

Green is Beautiful

Summer 2014

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



**Mo' Honey
Less Problems**

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Evaluate Irrigation Practices
Extend Your Learning Elsewhere
That Evil Weevil

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Phil Scully
OGSA President

Perspective. It's a word that gets thrown around a lot but there has never been a better time to reflect on what it really means.

The challenges that golf in Ontario has faced this year, on both sides of the fence, has truly put things into perspective.

From a golfer's point of view, the reality that golf courses are living breathing organisms that are often uncontrollable and at the mercy of Mother Nature, has been highlighted this season.

From a superintendent's vantage point, whether affected or not, the devastation of 2014 has forced each and every one of us to review our professional and personal lives, therefore putting into perspective the significance of nature and its profound effect on our livelihood.

The ramifications of the ice storm and its affects on the golf industry will be felt for years to come, but not all in a negative light. The media coverage of the widespread turf loss in Ontario will help to promote the importance of what we do and the fragility of the environment in which we work. I'm gratified that the OGSA could play a major part in informing media and the public as that is part of our mandate.

In the end, what will come of this is perspective; a way of regarding situations and judging their relative importance. With varying types and degrees of disasters in the world happening far too often of late, we must keep in mind that after all, it's just grass. ■

Green is Beautiful

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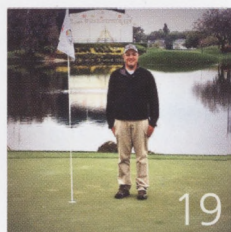
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The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

ON THE COVER

**Bill Arnott and Tim Muys
Inspecting a Hive**
Photo courtesy:
Cam Shaw

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OGSA is committed to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enriching the quality of golf and its environment.

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL 2014

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EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

There's been a lot of talk swirling around bees of late. In the turf world, this remarkable little creature and the important role it plays in the environment, has been caught up in a bit of a political firestorm. If there's one positive that has come out of this mess, it's that these dynamic little plodders are finally starting to get the appreciation they deserve.

The truth is, for most of time, bees have been an afterthought. Sure we all recognize these insects and generally acknowledge what they do, but how many among us have taken the time to consider their significance in helping to balance the natural world around us? They methodically go about their business, day in and day out, while a vast ecological network hangs in the balance.

Perhaps just as important as the vital role they play in our delicate ecosystem is the admirable example they set for all of us. Bees tirelessly work together toward a common goal that benefits all those around them. They serve as an important reminder that the most important things are accomplished

when we all pull the rope in the same direction for a greater cause.

I'm amazed at how prevalent domestically run apiaries have become. In fact, just this summer I have run into three different people who have started their own homegrown hives in their backyard. The impetus for starting such an operation seems to be equal parts pleasure, product, and giving back to the environment.

In light of this trend, we thought it was worth shining a light on a golf course facility that has been undertaking this noteworthy task for some time now. We know there are likely several other golf course maintenance departments across Ontario that have devoted time to managing their own apiaries and we apologize that they all are not mentioned in this great piece written by Cam Shaw. They deserve just as much credit for finding the extra time in their busy schedules to foster their hives.

To all those like Barrie Golf and Country Club who have found yet another way to show the positive impact golf courses have on the world around us, we tip our cap in the summer issue of *Green is Beautiful*. ■

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WHAT'S NEW

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

FROM THE OFFICE

By the time this magazine arrives on your desk, online registration for the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show will be open. Exhibitors have been reserving their booth space over the past month. If you have not booked your exhibit space yet, please go to the conference page at www.ogsa.ca for the exhibitor package.

The OGSA has recently signed a revenue sharing contract with the CGSA to once again hold the joint conference in Toronto in 2016. Mark Prieur, OGSA Secretary/Treasurer, will be the conference co-chair for the joint show, along with Jim Flett, Ontario representative on the CGSA Board of Directors.

The OGSA Board, along with the associates committee, have been focused over the past year and a half on coming up with a new format for our conference. At their spring meeting, the associates committee endorsed a proposed format for the conference that excludes the traditional trade show. The OGSA Board of Directors then approved the format in principle. Over the coming months, we will be talking to as many of our associate members as possible in order to provide information and garner their support of this leading edge initiative, which we know for some has been a long time coming. We anticipate the adoption of this format for the 2017 conference.



OGSA past president Doug Breen acknowledges host superintendent Jeff Haynes and grounds crew at Grey Silo Golf Club as hosts of the Manulife Financial LPGA Classic.

