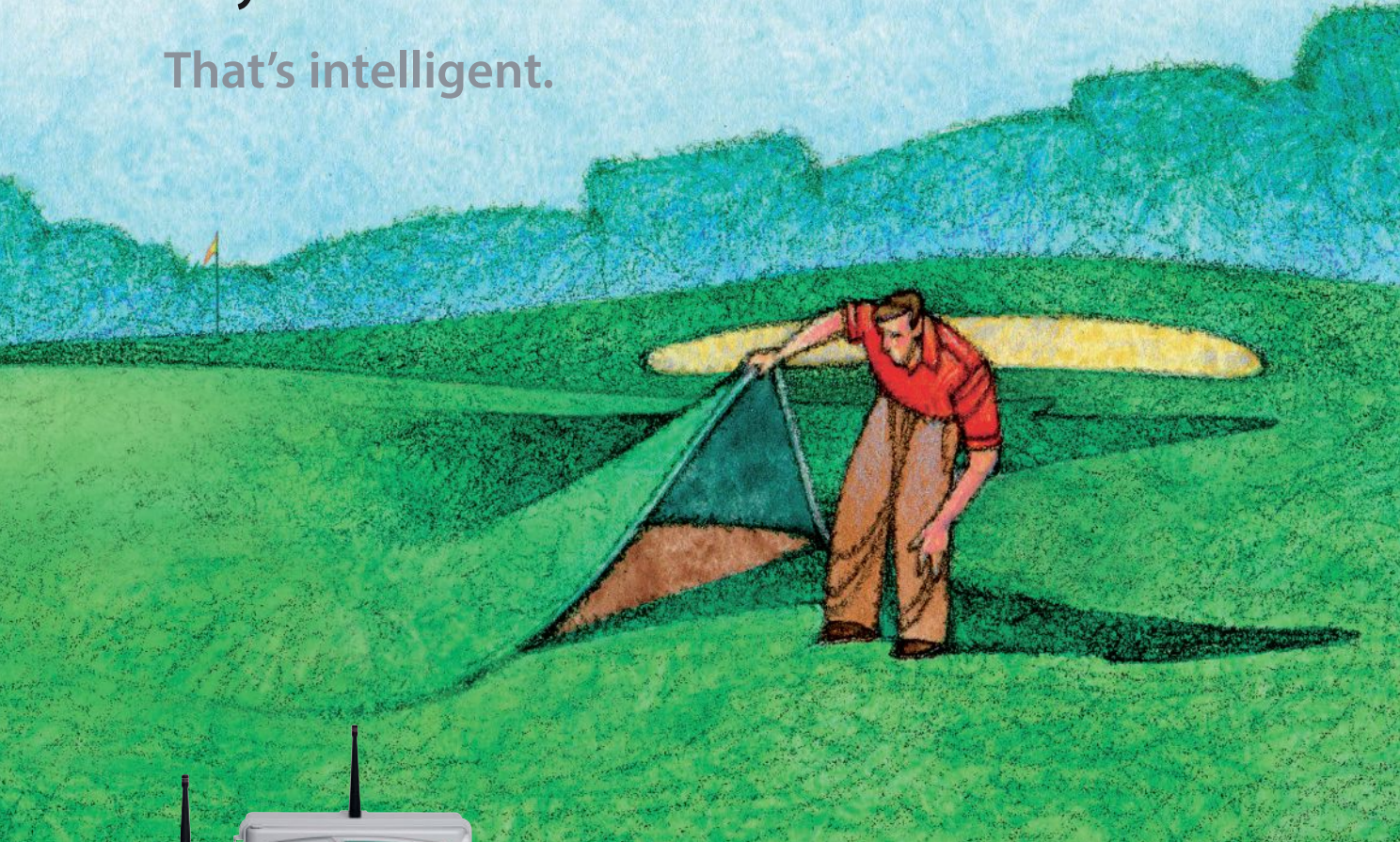


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Golfdom Gallery

WE CAME.
WE SAW.
WE TOOK PICTURES.

1 Dinner time The annual Golf Writers Association of America dinner in Augusta, Ga., was a star-studded event, including Rory McIlroy and K.J. Choi. Somehow *Golfdom* EIC Seth Jones, seen here with GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer John O'Keefe, CGCS and Vice President Keith Ihms, CGCS, also got in.



