operating efficiency and reinvigorated its product offering, including the introduction of the Eclipse 322 — the first hybrid riding greens mower.

**David Withers was named Jacobsen's new president in late September.**

## GCSAA HQ adds another new tenant

HALF OF SECOND FLOOR,  
ALL OF THIRD FLOOR  
NOW RENTED TO OUTSIDE  
GROUPS

**G**CSAA members who visit the GCSAA national headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., will notice a much more populated parking lot than in recent years. However, GCSAA staff size remains the same.

The additional cars in the lot can be attributed to the new businesses that are now housed at GCSAA headquarters.

The association — which employs approximately 80 people — has been consolidating the space it occupies in the building as employee numbers have dropped over the past few years. GCSAA owns the four-story, 44,000-square-foot building, which was built in 1991 and housed 120 GCSAA employees as recently as 2007.

"We've been adding tenants over the last couple of years," GCSAA president Robert Randquist, CGCS, said. "It really helps out with revenue, and it makes sense not having the empty space just sitting there."

The businesses currently renting space inside GCSAA headquarters include the Rezolve Group, specialists in student financial aid (wing 3A); the Professional Renewal Center, which performs psychiatric



GCSAA headquarters now includes three outside businesses that are leasing space, along with the association itself.

evaluations for professionals (wing 3B); and the newest addition of an architecture firm (wing 2A).

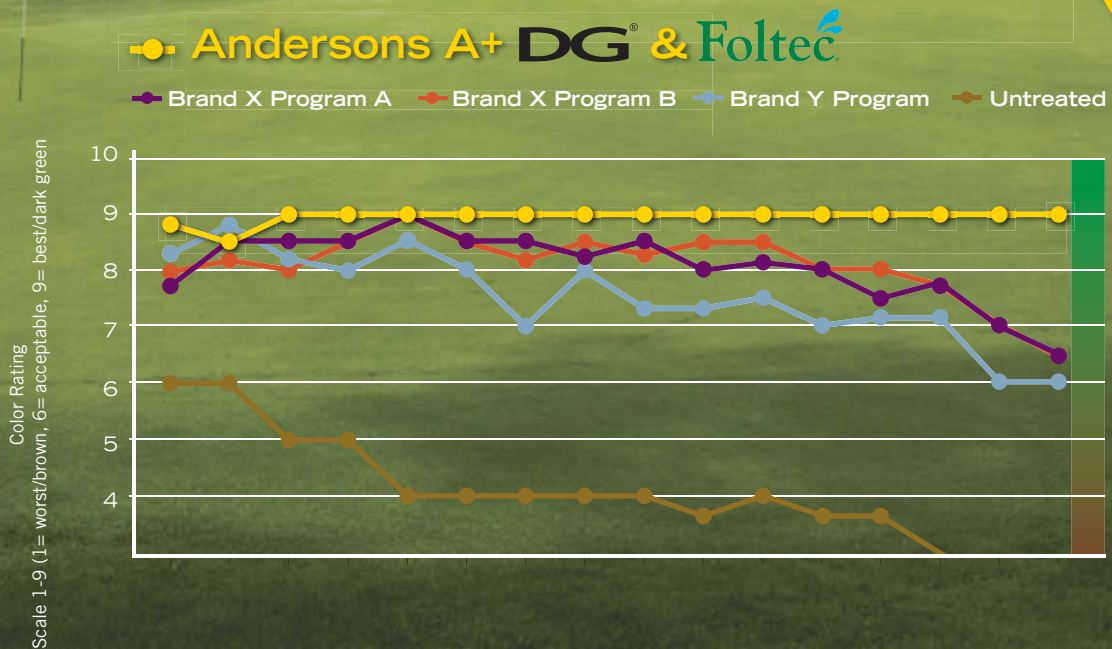
Visitors to GCSAA headquarters might remember 2A as the wing that housed the association's library. Plans are in the works to relocate the library to the first floor, which has primarily been used for storage in the past.

"GCSAA has had other tenants in its headquarters building for significant periods of time," Rhett Evans, GCSAA's CEO, said. "We will continue this policy as long as it does not negatively impact our ability to serve members."

# UNIVERSITY TESTED. REAL WORLD PROVEN.

## PLANT HEALTH/COLOR RATING

The Ohio State University, J.R. Street & D.D. Holdren



The Andersons A+ Program beats other leading brands at up to 7x less cost!

## The Andersons Complete TURF HEALTH SYSTEM

When it comes to providing players the greenest, healthiest looking high-quality short cut turf, nothing is better at helping you than the **A+ Complete Turf Health System** from The Andersons. We help you get your turf the greenest and help you keep it that way the longest.

The A+ System was designed to work both above and below the soil surface to maximize performance on the whole plant. The integration of rapid dispersible granules – **Contec DG** – with our proprietary **Foltec** foliar applications delivers the long-term nutrients needed to attain and sustain optimum turf health.

CONTACT YOUR ANDERSONS DISTRIBUTOR TODAY.



©2011 All rights reserved.  
© Contec DG, Foltec, TNT Ultra and The Andersons are registered trademarks of The Andersons, Inc.