Please remember to fill out our public meeting survey for meetings held this year to present your 2013 annual report; a link to the survey can be found on the OGSA home page.

Nominations for our distinguished service award are accepted at any time, but please keep in mind that the deadline date for submissions is October 1, 2014. All scholarship applications are due November 1, 2014 and details are posted on our website under the Scholarship & Awards tab.

As always, our members are invited to contact the office or any of our directors if you have questions, concerns or

comments about anything related to your association.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and have a great balance of the season.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION

Once again, OGSA acknowledges host superintendents from the Ontario amateur circuit. Presentations have been held throughout the province, some of which are depicted above and below. We would like to thank our presenters, as well as the GAO for their ongoing support of the program. We congratulate all the host superintendents and their crews for a job well done! ■



Superintendent Ryan Scott, pictured with wife Monique and daughter Maeve, received the host superintendent plaque for the Investors Group Ontario Amateur Championship held July 8-11, 2014 at The Club at North Halton in Georgetown, Ontario.



OGSA Secretary Treasurer Mark Prieur, left, presents host superintendent plaque to Martin Kopp from Brampton Golf Club, hosts of the Investors Group Ontario Women's Amateur Championship, held July 8-11, 2014.



OGSA Director Rod Speake, right, presents a plaque to host superintendent Thom Charters, left, of the Investors Group Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur Championship held June 25, 2014 at Taboo Resort Golf & Spa.



L-R: OGSA VP John McLinden presents the host superintendent plaque to Cory Janzen; OGSA President Phil Scully presents the William Sansom Trophy to the winning team from Beaverdale GC.

Presidents' Day 2014

On Monday, July 28th, the OGSA's 45th Annual Presidents' Day was held at Westmount Golf & Country Club in Kitchener, Ontario.

The day started out with overnight and early morning torrential rains, so the outlook became rather bleak for the event. However, with lunch first and tee off at 1 p.m., the weather started to clear and despite the rocky start, the tournament started on time. Unfortunately, due to the amount of rain that fell, golfers had to walk the course, and for a few this was a bit of a challenge, but each and every group finished and we do applaud those who struggled and made it around the course on foot!

The sunny breaks in the afternoon made it perfect weather for golf and an exceptional afternoon for the club from Beaverdale Golf Club who finished first in the progressive best ball tournament. A good show was once again put on by the Orr Lake Golf Club who finished second, with Beacon Hall Golf Club third and

Lambton Golf & Country Club finishing fourth.

The ladies longest drive and closest to the pin winner was Shelley Brown from The Toronto Hunt Club, with Chris Andrejicka from Essex Golf & Country Club winning the longest drive for the men. The closest to the pin winner for the men was Peter Kinch from Lambton Golf & Country Club.

The big winners in the pari-mutuel betting were Chad Hurrell from Beaverdale Golf Club, who of course bet on his own team, sharing first prize with Chris Andrejicka from Essex Golf & Country Club who was the only other golfer to place a bet on Beaverdale Golf Club.

The emcee for the evening was OGSA Vice President John McLinden who thanked the host club staff and board of directors, as well as host Superintendent Cory Janzen, who, despite some challenges this spring, had the course in great shape for the event. ■



L-R: Second place team, Orr Lake Golf Club and third place team, Beacon Hall Golf Club.

Welcome to Our New Members

Adam Rocke Class S
Westmount Golf & Country Club

Adam Leonardo Class A
Bradford Highlands Golf Club

Jared Thivierge Class C
Wildfire Golf Club

Matthew Eastman Class F
Mississauga Golf & Country Club

Braun Hause Class S
King Valley Golf Club

TerraOne Solutions Inc Class E

MARK YOUR CALENDAR UPCOMING 2014 OGSA Tournament & Events

Hugh Kirkpatrick Memorial Tournament

Otter Creek Golf Club
Otterville, Ontario

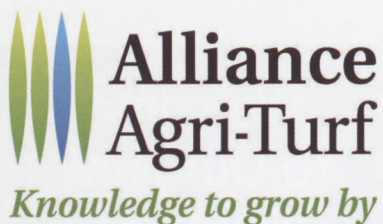
Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014

Assistants Tournament

Cutten Fields
Guelph, Ontario
Monday, Sept. 22, 2014

Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

St. Thomas Golf & Country Club
St. Thomas, Ontario
Monday, Oct. 6, 2014



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Pro / Super Challenge

Cobble Beach Golf Links hosted the annual Pro/Super Challenge on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014. The weather was outstanding and the breezy conditions kept the golfers on their toes. Thanks to General Manager John Anderson, along with Superintendents Brent Siekierzycki and Jeff Thomas, who was of course playing with his brother Warren Thomas, the head golf professional at Cobble Beach. The superintendents and professionals were treated to a great day and special thanks go out to everyone at Cobble Beach for all their hard work.