2 The boss Also at the GWAA dinner, Seth ran into his old boss Steve Mona, former CEO of GCSAA and current CEO of the World Golf Foundation. "I read *Golfdom* every month on my iPad," Mona told us. Sweet!



3 The train kept a rollin' We took so many cool photos of the crew hard at work at Augusta National during the Masters that we had a hard time picking just one for the Gallery. Visit the *Golfdom* Daily, www.golfdom.blogspot.com, to see all of them.

4 A hidden Ross gem Roy Heim (owner, Heim Construction Co.) and Jim Rattigan (superintendent and general manager, Schuylkill CC in Pottsville, Pa.) gave Seth the VIP tour of a fun Donald Ross layout in Schuylkill CC.



5 Construction crew Superintendent Kasey Kauff and greens committee chairman Chris Wilmot take time for a photo at Country Club of Orlando's maintenance facility, which is soon to be torn down and reconstructed.

6 Masters patrons It was great to see Jeff Wetterling, CGCS at Greenacres CC in Lawrenceville, N.J. while at the Masters. Look for Wetterling to make another appearance in the magazine soon, maybe even as a 19th Hole interview? What do you say, Jeff?



7 Schuylkill crew We grabbed the crew at Schuylkill CC and nabbed a photo of them with their trusted Ford truck. Rattigan tells us these three Penn Staters are as tough as that truck.

PHOTOS BY: EMVY MOORE-MINISTER (1, 2) / SETH JONES (3, 5, 7) / MARK JOHNSON (6)

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My Second Office

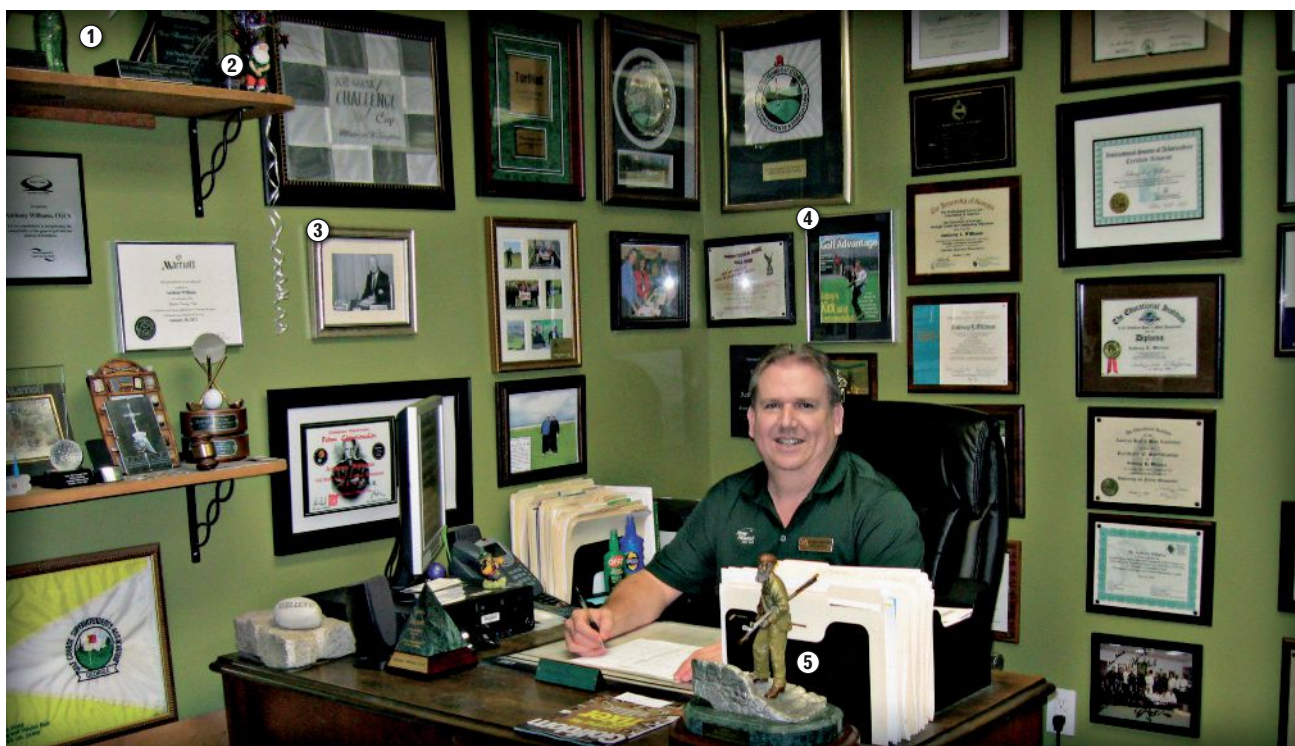
BECAUSE THE COURSE
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About our host

