



“I WAS ON THE 17 GREEN AND THOUGHT,  
‘I HOPE MY GIRLFRIEND’S WORTH IT.’”

Austin Allison

***“I’ve been a superintendent for more than 20 years and we always seem to have dollar spot issues. I didn’t have those issues this year while using Daconil Action, and I know others did. I’m definitely going to use Daconil Action again.”***

**Kelly Kressler**  
Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Continued from page 20

## **Josh Lewis**

**AGE:** 30

**COURSE:** Chambers Bay, University Place, Wash.

**NUMBER OF HOLES:** 18

**BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR:** 1 year

**How did you get the job at such a young age?** There was a certain amount of good fortune involved, but also hard work and dedication, trying to continually learn, and being taught by some very good mentors, like Chris Gaughan, Ken Nice and Paul Chojnacky.

I was the first assistant at Chambers Bay. When the superintendent position became available, General Manager Matt Allen told me, “Feel free to make the changes you feel are necessary and the chips are going to fall where they may.”

**What’s your biggest accomplishment?** One of the first things that comes to mind is the progress we’ve made with the staff at Chambers Bay. We’ve got a very strong group of people. I’ve seen a lot of growth in individuals and as a team in the last year, and that’s as much their accomplishment as it is mine.

**Did you have insecurities about being so young?** I don’t think it was a youth thing. There are going to be things you’re not perfectly comfortable with right off the bat, like budgeting, but you have teaching and mentoring to rely on. It helps to have a trusted person in your speed dial.

**Where do you see yourself in 15 years?** I don’t know for sure. It’s yet to be determined if the U.S. Open (which



Chambers Bay is hosting in 2015) or other majors are things I can see myself being a part of perennially. I guess we’ll know after June 2015. Right now we’re super excited and enjoying the ride.

**What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents?** It really does come back to networking and staying involved. Go to meetings, go to association events and get to know people regionally and nationally. You’re only as good as the people you surround yourself with.

## **Brian Palmer**

**AGE:** 29

**COURSE:** Shoreacres, Lake Bluff, Ill.

**NUMBER OF HOLES:** 18

**BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR:** 3 months


**How did you get your job at such a young age?** From working at a big club like Merion Golf Club, where I was the assistant before coming here, and working for a

superintendent like Matt (Shaffer). I heard about this job from a colleague of mine. I went through the interview process, and one month later I had the job.

**What is your biggest accomplishment?** Overseeing construction of the practice green on Merion’s West Course and having a part in Merion’s practice facility and U.S. Open preparations were big. But getting this job is my biggest accomplishment. It’s a dream job, really. When I got it, the first thing I did was call my father. He was a superintendent in central New York for 25 years. He couldn’t wait to scope out the piece of property I have.

**Did you have insecurities about being so young?** I really don’t have any. Fortunately, I saw quite a bit in my time at Merion, and I’m ready to go. I’ve been groomed for this for a while now.

Continued on page 24



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“I’M READY TO GO.  
I’VE BEEN GROOMED  
FOR THIS FOR A WHILE NOW.”

Brian Palmer



that, because I’ve always been the youngest in a leadership role. I’ve always been the youngest guy on the crew, and I’ve led guys who are old enough to be my father. I’m still the youngest here, except for the assistant I just brought on. He’s 22 and knockin’ it out of the park. I see myself in him — I’ve always had drive.

**Where do you see yourself in 15 years?** I’d like to be established. I’d like to be at a club with my certification, either at Bermuda Dunes or at another club that takes care of you and you take care of them.

**What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents?** It has a lot to do with your drive and listening to your membership, listening to your crew, listening to your surroundings. You don’t know everything. Never be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

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**Where do you see yourself in 15 years?**

I’d love to be a superintendent still, whether it’s here or somewhere else. But I’m fortunate to be where I am right now, and if I’m able to be here in 15 or 20 years, that’d be great.

**What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents?**

It’s important to be well rounded. Get outside your comfort zone and you’ll be better off for it. Keep learning, meet as many people as you can. Go work for the right people and set yourself up for the future.

**Tyler Tang**

**AGE:** 30

**COURSE:** Bermuda Dunes Country Club, Bermuda Dunes, Calif.

**NUMBER OF HOLES:** 27

**BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR:** 2 years

**How did you get your job at such a young age?**

By being an assistant at Eldorado Country Club for five years. My mentor, Eldorado Director of Agronomy Craig Ellis, is well known. The general manager at Bermuda Dunes asked Craig if he had a guy who would be interested in coming over. Being a hard worker, making a name for myself, that helped too.

**What is your biggest accomplishment?**

By far it’s bringing Bermuda Dunes back. I have members who have been here for 30 years who say the course has never looked better. I attribute that to my staff and teamwork and putting the right guys in the right jobs.

Bermuda Dunes had lost a little bit of its identity when I arrived here. The greens were let go. And my goal since I’ve been here is to bring back the identity of the club.

**Did you have insecurities about being so young?** I have no insecurities about



“I HAVE MEMBERS  
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Tyler Tang

PHOTOS COURTESY: BRIAN PALMER (TOP); TYLER TANG

## Jason VanBuskirk

AGE: 29

COURSE: Stow Acres Country Club, Stow, Mass.

NUMBER OF HOLES: 36

BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR: 6 years

**How did you get your job at such a young age?** The superintendent was a great mentor to me, and we kept in touch. When I was 22 and a year out of school, he hired me as his assistant. When he moved on in 2007, the GM and I had a Coke in the clubhouse. He stood up after an hour and said, "Congratulations, you just passed Round 1."

**What is your biggest accomplishment?** We played host to the Massachusetts Four Ball Championship last year. We had 288 of New England's best amateur golfers play our course. We had very few volunteers and had to have the course in shape a month earlier than usual — for a championship-caliber event. It was a fantastic event. We had a lot of high-caliber golfers that had great things to say about both courses.

**Did you have insecurities about being so young?** I did, and the general manager has told me to this day it was what sold him on me in this position — because I was honest. I told him that I would need to be coached on budgeting and people management. I asked him to give me time to figure it out, and he did.

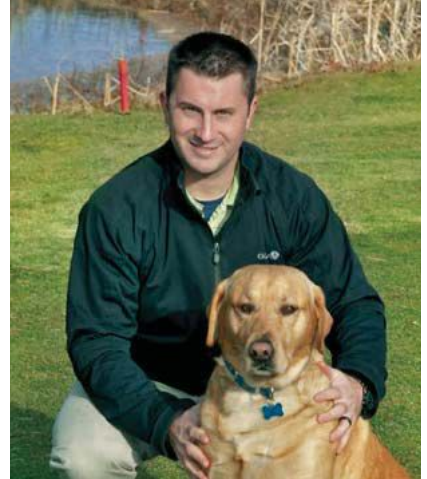
**Where do you see yourself in 15 years?** I used to have my PGA tournament plan in place. Now that I have two kids, my life has changed pretty drastically. I work for a great owner. I work at a great club. So my goal is to be even more distinguished and accomplished than I am and give back to the local college kids.

**What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents?** Do your job with passion, and make sure you're working with the natural environment and your own life plan in mind. My dad always said, "Make sure you work for the company, and the company will work for you."

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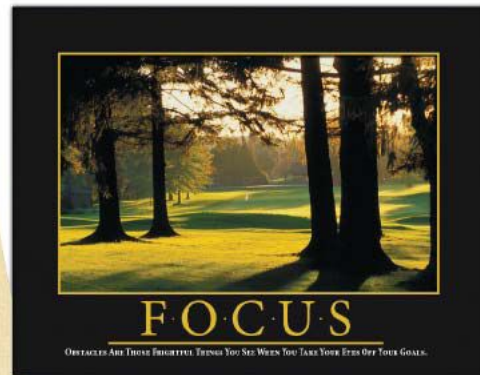
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PASSION, AND MAKE  
SURE YOU'RE WORKING  
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Jason VanBuskirk



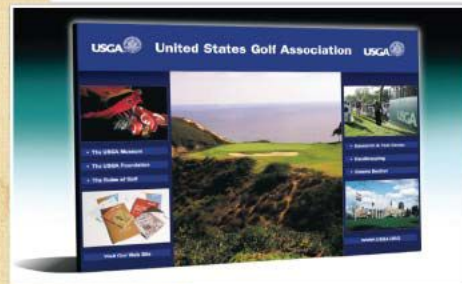
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### Jason Baumeister

**AGE:** 30

**COURSE:** Craft Farms Golf Club, Gulf Shores, Ala.

**NUMBER OF HOLES:** 36

**BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT FOR:** 4 years

“DON’ T BE AFRAID TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO AND ASK, ‘WHY DO WE DO IT THIS WAY?’”

Jason Baumeister

**How did you get into your position at such a young age?** I had worked here in years past as an assistant. Four years ago, I returned here to work as the assistant again. I just love this property. About the same time, management company Honours Golf came in, the superintendent left and the director of agronomy trusted me enough to let me move into the position.


**What is your biggest accomplishment?** Becoming a superintendent at such a young age. It put me in the spotlight, and I had to shine. It’s set me apart from a lot of guys, and it helped me grow faster.

**Did you have insecurities about being**

**so young?** Never. That’s one thing that’s probably helped me — I’m confident. I also understand I’m young, and it’s helped me in networking. Being familiar with the courses helped me, too.

**Where do you see yourself in 15 years?**

I would love to be a director of agronomy for several properties, to be working for a big enough management company where you still have enough properties to manage but not to where you lose the personal touch.

**What advice do you have for aspiring superintendents?** Don’t be afraid to try something different, to try another process. Don’t be afraid to challenge the status quo and ask, “Why do we do it this way?” 



#### WEB EXTRA BOX

To hear more from these rising stars, check out their words of wisdom at [golfdom.com](http://golfdom.com).

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# Seth's 2013 GIS Notebook

We can't read his chicken scratches.  
We're glad he can. **BY SETH JONES**

I was cruising through an old issue of *Golfdom* from the 1940s the other day. I skimmed a story written by *Golfdom* founder Herb Graffis. It went on for pages, and it was all written as if he was talking one-on-one with the reader.

We don't do that often in modern day journalism. Why? I don't know. As I read through this article, it made me feel like Graffis was talking to me, and I thought that was pretty cool.

So I decided to borrow Mr. Graffis' 1940s style for my report on the 2013 GIS.

Now, if you're saying, "Seth, didn't you guys already do a report on the GIS last issue?" I'd say, "Thanks for closely reading, and yes! But..."

That story was all about shaking hands and kissing babies, if you know what I mean. We wrote about large donations made to awesome benevolent funds, about the "mood" at the show, about who won the turf bowl. Which is all fine and good, but does any of that help you grow grass? You could make an argument, but...

So let's just say this "notebook" feature is more of the things I heard from industry people when discussing growing grass, or at least maintaining a golf course. And away we go...

## Par Aide

I was walking by the Par Aide booth when I saw my pal Dan Brown, vice president of the company. I've had the pleasure of playing some golf with Dan (read: he kicked my butt) so it was



good to catch up with him a safe distance from the golf course.

As I'm standing there chatting with Dan, walking toward me is Jeff Plotts, head honcho at TPC Scottsdale, host site of the Phoenix Waste Management Open.

After introducing the two, I had to ask Plotts about the Phil Mickelson lip-out that occurred on No. 18 during the first round of the tournament. Had that putt dropped, Mickelson would have joined the 59 club.

"That was one of the Ever-White Par Aide cups, and it was cut perfectly," Plotts said proudly. "We love them. Had that putt been down the middle, he would have had the 59!"

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# Southern Grasses Need Southern Weed Control

When it comes to weed control, customization is key. Southern grasses, for example, have unique challenges due to the nearly year-round growing season and other factors such as sensitivity to select herbicides and low shade and traffic tolerance. Herbicide producers have increased their use of field research and chemistry to develop formulations that target weeds in a specific region such as the South.

According to Jim Goodrich, product specialist for Kansas City, Missouri-based PBI-Gordon Corporation, carfentrazone is an ingredient that, when formulated with 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba, provides proven broadleaf weed control in southern grasses. Carfentrazone works in this combination to inhibit a key enzyme in chlorophyll production, causing cell membranes to rupture and quickly disintegrate.

Also important in the South, is an effective herbicide that is highly selective in most established warm- and cool-season turfgrasses including: bermuda, zoysia, bahiagrass, common St. Augustine, buffalograss, centipedegrass, seashore paspalum and tall fescue.

One product that meets these criteria is SpeedZone® Southern from PBI-Gordon. The product is proven in university and cooperator tests to produce fast-acting response and visible activity within hours. Important in the often-moist South, it is rain-fast in just three hours and causes weed death in 7-14 days.



As shown in these before and after photos, clover was eliminated from this lawn in 1 week.

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## Taking Note

Continued from page 27

### Club Car

I cruised over to the Club Car booth, where I met with Dave Hodgson, Club Car's Visage sales manager for Canada. We talked about the Visage Mobile Golf Information System, which is basically a touch-screen mounted inside the cart, where a rearview mirror might be.

I've seen this system evolve over the last couple years. Each year it seems they find an added benefit or two. This year, what caught my ear were two things: One, that courses that have bought into the system have been able to remove golf course signage directing players where they can and can't drive, because the GPS system already dictates where golfers can and can't drive. And two, that some superintendents are using the system as a way to communicate directly with golfers.

"Superintendents who are progressive are using it to produce videos," Hodgson told me. "It can be something as simple as, 'Hey, we're going to aerify next week.' They're educating golfers in a fun way."

That's right — videos of you, the superintendent, speaking directly to the golfer as he makes the drive from the practice putting green to No. 1 tee. That's crazy enough it just might work...

### Toro

I always schedule about an hour to visit with the folks at Toro because they have so much going on. This year was no different. Among other things we talked about their Tier-4-compliant machines, their new partnership with GreensPerfection brushes (mentioned last issue), the Reelmaster 3550-D, the Rounds4Research program and the Multi Pro 1750 and WM sprayers.

These new sprayers made an impression. The tanks have been reconfigured to achieve 99 percent spray-out. There are no nooks or crannies in there for expensive chemicals to get left behind. A six-diaphragm pump is powerful enough to agitate and pump everything out. The 1750 has a tank capacity of 175 gallons while the MW has a 200-gallon capacity. I'm told they'll be available early next year.

I also met up with David Angier, senior marketing manager for irrigation, and he showed me the Toro Twilight golf lighting



PHOTO COURTESY: TORO



system they acquired two years ago. This system allows golfers to work on their putting at night by illuminating golf holes and the surrounding putting area.

I know what you're thinking; you don't want golfers on the putting greens at night, you've got enough work during the day. But Angiers tells me the system is low-tech so anyone working food and bev can run out and set these up in the evening. Even more important, he tells me some clubs are including this as an add-on to a wedding reception, and they're netting \$500 for an hour of nighttime putting. That might make the GMs sit up and listen...



## Jacobsen

Ready for more equipment? I was. I headed over to my next appointment at the Jacobsen booth and got the grand tour of the LF510.

The phrase that best summed it up was, "Jacobsen quality of cut with surprising affordability." They've removed the bells and whistles from the 550 to bring the price point down. As Rachel Luken, product manager, told me, "This is what the market needs — budgets are still tight."

You might remember the marketing campaign for the LF510. They had the sheet covering the mower, asking people to guess what the machine was. I guessed it was something high tech. Instead Jacobsen went the opposite direction, keeping it simple.

An example of how this machine got simple is in how you control speed on the machine. Out goes an electric speed regulator, in comes a simple mechanical speed control.

## Quali-Pro

One of my more interesting meetings came with Jerry Corbett, product management and development manager for Quali-Pro. They have a couple big products out right now, but Corbett really wanted to talk about who Quali-Pro is and what they do.

Corbett said he wants the company to shed the image of being a post-patent chemical company.

*Continued on page 30*

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# Taking Note

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"I promise you Quali-Pro can make it as good as anyone in the world. All we do is agro-chemicals," he told me. "We don't make pharmaceuticals, we don't make plastics. We'll be in this to the bitter end."

Another interesting thing Corbett told me is that the company will have a nematocide in 2014. He said it has a very green profile, that the EPA found it "boring."

Back to Quali-Pro's two noteworthy products this year: Negate and Enclave. Negate is a dual-powered post-emergent herbicide that controls grassy and broadleaf weeds in warm-season grasses. Enclave is a broad-spectrum fungicide using "quad-control technology" and controls snow mold, brown patch, anthracnose and other diseases.

## John Deere

The two products I spent the most time looking at this year were Deere's V40 and AV40 PrecisionCore aerators. Mark Barnes, product marketing manager, gave me the VIP tour of this equipment.

Barnes explained how the edge of some greens holds more



water than the rest of the green. In order to deal with this, the V40 and AV40 can be adjusted on the fly, without stopping. So an operator could go from a 2-inch hole spacing to a 1-inch spacing and then right back to the 2-inch.

I liked this: it comes with a refuel warning to prevent guys getting ditched on the furthest hole from the shop. There's a light that comes on, yes, but if it gets really low, the machine won't even drop the coring head. Also cool, the machine has an articulating frame so coring depth remains consistent, even over greens with a lot of undulation in them.

## Arysta

Ran into Doug Houseworth, Ph.D., at Arysta Lifescience. We talked about how Xonerate for *Poa* control was doing. He said some users were shocked at what the product did right off the bat — eradicate *Poa* mercilessly down to the dirt — and were surprised by the drastic results.

"It's a little like plastic surgery," Houseworth said, "You look awful for a short period, then you look great."

Houseworth then got into a popular topic — plant health. He said some of his competitors were owning that phrase, but that Arysta would be making a push as well. "Our strobilurin is equal to or better than anything they've got," he said.

## Ostara

We go from Arysta to Ostara.

I wasn't familiar with Ostara, or their Crystal Green fertilizer. When I got to their booth, they asked me to run my hands through a tray of white granules, which of course I did. I'm very trusting at trade shows, apparently.

But there was a point to what the folks at Ostara had me do — they wanted to show me that these granules are very clean, hard and dust free... which makes for easy blending.



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