The winning team was Choya Fraser and Brian Urbach from Midland G & CC, followed closely by the teams from Stone Tree G & FC, Oslerbrook G & CC and The National GC of C.

Skins amounting to almost \$900 were split between nine groups and the 50/50 draw was won by Bert McFadden from the Georgian Bay Club. ■



OGSA Treasurer Mark Prieur, left, presents the Bill Bowen Trophy to Brian Urbach, Golf Professional from Midland G & CC.



Left: (L-R) OGSA Treasurer Mark Prieur presents the host Golf Professional plaque to Warren Thomas.



Right: (L-R) General Manager John Anderson accepts the host superintendent plaque on behalf of himself, Brent Siekierzycki and Jeff Thomas.

RattleSnake Wins Again

The 20th anniversary Plant Products slo-pitch tournament was held on July 26th at Turner Park in Hamilton. It was another excellent turn out and every team started

the day with a chance at the title. After the round robin, and several playoff rounds, the final four matchups pitted RattleSnake versus Glen Eagle, and Trafalgar versus Cardinal. RattleSnake got past a tough Glen Eagle team and Cardinal edged out Trafalgar to earn their spots in the final.

The championship game was a repeat from the 2013 final and RattleSnake squeaked past Cardinal by one run in a 10-9 Final.

Special thanks go to Willow Valley for providing us with golf carts for the day.

Thank you again to all of the teams that participated, and we look forward to another successful tournament next year! ■



Tournament winners from RattleSnake.



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Michigan State University

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FOLLOWING THE POLAR VORTEX OF 2013/14

Adam Moeller
Agronomist, USGA

- ▶ IRRIGATE FOR TURF HEALTH AND PLAYABILITY, NOT COLOUR
- ▶ PUTTING GREEN ROOTZONE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Micah Woods, Ph. D.
Chief Scientist, Asian Turfgrass Center

- ▶ ESTIMATING TURFGRASS NUTRIENT USE
- ▶ SOIL MOISTURE AND IRRIGATION: THREE KEY POINTS
FOR SUMMER

Mark Thompson
President & Chief Engagement Officer,
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- ▶ ATTRACT, ENGAGE, RETAIN A GREAT TEAM

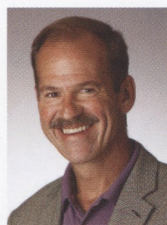
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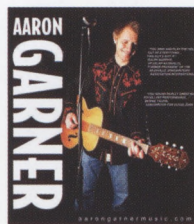
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Golf Course Industry and Lawn &
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Gazing into my crystal ball:
How our business is changing and
what it means to you.

For three decades, Pat Jones has been known for his insights into the golf and turf business, his tell-it-like-it-is approach and his sometimes warped sense of humor. David Feherty of CBS Sports and Golf magazine once described him as "that odd bastard who keeps trying to fill my head with all sorts of turfy facts."

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Views of the 9th green, Mono Hills Country Club

Hidden Gem Hosts Annual Tournament

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

From the time he was 18 years old, Jim Torrance had a dream, a dream to build his own golf course. According to his friends, he is an avid golfer. He has golfed all around the world, and has been a member at Lambton G & CC, St. Georges G & CC, Pine Valley GC and Via Mizner in Boca Raton. Jim finally realized his dream, but not before he had to put up a fight to try and build. The fight went to the Ontario Municipal Board and it took him over five years

before permission was finally granted to expand. By that time, most people would have given up, but in Jim's words, "I had come that far, might as well go ahead and build it now."

What started off as his summer cottage with three holes, set up to play as nine, is now a pristine and beautifully manicured property nestled in the rolling hills of Hockley Valley.

When Jim set out to design and continue to build the full nine holes, which plays as 18 with alternate tee decks to challenge the players on the second time around,

he knew he would need partners.

There are now 10 shareholders, nine of whom have developed beautiful properties surrounding the course, while just one remains undeveloped.