ANTHONY WILLIAMS, CGCS, CGM at Stone Mountain (Ga.) Golf Club by Marriott, is a force to be reckoned with. His boisterous personality has earned him the reputation of a go-getter, while his work as a superintendent has earned him accolades in the industry.

Growing up on a small farm in rural Georgia, Williams

received his turf degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. He then served as superintendent at Renaissance Pinelise Resort & Golf Club in Buford, Ga., and later followed in his uncle's footsteps at Stone Mountain. Williams' decorated résumé includes recognition for superintendent of the year, association involvement, excellence and even martial arts.



1 REBUILD This office had a roof leak and the walls were so thin you could almost fly a kite when the wind was blowing. Me and the boys decided to do something about it, so we started buying little pieces of the flooring here and there. I saw that the FMC folks were doing a contest. You had to tell the strangest thing you've ever seen on a golf course. We shared a story and were a finalist, winning \$250. We used that money to finish the office. *(Let the record state that the story was a golfer making an eagle during an active crime scene at what is now known as "Cop Hill Cove.")*

2 GNOME OF CHEER That was a Christmas gift from my administrative assistant, who has been with us for 20 years. The golfing gnome came to live on the shelves — he's like the elf on the shelf. He does move around some during the Christmas season; he may be out in the shop, or on a mower.

3 THE GREATEST GENERATION That's Harold Baldwin sitting at his desk in 1964, when he was president of our chapter. One of the things I'm most proud of during my tenure is creating the Georgia Golf Course Superintendent Hall of Fame. Mr. Baldwin

was in the very first class. The funny thing about it is that on his desk is the latest issue of *Golfdom* (circa 1964.) I thought how ironic is it that all these years later I would be wearing that blue blazer, that I would be wearing that crest, and that I would be the environmental editor of *Golfdom*.

4 WAX ON/WAX OFF I won the *Golf Advantage's* Purple Cow Award for being an innovative person in the golf business. When they set up the photo shoot, I was scheduled to be in the National College of Martial Arts' National Championships that week. I paid for my turf degree by teach-

ing karate in college and I stayed active all this time. When we shot that picture all the karate people thought I did karate full time and all the turf people thought I did turf full time.

5 ESTEEMED HONOR That's a statue of Old Tom Morris. He's standing on the Swilcan Bridge. Every year Marriott Golf awards their superintendent of the year that trophy. I am one of the few to have won it twice.

BY KATY IBSEN // PHOTO BY JULIE TOWE
Proud of your second office? Email us a photo of you in it to sjones@northcoastmedia.net, and we may feature you and your office in an upcoming issue of *Golfdom*.



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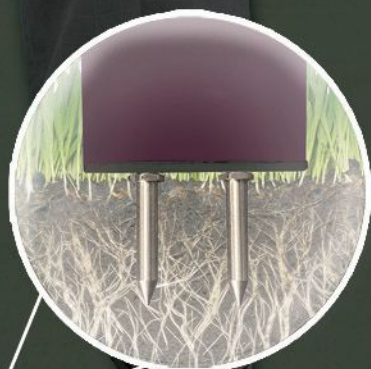
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“It’s amazing how skillfully and quickly superintendents can turn a storm-ravaged golf course around and make it playable again.”

MARK WOODWARD, *Contributing Editor*

Greenkeepers versus Mother Nature

When I was trimming the frost-damaged foliage from my ornamental trees and shrubs the other day, I got to thinking about what superintendents have to go through in dealing with Mother Nature.

