



TOGETHER, WE GROW.



Bayer

The future of plant health is Bayer's top priority. To prove it, we're committing 1% of *StressGard*TM FT sales to the advancement of plant health research and education through the *Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow* program, with GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf. Visit backedbybayer.com/healthy-turf to learn more or contact your local Bayer representative to participate.




Healthy turf is strong. Strong turf is healthy.



Fight diseases and strengthen your turf with **StressGard™** Formulation Technology. Health is more than being free of diseases. Healthy plants can fight back and grow stronger throughout the season. With Bayer's products containing *StressGard* Formulation Technology, your turf will better resist disease and stress, providing better turf quality and health. These products include Tartan®, Chipco Triton® Flo, Interface® and Chipco® Signature™. Get your turf healthy and strong with *StressGard* FT. backedbybayer.com/stressgard

1% of **StressGard™** product sales will support
Healthy Turf Healthy Tomorrow.
backedbybayer.com/healthy-turf





The Spirit (AND SOIL) of Streamsong

BY SETH JONES

At Streamsong, superintendent Rusty Mercer manipulates sand from a reclaimed phosphate mine to maintain a 36-hole masterpiece. // 22



Bye, Bye Rye

As ryegrass availability declines and cost increases, superintendents overseed less // 28



Primed for the PGA

Corcoran and crew have Oak Hill rough and ready for the 2013 PGA Championship // 34



// 38

When the maintenance crew is asked to further an initiative, a forward-thinking superintendent steps up.



// 44

COLUMNS

- // 6 **Keeping up with The Jones**—Seth Jones
- // 18 **At the Turn**—Mark Woodward
- // 20 **Assistant Living**—Matt Neff
- // 50 **The Turf Doc**—Karl Danneberger
- // 51 **Clark Talks Turf**—Clark Throssell

DEPARTMENTS

- // 8 **Starter**
- // 12 **Golfdom Gallery**
- // 16 **My Second Office**
- // 40 **Golfdom Gadgets**
- // 52 **The 19th Hole**



SUPER SCIENCE

- // 44 **Improving shade resistance in bermudagrass**
- // 46 **Annual bluegrass control in golf turf**



It's why Shawn Emerson uses us on every one of his 108 holes.

Desert Mountain, Cochise Course

Six courses. 200 employees. To put it mildly, Shawn Emerson, Director of Agronomy at Desert Mountain, has a lot on his plate. Which is why he counts on John Deere to keep this collection of Jack Nicklaus courses in perfect shape. From our hybrid fairway and greens mowers to our heavy-duty utility vehicles, Shawn and his crew use only John Deere equipment, sun up to sundown. Says Shawn, "There's a lot of things I worry about. But John Deere isn't one of them."

Trusted by the best courses on Earth.



TIME-SAVING TOOLS TO HELP YOUR COURSE LOOK AND PLAY ITS BEST.



Miltona offers tools for every stage of course maintenance.

Now there are more ways than ever to make the most of your golf course and your time with enhanced and expanded product offerings from Miltona. You can improve course conditions and productivity with unique products like our **Hex Plugger™**, **Level Best™** ball mark repair tool, **Quick Seed™** spiker, and **Sod Stripper™**. View our entire line of tools and many new on-course accessories at our website, Miltona.com, an experience specifically designed for you and your course.

www.Miltona.com

PHONE: (800) 456-4351

EMAIL: info@miltona.com

Golfdom

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Seth Jones

785-690-7047 / sjones@northcoastmedia.net

SENIOR EDITOR Beth Geraci

216-706-3756 / bgeraci@northcoastmedia.net

ART DIRECTOR Pete Seltzer

216-706-3737 / pseltzer@northcoastmedia.net

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Karl Danneberger (*Science*), Joel Jackson,
Clark Throssell (*Research*), John Walsh,
Anthony Williams, Mark Woodward