At first, according to Jim, the course was "primitive" with both the fairways and greens cut quite high, with golfer friends and his son helping out with the maintenance, but Jim knew that in order to get the course in the fine shape he envisioned, he would have to seek some help. He had already had assistance from superintendents like Jim Wyllie and



This past August 5, 2014, the eighth seniors tournament took place at Mono Hills Country Club. Mark Schneider announced the prize winners and acknowledged and thanked Ron Craig from Turf Care for providing the carts, Paul and Helen White for all their hard work organizing the event, Pelino Scenna for cooking the striploins to perfection, Alan Beeney and Doug Suter for organizing lunch and dinner and generally keeping everything on track, and of course superintendent Nick Amsen for ensuring a "picture perfect" course. Following tradition Jim Torrance also was on hand to welcome everyone and joined the group for dinner.

Gord Witteveen and others during the design and construction stages, so in the late '90's, he called Paul White for his thoughts. Paul, in response, suggested Doug Suter give Jim a call. Doug Suter then became the superintendent at Mono Hills.

According to Doug the next few years were a process. One year the greens mower was purchased and the greens were the priority. The following year the focus was on the fairways, and little by little the course really took shape.

In 2002, Alan Beeney came on board to share the load with Doug, who wanted to enjoy some down time and in 2005, they brought current superintendent Nick Amsen on board.

Nick was excited to tell us about the new irrigation system that was installed in 2009. At the time, Mono Hills was only the fourth or fifth course in Canada to install a decoder system following many European courses.

When asked why he opens up the course every year to host the OGSA seniors, Jim mentions his 'soft spot' for superintendents. He realizes that they



Mono Hills Country Club features a trout pond on the 7th hole.

have indeed contributed so much over the years to help him realize his dream, a course that embraces the natural flow of the land and the beauty of surrounding terrain. Along with his nine shareholders, together they share the cost of maintaining the course and embrace their investment and the absolute beauty

that surrounds them.

Mono Hills Country Club is truly a hidden gem. It has also been a labour of love and it is obvious that it remains a source of pride to all those who have been involved with Jim over the years helping him fulfill his dream. ■

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Jason Boyce

Director of Golf, Smuggler's Glen Golf Course

by Reg Langen, Assistant Superintendent
Richmond Hill Golf Club

Leadership is not necessarily easy to define and it can come in many forms. A leader is someone who through their own efforts and accomplishments warrants respect. Leadership also requires the individual to have experience, knowledge and a great passion for the task at hand. Any professional who would take time away from their busy work schedule and lives to help progress and improve their industry shows an incredible amount of leadership. When looking for a true leader, one would have to look no further than the former superintendent and now Director of Golf at Smuggler's Glen Golf Course, Jason Boyce.

Boyce's introduction into the golf industry came not from the turf management side, but as a Pro Shop attendant at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club where his father, Peter Boyce, was the acting CPGA Pro. It was while attending the University of Windsor for Business Administration that Boyce made a decision to pursue a career in turf management.

"I was extremely fortunate to gain a remarkable amount of practical experience working at a variety of amazing facilities," says Boyce.

Upon leaving Sarnia Golf and Curling Club in 1993, Boyce began his turf career path at Greenwood Golf Club working for Dan O'Connor. After just one season as part of the maintenance team, Boyce decided to head west for the stunning views of Banff Springs in Alberta.

Although he would spend just one season learning from Ken Olsvik, he valued this experience tremendously. In 1995 Boyce decided to travel back to Ontario and was fortunate to land a



Jason Boyce, Director of Golf,
Smuggler's Glen Golf Course

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q – Favourite Major?

A – Canadian Open

Q – Favourite piece of turf equipment?

A – Sidewinder 3500D & ProCore 648

Q – Favourite golf course?

A – Tarandowah Golfers Club, Wildfire Golf Club

Q – Ultimate foursome?

A – Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer and I should let my brother tag along

Q – Lowest round and where?

A – 75 – Sarnia Golf and Curling Club (Many years ago)

Q – Favorite movie?

A – *Scent of a Woman*

Q – Favorite meal?

A – The Keg's Sirloin Oscar!

Q – What's on your iPod right now?

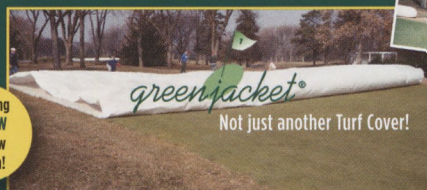
A – I Like Top 40, anything with a good beat – Kehsa, Pitbull, Timbaland, Flo Rida

Q – If you weren't a Superintendent what would you be?

