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A night scene of a golf course. In the foreground, a well-manicured green fairway curves gently. In the background, a dense line of tall, dark pine trees stands against a deep blue, starry night sky. A faint light source, possibly the moon or a distant star, is visible on the right side of the sky.

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## Seeing is Believing

An assist from fungicides can help get grass through the summer as long as it's one part of a greater holistic plan.



BY SETH JONES

## An ocean between us

With its state-of-the-art water management system, California's The Resort at Pelican Hill is dedicated to the preservation of its most valuable asset — the Pacific Ocean.

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Prepping golf cart batteries for the summer season



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“Losing a friend like Wake in your mid-20s, when you feel invincible, makes you appreciate people, and the fragile nature of life.”

**SETH JONES**, *Editor-in-Chief*

## No better backpack

**E**very time I follow a man onto an airplane, I have backpack envy. ¶ It seems all the new backpacks have a place dedicated for a water bottle, a few extra pockets and maybe even a straw peeking out. My backpack has all of three pockets, a hole in the bottom of it and a corner where a pen once exploded, turning everything crossing that territory blue. ¶ But I'll never abandon my backpack. Because it has one feature all others lack: a reminder of a friend.

John Wake was the student programs manager at GCSAA back in the late 1990s and early 2000s. We were co-workers, but more importantly, we were friends. The calendar tells me now that it was 10 years ago that he passed away somewhat unexpectedly from complications of sickle cell anemia. The backpack, which Wake once left behind in my car after we got back from the Indy 500, tells me it really wasn't that long ago.

Wake's backpack has now been with me to seven different countries, nine Golf Industry Shows, and to who

knows how many of golf's majors, including the year it had a brand new golf shirt stolen out of it while it was momentarily left alone in the media center. (Somewhere out there, there's an out-of-work golf journalist and he's wondering where his career went awry. Answer: the day you committed a crime against your fellow golf writer and stole something out of John Wake's backpack!)

Last week, backpack in tow, I drove from a business

meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Chicago to visit my old college roommate. Will moved to Thailand not long after we graduated, and currently he's a journalist working in Cambodia. It's safe to say that I don't get to see him often. Will was the best man at my wedding, yet it had been almost four years since I last saw him.

I spent all of one evening in Chicago with Will, laughing and trading stories from when we were younger and dumber. We definitely told a few Wake stories, includ-

ing our all-time favorite: the night we all spent together in a Chicago jail. For that story, catch me over a beer and just say, "Wrigley Field."

Will thanked me for making the long drive to see him. I've got two young kids and a busy life, and he appreciated the effort it took. I told him right then that I'd always make an effort, for the rest of our lives, if he just gives me a little head's up. Losing a friend like Wake in your 20s, when you feel invincible, makes you appreciate people, and the fragile nature of life.

Yesterday I walked into a power meeting filled with key players in my life: the owner of this magazine, along with my publisher, as well as a group of our key advertisers. I flew in and out of the same city on the same day specifically for this meeting. I was the last one to arrive. As I approached the door, I caught my own reflection in the window: sports coat and slacks, fresh haircut, the picture of professionalism.

And then I spotted the beat-up backpack. It looked out of place, maybe even unprofessional.

But I can't trade it in. Wherever I go, I feel like my friend Wake is there with me in spirit, partly because of his old backpack.

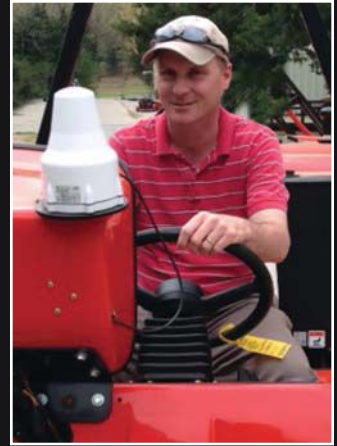
It's lasted me 10 years. I think with a little duct tape it'll last 10 more. And I hope you'll forgive me if I arrive at a meeting with you with this dusty old bag over my shoulder.

Email Jones at:  
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– Robert Main, CGCS  
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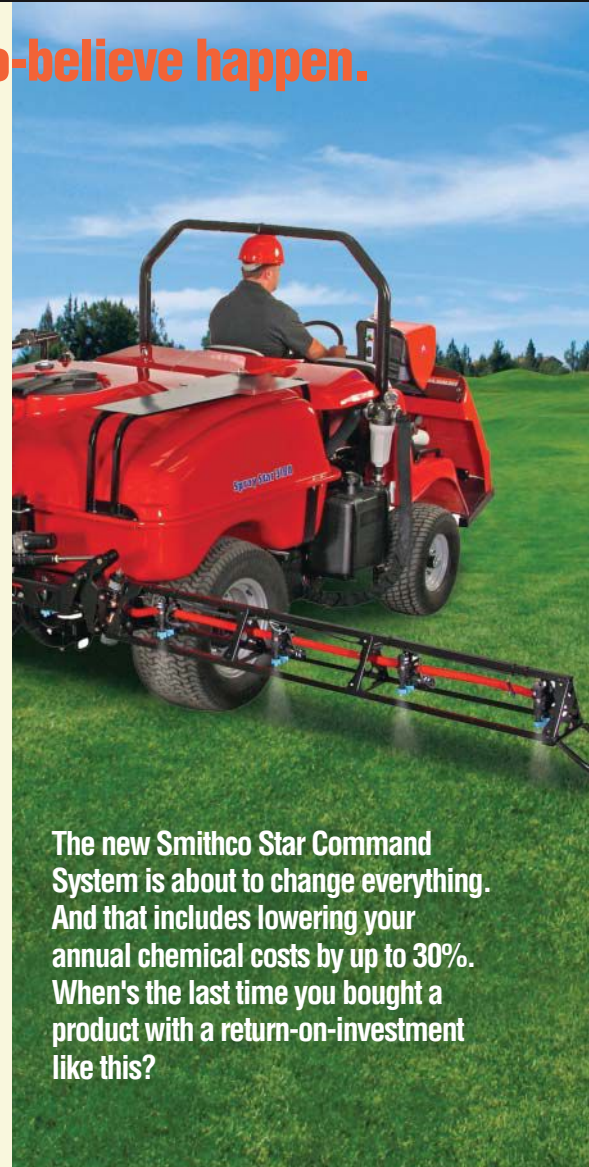
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# Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



## //ENERGIZED

## BATTERY POWER

BY RECENTLY IMPLEMENTING AN ALL-ELECTRIC FLEET AT ONE CHATTANOOGA COURSE, TENNESSEE TAKES A STAND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ In May, Tennessee government officials unveiled an exciting new lineup at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, a course on the Tennessee Golf Trail in Chattanooga.

The lineup: A large all-electric fleet of golf course maintenance equipment. By swapping its gasoline-powered equipment for an all-battery-run lineup, Bear Trace has established an important environmental precedent for other state-owned golf courses in Tennessee to follow.

"We're the guinea pig, the prototype," Bear Trace CGCS Paul L. Carter said.

Bear Trace's all-electric fleet comprises 18 pieces of equipment, including seven Jacobsen Eclipse 322 all-electric riding greens mowers; two Tru-Turf greens rollers; two Smithco Super Star bunker rakes; five Toro MDE utility vehicles; and two Club Car Carry All Turf IIs.

"As fuel prices continue to climb and additional emission and noise regulations are put in place, we expect more superintendents will seriously consider electric and hybrid technol-

ogy for their maintenance equipment," said Chris Fox, product manager for Jacobsen.

Tennessee government officials assert that the new equipment will provide an estimated 300 percent decrease in annual operation expenses. And because the equipment produces zero emissions, Carter said the course expects to reduce its carbon emissions by

215,000 pounds annually.

"Anything we can do to protect the environment and conserve resources, that's always on the top of our list," Carter said. "This project falls hand in hand



A crowd watches as an electric Jacobsen riding greens mower works a green silently.

with our mission."

That mission started about seven years ago, inspired in part by the presence of wildlife on the course.

Carter dreams of one day having solar panels on the maintenance building "so we're generating as much power as we're using."

In the meantime, "I'm glad to be part of an organization that's willing to go out on a limb and say, 'This is where we need to be. We need to look at this electric equipment.'"

## //WATER LOWDOWN

## USGS SAYS GROUNDWATER LEVELS SHRINKING

Groundwater levels in the United States are shrinking, a recently released U.S. Geological Survey study has found.

After examining 40 U.S. aquifers, the USGS study found that from 1900 to 2008, U.S. aquifers were depleted by more than twice the volume of water found in Lake Erie alone.

In a statement, Acting USGS Director Suzette Kimball said groundwater stored in aquifers is vital in that it provides drinking water and water for irrigation, maintains ecosystems and supports the flow of streams and rivers.

The study examined changing groundwater levels as they pertain to municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. Although water levels have shrunk considerably since 1950, they have experienced even higher rates of draw down from 2000 to 2008, dropping an average of 25 cubic kilometers per year when according to the USGS the historical average is 9.2 kilometers annually.

The Ogallala Aquifer is especially at risk, the USGS says. Located across 170,000 square feet under the High Plains, its depletion over the last eight years has amounted to 32 percent of the aquifer's cumulative depletion during the entire 20th century.

## //TURF CONVERSION

## PINEHURST TO CONVERT GREENS ON THREE MORE COURSES

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club announced recently it will soon convert greens on Pinehurst Nos. 8, 3 and 2 to Champion ultradwarf bermudagrass.

Nos. 8 and 3 will be converted this summer, while No. 2 will undergo its conversion in July 2014, after the course hosts the men's and women's U.S. Opens. According to a Pinehurst release, the conversions mark "the next stage" in creating championship conditions at Pinehurst year-round, even in hot temps.

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\* Shake well before using.

# Starter



## EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

Seth,

I loved your column about Carrie Parkhill Wallace ("How we make the sausage," May 2013.) People like her are 'magic' to me, as the art direction of a publication is a true mystery to me. Great job of recognizing her efforts, and I love the sausage analogy!

**Jeff R. Wendel, CGCS**

Executive Director  
Iowa Turfgrass Institute

### // GOLFDOM WISDOM

**Dear Mr. Country Club,**  
**If we had your putting stroke,**  
**we'd also think the greens were**  
**inconsistent.** #golfdomwisdom

### READER JOKE

AS TOLD BY **Jim Rattigan, superintendent/general manager**, Schuylkill CC, Orwigsburg, Pa.

For more with Rattigan, check out *My Second Office* on page 14.

"The superintendent when I first started here was Ziggy. Ziggy was a great guy, beloved by everyone, and taught me so much about the course. Plus, he was always good for a funny story or two.

My first week, we had a leak in the clubhouse, and we needed to find the valve to shut the water off. We're on the front lawn of the clubhouse; I'm armed with a shovel, Ziggy has a metal detector. He picks up a beep, so he says, 'Dig here.' I dig a hole, nothing. He gets another beep a few paces away, I dig another hole...

This goes on for about two hours, I've dug up holes everywhere and everyone in the clubhouse is watching us. Ziggy's clearly mad. All of a sudden he hurls the metal detector all the way into the woods and starts cussing at himself.

'Ziggy, what's wrong?' I ask him. He points down and shouts, 'I'm wearing steel toe boots!'"



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