



1. Jamie shows his father the compost he uses to make compost tea. **2.** In the creation of compost tea, Jamie injects air into the liquid to extract microbes off the mixture. The foam seen here is gas formed by microbes as they multiply. **3.** Jamie proudly displays his massive root system, the result of fertilizing with compost tea.

PHOTOS BY: BETH GERACI; (LOWER RIGHT): JAMIE KIZER

“I liked being out there. I liked working the grass,” says Edwin, who gained esteem for his over-fertilized lush greens.

Edwin reflects on his unique upbringing with an unemotional bluntness. He nonchalantly recalls starting in the business as a 6-year-old soda jerk in the Lions pro shop; being forced to box with his fellow caddies on rainy days; and raking the ponds for errant golf balls every morning before school — so Roy could sell them in the clubhouse.

“He sold them for 10 cents each,” Jamie says. “It’s where grandpa made most of his money. And if he saw you taking one of those balls from the pond, he’d chase you.”

Edwin grew up in a drastically different world than the one his only son grew up in. It was a segregated world. But one day in 1951, something happened at Lions that changed golf there forever. Two black youths stepped onto the course and played a round of golf. Someone reported it to the clubhouse. The clubhouse said, “Let ‘em play.”

It was a heavy, historical moment. Edwin caddied with one of the young men. He tells the story slowly, weightily, as if he’s watching it unfold. The magnitude of the event is reflected in Edwin’s voice. It drops to a whisper as he says, “The end of segregation... on the golf course.”

TEXAS TEA

In the shed behind the Hidden Falls maintenance building there’s a loud whirring noise. It sounds like someone’s running a vacuum.

There’s no vacuum here, though. That’s the sound of compost tea brewing. In a medium-sized cistern, the organic combination of compost, molasses, worm castings and other ingredients swirls, bubbles and foams. It’ll brew like that for 72 hours before it’s finished.

Jamie pours some of the brown liquid into a measuring cup and raises it to his nose. “When this is ready, this is going to smell like earth,” he shouts over the whirring. “This is not quite fully ready yet.”

Edwin’s standing behind Jamie, looking thoroughly perplexed. He’s seen his son’s concoction before. “It just confuses me,” he says.

Though these two men share a name, a passion and a profession, their styles of greenkeeping are drastically different. Edwin says he was good at driving around and pointing; Jamie works hands-on alongside his crew at a course where a \$330,000 budget requires it.

“This is a real low-budget place,” says Jamie. “Dad would say, ‘Fertilize this, do all this.’ Well, our budget won’t support the things he would want to do. What’s spurring my interest is this compost tea. I have the least amount of money, the least amount of resources, but I’m now growing the healthiest turf I’ve ever grown.”

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All in the Family



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Jamie pulls out the Droid again, and brings up his Facebook page. He enlarges a photo of himself proudly displaying his root system. It's six inches long and intact as he lets it dangle from his fingertips.

"It's unbelievable," Edwin marvels. "My turf never would have done that." They may have had different styles, different technologies, but they both know what good turf looks like.

Jamie is such a proponent of compost tea, he and his business partner, Dale Wieweck, who turned him on to it, are set to launch their own mobile compost tea business. They'll peddle and apply their product everywhere from estates to golf courses. They recently acquired their first golf customer — Lions Municipal Golf Course. Yes, Grandpa's old course. Roy Kizer would surely approve.

Wieweck's inspiration for turning to compost tea was based on his years in the landscape maintenance business, where he felt pressure to get green-up quickly. "Our chemical budgets were going up every year," he says, "and I decided 'I don't like this.'"

His discomfort stemmed from the death of his father, a long-time dairy farmer who ultimately died of inoperable cancer.

"My dad passed away from chemicals," Wieweck says. "Back then, in the 1940s and '50s, it was nothing to go out and spray chemicals and get it on your boots and wear those same boots for three years."

Now Jamie's as sold on compost tea as Wieweck is, bragging, "I got roots this deep in the greens out here. I can walk away from them and they won't fall off."

Jamie Kizer in his office, where the walls are adorned with plaque upon plaque honoring the family's years in turf.