A – Unhappy.

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position working at The Board of Trade Golf and Country Club for one of the true legends in Ontario, Gordon Witteveen. Even though Boyce's career was still fairly young at this point, he had already collected a wealth of quality experiences.

In 1996, new challenges were on the horizon at Cataraqui Golf and Country Club where Boyce would work under Shorty Jenkins for two seasons. These two years helped Boyce make the decision to attend the Seneca College Turfgrass Program from 1997 to 1999. The college years saw Boyce work his internship at Diamondback Golf Club where he was fortunate enough to be involved in two Canadian Tour Championships while working under the tutelage of Steve Muys.

Granite Golf Club was in the construction process in 2000 when Boyce came aboard. He recalls learning a great deal from the leaders of the construction efforts, Jarrod Barakett and John Gravett.

"I gained invaluable knowledge of golf course construction and building concepts while working at the Granite Golf Club," says Boyce.

In 2001 things had come almost full circle as Boyce returned to Cataraqui Golf and Country Club, but this time as the assistant superintendent for David Crowe. The three seasons at Cararaqui saw Boyce play a major role in a complete bunker and greens renovation of the site. It was after this experience that opportunity came knocking.

Golf course construction was quite familiar to Boyce at this point. Many of his previous experiences had helped him gain a wealth of understanding and knowledge and he would need to utilize it all when he accepted the position of superintendent at the soon to be constructed Smuggler's Glen Golf Course at Glen House Resort in the Thousands Islands.

"My greatest accomplishment professionally is having been a part of Smuggler's construction and development. It is truly a beautiful property and I feel very fortunate to be where I am today."

Many people would have found little time for anything outside of work while operating on Boyce's schedule. Somehow, through all his commitments on the course, Boyce managed to balance his professional and personal life. Boyce and his wife Val have three young boys. Evan and Carter are six-year-old twins and Drew is three. When given the chance to chat with Boyce, it is quite evident that his family is the thing he is most proud of despite a very active and distinguished career to date.

Boyce's career path has found him in many different parts of Ontario and even a brief stint in Alberta. Once he found a home at Smuggler's Glen though, he felt it was time to help better the industry that had given him such great opportunities.

"I really enjoy being involved in professional associations. We have a great industry and I am thrilled to promote the work, education and passion that we have for our courses and this industry."

In 2013, Boyce joined the OGSA Board of Directors and he does not take this role lightly. He feels that the golf industry will continue to go through significant changes, so it is necessary for our associations to do the same. Boyce is excited to continue to assist in these changes and he hopes to continue to better the turf and golf course management professions for all involved.

A passionate and experienced superintendent, a great father and husband and an OGSA director who strives to better the turf industry. It sure isn't hard to see what makes Boyce such a strong leader. ■



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Christian Kuhn

Assistant Superintendent:
Tyler Moir

Equipment Manager:
Bob Braunton

Horticulturalist:
Erin Collins

Hole #9

Photo credit: Erin Collins

COURSE PROFILE

About the Course

Pine Knot G & CC is located 15 minutes outside of London and five minutes off the 401. Along with member and public play, Pine Knot is a popular tournament and wedding venue.

Established: 1992

Original Architect: John F. Robinson

Type of Club: Semi-Private

Number of Holes: 18

Number of Rounds Annually: 30,000

Practice Facility: Putting & chipping green (7,000 ft²)

Biggest Maintenance Challenge

Irrigation system is not grounded and is prone to lightning damage.

A CLOSER LOOK

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type:

Bent/poa on greens and tees. Bluegrass fairways.

Predominant Soil Type: Tobacco Sand

Type of Greens: Push ups

Course Length: 6,500 yards, Par 71

Size of Property: 140 Acres

Size of Greens: 3.4 acres

Size of Tees: 3 acres

Size of Fairways: 22 acres



Mo' Honey Less Problems

by Cam Shaw, Assistant Superintendent, Piper's Heath Golf Club

“When I consider the lack of cooperation in human society, I can only conclude that it stems from ignorance of our interdependent nature. I am often moved by the example of small insects, such as bees. The laws of nature dictate that bees work together in order to survive. As a result, they possess an instinctive sense of social responsibility. They have no constitution, laws, police, religion or moral training, but because of their nature they labour faithfully together. Occasionally they may fight, but in general the whole colony survives on the basis of cooperation. Human beings, on the other hand, have constitutions, vast legal systems and police forces; we have religion, remarkable intelligence and a heart with great capacity to love. But despite our many extraordinary qualities, in actual practice we lag behind those small insects; in some ways, I feel we are poorer than the bees.”

His Holiness, The 14th Dali Lama of Tibet



Clockwise: Centrifuge spins honey out of the combs; empty frames after honey is removed; filtering honey; packaged 'Tee-Time' Honey. Credit: Ed Doda

This story buzzes back to 2009 when the IPM legislation was being introduced and there was a lot of uncertainty over how golf courses would be stung. Having recently hired Bill Arnott, an experienced bee keeper to his staff, Ed Doda, Superintendent at Barrie Country Club, pondered whether or not a healthy apiary on his property could result in some leniency, or even favourable exemptions from the newly hatched legislation. Although Doda's wish was not to be, he and Arnott, still sweet on the idea, decided to move forward with the project anyway. They ordered two mated queens, two hives, a few veils, a smoker and various other startup accessories and began to brood their plan. Next they needed to choose a location for their hives. According to Arnott, you need to find a relatively secluded open space to keep the bees from being disturbed and to ensure they have ample opportunity to explore and retrieve nectar from all directions. They settled on an area just off of their twelfth green site. Separated by a thick stand of trees and undergrowth, the area boasted a lengthy corridor of cleared space for the bees to travel down. With the location set, it was not long before the two of them had the colonies up and humming.

When asked how much time is taken out of each week to manage the apiary, both Doda and Arnott replied, "it can vary, but generally very little." Arnott takes time each week to make sure things are moving smoothly, focusing on details such as normal reproduction rates, nectar supply levels, monitoring for mites or diseases, and general colony behaviours, but for the most part the bees do a decent job of managing themselves. Now and then you need to add frames or a "super" (an additional bee box which is stacked on top of the nucleus) as the colonies grow, but that does not take long says Arnott. They both agree that the majority of time and labor is spent during spring start up and in the fall when they begin to harvest the honey. During this process, the frames are removed from the boxes, scraped, and placed into a large centrifuge. This can be a sticky and often messy process. The centrifuge then spins to eject the honey into a collection vat resting below. The honey is then poured out through a filter to remove the wax and debris, and bottled for consumption. In their best year, Doda claims they were able to procure over 2,000 pounds of honey!

Continued on page 18...

BEEKEEPING *Start Up Kit*

- A veil or full bee jacket** For your protection.
- A smoker** To calm the bees when you go near the hive.
- A bee brush** To carefully remove bees from frames when you inspect or go to harvest.
- Frame grips** Not necessary but useful when handling frames.
- Scraper** To uncap the honey comb when harvesting or for cleaning the frames off.
- A queen** You need to order a mated queen in order to start your colony.
- A queen catcher and muff** Sometimes you need to remove the queen. A clip will help you catch her and you need a muff to place her inside of so she does not fly away.
- Some bees** They can be ordered by mail or through your local bee association – important to choose the right kind of bee for you (Italian, Caucasian, and Russian are the most popular). If you are really good and a little lucky, you might be able to catch your own swarm in the wild for free.
- A hive** You need bee boxes to keep your bees in. You can start with a Nucleus (bottom brooding box) and grow your hive slowly by building and adding frames and bee boxes on top (called supers), or you can start with a full hive like Barrie Country Club did. You can also build your own, or you can order them through your bee association or online.
- An open and relatively isolated space** Bees need room to gather nectar and it is best if they are in an area where they will not be disturbed.
- An extractor** Not always necessary if you have a small set-up, but makes the harvesting of honey a little easier. An extractor is like a centrifuge which spins honey out of the combs and then allows the honey to be bottled for sale or consumption.

Of course there is much more to keeping bees than this brief list. There will be a lot of learning and room for mistakes in the first few years. If you are thinking about keeping bees, it is highly recommended that you join or consult with your local bee keepers association for more information and support.



Clockwise: Bill Arnott, bee keeper at Barrie Country Club getting his smoker going; Ed Doda, Superintendent, holding a frame; a hive with the top removed.
Credit: Cam Shaw

Continued from page 17...