Just a few weeks prior, at the tail end of February here in Phoenix, we had some very odd weather, and every golf course in the region was hurt by it. To give you an idea of the variety of weather we had, we went from temps in the 70s one week to a dust storm, rain, sleet, hail and high winds the next. We even saw some snow. The following week, temperatures skyrocketed to the 90s.

And it was all taking place in the Valley of the Sun — in the heart of the region’s high season for golf. The vast array

of strange weather conditions forced superintendents to determine the best management practices for their turf-grass and find a way to attract golfers to the course at what’s typically the most lucrative time of year for them.

It’s very important we in Arizona capture as much revenue as we can during these months to get us through the hot summer months, when play is down.

All of this brought back memories from my days at Torrey Pines, when we were preparing for and hosting the Buick Invitational. For two consecutive years we had a weather event. Most problematic was the wind. Many con-

cession and corporate tents were damaged when the wind picked them up and tossed them upside down. Trees were damaged, so much so that we couldn’t allow spectators in for safety reasons. It took us a few hours that morning to get all the debris cleaned up, the tents erected again and the course prepped.

In other years, we had to deal with frost delays and fog that reduced visibility to only a few yards and delayed play for several hours. These weather issues are so prevalent that the PGA Tour and the USGA actually have staff members (meteorologists) who focus on tracking weather conditions during the week of an event.

Every superintendent I know has experienced similar issues with weather. I realize this phenomenon is not

unique to me. In fact, my experiences are minimal when compared to some of you superintendents out there who have had to deal with major natural disasters, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires and flooding that have caused severe damage.

Writing this column is my way of recognizing the sometimes under-appreciated skills superintendents have, particularly when things go wrong. Most superintendents do a great job under good conditions when Mother Nature cooperates. But when she doesn’t, it’s hard for us to sit back and watch as all our years of planning and preparation are destroyed in one fell swoop by a dramatic weather event that is totally out of our control.

Superintendents have become so accustomed to and adept at handling these unforeseen problems that events rarely have to be cancelled or even shortened.

Under adverse conditions, it’s amazing how skillfully and quickly superintendents can turn a storm-ravaged golf course around and make it playable again — meeting the high standards of golfers, members, the best players in the world, hundreds of thousands of spectators and millions of television viewers.

Mark Woodward is president of **Mark Woodward and Associates**, principal of **DaMarCo Golf**, CEO of **MasterStep Golf Group** and a contributing editor for **Golfdom**.

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“Then there’s the always popular ‘freak power outage.’ This one is a real bummer. The guy’s plugged the alarm in, remembered to turn it on, only to have the power company screw it all up for him.”

MATT NEFF, *assistant superintendent, Wedgewood G&CC, Powell, Ohio*

Never heard that one before

I have to admit that on some level I absolutely love some of the excuses people come up with for unexcused absences or tardiness. Sometimes they’re so good, it almost makes the inconvenience of shuffling work assignments worth it — almost, but not quite.

I’m not talking about the run-of-the mill “I overslept” or “my car wouldn’t start.” That stuff happens from time to time. I’m talking about the truly valiant efforts at deception that clearly require considerable thought or creativity. I’m talking about excuses that make you wish the individual giving them would put that much thought and effort into their work.

In my experience, alarm clock “issues” are probably the most popular. That really shouldn’t come as a surprise to anyone. Alarm clocks are unbelievably complex instruments that can’t be mastered with just a few uses. After all, an alarm clock has to be plugged in, the alarm has to be set for the correct time, and the alarm has to

be turned on. There’s just so much that can go wrong.

My personal favorite alarm clock-related excuse is the “am/pm inversion,” where the late employee claims he accidentally set his alarm for 5 p.m. instead of 5 a.m. Every guy who uses it thinks it’s absolutely genius and that he’s the first person to come up with it, when it’s actually the worst-kept secret in the world of chronically late employees.

I suppose it’s a slightly plausible excuse following a day off when the employee may have changed the alarm time. But considering many people use the alarm clock feature on their cell phones, most of which have the capability for multiple alarms, it’s still pretty suspect.

Then there’s the always popular “freak power out-

age.” This one is a real bummer. The guy has done everything right — got it plugged in, managed to avoid the perilous am/pm inversion, remembered to turn it on — only to have that fickle mistress known as the power company screw it all up for him. If only alarm clocks had battery back-ups, this disaster could be avoided (See also: cell phones).