Old friends from 'Old Muny'

When Jamie Kizer was a little boy and his parents wanted to go out to dinner, they called on Ben Crenshaw, who grew up with the family, to babysit.

"We used to chip and putt at Morris Williams Golf Course," Jamie recalls. "And if it got dark, he would pull his car around and turn on the headlights and we would chip and putt. It was just what you did. You'd just mill around and chip and putt."

Crenshaw gave Jamie the nickname "Scooter," thanks to the lad's penchant for driving golf carts as a 5-year-old. If 5 seems a little young to be driving golf carts, Jamie's father, Edwin, wasn't bothered by it.

"I had to take care of the golf course," he says, shrugging. By driving the golf cart, Jamie could retrieve things for him.

To this day, Crenshaw calls Jamie "Scooter" wherever their paths cross. "I saw him at Augusta one time at a practice round and he looked over and goes, 'Scooter, what are you doing here?'" Jamie remembers. "And I said, 'I came all the way over to watch you play this practice round.'"

Jamie smiles broadly at the memory. The TV blares behind him. Edwin's sitting at the table, with his arms tightly crossed, listening intently.

"Everybody knew he was going to be big," Jamie says.

"There was no question," says Edwin.

"He was an awesome golfer," Jamie adds. "When Ben played a course he'd walk into a pro shop and ask what the course record was. And they'd say, '68', and they knew from that point on he was going —"

"We knew, forget it, whatever that course record was, 64 or whatever, he'd beat it," says Edwin, finishing Jamie's thought. "His mind was set on that record." —BG

'CUED UP

The lunch crowd at Peete Mesquite Barbecue is tapering off. Jamie and Edwin are sitting at a picnic table enjoying beef brisket, reminiscing about the parties they threw in Lakeway.

"Dad would always say, 'Remember, it's only wrong if you get caught,'" Jamie laughs. "And if you get caught, don't call me."

Edwin retired in 1996 at age 65 and hasn't looked back. "It took me one day to get used to it," he says.

Jamie smiles. "One time I called Dad up about a year later and I said, 'Hey Dad, how you likin' that retirement?' And he goes, 'Man, it's wonderful. I got seven Saturdays in every week.'"

Today, the Kizers have come full circle. Edwin grew up watching his father; now he observes his son.

"I go riding around with him, he talks about what he's doing, dreaming and all that, I don't have to do nothing but listen," he says.

Edwin knows some of Jamie's plans won't work. Still, he keeps his thoughts to himself.

"Let him go," he says. "Let him do it. Me ridin' around, no pressure, man." ■

GOLFDOM YEAR IN REVIEW



2012

IT WASN'T THE END OF THE WORLD

At least, not yet. We don't want to jinx it.
So let's just take a look at the year in the golf course
management industry, along with some of our
own keen insights along the way... ►►

BY KEN MOUM WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY BY SETH JONES

This Is Not the End



A group representing the We Are Golf initiative traveled to Washington, D.C. to help spearhead the White House's announcement of Summer Jobs+, a call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for America's youth in the summer of 2012. It is estimated that golf course maintenance jobs open to youths increased from 104,300 in 2011 to 107,280 in 2012.

Sadly, even with more youths in the workforce, there was no increase in youths being on time for morning meetings.

The National Golf Foundation reported in January that 157.5 18-hole equivalent golf courses closed in 2011 compared to only 19 courses opening. It was the sixth consecutive year closings have outpaced openings. Since the peak in 2005, more than 358 golf courses have closed.

Nevertheless, The NGF Golf Facility Supply Index, which tracks the ratio of golfers to golf courses, remained at 83 in 2011. The score means courses are 17 percent less crowded than they were 20 years ago.

So why are rounds still so slow? Was every group in front of us this year trying to qualify for the U.S. Open?



GCSAA named the winners of its 2011 Watson Fellowships: Lindsey Hoffman, Renee Rioux and Joseph Roberts. Each was awarded a \$5,000 postgraduate grant and a trip to the 2012 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas.

The GCSAA decided not to go with our advice, and just award the grants in cash, so the students could double it up at the tables in Vegas. Win some, lose some.