800-253-5296  
www.AndersonsTurf.com **The Andersons**

## Off The Fringe

# Film competition recognizes water conservation

**R**ain Bird's fourth Intelligent Use of Water Film Competition honored three short films recently. The screening and awards ceremony, held in Beverly Hills, Calif., was presented by Rain Bird and event partners The Chronicles Group, Film L.A., Denver Botanic Gardens, Southern Nevada Water Authority and Questex Media Group, publisher of *Golfdom* and *Landscape Management* magazines.

Winners were: "Fun and Games" by Ben Mills, Basingstoke, Hants, U.K. (2011 Jury Award winner); "Just Don't Flush It" by Brian McAndrew, North Bend, Ore. (2011 Audience Award winner); and "Water Ways" by Jall Cowasji (2011 Green Industry Award winner). The winners shared a \$15,000 purse.

"The high level of ingenuity and creativity we found in this year's film competition truly demonstrates the importance of water conservation," said Rain Bird Director of Corporation Marketing Dave Johnson. The contest, he added, gives filmmakers "a voice that can inspire others to take personal action."



Dave Johnson, director of corporation marketing for Rain Bird, presents 2011 Jury Award winner Ben Mills a check for \$6,000 at the Intelligent Use of Water film competition in Beverly Hills, Calif.

### GOLFDOM ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Know of someone in the industry who has taken an idea, put it into action and the end result was a better bottom line for the facility?

If so, we want you to nominate them for the first ever Herb Graffis Business Person of the Year award. We'll feature the winner in an upcoming issue of *Golfdom*, as well as host the winner as our guest to the 2012 Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Visit [www.golfdom.com/graffis](http://www.golfdom.com/graffis) for more details on the award and to make your nomination. We'll be accepting nominations until 11/11/11.

PHOTO BY: DAN JACOBS

**CYCLONE KB4** *Engineered to Perform, Built to Last!*

[www.buffaloturbine.com](http://www.buffaloturbine.com)  
**BUFFALO TURBINE**

Ph: 716.592.2700 / Fax: 716.592.2460 / All Buffalo Turbine products are manufactured in the U.S.A. and feature a one year warranty.

NHRA  
IHRA  
MADE IN THE USA

WHEN YOU NEED **MUSCLE** IN YOUR TANK

**NEW  
INSECTICIDE**



**CONTROL OF TOUGH TURFGRASS INSECTS!**

- CONTROLS ROOT- AND LEAF-FEEDING INSECTS
- EXTENDED SYSTEMIC CONTROL
- USE IN TROUBLESOME TURF AREAS
- RAPID UPTAKE AND TRANSLOCATION

**EFFECTIVE ON:**

- ▶ CHINCH BUG
- ▶ MOLE CRICKET
- ▶ EUROPEAN CRANEFLY
- ▶ ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL



◀ **COMING SOON**  
FOR TREES & SHRUBS  
**ZYLAM™ LIQUID**  
SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDE

**G** **pbi / GORDON**  
**corporation**  
*An Employee-Owned Company*  
800.821.7925 • [pbigordon.com/zylam](http://pbigordon.com/zylam)

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS  
Zylam is a trademark of PBI-Gordon Corporation.

01169



**T**his issue is not just for you. This issue is for us. Let me explain. This issue's theme, "Turf on trial," features a few common accusations against the golf

industry. And we've told a few classic examples that serve as rebuttals to those accusations. For example, we have stories on water savings, thriving wildlife and pesticide reduction going on right now at golf courses around the nation.

Breaking news to you? Surely not. But the message we're all trying to communicate to the world? Vital.

There are other places where this information is easily seen. A simple open-minded conversation at your golf course would be the ideal place for one of golf's opponents to see that the game is not the monster it's often made out to be. But good luck getting a golf-hater to set foot on your course.

I would also suggest any of the case studies at the Environmental Institute for Golf's website, The Edge (found at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org)), as a place to learn more about the good work going on at golf courses around the country. Or any of the dozens of superintendent blogs that are being regularly updated.

But getting an opponent of golf to click a link? It should be easier than it is, but...

A magazine, however, is easily handed to someone. Hand this issue off to your favorite non-golfing environmentalist, and see how it goes. Or mail it to your local newspaper editor.

Even easier than mailing a magazine to someone, you can leave it somewhere to be found. Leave it at the barber shop. Leave it at the dentist's office. Leave it in the men's room at City Hall.

I'm not saying this issue is a silver bullet against golf's opponents. Depending on the person, they'll shoot holes in any argument you present to them. But we have to keep trying.

From the content of the cover story, to the columns by Joel Jackson, Geoff Shackelford and Clark Throssell, I believe there are multiple pieces in this issue that could just maybe light the slightest spark of doubt in that person who has faithfully detested golf since the 1970s.

## The Story of Us

BY SETH JONES



And at the same time, I think there are enough success stories and opinions in this issue that it will spark your interest as well, even if we're not opening your eyes to something you haven't seen, heard or done before.

Or maybe I'm just up too late this evening. But in my mind, this issue isn't just for you, the superintendent. And it's not just for them, the anti-golfers.

This issue is for our industry. It's for us.

HAND THIS ISSUE

OFF TO YOUR

FAVORITE NON-

GOLFING ENVIRON-

MENTALIST AND

SEE HOW IT GOES.

OR LEAVE IT IN THE

MEN'S ROOM AT

CITY HALL.

**I need your help.** I want to know — what do you like about *Golfdom*? What could we do better? What kinds of stories would you like to see in the magazine? What kind of stories should we do less? Who is your favorite *Golfdom* columnist? Is there one of us you rarely read? Even if it's me, let me know — I can handle it! (OK, I'll probably brood for an hour, but eventually, I'll be back on top of the world.)

This is an exciting time for the magazine. *Golfdom* is going to come out firing in 2012 with a new look — the first redesign of the magazine since its relaunch in 1999. We're making preparations now, just like you're preparing for your 2012 golf season now. And we want to make sure we do this redesign right. That means we need your insights.

You'll see a survey hitting your e-mail inbox soon. You'll be doing me a personal favor if you take the time to fill out that survey. You'll also be helping me and the *Golfdom* team make the magazine better.

If surveys aren't your thing, you can always e-mail me your thoughts straight to my inbox at [sjones@questex.com](mailto:sjones@questex.com) or pick up the phone and give me a call.

And the offer always stands from a few issues ago — if you have a story you think would make for a great *Golfdom* story, I'm just an e-mail away.

---

*E-mail Jones at [sjones@questex.com](mailto:sjones@questex.com).*



Scan this tag to download a PDF with the latest research on BASF's **Intrinsic™** brand fungicides.



“Go ahead. Aerate my grass.”



Intrinsic™ brand fungicide

“Yeah, mechanical stresses like aeration hurt. But not for long. Research shows that **Insignia® SC Intrinsic™ brand fungicide** has disease control and **plant health benefits** that give me a better root system and close up those little holes faster. And I can handle stresses like drought and moisture events and extreme temperatures—better than ever.”

**Intrinsic** brand fungicides don't just fight disease; they give turf the resilience to endure stress. Find out more at [IntrinsicPlantHealth.com](http://IntrinsicPlantHealth.com).



The Chemical Company

**Y**es, turf is on trial. For the past few years, environmental activists have been prosecuting turfgrass and fertilizers in the press and at county commission meetings. The

attacks began with phosphorous bans in states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin and a rash of local fertilizer ordinances in Florida. The attacks include statements such as the one made by the Florida Sierra Club's Stuart DeCew. "Worldwide, there is mounting evidence that links coastal pollution, specifically from fertilizers, to increases and intensity of harmful algal blooms," he said.

The media often is a willing accomplice in the demonization of turfgrass. For example, in a recent *Orlando Sentinel* editorial, columnist Mike Thomas used the inflammatory term "water-gulping grass" and boldly stated, "Big Grass is worse than Big Oil." It's just one example of how the media's credibility has been lost in this world of "be first" sensationalism.

Activists might offer up water quality studies of nutrient levels, but they never really document the sources of the total nitrogen and phosphorous. Terril Nell, Ph.D. of the University of Florida testified at a Florida Senate Committee hearing last March on a proposed statewide model fertilizer ordinance. Citing the ongoing Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, Nell said that early results indicate fertilizers contribute about 3 percent to the nutrient loading, much less than what he said sewer treatment plants and even dog waste contribute (about 20 percent and 15 percent, respectively).

In Florida, responding to those attacking fertilizer use and promoting use bans, Dr. George Hochmuth authored a document titled "Urban Water Quality and Fertilizer Ordinances: Avoiding Unintended Consequences: A Review of the Scientific Literature." The review documented more than 140 studies performed by land grant universities nationwide. The review showed that properly applied nutrients pose no significant risk to the environment. Activists dismissed the study

## Witness for the Defense

BY JOEL JACKSON



**OUR BEST HOPE IS TO INFORM AND ARM OUR POLITICIANS WITH PROVEN FACTS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF TURF IN ALL ITS FORMS.**

as data bought and paid for by industry, when, in reality, the most recent data being compiled in Florida on the fate of fertilizers is being funded by an EPA grant.

When the state of Florida brought together a group of regulatory, scientific, industry, political and activist stakeholders and held public meetings about fertilizer use, the Sierra Club eventually withdrew, saying it just could not believe the science.

Our best hope is to inform and arm our politicians with proven facts about the environmental, economic and sociological benefits of turf in all its forms.

We don't need to be on the witness stand to testify to turf's benefits. We should be sharing the evidence regularly as part of an annual program. Each chapter across the country must have an Advocacy Week or Month in which chapter members promote the GCSAA's and the Environmental Institute for Golf's sustainability message (people, planet, profit) with the public.

Also, chapter members can easily find a list of "The Benefits of Turfgrass" on the web and deliver it to state and local politicians, environmental agencies and the media.

If we don't become more aggressive about presenting accurate information about our industry, misinformation from activists will fill the void. We have a good story to tell, but we must speak up to be heard.

We can start by sharing turf's benefits with golfers and club leaders. Then we can take our message on the road. We can show everyone that turf really does benefit the environment, that we are in fact "not guilty."

---

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