I also am a huge fan of overly specific or completely bizarre medical excuses. I could really do without the actual horrific details, regardless of how false they may be. It’s the thinking behind it that I find entertaining. My theory with this one is that by being willing to subject himself to the embarrassment of admitting to his (ahem) bathroom troubles, his excuse will seem more credible. Obviously, people

occasionally get sick, but sometimes you just know it’s completely made up.

When a guy who struggles to understand how to operate a weed eater suddenly calls one morning with an astoundingly intelligent description of his symptoms — complete with a med student-like grasp of anatomy and physiology — it’s probably fair to assume he’s actually lying in bed seriously regretting a few decisions he made at the bar the night before.

While I tend to believe that most people are pretty honest, I sometimes think the only people who get lied to more than supervisors, not just in this but in any profession, are policemen and people on Internet dating sites. I guess if you’re a police sergeant with a Match.com account you probably don’t trust anyone anymore.

I believe that most people want to do a good job. They want to be considered reliable employees. It’s those few who couldn’t care less who make it interesting for everybody else. At least they make it entertaining.

Oops, gotta go. I’m experiencing some pretty serious discomfort in the upper left quadrant of my abdomen. I’m afraid it might be splenomegaly, so I need to call off. Till next time...

Matt Neff (mneff4@yahoo.com) is assistant superintendent at Wedgewood G&CC in Powell, Ohio.

// PLANT HEALTH

Part 1 of a 2-part series

How about this weather? Many parts of the country saw snow in May. Snow in May? Mother Nature's sense of humor seems to get more peculiar by the year.

Now summer stares us down. The golfers will shake off this cool spring and courses will get busy. The life cycle of golf, just like the life cycle of turf, continues.

Golfdom, in partnership with BASF Professional Turf and Ornamentals, is proud to once again bring readers the Plant Health Series. In part one we look at the art of aeration. In part two, we'll take a look at beating the heat, which is sure to come.

Here's to healthy plants in 2013.

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BY RICH KALIK

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Separate the pretenders from the contenders

These days lots of basic manufacturers are making plant health claims in our marketplace. But let's look back and see if we can separate the pretenders from the contenders.

Back in 2010, when BASF launched its Intrinsic brand fungicides to the marketplace, we had facts and data to back it up. First, and foremost, we had it on the label. EPA registered fungicides for disease control and plant health. That's a tall standard to equal right there, but in addition to that we published more than 20 pages of research on the plant health benefits Insignia SC and Honor Intrinsic brand fungicides provided both warm and cool season turf.

It's three years later and our portfolio has grown to include Pillar G Intrinsic brand fungicide in turf and Pageant and Empress Intrinsic brand fungicides for use in production and landscape ornamentals.

And the published research by BASF on how these products perform, of the benefits they provide, has grown to more than 70 pages. By the way,

you can see for yourself by visiting www.intrinsicplanthealth.com. We have golf course superintendents just like you who have added Intrinsic brand fungicides into their spray programs and managed stress events including drought, temperature extremes and aerification. They've seen the benefits firsthand.

It's important to note that the common denominator in all these products is the active ingredient pyraclostrobin. This is proprietary chemistry from BASF. On the crop side of our business, products with pyraclostrobin don't just provide disease control, but also increases yields. This is proven and published research and real world results. There is something physiological that occurs to the plant, be it corn, soybeans, turfgrass or petunias that enables it to manage stress and stay healthy.

So it's three years later and we see from the others who claim these benefits lots of slick marketing pieces with me-too language, but just how much research have we seen that backs it up?

Exactly, and those guys are the pretenders.

The reliable standby of facts, data and research is still the measuring tool you should use when it comes to deciding what to use for taking care of your golf course turf.

Next month, we'll be sharing a secret to keep your turf healthy this summer. Here's a hint, it begins with including Honor Intrinsic brand fungicide in your spray program for Memorial Day weekend.

In addition, we're talking a bit about the next round of disease control and plant health innovations from BASF that will arrive later this year.

Until then, keep your turf healthy my friends.

Rich Kalik is Technical Specialist, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals

