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Making the Rounds: Part 11

by Jeff Shelley



One of the Crazy Greens at Lakeview Challenge

This column features the author's recollections of his 33 years as a golf writer. These installments stem from his many travels and experiences, which led to a gradual understanding that the game has many intriguing components, especially its people.

Anecdotes, Observations & Other Cosmic Golf Experiences

I recently have been seeking uplifting subjects to think – and write – about. These random memories from my native Washington State may offer a diversion during these pandemic times.

- I have carded two holes-in-one. Oddly, both happened on the 11th hole at my home club of Sand Point in Seattle. The first ace came after I hurriedly drove my wife to top of a hill above the club's entry road so she could walk home. During this period as a

beginning player, Anni would occasionally lapse into what she termed "suicide golf" mode. When things went south on the golf course, she did too. My buddy Walter had already teed off and was waiting for me. I walked briskly to the tee and, without a practice swing, smacked an 8-iron. Walt and I watched the ball disappear into the hole. Since the cup was not damaged and the stick unhit, I call this an "immaculate reception."

- The second came during a Saturday hagggle with three pals. We had the usual Nassau game along with side bets of KPs, birdies, chippies and sandies. There were three carryover KPs riding on the hole. Swede was quite pleased when his tee ball stopped 4 feet from the cup at the 11th's toughest pin position on a sliver of green behind a bunker. Hitting last, my ball gently landed on the back side of the trap

and rolled into the hole. The look on Swede's face was priceless.

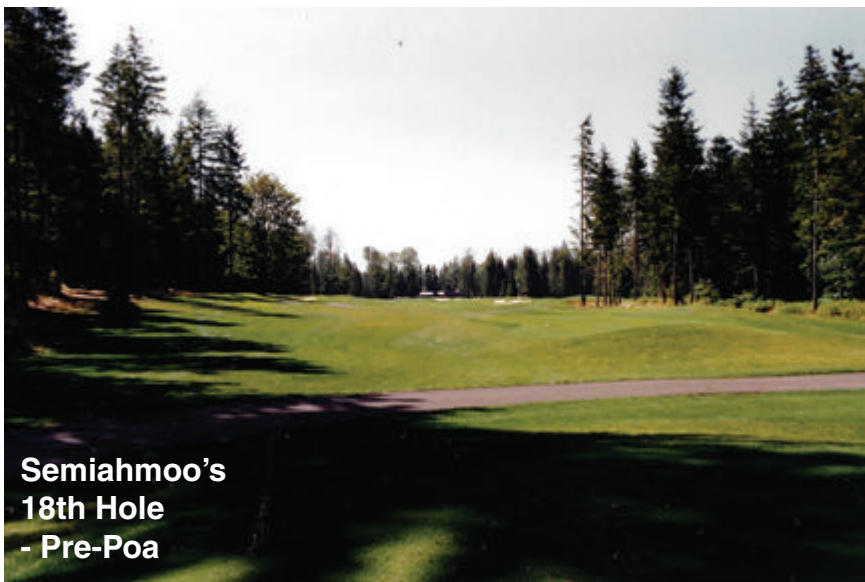
- A most unusual "site prep" for a golf course came at Three Rivers in Kelso. On property owned by the Kelso Elks Lodge, the 18-hole layout was built upon thousands of tons of dust, ash and mud that clogged the nearby Cowlitz River following the May 18, 1980, eruption of Mount St. Helens. The dredging operation was handled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Named after the Columbia, Cowlitz and Toutle (pronounced "Tootle") rivers, the course opened in 1982. Its porous underlayment makes Three Rivers among the driest year-round courses situated in West Coast rain belts.
- Once played Kayak Point in Stanwood with my late, great friend Bob Spiwak (featured in Part 8 of this column) and his son Scott. Off the tee at

the par-5 second lurked a massive boulder about 30 feet high and 40 feet across. Scott yanked a lousy drive that left him 30 yards behind the rock. I sensed things might go awry when he pulled out a 3-wood. Sure enough, his shot struck the giant stone dead-on and the ball rocketed right back at him at supersonic speed. Scott dove out of the way as the ball arced majestically 130 yards over his head into an out-of-bounds forest.

- Played a round at Gold Mountain's superb Olympic Course before it opened. I was doing a story about the new layout (which later hosted the 2006 U.S. Men's Amateur Public Links) and its architect, John Harbottle III. Accompanying me were Walter, Seattle's Golf Manager John Mallon, and my sister-in-law's boyfriend, Brad. Brad and John M. wanted a game, the losers buying dinner. Fine. All the way around I had John H's ear, asking him questions like, "Where should I hit this shot?" and surreptitiously relaying the intel to Walt. But not the other two. The surf-and-turf dinners and drinks my partner and I enjoyed later were extra delicious.
- Driving into the just-opened Arnold Palmer-designed Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club near the Canadian border I noticed a sizable crew crawling on their hands and knees like they were searching for a lost item. Upon arrival I asked the pro what they were doing. He said they were hand-pulling poa annua from the all-bentgrass course. Oooo-kay. It wasn't long before Semiahmoo, a fine course,

became wall-to-wall poa, an insidious “weed” that always wins in western Washington (see also the formerly all-fescue Chambers Bay – host of the 2010 U.S. Amateur and controversial 2015 U.S. Open).

- Gallery Golf Course at the Whidbey (Island) Naval Air Station was designed by Navy Seabees and opened in 1948. A particularly curious hole is the par-5 fourth, a 475-yard dogleg-right around a barbed-wire compound bearing ominous “Radiation” signs.
- Recently hired head pro Kelly (last name deliberately removed) at the under-construction Druid’s Glen in Covington decided to give me a close-up look of a just-planted 10th fairway. Unsurprisingly, his four-wheel-drive SUV got mired in the middle of the squishy expanse. A backhoe was needed to extricate the rig. The hole had already been rebuilt twice before as a crossing creek tended to flood. I later learned Kelly’s eagerness to give me a birds-eye view cost the developer another \$500,000.



**Semiahmoo’s
18th Hole
- Pre-Poa**

remained at home and his shoes for \$100.

- I nearly aced the 90-yard first hole at Jackson Park’s par-3 course. With a putter. In trying to eliminate wear and tear on undersized grass tees, Seattle’s parks department installed black-rubber mats at all its golf facilities in the late-’70s. Noticing an erosion rut that ran from the front of the mat all the way to the cup, I gently brushed my “tee” shot into the rut. Giggling, we all watched the ball lazily zigzag downhill in the earthen slot toward the cup, just missing my first ace by an inch.
- A far different short-nine experience is Duke’s Lakeview Golf Challenge in Vancouver. Dubbed the “World’s Toughest Par-3,” the course was designed and built in 1976 by Duke Wager in his outsized backyard. ESPN once filmed a video of the place. Duke set up the course on a difficulty scale of 1-10. At the higher ratings, Duke placed pins (two per hole for 18-hole rounds) on ultra-slick domed putting surfaces inches from tiny ponds (including one in the middle of a green) or on the

edges of deep bunkers, one of which was 14-feet deep and accessible by a step ladder. Players in the LPGA Safeway Classic – held since 1972 at Columbia-Edgewater CC across the Columbia River in Portland – would come here for skins games before tournaments. Duke proudly

- Once witnessed my brother-in-law Steve hit a dozen balls into a slender creek at Foster Golf Links’ short par-3 fifth hole. The water hazard is maybe 70 yards off the tee. After the round, Steve sold his just-bought golf clubs, bag, tees, glove, whatever balls

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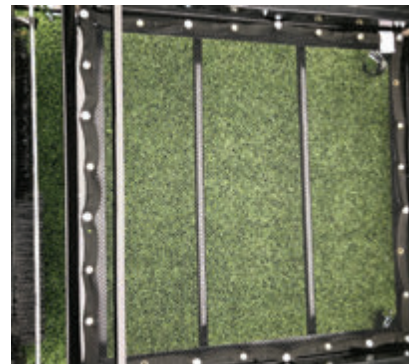
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Three Rivers Was Built on Mount St. Helens Detritus



The Wind Howls Often at Desert Aire in Eastern Washington



View from Tekoa GC in the Palouse

told me that one of the pros racked up a 61 on a single hole.

- I found one of the prettiest “entrances” to a golf course in the farming town of Tekoa (pronounced “Tee-Ko”), home of an eponymous nine-hole layout. Located in the geographically unique Palouse country of southeast Washington and the Latah Valley, the surroundings here are sublime. In spring, everywhere one looks are rolling, multi-hued wheat and alfalfa fields.

- A couple tales from southwest Washington: Ralph Stading owned and lived at Lewis River GC in Woodland, the closest course to Mount St. Helens. When asked what he did during the eruption, Stading answered, “I brought out a lawn chair, drank beer and watched it.” Thankfully for him, the ash and rock plume from America’s largest recorded volcanic explosion – which ripped 1,300 feet off the mountain and killed 57 people – blew to the northeast away from Ralph’s ringside seat. Not far away is Hartwood GC in Brush Prairie, a nine-holer built on a farm. The owner-builders, the Hart family, showed me a mint Aerocar in their barn. University of Washington-trained aeronautical engineer Molt Taylor designed and built the extremely rare flying car in 1949. Only six were ever made and it never entered production.

- Two irrigation stories: The wind whips so fast at Desert Aire in Mattawa in arid central Washington that the water gets less than halfway around its circle, while on the opposite side it blusters well over 100 feet and likely evaporates before finding turf. And there’s Quincy Valley Golf Course (now Colockum Ridge), also on the state’s “dry side.” Its 18 holes use a center pivot irrigation system, the same used for growing wheat and other vast tracts of low-growing crops. Larger systems can cover 125 acres on a

single rotation. Trees at this golf course must be shorter than 8 feet tall or get knocked over.

- Grew up in Yakima. The central Washington city is called “The Palm Springs of Washington” (it averages a mere 9 inches of annual precipitation) and “The Fruitbowl of the Nation” because of its thousands of acres of apple, cherry, pear and plum orchards. I lived in the West Valley section of the city, right next to nine-hole Westwood West, whose fairways – naturally – are lined by apple trees. As high school freshmen, my friend Nick and I would sneak onto the second hole. It would be years before I ever played the opening hole. The course designer and original head pro, Curley Hueston, would spy us under the branches and angrily take off in his three-wheeled Harley Davidson golf cart. He never came close to nabbing us. Maybe my favorite memory is coming home in the fall with golf clubs shiny and sticky from smacking unharvested apples that had dropped to the ground.

All the above photos are courtesy Jeff Shelley.

Jeff Shelley has written and published nine books as well as numerous articles for print and online media during his lengthy career. The Seattle resident co-founded the Northwest Golf Media Association in 1995. He co-authored (with Michael Riste) “Championships & Friendships: The First 100 Years of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association.” Other titles include three editions of the book, “Golf Courses of the Pacific Northwest.”

Conditioning: Build Strength All Season Long

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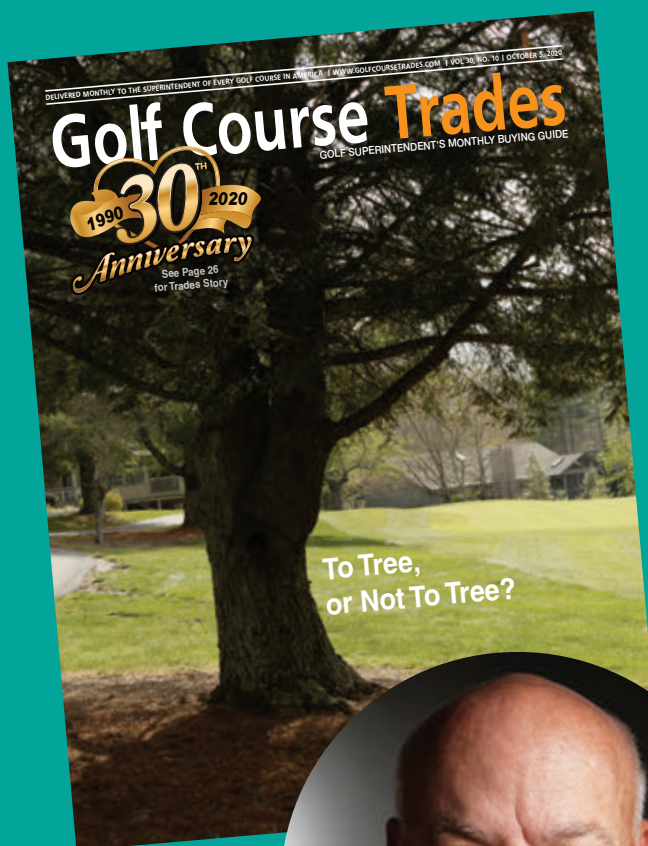


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Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your article on trees — To Tree or Not To Tree? (October 2020 Edition) However, I believe I speak for all golf course architects by pointing out the valuable contribution that comes with having a golf architect part of the process when it comes to tree decisions. While the article pointed out the importance of tree experts (arborists), the mention of the golf course architect was “missing in action”.

Far too often when the golf course architect is working with a green committee and superintendent, we find situations where “misguided” tree work has been done. It can become difficult, for many reasons, to un-do these decisions. We want to say, “Gee, I wish we had been part of the decision years ago to plant these trees...” But, of course, that is an impossible

wish. So, we look ahead and work with the course to make things better in all areas. No one is more versed in all aspects of the golf course — strategy, aesthetics, safety, interest and, yes, trees — than the golf course architect.

My encouragement to superintendents and management is to make sure your course has a golf course architect you can call when any issue arises. We are here to help, even for those small projects and questions that come up from time to time.

Forrest Richardson, ASGCA (Richardson is the current President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and is based in Phoenix, Arizona)

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Water Secrets Revealed

by Patrick Simmsgeiger



Almost every day I am asked to outline a water treatment plan. New clients and old friends expect the answer to be simple, but there are many 'It Depends' caveats. Each body of water is unique, responding best to a slightly different approach. Even if the dosage is simple, the application is as important as the products used. These conversations often reveal that the owner is unsure of site-specific details, the deeper challenges presented and the nuances of water treatment. Setting all that aside, the following is a simplified approach to aquatics.

The best management practice for water is to use the least amount of chemicals. This is balanced against the need to control unwanted and invasive species, while minimizing labor. Ecologic diversity is the long-term goal. Below a certain dosage, chemicals have a negligible effect. Therefore, an aquatic program generally first increases toxicity, then

ramps down chemical usage. Ultimately the aquatic plant growth becomes acceptable, costs are reduced, and the water ambience/function is near maximum.

The following factors affect water treatment estimates:

Water Volume: What is the surface area and average depth?

Water Source: Does the lake fill with water from an aquifer, a deep well, city water, or reclaimed water? The less pristine the source, the higher the nutrient loading, and thus the more product needed for the same level of control. This also applies to landscaping and nearby animals, especially uphill and upwind.

Dissolved Oxygen: Does the water have enough dissolved oxygen (DO) available, both for the fish and other oxygen consuming creatures? Generally, 4ppm is poor DO, 6+ppm is good, whereas 3ppm

or lower will see fish kills. Higher DO will discourage the growth of algae and cyanobacteria, as these excrete oxygen. Lower temperature waters can hold more DO; more salinity can reduce DO; more wind increases DO and evaporation. A lake often requires mechanical aeration to have sufficient DO, such as diffusers, fountains and waterfalls.

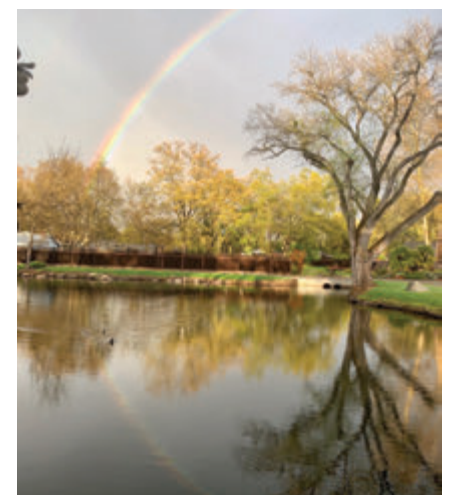
Depth Max and Average: Water depth is important to know for application calculations, but also to estimate biologic functions. Comparing the current depth profile with the lake's original design, the difference is the muck accumulation, which is a combination of dirt/clay and biologic material. Bottom diffusers are less effective at DO introduction at depths less than 6 feet; depths greater than 40' see less DO despite the lower temperatures at those depths.

Mixing and Circulation: Moving water is healthy water. How

long does it take for the entire volume to recycle? Healthy water turns over a few times a day. Circulation implies mixing, which is enhanced by bottom diffusers at all depths. Large bodies of water often have coves and fingers, which have lower circulation. The larger a lake, the less likely it has good circulation, especially at the deepest points.

Effluent: Where does the water flow when it leaves your lake/property? EPA and State laws limit pesticides and other products in water. A property owner should not add any product before understanding the laws governing their property and the property downhill receiving effluent.

Changing the Environment: Peripheral trees and other high nutrient sources may need to be moved or eliminated. Increased light will result in more algae growth. Increased wind from tree removal will help the DO% but will also increase evaporation. More evaporation will increase the cost of water replacement, so dissolved solids in the water may increase. Some lakes are devoid of aquatic grass. The introduction of fast-growing aquatic grass can address this problem. In





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later years this grass could take over 50% - 80% of the lake surface, requiring a huge annual expense to cut back. Before adding or subtracting to an aquascape, including the nearby landscaping, consider the long-term outcomes carefully.

Goals and Limitations: Clearly define what is the highest priority, and who may disagree with this goal, or wish to amend the process. Water management is not intuitive, often having capital and recurring costs. Many companies offer different products and processes, promising similar outcomes. Some prefer killing everything for maximum control in the short-term, minimizing labor and short-term cost. Others prefer the ecologic approach, using subtler products that 'turn the big ship' around. A reservoir owner wants maximum volume with toxicity just below the legal limit. A mixed-use HOA wants fish and no algae blooms, with butterflies and birds coming back each year. Depending on the property either can be correct.

CALCULATIONS

Step One is usually control of algae/cyanobacteria, which may be at the advanced stage of a Harmful Algae Bloom. Copper (Cu) products are the most effective, coming in several forms. Using a double-chelated product, which is a liquid, is the most efficient. Commonly we use F-30 Algae Control, which introduces 0.1ppm Cu for each gallon applied to 1 Acre-Foot of water; persisting for about 21 days. Control generally begins

at 0.2ppm; 1.0ppm Cu is the EPA limit for potable water. Using these concepts, we can make a plan to address the owner's goal.

Example:

Volume of Water
300' x 700' x 11'
average depth = 2,310,000
Cubic Ft

A closed system with average water source quality and no effluent issues

The surface is 4.82 acres, or 210,000 Ft Sq., so a fairly large lake. Air Temp Day Avg ~ 85 F

Circulation is not good; Wind is high from the west; trees and brush surround the entire lake.

The lake was built in 1975 as a reservoir for cattle and crops, plus flooding protection. Original depth was 25'. The bottom layer is 60% mud/40% bio muck, reducing the original volume by about half. The abundance of minerals makes this 'hard' water, known to precipitate out copper in lower quality algacides.

The water is very turbid with a planktonic alga, plus a top matting of Lyngbya. There is no aeration. A new owner has finished building a home on the lake; the big family has moved in; they like fishing and being outdoors with their dogs.

Solution:

The family wants a fast fix, but years of damage and a weak biosphere will take 1-2 years to address, assuming the best

approach. Because they just made a big move, funds are tight and big investments for the lake are not in the budget. A middle ground solution is needed now. For safety until the HAB is eliminated, forbid any swimming, and pets should be kept from the water.

Even though they should not be in the water, it is being used to water crops and fill troughs. The cows seem healthy. Sheep are very susceptible to copper, so they should be watered from another source. Now that the



family is safer, the application can be considered. Maximum Cu for potable water should be approached, so calculate for 0.8ppm for a strong initial control.

53 (Acre-Feet) x 8 (.1 per Gal) =
424 gallons of F-30

The Mfg. says that 4 parts F-30 Algae Control with 1 part F-55 Bio Zyme is very effective, so the owner orders 400 gallons of F-30 AC and 100 gallons of the beneficial bacteria enhancer.

If another control dosage is needed, begin 30 days after last application, for 0.5ppm

Follow label instructions on all products

Despite budget issues, the owner installs one multi-head diffuser in the deepest spot, increasing DO and mixing. The water column is so unhealthy no enzyme will diffuse to the bottom. 10 gallons of F-55 BZ are repurposed to drip-drag lines, injecting directly into the muck layer. Two months later a 5-pound bucket of F-51 Muck Reducing Pellets is purchased for bottom treatment, to reclaim depth and further boost the beneficial bacteria colony.

Multiple advantages are slowly observed as the ecosphere reacts over the first six months.

The next year, applications are reduced in half, then in half again. A long-lasting aquatic-blue dye with a UV blockers is added to the process (F-40 Enviro Blue). The family likes the color, but it is the reduction of photosynthesis that is sought. Then a clarifier is added to the treatment, dropping nutrients into the muck, which is now being eaten by the diverse bacteria. The ugly and smelly matting has not returned; fish are abundant and healthier.

Other important applications can be incorporated, like more instruments in a song. Clarifiers bind and drop particles from the water column, so their nutrients are unavailable to algae. A defoamer will break down unsightly bubbles. Two different quality dyes can mix for a preferred look, while not compromising the UV-blocking performance of the blue/yellow product. Pure bacteria and vital minerals replace those missing and absorbed by struggling water.

Finishing our story... More aeration is installed in 2-3 years. At this stage, synthetic chemicals are mostly replaced with biologic products. The family includes a waterfall built with local rocks, which pushes surface currents against the prevailing winds, clearing out the last stagnant region. Only in especially hot years, when pollution overwhelms the balanced and healthy water, does the family resort to a control treatment. But now the lake recovers quickly. Maintenance is sufficient for many years and fish thrive.

Patrick Simmsgeiger is the President of DWI, a lake management company based out



of Southern California. He is a Certified Lake Manager (CLM) with over 40 years of experience in the field. contactus@dwiwater.com



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Copake Country Club Turns Towards 100th Anniversary

by Jay Flemma



When you stand atop the 12th tee of Copake Country Club on an early fall day, the entire valley around you blazes with glory: burning vermillion, fiery orange, shimmering gold. Set within a bowl of varicolored hardwoods, Copake's rumbling fairways traverse rugged ledges, its curvaceous greens cling to perilous precipices, and its broad, noble brow overlooks glimmering Copake Lake.

This isn't just a golf course; it's God's Country.

Savoring the elixir-like, forest-scented air, I scanned the countryside, reveling in the setting. To my left, the second fairway tumbled downhill between the Spectacles bunkers – two traps resembling the eyes of an alligator hiding in the water, waiting to pounce. A golfer, frozen in fear of embarrassing himself in front of the players on the nearby tee boxes and facing a dicey half-wedge pitch over the

Spectacles, shanks his shot into the fescue instead. To my right, the group in front of us plays to the par-3 12th green, a small disc set dangerously on the edge of a seemingly bottomless drop-off. There's a pained "AHHHHHHH!" as a ball trickles into the greenside bunker. Far off in the distance the 14th fairway rises into a dizzying ascent. This confluence of holes is one of the course's shockras – an old school, Golden Age crossover that provides an exciting mini-crescendo during the course of the round.

Such is Copake Country Club, the little 6,300-yard public golf course that punches far above its weight. Built in 1921 "by either Devereux Emmet or one of his design associates," as restoration and renovation architect Mark Fine put it, and opened in 1922, Copake will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year looking and playing every bit as strategic as when

Emmet and friends completed the course for Sam and Sidney Zasuly as part of their Camp Copake Lake Resort, one of the original Catskill Mountains, Borscht Circuit playgrounds that, decades later, gave us Grossinger's and the Concord.

"The long history of Copake demands that respect be paid to this era of design," as Fine put it, and that was the imprimatur behind the restoration and renovation - preserve, protect, and promote the strategic Golden Age features that the original architect left behind. Emmet, who also designed such indelible masterpieces as Garden City Golf Club, Leatherstocking Golf Club, and Congressional's Blue course, was a giant of American golf design and one of the quintessential architects of the Golden Age era.

"Our stone steeplechase walls that pepper some of the fairways are one indelible

sign that Emmet was here," explains Mark Anderson, head superintendent at Copake since 1998. Starting at Copake as a cart boy at the age of 12, as the club celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1922, Anderson will celebrate his 40th at Copake in various capacities.

"The greens shapes are a second way we can confirm Emmet's influence. They are geometric figures that he also used elsewhere, but they are also severely canted in places and feature steep false fronts and false sides in other places. And forget about any putt over three feet being straight," Anderson cautioned.

Indeed, the green complexes are the strength of the golf course and a great source of Copake's character and strategy. Working backward from the crowned and canted greens is critical; you must leave yourself a makeable putt, so approaches, though often with a short club, still must be accurate or they may roll into perdition. Fairways blend seamlessly into the greens so you have myriad short game options: bump and run, pitch and check, lob, or putt, many of which can come rolling back to your feet or trundle into a bunker or swale if you mis-hit a pitch – totally characteristic of Emmet. Finally, Emmet loved back bunkers and old aerals reveal that nearly every hole had a back bunker at one time or another.

The runaway success of Fine's work and Anderson's stewardship is a testament to minimalism, and demonstrates conclusively that even with a limited budget a small public golf course can not only recall the former glory of its Golden Age heritage in a restoration, but maintain it financially going forward. In Copake's case, they followed a tried and true formula that any course can follow: cut down trees that have no architectural purpose to create the open vistas and playing corridors of the original design. As a result, the turf got healthier and the long views across the valley that it opened up are breathtaking. The fast, firm conditions brought all of Emmet's fairway and green undulations to life with ferocity. Best of all, people that were originally against cutting the trees down are now all totally glad the club did it when they saw the results.

"Mark Fine helped us reclaim our Golden Age past without putting his own stamp on it," stated Anderson. "When you talk with him, he has a passion for golf design that you can feel. He loves studying the history of the courses and the style of the architects - whether it's Emmet or Tillinghast or Macdonald - and he gives your course back what was lost over time."

As always Emmet's par-5s are show-stoppers, and the collection at Copake are all thrilling. At the short par-5 fourth the tee shot must thread the needle through a chute of trees. The hole then boomerangs to the right, ascending steeply



uphill. The false front is so severe, golfers have taken walks of shame in excess of fifty yards back down the fairway.

"A front pin on four is the hardest location on the golf course...absolute death. You can't stop a downhill putt from going off the green," warned Anderson. "That false front is such a great equalizer and again, Emmet was using optical illusions to defend par. There are many bunkers that are illusions on this course as well. They appear much closer to the green than they actually are."

Anderson's a perfect fit for Copake - an intelligent golf course needs a clever steward to sharpen the course to its finest edge, and Anderson has a deep background on that score. His first college degree was from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach, Florida campus).

"I trained to be a jet pilot, and was planning to go the ROTC route, but my eyes weren't good enough. Then I tried air traffic control, so my official degree is aviation business administration. My pro, Kyle Bell also graduated from the same college by the way," Anderson confided. "I came back to this area and went to Cobleskill for plant science, and at the same time I ascended to the head super position here. I've been at one golf course my whole life!" he finished energetically.

Fine's superb restoration and Anderson's daily TLC have sparked Copake's resurgence to prominence in the region.

"It's the toughest little 6,300 yard golf course you'll find," agreed several local members after the round. Best of all, you can play for around \$35; it's perhaps the best bargain between Albany and New York City. Just 45 minutes from Albany, it's perfect for a quick round on your way down to the City from points north and east.

Copake is exactly what we need more of in golf: an inexpensive public course you can play quickly, that isn't overly long, and has fascinating green complexes and plenty of strategic options. At times they could use the services of a sharp-eyed ranger, but it's nice to see that golf is leading the rally against Coronavirus. As we went to press, the National Golf Foundation released the news that rounds were up over 20% from this time last year. So if the price we pay to defeat Coronavirus is an extra twenty minutes at the golf course because more people are taking up the sport, that's a win for all golfers.

When not reporting live from major sports championships or researching golf courses for design, value and excitement, multiple award-winning sports writer Jay Flemma is an entertainment, Internet, trademark, and banking lawyer from New York. His clients have been nominated for Grammy and Emmy awards, won a Sundance Film Festival Best Director award, performed on stage and screen, and designed pop art for museums and collectors. Twitter @JayGolfUSA



How data-driven sub-soil monitoring can help greenkeepers survive today - and thrive tomorrow

by Adam Sedgwick

How data-driven sub-soil monitoring can help greenkeepers survive today - and thrive tomorrow. Greenkeeping is not a profession where cuts can be made if standards are to be maintained. If clubhouse revenues from restaurants, stores, and memberships continue to fall, smaller greenkeeping teams will have to work longer hours just to maintain the standards they have.

Cuts are a real threat - teams will be forced to do more with less - and still have to tackle sustainability targets brought on by climate change and water scarcity. The key - as always - is buried underground.

Manual sampling gives an understanding of what's needed for a safe, durable, and high-performing surface for players, but an understaffed team will find it difficult to achieve high sample consistency over a large area.

Instead of going out to collect data, permanently positioned sub-soil monitoring systems can stream readings from multiple key locations across golf courses in real-time, collecting all the information needed to make a real-time assessment on where to allocate time and resources.

9 ways data-drive sub-soil monitoring can help greenkeepers tackle today's challenges

1 Water consumption

This is a sensitive issue in many markets. Greenkeepers with a

detailed view of in-field course variation can precisely irrigate where needed according to live current levels.

2 Salinity buildup

Over irrigation can also lead to increased salinity levels, making it more challenging for plants to take up moisture. Sub-soil salinity data gives greenkeepers the opportunity to proactively alleviate this potential issue, e.g., with the inclusion of salt-resistant grass varieties.

3 Optimal nutrient usage

More precise irrigation will lead to reduced fertiliser leaching by preventing overwatering. Real-time soil temperature data will also help greenkeepers decide when to best apply fertiliser products to ensure better plant uptake.

4 Proactive agronomic turf improvement

When data is streamed from across a course in real-time, proactive agronomic turf improvement can be achieved as predictions can be made for plant nutrient and moisture requirements. This will also help reduce disease incidence as peak turf disease activity can be forecasted.

5 Black thatch

Saturated soils with low oxygen levels are prime black thatch locations, so accurate aeration and top dressing regimes are essential. Permanently positioned

underground soil monitoring devices will allow greenkeepers to ensure their surfaces are supported by optimal sub-soil conditions.

6 Maintenance efficiency

A true understanding of how to smartly allocate time and resources will improve work efficiency in maintenance, reduce labour costs, and allow you to devote more time to proactive turf development.

7 Optimal irrigation and sub-surface air system usage

Real-time sub-soil data can be used to automate irrigation and sub-surface air systems, thus providing more accurate and timely usage and potential labour-saving benefits.

8 Justifying expenditure

A data-driven way of working leads to an evidence-based approach to management that can be used to justify the applications of costly resources.

9 Energy efficiency

Underground soil sensors can also lead to reduced energy consumption. By optimising irrigation, you can reduce pumping time, and consume less energy. Better management practices can reduce the number of above surface operations, including mowing, aeration, and the application of fertilisers and pesticides.

Finally...

Data-driven sports turf management is a real option for greenkeeping teams looking for ways to adapt to today's world. Yet it is not a compromise. Instead of reacting to changes, a golf course that has collected several years of historical data can proactively work towards even greater efficiencies and improvements that will compound with each new year.



Soil Scout VP of Global Sales Adam Sedgwick has accrued decades of experience working across several continents in a wide range of leadership roles. From turf and amenity to precision farming, machine control, machine automation and GPS, Adam has spent his career at the forefront of agricultural technology and processes. A Harper Adams graduate with Masters degrees in Agri-Business and Crop Science,



Adam strongly believes in Soil Scout's potential to contribute to a new era of sustainable agriculture and professional turf management.

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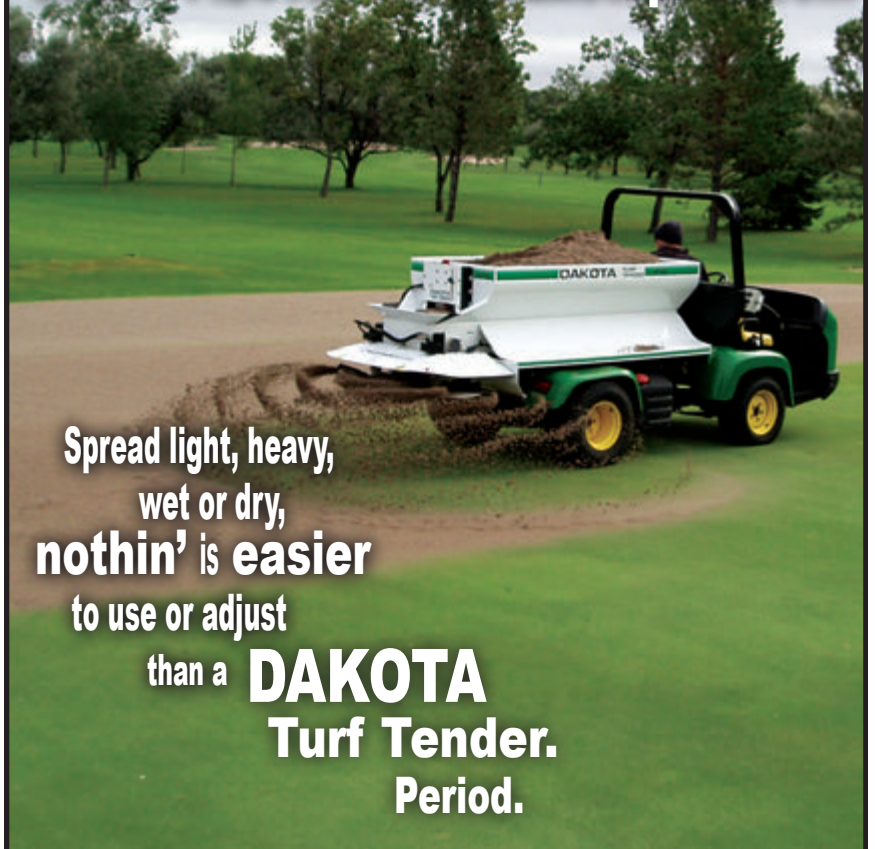


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How Deke influenced his son, Arnold Palmer, to change the face of golf

by Marino Parascenzo

Milford “Deacon” Palmer, father of Arnold Palmer and also the superintendent at Latrobe Country Club for over 40 years, was a classic example of the golf course superintendent also having to be a master diplomat – if one’s idea of diplomacy happens to be a 10-pound sledge.

There was the time, for example, when young Arnie, then in charge of the Latrobe pro shop, had closed up early to sneak out and hit balls. And sure enough, along came that lone member wanting to play. And not just any member. Brass doesn’t come any brassier. J.R. Larson was chairman of the grounds committee and an executive at Latrobe Steel, which pretty much owned the club. That is, he was Deacon’s boss a couple times over. And Mr. Larson generously offered to discipline the wayward young Arnie for him.

To which offer Deke (his other nickname) responded to his boss: “Don’t tell me what to do with my kid. You take care of your business, Mr. Larson, and I’ll take care of mine.”

This tale came from Arnie himself, in his book, “A Golfer’s Life,” where he also tells of the invitation Deke once extended to Harry Saxman, none other than the club president. “Harry,” Deke said, “if you don’t like the way I’m doing the job, feel free to go hire somebody else.”

No – Deke didn’t have a death wish or a guardian angel or any juicy leverage on anyone on the board. You simply took Deke Palmer on his terms, or not. And they did. As Arnold summed up his dad: fierce independence, a rigid sense of right and wrong, demands of honesty

and duty. And if some of Deke’s ideas seemed petty, they were nonetheless characteristic. For instance, pity the guy he caught wearing a cap indoors. A sin. God forbid. Take it off or get out, and for Arnie, that was an inherited trait.

As sometimes happens, a superintendent comes to think of the course as his personal jewel. And so it was with Deke Palmer.

“Pap was a tyrant about people chipping around his greens,” Arnie wrote. “He preached relentlessly on the importance of replacing divots and repairing pitch marks, and woe be unto the player -- regardless of whether it was his own son or the club president – who failed to treat the golf course with the kind of respect Pap deemed necessary and proper.”

Deke was a complex man, but he was direct.

“Pap’s personality and character ...” Palmer said, “... undoubtedly was shaped by those years struggling to teach himself to walk again ... he developed even more rigid beliefs about what was right and what was wrong... You didn’t borrow money. You didn’t take what wasn’t yours; you didn’t lie, cheat, or steal.”

If ever there was a golf course superintendent without portfolio, Deke Palmer was it. Deke, son of a housepainter, came from the fields and mines of the foothills of the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania, not far from Latrobe. First, the awful burden. Deke suffered an attack of polio as a kid, and it left him with a deformed foot and a limp. He vowed he would walk again. He slaved and struggled, but he did walk. And if his lower body was weakened, his upper body was super. He could chin himself one-handed, 10 times and more, with either hand.

He quit school at 15 and took a job as a mail runner in a mill. But he preferred the outdoors, and so he jumped at the chance to join the construction crew building Latrobe Country Club as an entry-level pick-and-shovel laborer. He knew this much about golf: That grass would grow if you let it. Otherwise, he didn’t know a fairway from a highway. But he was stubborn and determined, and he learned well and fast.

He worked at the course in the summer while it was under construction, and in the winter, he worked in a mill, and later ran a pool hall, where word was he shot a pretty good stick. They loved him at the club. At 22, he became the head greenskeeper, and in 1931, at 27, somehow having learned the game, he became the golf professional as well, selling equipment and giving lessons. And when Arnie became old enough, he was a dawn-to-dusk guy on his Pap’s crew. And he drove that old tractor. Arnie also worked in the steel mill, and he knew the bite of refractory brick in your hands when you’re relining a furnace.



Milford Jerome “Deacon or Deke” Palmer (left) with son, Arnold.

Being the superintendent’s son did not make life simple for Arnie, by the way. The Palmers – Deke and Doris had two boys and two girls -- lived in a house on the club grounds and owned by the club. It did not have running water. Arnie had to carry water for his mom to wash clothes. And the guys he was pals with in school weren’t his pals at the club. They were members’ kids. He was an employee’s kid. Arnie could golf early in the morning or late in the afternoon, when the members were gone, and he couldn’t use the swimming pool. He won the caddie tournament five times, the first at age 11, but wasn’t allowed to keep the

trophy. "I secretly stewed about that for years," he said.

As for Deke, in the role of the superintendent as a social animal, he was at home in any company. One night, he would go to the club and play poker with ranking members and prominent citizens such as Harry Saxman and Dr. H.R. Mather. The next, he could go down to the fire hall and shoot some pool and have a shot and a beer with Slim Balko and Red Yazvec and the guys.

It was one such night that led to a crisis in the Palmer family. Deke had had a few too many, and he came home and "began picking at my mother," Arnie wrote. Arnie had turned 16 that day. He stood up to his dad, told him to leave her alone. Whereupon Deke reasserted his primacy in the household by picking Arnie up and slamming him into the stovepipe. Arnie ran away later that night, but before long he un-ran away and slipped back into the house. And Deke, it turned out, was as shocked as his son.

"...he never laid a hand on me in anger again," Arnie wrote.

It was Deke who put his son on the path to changing the face of golf in the world, but not in any way you could guess.

Arnie was already a golfer and football player in junior high, and then he was a new ninth-grader at Latrobe High School, and he went out for varsity football. The coach rejected him. They didn't have a uniform small enough to fit him, he was so scrawny. Arnie was one crushed kid. He ran home to dad. This was the time for a heart-warming father-son talk. But this was Deacon Palmer. As Arnie told it, his dad pretty much said, "Oh, quit crying. If you can't play football, play golf." And that was the historic moment when Arnie Palmer decided to become a golfer.

Deke was, of course, Arnie's teacher, and he preached perhaps the most famous dictum in the game, based on the truism that golf is fundamentally an exercise in overcoming distance through force. Deke made the lesson simple.

"Hit it hard, boy," Deke told his kid, "and go find it and hit it hard again."

He also taught his boy golf etiquette. A strong lesson came when Arnie won the 1947 Western Pennsylvania Junior and expected a hero's ride home with mom and dad. But there was a stony silence in the car. It seems Arnie had missed a short putt at one point and threw his putter over the trees. Deke said,

"If you ever throw a club like that again "you'll never play in another golf tournament."

Time healed all wounds, and years later, Deke & Son were a key team in adding nine more holes to Latrobe CC. And in 1971, after Arnie had become rich and famous, he told his dad he was thinking about buying the club.

"Are you crazy?" Deke said.

It was home, after all, Arnie explained. Even if he'd had to sneak onto the course to play.

"Besides," Arnie told him, unable to resist a delicious needle, "it means you'd have to work for me."

And as Arnie told it, there was a strange streak in his dad. Deke simply refused to praise him. Not ever on his amateur championships, not on his victories in the U.S. Open, the Masters, the British Open nor anywhere else, and not on his career in general nor on becoming rich and famous.

"I must admit," Palmer said, "I really burned inside to earn a simple compliment from my father. But that compliment never came, which probably explains why I tried all the harder to please him."

"I was always pestering Pap to come watch what I could do in hopes he would praise me, which of course he never really did. That simply wasn't his style."

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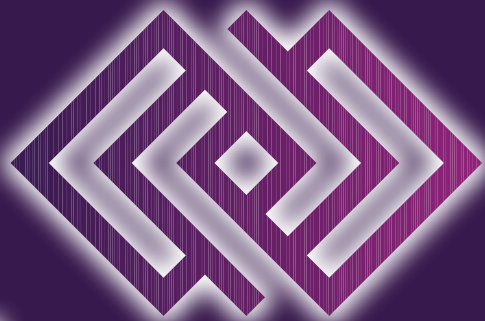
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Deke died in 1976, at 71.