BUSINESS STAFF

CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS

1360 EAST 9TH ST, SUITE 1070, CLEVELAND, OH 44114

PUBLISHER Patrick Roberts

216-706-3736 / proberts@northcoastmedia.net

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Bill Roddy

216-706-3758 / broddy@northcoastmedia.net

NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER Carla Kastanis

216-706-7923 / ckastanis@northcoastmedia.net

SALES ASSISTANT Petra Turko

216-706-3768 / pturko@northcoastmedia.net

MARKETING MANAGER Ryan Bockmuller

216-706-3772 / rbockmuller@northcoastmedia.net

MGR., PRODUCTION SERVICES Chris Anderson

216-978-5341 / canderson@northcoastmedia.net

SR. AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Antoinette Sanchez-Perkins

216-706-3750 / asanchez-perkins@northcoastmedia.net

MARKETING/MAGAZINE SERVICES

REPRINTS & PERMISSIONS Nick Iademarco

877-652-5295 / niademarco@wrightsmedia.com

SUBSCRIBER, CUSTOMER SERVICE / 847-763-4942

CORPORATE

PRESIDENT & CEO Kevin Stoltman

216-706-3740 / kstoltman@northcoastmedia.net

VP, FINANCE & OPERATIONS Steve Galperin

216-706-3705 / sgalperin@northcoastmedia.net

VP, DESIGN & PRODUCTION Pete Seltzer

216-706-3737 / pseltzer@northcoastmedia.net

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Marty Whitford

216-706-3766 / mwhitford@northcoastmedia.net

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.

North Coast Media 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 North Coast Media LLC to make your contact information available to third parties for marketing purposes, simply call 847-763-4942 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 North Coast Media LLC's lists.

GOLFDOM (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly by North Coast Media LLC, IMG Center, 1360 East 9th Street, 10th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114. **Subscription rates:** One year \$48, two years \$69 (U.S. and possessions), one year \$70, two years \$101 (Canada and Mexico) and one year \$105, two years \$152 (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 Cleveland OH 44101-9603 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to GOLFDOM, PO Box 2090, Skokie, IL 60076. Printed in the U.S.A. Copyright 2013 North Coast Media, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical including by photocopy, recording, or information storage and retrieval 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 North Coast Media, LLC 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.





Your summer spray schedule:

- May 27 – Memorial Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- September 2 – Labor Day

“Bring the heat, Mother Nature.”



“I used to shrivel at the thought of disease or a dry spell. But **Honor® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide** changed that. With disease control and research-proven **plant health benefits** that give me a better root system, I can handle stresses like drought and moisture events, extreme temperatures, and aeration — 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.



Always read and follow label directions.

Honor is a registered trademark and Intrinsic is a trademark of BASF. © 2013 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.



“These next few trips to Orlando will have the added time scheduled in so I can sneak in a round at Streamsong. I’m going to take my bosses with me, and score some points. I’d advise you to do the same.”

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

The search for Streamsong

The title of this column may be “Keeping up with the Jones,” but sometimes, I can’t keep up with myself. ¶ Take this issue, for example. I’m finishing off the month’s cover story at 35,000 feet as I fly over the Atlantic Ocean en route to England. Cover stories are typically written weeks in advance. I’m the guy finishing mine hours before deadline, before I touch down for a week overseas. ¶ *Oof!*

I really couldn’t wait to get this cover story out. When I made a trek through Florida earlier in the year, several superintendents asked me if I had visited Streamsong yet. I attempted to arrange a last-minute tour, but it didn’t work out.

I returned to Florida a few weeks later, and this time I was prepared. I contacted my friends at KemperSports and they set up my visit.

The drive was as discouraging as could be. My GPS couldn’t help me, and after an hour of being lost (I hate being lost) I swallowed my pride and called course superintendent Rusty Mercer. “I’m lost,” I groaned. “I know,”

Mercer responded. “Everyone gets lost trying to find us. But I’m going to get you here.”

Mercer gave me step-by-step directions, concise and accurate. There were moments I thought I was lost again, based on how deep I was in the backwoods of Florida, but then a landmark would pop up telling me I was on the right path.

But here’s a hint: If you are driving to visit the maintenance building, don’t bother driving up to the clubhouse to ask directions. It’s a long, windy road, and they’ll just tell you to turn around and go back the way you came. Plus,

you’ll get a sneak peek at the course from the clubhouse, and it’ll kill you to see the course and not get out. So close, yet so far away.

Mercer greeted me at his shop and we chatted briefly. Rain was threatening, and he asked me what I wanted to do. Of course I wanted to see the two courses: the Red, designed by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore, and the Blue, designed by Tom Doak. We grabbed our rain gear, hopped on his Gator, and headed out.

The superintendents who tipped me off to the course were right. Streamsong is a special place you have to see to believe. I tweeted and blogged some photos from the course, but they certainly didn’t

do the course justice. This month’s cover photo about does it justice. But nothing can take the place of standing there in person. I know there’s a lot of hyperbole surrounding the course, but it really is a sight to behold.

I know I find myself once, maybe twice a year in Orlando. These next few trips will have the added time scheduled in so I can sneak down for a round at Streamsong. I’m going to take my bosses with me, and score some points. I’d advise you to do the same.

Come to think of it, the 2014 Golf Industry Show is in Orlando. Take my advice and schedule some time to get down there. Tell Rusty and head pro Scott Wilson that Seth from *Golfdom* sent you.

As nice as the course is, the crew working there is even nicer. Rusty, Scott, Kyle Harris and the crew are all great guys who want to see the course and resort do well. As Scott told me, there are no egos at Streamsong. “Everyone is just awed by the property,” he told me, “And we want to see it succeed.”

As you’ll see in my cover story, there are a lot of interesting things going on at Streamsong. I hope my story does the course some justice. Because once you find it, you’ll immediately want to figure out how quickly you can get back.

Email Jones at:
sjones@northcoastmedia.net.

EXCELLENT SIDE-SLOPE PERFORMANCE

NEW AR522™



Nothing clings to slopes like the new AR522™ contour rotary mower from Jacobsen. The machine's combination of SureTrac™ four-wheel drive traction and weight transfer control allow it to climb hillsides and glide over contours with ease. You can also rely on the AR522's five fully-floating TrimTek™ decks to provide excellent mulching results and a superior after-cut appearance. See the AR522 contour rotary for yourself – contact your local Jacobsen dealer today.

1.888.922.TURF | www.jacobsen.com

JACOBSEN[®]

The above depiction is exaggerated. Refer to the safe operating angle for proper hillside operation.

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//THE LAW

BORDER PATROL

SENATE PASSES IMMIGRATION REFORM

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ The U.S. Senate on June 27 passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform that would, if signed into law, have a major impact on labor in the golf industry.

In a 68-32 vote led by Sens. John McCain, Chuck Schumer and other senators in the so-called “Gang of 8,” the Senate passed groundbreaking legislation that would create a path to citizenship for the 11 million people living in the United States illegally.

In addition to increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border, the legislation would create a mandatory E-verify system, make minor changes to the H-2B worker visa program, which the golf industry depends on for seasonal help, and more.

Those changes to H-2B would make returning H-2B workers exempt from the program’s 66,000 annual cap through 2018, change the way H-2B worker wages are calculated and require employers to pay worker transportation costs.

The act also would create a new year-round “W-visa” program geared toward low-skilled foreign temporary workers and allow their spouses and



children to work in the United States for the same temporary period.

However, it appears highly unlikely that the legislation ever will reach President Obama’s desk for a signature.

Republican leaders in the House have been slow to entertain immigration reform and have flatly refused to take up the Senate act at all, with House Speaker John Boehner telling the Washington press, “The House is not going to take up and vote on whatever the Senate passes. We’re going to do our own bill, through regular order, and it’ll be legislation that reflects the will of our majority and the will of the American people.”

//ONLINE LOOKING FINE

GOLFDOM WEBSITE GETS A NEW DESIGN

We’re not sure what we’re more excited about, the fact that our blog has a new home, or that said home has just undergone a pretty sweet makeover.

That’s right, the *Golfdom Daily*—which was just named best blog in the business by the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA), mind you—recently moved to the *Golfdom* website (golfdom.com). With a brand new redesign, the website is looking better than ever, too.

Now *Golfdom* readers can get the same useful Web content they always have, but in one central place. And, the site features even more interactive elements to keep you engaged.

“I’m not going to say this is the greatest thing since sliced bread,” said *Golfdom* Editor-in-Chief Seth Jones, “but given how user friendly it is, it’s pretty

Check out golfdom.com now to keep up with the latest news, get the scoop on what went down at the U.S. Men’s and Women’s Opens and see Seth’s latest and greatest interviews.

//HEADING OUT

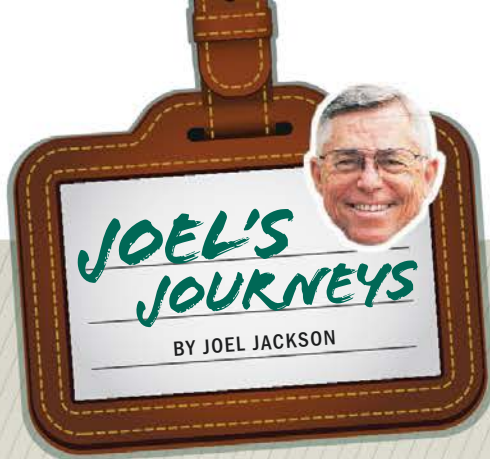
RICHARD KONZEM RESIGNS AS GCSAA COO

On June 19, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans announced that Richard Konzem had resigned his post as the association’s COO.

“I appreciate Richard’s contributions to the association’s operations and its members,” Evans said. “We will miss him as a GCSAA team member, and wish him much success in his future endeavors.”

Evans said that as is standard procedure, the position will be evaluated before any posting decisions are made.

Konzem was hired for the position in October 2011 and has a diverse background that includes fundraising and college athletics administration.



// ON TOUR

Taking the Florida spring regulator tour

➔ For the past 16 years, the Florida GCSA has partnered with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA) to be the first stop on its annual spring tour. On the tour, federal and state regulators of south-west Florida's agricultural and green industries visit Tim Hier's Old Collier Golf Club in north Naples, as well as nurseries, sod farms, cattle ranches and more.

Thanks to tighter budgets, only 20 regulators made the trip this year. And whereas superintendents on hand usually mix and mingle with the regulators and answer questions on the tour, the trip around the course was cancelled this year due to heavy rain showers. Consequently, this year's tour was reduced to a two-hour Q & A session centered on pesticide use and safety issues.

I gave the basic breakdown of average turf acreage in terms of greens, tees, fairways and roughs, while superintendents in the room explained their insect, weed and disease programs, the products they use and their turf treatments. Kyle Sweet, who runs The Sanctuary Golf Club on Sanibel Island, talked about his programs and products, which have to be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Dept.

George McBath, a retired ornithologist who works with area courses to

install nest boxes, told regulators he was skeptical of golf courses during his early years as an ecology instructor but after doing bird counts on golf courses he realized what great habitats they are.

He also explained how the large eastern blue bird population in the Naples area allowed the Fish and Wildlife folks to harvest young bluebirds to repopulate Everglades National Park, whose own bluebird population was declining from years of inbreeding. The new influx of birds from Naples now is restoring the native population.

One of the state regulators on the tour specifically mentioned getting "numerous" complaints about spray drift. Some of it was the typical reaction when an adjacent property homeowner sees the spray rig at work and assumes the worst.

Fortunately, the rain stopped toward the end of the tour, and the group was able to see Old Collier's immaculate pesticide and fertilizer storage rooms and mix/load pad. But we regretted not having the chance to show them the modern course design — complete with wildlife corridors and natural areas. As they say, "Seeing is believing."

Joel Jackson, CGCS-Ret., is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.

Starter

BY THE NUMBERS

129

DEGREES

The temperature in Death Valley, Calif., on June 30

// END OF AN ERA

SMITHCO FOUNDER PASSES AWAY AT AGE 98

Smithco founder Ted Smith passed away June 10 at age 98, the company has reported.

Smith launched Smithco in 1967 with just one product—the Red Rider utility truck. More than 45 years later, Red Riders continue to be used on golf courses and athletic fields worldwide.

The Red Rider was followed by the creation of the first riding bunker rake in the industry, a labor-saving idea that replaced hand raking.

Smithco has grown considerably larger and more diverse over the years, becoming a multimillion-dollar manufacturing, engineering and marketing organization with worldwide distribution.

"Smithco continues to operate as the family business Ted founded, with the values that were always so important to him," the family stated.

// PERSONNEL MATTERS

NEW VP OF DESIGN AT STAPLES GOLF

Staples Golf Resource Group, LLC and Andy Staples, ASGCA Associate, have named Doug Long Vice President of Design and Management at Staples Golf. Long will assist in servicing the company's current design projects across the U.S. and play an increased role in the management of the firm's expanding energy and water conservation projects.

Long is a 35-year veteran of the golf industry and a recipient of the GCBAA's Builder of the Year Award.



EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

Seth,

Thank you for your editorial recognizing Matt Shaffer as a true gentleman ("An Open mind," June 2013). Matt and I grew up in Bedford/Blair Counties of Pennsylvania. Matt worked on the Iron Masters GC crew along with my father, and I followed him on that same crew.

Matt has never changed. His genuineness of character has stayed the course over the years. His success never went to his head. He is a class act and you can take that to the bank.

Samuel R. Snyder VII

CGCS-Ret.
Shreve, Ohio

// GOLFDOM WISDOM

If your dog is chasing geese, great. If your dog is chasing away salesmen, that's fine. But if he's chasing away members, you'll soon be chasing a new job.

#golfdomwisdom

MOWER REBIRTH

INGENUITY AT MERION LED TO CREATION OF DEERE'S 180E MOWER

BY SETH JONES // Editor-in-Chief

➔ This year's U.S. Open concluded on Father's Day. And for Robert Smith, equipment technician at Merion Golf Club, it was surely his most special Father's Day yet.

Smith and his wife welcomed their second daughter, McKayla, on April 16. Two days later, Smith was back at the course, working on what could also be considered one of his offspring: the John Deere 180 E-Cut Hybrid Walk Greens Mower.

Both the 180E and Smith's oldest, Annabella, might be jealous of McKayla. But Smith's a good dad... he's got time for all three of his babies.



Smith says he doesn't have a favorite — at least, when it comes to equipment. "Every piece is the same," he says. "I like working on stuff that doesn't break."

But the 180E should get more of his affection than the others. Because Smith, along with Merion's director of grounds, Matt Shaffer, helped create the innovative mower.

"We were walking past a piece of equipment that had an 18-inch head on it. (Shaffer) got this idea stirring in his mind." Smith recalls. "I brought it in the shop, reconfigured a few things... we started mowing about two weeks later."

The John Deere 180E was born. Designed after the 220E, the 180E meets the demands of superintendents who need a tight, clean cut with an 18-inch swath. Deere says the mower is ideal for courses that need maximum control on undulating greens. Deere saw the success Merion was having with the mower and took notice. In July 2012, the 180 E-cut became available to courses around the world.

READER JOKE

AS TOLD BY **P.J. McGuire, CGCS**, American Country Club Comedians, supplier of golf entertainment. Visit accocomedy.com to learn more.

Husband and wife, avid golfers their whole lives, were also very interested in the afterlife and specifically if there was golf in the afterworld. They agreed whoever was to die first would come back one year later and report to the other on the afterlife.

The man having passed first did contact her through a medium at a seance exactly one year later.

"It's really very nice here!" he reported to her. "I get up in the morning, enjoy a little sex, have some breakfast, then it's off to the golf course. Home again for lunch, a little more sex before heading back to the golf course until dinner. Then it's a little sex before bed and I'm ready to start the next day!"

The wife, disconcerted at the amount of sex her husband is having in the afterlife without her, takes the high road and asks how his golf game is.

The husband replies, "Oh, I didn't come back a human... I'm a rabbit somewhere in New Jersey!"