On Jan. 27, Barbara Douglas passed away in Glendale Arizona at age 69 after a three-year battle with cancer. She was the first minority chairman of the USGA Women's Commit-

tee, a winner of the Golf Writers Association of America's prestigious Ben Hogan Award and president of the National Minority Golf Foundation for five years.

The Golf Course Builders Association of America gave its Rossi Award to Jim Kirchdorfer. He is a founding member of the association and served as its president from 1994 to 1996. A 50-year veteran of the golf industry, he also helped found the GCBAA's "Sticks for Kids" program.

We checked, and couldn't find any connection to Mr. Kirchdorfer and the "Dorf on Golf" video series from the 1980s. Whatever happened to Dorf, anyway?

The Australian firm e-par, developers of the e-par Environmental Management System, announce the launch of e-parUSA.

Spoken in a Crocodile Dundee voice, "That's not an environmental management system... that's an environmental management system," is sadly not used as a slogan. (Yet.)

In a harbinger of good news, the Golf Industry Show reported qualified buyer attendance of 7,068 — a 2.6 percent increase over last year from Orlando and the most since the event was in Orlando in 2008. Education conference numbers were up 1.4 percent over last year in Orlando, Fla., and 14.6 percent greater than 2010 in San Diego.

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donated \$1 million to the Environmental Institute for Golf. The foundation is supported by Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of The Toro Co.



Iowa State University took its 12th title in 14 years at the Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition. The University of Massachusetts-Amherst took second and the University of Maryland took third-place over 87 teams.

Not only does Iowa State dominate the turf bowl, they also dominate my Kansas Jayhawks on the turf—51-23 this year. So I've got nothing smart to say about the Cyclones other than, "well done."

Superintendent Gordon Witteveen was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame. The founding director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and longtime superintendent worked for more than 50 years at courses throughout Ontario and Quebec. He was also a respected author and speaker.

The two largest golf ownership and management companies on Myrtle Beach's Grand Strand joined to become National Golf Management. The new company, formed from Myrtle Beach National Co. and Burroughs & Chapin Golf Management, is one of the 15 largest course management companies in the nation, with 23 combined courses.

If two management companies coming together doesn't give you warm fuzzies, we don't know what will...

Joe Steranka announced that he will retire at the end of the year after seven years as CEO of the PGA of America. "I love golf, I love the PGA and I think the game is in a good spot right now," Steranka said. "It's the biggest decision of my life."

On April 18 the U.S. EPA denied a request to revoke all tolerances and the request to cancel all registrations for the pesticide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, or 2,4-D. The petition was originally filed on November 6, 2008, by Natural Resources Defense Council.

Syngenta marketing communications manager Margaret Bell retired after 35 years with the company. She had been active in many Green Industry associations, especially the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association, of which she served as vice president for nearly 12 years.

The TOCA meetings will be a lot less fun without Bell's energy. But anytime a friend can retire on their own terms, we're all for it.

Webb Simpson won the United States Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. Superintendent Pat Finlen is front and center in the media, including an appearance on the Golf Channel's Morning Drive.

That's almost as cool as USGA Executive Director Mike Davis grabbing the squawking bird-guy and almost ripping his arm off on live TV.



Golf Supply House purchased Eagle One Golf Products of Anaheim, Calif., which has manufacturing capability in several product segments, including recycled plastic golf course furnishings, golf course signage and golf flags. It also distributes a broad line of other golf course equipment and supplies.

They also have this sign available, which we think should be mandatory at some of the courses we play.



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Mike Hurdzan, Ph.D., had gained critical acclaim for his golf course design centered on environmental stewardship and affordability, even before he was named the winner of GCSAA's 2013 Old Tom Morris Award.

Hurdzan and his longtime design partner Dana Fry announced that they are to go their separate ways. Fry is partnering with Jason Straka to form Fry/Straka Global Golf Course Design and focus on projects in Asia and Brazil. Hurdzan and his son Chris will concentrate on golf course projects in North America as Hurdzan & Son.

We're still hopeful for a reunion tour in ten years.

Frank Rossi, associate professor and extension turfgrass specialist in the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., is named the TOCA Environmental Communicator of the Year. The program is sponsored by Project EverGreen.

Ernie Els won the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes... using a belly putter. That makes him the third out of the last four major champions to use one. R&A Chief Executive Peter Dawson reveals that golf's ruling bodies are seriously considering taking action on anchored putting strokes.

Shortly before we went to press, golf's governing bodies proposed a ban on anchored putting, a rules change that would go into effect in January 2016 (see story, page 6.) The long putter was already outlawed by the cool police months ago.



Bert McCarty is the 2012 recipient of Clemson University's highest agricultural honor: the Godley-Snell Award for Excellence in Agricultural Research.

The National Climatic Data Center reported that the mainland United States has experienced the warmest 12 months since record keeping began in 1895, affecting golf courses and agriculture across the nation. The warmest-ever-recorded March and extreme heat in June helped make the first six months of 2012 the warmest recorded of any January-June stretch. In the last half of June, 170 all-time temperature records were matched or smashed in cities across the lower 48 states.

Toro launched the Toro Leaderboard, a new website that allows superintendents who own Toro equipment or irrigation solutions to share reviews on products.

For the first time in its 80-year history, Augusta National Golf Club has female members. The home of golf's Masters championship had faced criticism because of its all-male membership. Augusta National invited former secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and South Carolina financier Darla Moore to become the first women in green jackets when the club opens for a new season in October.



We think this is great news. And we hope that someday Augusta National will allow us the honor of a press credential so we can help sing the club's praises from Amen Corner.

Audubon International's board of directors named Ryan Aylesworth the new executive director for the environmental education organization.



Gregg Breningmeyer passed away on Aug. 9 at the age of 56. He was director of sales and marketing for John Deere Worldwide Golf and Turf Company and a friend to many in the industry.

Gregg was well known by the Golfdom staff as a kind, funny, straightforward guy, and we sure miss him. We'll toast one to him at the GIS in two months, as will many others, no doubt.

Tropical Storm Isaac hit the Southeastern U.S. in late August, bringing with it drenching rain that broke the drought in some areas, and caused massive flooding in others.

Syngenta agreed to acquire the DuPont Professional Products insecticide business, a leading supplier of innovative products for the professional turf, ornamentals and home pest control markets, for a consideration of \$125 million. The acquisition will expand the range of products that Syngenta offers to golf course and lawn care professionals and to ornamental growers. Syngenta will also access the related active ingredients and formulated products from DuPont through exclusive supply and licensing agreements.

On Aug. 28 Stanley Zontek passed away. His life was devoted to the game of golf and the improvement of golf courses throughout the world. It is simply impossible to calculate the impact Zontek had through his 41 years of visiting courses, writing articles, speaking at conferences and befriending people all over the world.



The Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation will invest more than \$23,000 in research projects, further advancing the game's drive toward sustainability. The foundation announced it would help fund two projects for scientists at the University of Georgia in which water conservation shapes as a key outcome for the state's golf industry that delivers a direct economic impact of \$2.4 billion annually. Established in 2004, the GGEF promotes sustainable environmental stewardship in golf and is the philanthropic arm of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association.



BASF announced plans to acquire Becker Underwood for a price of \$1.02 billion. The move makes BASF a leading global provider of technologies for biological seed treatment as well as seed treatment colorants and polymers. BASF also expanded its product portfolio in biological crop protection, turf and horticulture, animal nutrition and landscape colorants and coatings.

If we had a billion bucks to burn, how would we spend it? Frozen burritos. And a grande-sized freezer.

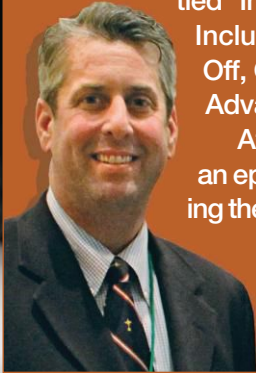


Sept. 14, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed S. 3552, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2012, which reauthorizes the collection of fees to support the EPA's Office of Pesticide Program registration process.

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The Wall Street Journal stated that Medinah CGCS Curtis Tyrrell was part of the Ryder Cup team in its article titled "In Golf Rivalry, Important Equipment Includes a Mower: As Ryder Cup Tees Off, Greenkeepers Seek Home-Course Advantage."



At the Ryder Cup, the U.S. suffered an epic meltdown down the stretch, losing the cup with an 0-8-1 finish on Sunday.

We wish Tyrrell really was on the team — maybe he could have made a putt for the Yanks on Sunday.

The IGF, which is composed of golf's national governing bodies in more than 150 countries, released its statement on sustainability in October. The statement was signed by 153 golf organizations, placing sustainability as a core priority. The focus of the declaration is on the management of golf facilities, administration of golf events and the influence of golfers as consumers.

The Organic Arsenical Products Task Force announced that MSMA applications labeled for use on golf courses (except in Florida) will be extended for at least 3 to 4 years until a new National Academy of Sciences review on inorganic arsenic is completed.

Superstorm Sandy, the second-costliest hurricane of all time, hit the East Coast in late October. The largest Atlantic hurricane of all time (with winds spanning 1,100 miles), Sandy killed 253 people, left about \$65 billion in damages and impacted 24 states, primarily New York and New Jersey.



The second **Golfdom Summit** was held at the Reunion Resort in Orlando. Rees Jones and Medinah's Tyrrell gave a presentation about the 2012 Ryder Cup. Reunion Resort Director of Grounds Tray Maltby (above left, with Jones) proved to be the perfect host, ensuring both superintendents and sponsors enjoyed the event.

If any residents find a Golfdom logo Pro V1 in their living room, it wasn't me.

American Society of Golf Course Architects members see increase in renovation and remodel work. In October the association's website featured a number of articles about ongoing or recently completed renovation work across North America by its members.

The third annual Symposium On Affordable Golf was held at the Southern Pines Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C.

We wanted to go, but we'd already blown too much money on unaffordable golf this year.

Jacobsen teased customers that "something new is coming" on its website, www.jacobsen.com. The new product, pictured but covered with a sheet, will be unveiled January 15th, 2013. For more information, see page 39 of this issue.

Golfdom announced it is now available as an app for iPad.

Yes, that's convenient, but there's still no way to leave an iPad draped over the handicap bar in the men's room toilet, is there? ■

Ken Moum is a golf maniac who lives in Topeka, Kan. Seth Jones is just a maniac.

Old, OLD SCHOOL TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

Topdressing with
compost can
improve fairways.

By Clark Throssell, Ph.D.

Incorporating organic matter to improve the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil is one of the fundamental principles of soil science. Superintendents in the 1920s and 1930s put that principle into action by regularly topdressing with compost as part of their management program. And in October 2007, Rick Pagett, superintendent at the Pennsylvania State University golf courses, followed suit; he put the “incorporation of organic matter into soil” principle into action when he topdressed the 7th fairway and surrounding rough on the Blue Course with compost.

The idea to topdress fairways with compost came to Pagett while he was a graduate student at Penn State taking Dr. Andy McNitt’s turfgrass soil physical properties class. Dr. McNitt, a turfgrass soil specialist, was discussing his experience using compost to improve lawns by topdressing them with compost. That’s when Pagett realized that adding compost to the soil was the solution to his problem on the 7th hole.

Rebuilt in 2006, the 7th fairway was constructed using fill taken from other locations on the golf course. Pagett struggled to develop a stand of creeping bentgrass on the fairway, or Kentucky bluegrass in the surrounding rough, that met his standards. Despite his best efforts, the stand of both the creeping bentgrass fairway and Kentucky bluegrass rough was thin, slow

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Dressed for Success



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growing and a bad playing surface.

With the Women's Big Ten Golf Championship set for spring 2008, Pagett wanted to improve the turf on the 7th fairway and rough to provide the playing surfaces that Big Ten golfers deserved.

"Dr. McNitt and Dr. Pete Landschoot, a Penn State turfgrass scientist, were great resources for this project and I met with them to develop a plan to topdress the 7th fairway and surrounding rough with compost," said Pagett.

McNitt and Landschoot had both practical and academic experience using compost to improve turfgrass stands. The compost selected was produced locally by the University Area Joint Authority using municipal biosolids and hardwood saw-

◀ The amount of compost applied is seen on the right side of the photo.