Arnie had the last hurrah.

The original Latrobe CC was a built on largely open farmland. Deke planted most of the trees. And of

all the trees he planted, his favorite was the red pine towering off the fairway, short of the 18th green.

Arnie was 6 when he planted it, and got to ride the root ball when the truck brought it in. Finally, in 1998, it had to be knocked down. Arnie had them leave a big enough stump, and called in a chain-saw artist to carve it into a statue of his dad. Deke Palmer still stands there, looking toward the final green.

As Arnie so plaintively closes his book,

“I stood there looking up at him ... deeply moved to have him back ... wondering what my Pap would make of this golfer’s life. I still hope he’d be pleased.”

AUTHOR’S NOTE

Marino Parascenzo, author of the book, *Oakmont 100 Years*, and recipient of the 2008 PGA Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism, was host of an annual golf tournament called *The Arnold Palmer Invitational* for many years.

Jay Flemma says of him, “He was president of the GWAA when the first woman golf writer got into the tent and he brought her around to meet everyone, easing her transition.

He fought for better conditions for writers while they were on the road covering tournaments, he was responsible for getting court reporting companies to handle doing interview transcripts, and he’s written articles for every major magazine, including the programs for the U.S. Open and Major championships.

And yes, you’re right, he’s as humble and unassuming a man as you’d want to meet.”

Plus he’s a great story teller. If you ever need a firsthand account of some seminal golf history story, he was there. He gave me a great one about what it was like being in the media tent and the gallery at Southern hills when Hubert Green got those death threats in 1977. He’s a primary source, invaluable.

Several years ago, Parascenzo is quoted in the *Pittsburgh Quarterly* saying, “Even now, at 81, I still do a little advertising work, and make speeches and appearances here and there, usually in connection with companies I represent, and mostly in the U.S. And I still travel internationally on business. Unfortunately, I’m not playing a lot of golf these days. Sure, I still hit some balls and practice. And I play occasionally with my friends. (They still get a kick out of that.) But naturally, my golf game keeps deteriorating because I’m getting older. The challenge is still there, however. And no matter what, the fact that I still can get up in the morning and look forward to going to work is a blessing at my age. I just try to hang in there and keep doing what I do.”

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Thanks SiteOne for an Excellent Golf Industry Virtual Forum



by Linda Parker

Did you get a chance to hang out at the 2020 SiteOne Golf Industry Virtual Forum? This four-hour online event, hosted virtually on September 30, was so thorough, no one felt shortchanged that they weren't together in person. In a relaxed online experience, the SiteOne event made it possible for golf course superintendents and turf managers to learn about current industry offerings, to connect with manufacturer representatives and to get guidance and solutions for questions that might be keeping them up at night.

In addition to the team from SiteOne Landscape Supply, representatives from Bayer, Syngenta, BASF, FMC, PBI/Gordon Corporation, Corteva Agriscience, Nufarm and Lesco also participated. Although we can't begin to fill you in on all that was shared, we are providing an overview of some of the top news from each supplier plus hyperlinks you can explore for further insights.



Bayer

On hand from Bayer were Dr. Paul Giordano from The Greens Solution Team at Bayer and Regional Account or Sales

Managers Marc McNulty, Chad Hauth, Zach Lane, Gary Brooks and Eric Snelsire. Bayer's presentation focused on how Stressgard Formulation Technology in Bayer fungicides works to protect turf year-round, making the superintendent's job (and life) easier. Stressgard includes a portfolio of products for use on greens, tees and fairways. Because it is available in multiple products, turf managers have the flexibility to choose the product or products that are best for their needs and their course conditions.

If you are not already familiar with Stressgard, you'll also want to check out Bayer's digital flipbooks on Agronomic Recommendations by Zone, available at <https://www.environmentalscience.bayer.us/turf-and-ornamentals-management/golf-course-management/portfolios-and-solutions/agronomic-zone-documents>.



Syngenta

Sharing news about Syngenta's GreenTrust 365 program were Jason Wycliffe, Stephanie Schwenke, Lee Kozsey, Bob Goglia, Melissa Barron, Kevin Wasilewski and Melissa

Gugliotti. By taking advantage of the GreenTrust 365 Early Order Period, superintendents maximized both turf quality and budget.

The Syngenta team also shared updates about their three new fungicides. Posterity Forte fungicide provides targeted control of key turf diseases, including spring dead spot, take-all root rot and dollar spot on fairways and greens. Posterity XT fungicide provides up to 28 days of control for more than twenty diseases, including dollar spot, brown patch, summer patch and more. Ascernity fungicide controls several key diseases, such as large patch, brown patch and anthracnose, in cool- and warm-season turf with no heat restrictions.

If you'd like to receive a free Syngenta poster that outlines the agronomic program best suited for your greens or fairways, go to www.greencastonline.com/programs/index.aspx#order-poster.



We create chemistry

BASF

Andy Engelbrecht, Wes Eppel, Scott Waltz and Cozette Rosburg were available from

BASF to share updates about BASF products and the BASF 2021 Early Order Program (EOP). Branded "Return to Excellence," the EOP promises a return to simplicity with a range of options to help superintendents plan, purchase and save. Additionally, the EOP offers a return to innovation with two DMIs (demethylation inhibitors), Maxtima Fungicide and Navicon Intrinsic brand fungicide, as well as a return to flexibility with options for superintendents to design their own fungicide program. Like other EOPs, BASF offers significant savings and rewards.

To learn more about this program, visit betterturf.basf.us/early-order-program.html. With the EOP Calculator, users create an account, estimate their needs and plan their order, with savings calculated in real time.



FMC

Staffing the virtual booth for FMC were Tracy Tudor, Chris Pearson, Matt Carroll, Tina Bond, Matt Sisti, Tom Wharton and Dave Torska. FMC Professional Solutions is known for supporting the golf and lawn care markets

and listening to the needs of golf course superintendents in order to produce products that improve turf management. Quicksilver for silvery thread moss, Dismiss NXT for yellow nutsedge and green kyllinga and Rayora fungicide, a next generation DMI, are a few of the FMC products designed to solve difficult turf challenges and perform consistently.

Pairing great products and the FMC Early Order Program is a strategy designed to give superintendents more time and more control. To learn about the FMC True Champions program, go to www.fmctruechampions.com/. To explore FMC products, visit www.fmcprosolutions.com/.



PBI/Gordon Corporation

National Accounts Director Jason Manz, along with National Accounts Manager Trevor Radford and Regional Sales Managers and Reps Brett Rieck, Matt Ayala, Peter Lange, Bill Affinito and Don Botkin represented PBI/Gordon Corporation, an organization that is wholly owned by its employees.

Recognized for turf and ornamental solutions that deliver the performance and value golf superintendents demand, the team at PBI/Gordon says their program positions turf managers to “soar” into 2021. In addition to their early order program, the team shared information on Union Fungicide SC for broad-spectrum disease control, including Pythium disease protection, Vexis Herbicide Granular, a proprietary formulation that delivers exceptional control of sedges and kyllingas plus listed broadleaf weeds and the company’s new herbicide, SpeedZone EW Broadleaf Herbicide for Turf.

Find out more about PBI/Gordon at www.pbigordonturf.com/.



Corteva Agriscience

The Corteva Agriscience team of Kerry Avirett, Gilbert del Rosario, Chester Vandenberg and Phil Bruner provided answers about their products designed to help golf courses and golf course superintendents thrive, season after season. In addition to Corteva’s Ultimate rewards program for turf and ornamental products, which features two early order periods and is designed to give turf managers flexibility in decision making, the Corteva staff shared information about its products and details on its Poa Annuua Guarantee.

The 2020-2021 Golf and Non-residential Turfgrass Poa annua Guarantee assures 90 percent Poa annua control through April 15, 2021, for turf managers who apply Kerb SC according to specified terms and guidelines. Learn more about Kerb SC, MatchPoint insecticide and GameOn and NativeKlean herbicides at www.corteva.us/products-and-solutions/turf-and-ornamental.html.



Nufarm

Ryan Nichols, Chris Brown, Stephanie McKay, Steve Vincent and Jake Green covered topics from the Nufarm Edge rewards program to Nufarm’s virtual learning opportunities. Featured products were Anuew plant growth regulator, Celero herbicide and Traction for control of snow mold and other diseases, including summer fairway diseases, such as brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot and dollar spot.

Find out more about the Nufarm Edge rewards program at www.nufarmrewards.com. Learn how you can take advantage of Nufarm’s series of short, virtual

learning modules, available on demand at nufarm.com/usturf/resources-2-2/. Each session covers important industry topics. Modules are led by Dr. Jason Fausey, Aaron Hathaway and Rick Fletcher of the Nufarm technical services team.



Lesco

Lee Collins, Erich Slider, Chris Fronczek, Jason Wilkerson and Max McGee were onboard to help event attendees learn about Lesco tools, resources and how superintendents and turf managers can be part of the Lesco 2020 EOP, getting ahead to win the game.

Lesco fertilization and plant optimizing technology products include NOS, PolyPlus-Opti, NOS Plus, CarbonPro and PolyPlus, along with seeds, specialty products such as Moisture Manager and CarbonPro product enhancements and a full line of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. Lesco even offers durable, pro-grade equipment including its Smart Guided Precision Spray System.

To find out more about why the Lesco team says, “The next level is only a bag away,” visit their website at <https://www.lesco.com/>.



SiteOne Landscape Supply

SiteOne Landscape Supply, the event hosts, showed up big with speakers Brett Boone, Mark Seigfreid, Ryan Schuette, Gary Sorensen, Rodney Piasecki, Christy Ratchford, Judy Strickland, Kelli Reeves, Pooja Natarajan and Josh Walker. From their 2020 EOP Program, to their new website with its added tools and resources, to their partners program and their virtual university, SiteOne supports and

serves the needs of golf course superintendents and their crews.

SiteOne Project Services makes it easier for course managers to develop bids and submittals for irrigation, landscape, nursery, outdoor lighting, site furnishings, storm water/drainage and more. The SiteOne Project Services team can assist with new construction opportunities, cloud-based landscape and irrigation material takeoffs, customized bid creation, RFQ submission and tracking, professional landscape and irrigation submittal packages and design services including irrigation and head spots. Golf course superintendents can sign up for a project services account at projectservices.siteone.com.

The Value and Wisdom of Planning Ahead

Although the earliest window for many supplier’s EOP may have already passed (and with it, the greatest discounts), course superintendents may still benefit from pre-order opportunities. If 2020 has revealed anything, it has proven that the systems and routines we’ve all taken for granted can change in a heartbeat.

None of us know with certainty what the new year will bring or whether manufacturing and shipping will run at a normal pace or will again be unpredictable. A well-laid plan for the season ahead supplemented by plenty of product on-hand could be a critical difference maker for course success in 2021.

Thanks again, SiteOne, for helping so many golf course superintendents get a jump on the year ahead.

Linda Parker has been writing professionally since the 1980s. With clients in finance, sports, technology, change enablement, resorts and nonprofit global initiatives, Linda helps organizations communicate their stories in meaningful ways to the people they most want to reach. She has authored, ghostwritten or contributed to more than a dozen nonfiction books. Linda is a member of the Authors Guild and the Golf Writers Association of America. You can connect with her at linda@glindacreative.com

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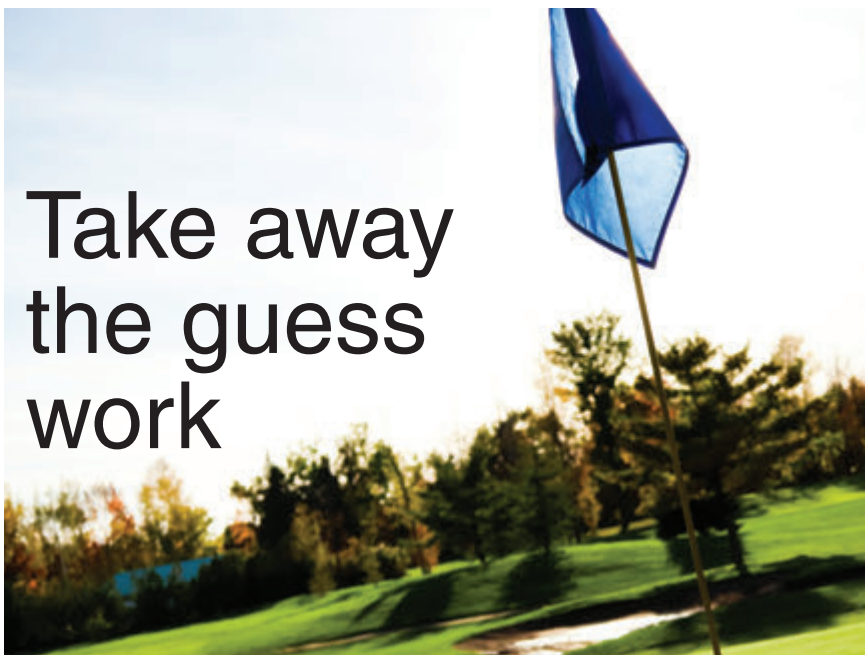
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- Progressive Pro Flex PTO shafts complete!! Replaces # 521738 ... \$560 plus shipping!
- Progressive Pro Flex 120 complete blade sets!! Replaces # 522374 and 522372... \$125 plus shipping per set!
- Pro Gator Radiator Fans!! Replaces# AM129853... \$175.00 plus shipping!

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Toro 648's, Toro 1298 w/tractor, Fairway Verticutters, Material Handlers, Greens Rollers...and much much more! Call for details!

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE!

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Call Franklin Abell

(678) 296-0822

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Toro 4300-D Rotary, low hours, fully refurbished



Toro 3150's, low hours, dozens to choose. Year end blow out!



Toro 4700-D fully refurbished!



Toro 3575, fully refurbished, mint!



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Demo model Ryan Jr. Sod Cutter



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Fit's any Jacobsen, John Deere, or Toro machine and utility vehicle in the mfg.'s color (grey or yellow)

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