Needless to say, beekeeping has been a major success story for the turf crew at Barrie Country Club. It has also been quite profitable. Doda claims that they were able to cover the start-up costs in less than two years. Their product is in such demand it has allowed them to create their own brand, dubbed "Barrie Country Club's Tee-Time Honey." They also have a line of lip balms and soaps, which coupled with the honey, sells out every year to their membership. And if you stop in to the turf shop to say hi, you may even be offered a mason jar of their homemade honey meade, but don't hold your breath, it is reserved for VIBees only.

The greatest challenge, notes Arnott, is the winter. As the temperatures drop, the bees need to be removed from the apiary and transported closer to the shop. The colony is wrapped up in several layers of insulation (usually tar paper or building paper) to buffer the hive from drastic temperature fluctuations. Arnott is always careful to leave a small top entrance for the bees which allows for moisture loss as well air exchange. During the winter the colony survive on food reserves (stored honey) in the nest until spring emergence. Therefore, bee keepers must be careful then not to overharvest the honey. The food supply can also be supplemented by doses of sugar water or corn syrup provided by the bee keeper throughout the winter. Similar to the grasses we manage on the golf course, bees are at the mercy of their environment. If the winter is long and cold, the colony can run low on sustenance in the spring and large numbers can die off. Alternatively, if there is a brief and early warm up, the hive can become too active too soon, and result in a shock if the temperatures drop severely. This is something we

can all relate to. Barrie Country Club's apiary has experienced both good and bad years, but overall things have worked out quite well. "The membership has been very supportive of the program" claims Doda. "We always have interested members inquiring about the bees... and once the fall arrives, everyone's excited to get their hands on some of that sweet golden honey." Doda admits much of the prosperity is related to having an experienced bee keeper on staff. But don't let that detail shy you away from trying it yourself. There are many prosperous beekeepers that started out with little to no experience, armed only with an idea, some timely research, and the will to experiment.

To this writer, the success of such a tale is not measured in pounds of honey, sticks of lip balm, bars of soap or dollars earned. It is measured in the profound change of perception people experience after seeing or hearing of such an operation. Members will pass jars of "Tee-Time" honey to their friends and tell wonderfully enlightening stories of how successfully a sensitive organism such as honey bees and golf courses can co-exist. It's an interesting and loveable story that leaves a lasting impression on those who hear it, which is something our industry needs more of. The decline of bee populations that the world has been experiencing is no secret. Genetically modified food, various diseases, and especially pesticides have been a major target of this increasing issue. Neonicotinoids have been the centre of much scrutiny regarding honey bee colony collapse, and as a result, golf courses fall under a similar gaze. Stories like Barrie Country Club's Tee-Time Honey are a refreshingly honest reminder to the world that golf courses are a sanctuary of sport, responsible management, and environmental integrity. ■

Extend Your Learning Elsewhere

Sean May, Turf Professional

In the golf industry the preparation for golf tournaments gives a rush of excitement and the opportunity to showcase the best of the golf course property. I want to briefly share my recent experience and encourage others to volunteer at a professional tour event if they have the opportunity. The journey for me was a 2,200 km drive down to Orlando, Florida to work "The Kings" tournament. I volunteered for one week at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill this past March.

Arriving at Bay Hill on the Sunday prior to the tournament, I was kindly welcomed by the golf course maintenance staff. I quickly had to adjust and get into the daily summer routine again. Most mornings we started between 4 and 4:30 a.m. and worked until between 8 and 9:00 a.m. that morning. Our evening maintenance shifts would normally start at 4 p.m. and we would work until dark. Given this schedule, we were able to have the day to venture off to either watch golf or do what we wished. The majority of the week, I was mowing greens in the morning and rolling greens for the afternoon shift. I was able to see the extra preparation that is required on a daily basis to have the course

ready for PGA tournament play. It was also interesting and helpful to see how a different operation is run. This has allowed me to learn a few things that could be implemented back home to improve operations.

During the week I was able to network with some of the other volunteers and hear about their own experiences. In talking with the Superintendent of Bay Hill, Matt Beaver, I was able to ask specific questions that I was interested in knowing the answers to. Matt was very hands on and I found him easy to approach. Having access to industry leaders such as this is invaluable experience.

There is no doubt that preparing for a club tournament at any golf course does share some similarities with hosting a PGA Tour event. No matter what the scope of the tournament is, you still stress over the details and desire perfection. The difference I found is that preparing for a professional tour event is on a whole different level. By this I mean the infrastructure, the amount of volunteers needed and the intensity of daily maintenance practices. Fortunately for Bay Hill, they host this same tournament every single year and are well prepared.

My week at Bay Hill was more than I was ever expecting and I am thankful for the opportunity I was given. I would highly recommend to others in the industry to step out of their comfort zone and volunteer at a professional tour event. It is a great chance to learn the level of preparation that is involved in hosting a PGA tournament and it also affords you the opportunity to find ways to improve your own operation. Couple this with the chance to network with industry leaders, as well as watch some great golf and the experience is well worth your while. The golf season may not be the time to get away for some, but there are many events in our shoulder season that are available to volunteer at as well. I just wanted to end with thanking the staff at Bay Hill for having me down for the week. ■



Sean May volunteers his time to at Bay Hill Club, Orlando, Florida in preparation for the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Evaluate Irrigation Practices Now to Maximize Effectiveness

This spring was met with a number of repair projects and much of the summer has been spent catching up on the little things that make a difference in your operation. Although July is typically a peak month for outdoor water use, sometimes it makes sense to spend some extra time checking your irrigation system going into the fall and rethinking your irrigation practices. Irrigation is a valuable tool in maintaining high quality playing surfaces and proper irrigation practices will extend the environmental sustainability of golf within our communities.

Water availability and irrigation practices impact so many of our management practices and proper irrigation can reduce the loss of fertilizers and decrease disease pressure, resulting in savings in both fungicides and fertilizers. In addition, a poorly functioning irrigation system can be very costly in the long run. A full irrigation audit is something that most operations will benefit from, but there are many little things that can be addressed without performing a full irrigation audit. Most operations maintain their system on a regular basis, but it is always worthwhile to take extra time at the end of a summer season addressing your irrigation system and practices.

Prioritize Irrigated Areas

Not all areas of the course get the same amount of use and not all fairways or tees need to be run on the same cycle. Soil based tees on natural root zones often can be irrigated less frequently than tees with constructed sand root zones. Tees that see minimal play, such as the back tees, tend to require less overseeding and repair, so make sure they are on their own schedule so that you are not using a resource where it is not needed. Finally, the grass variety on the tee, fairway and rough can impact how often it needs to be irrigated. Spend time in the fall evaluating each irrigated area individually to determine the maximum time between irrigation events to preserve water and to maximize effectiveness. These observations can then be correlated to environmental conditions and measurements of evapotranspiration (ET) or soil moisture.

Irrigation is a valuable tool in maintaining high quality playing surfaces and proper irrigation practices will extend the environmental sustainability of golf within our communities.

Irrigation Run Off

One of the greatest losses of water during irrigation events occurs when water is applied at a rate that exceeds infiltration into the soil. This leads to runoff of hilled areas and overwatering of low areas.



L-R: Ring around a head showing uneven water distribution due to aging equipment. Head sitting lower than it should a few months after repairing an irrigation break, resulting in poor distribution and water pooling in the low settled area.

Consider breaking the irrigation cycle into three equal segments split by two 20-minute soak in periods. This allows for irrigation water to infiltrate and allows watering deeper and less frequently throughout dry periods. While this may not make sense to work through the entire irrigation cycle this way due to the logistics of the system, these practices can be targeted to areas with finer textures and more severe slopes.

Determine Irrigation Needs Efficiently

Rather than just setting the irrigation system to water on a schedule, use field observations or climatic data to determine irrigation needs. This will help you justify your irrigation budget and use water more efficiently. It will also let you know when to skip a planned irrigation event because of sufficient rainfall.

Check the System

Take the time to check the system and make sure all the heads are functioning properly. Make sure that they are aligned in the right directions. One common issue occurs during the rush of summer irrigation breaks that are often repaired with less than ideal equipment (e.g. fairway heads on green surrounds) due to availability and the need for a quick fix to be replaced later. Checking later on to make sure these heads were replaced with the proper equipment is essential. In addition, take the time to examine wear and tear on irrigation heads and make sure they are still viable. Make sure the system is running at

the proper pressure and the pump is checked and up to date with its service. Check the programs on the controller and make sure there are no ghost programs running from the heat of the summer when more frequent irrigation was necessary or left from a recovery period.

Regular maintenance of the irrigation system should be part of the day-to-day operations of every golf course. At the end of this summer, spend some extra time to prioritize and rethink irrigation practices. In addition, take the time to do the little things to maintain your system that may have been overlooked in the busy recovery times of the spring and summer. This will help operations economically and will also improve the sustainability of golf operations by conserving and using less water. ■

Portions of this article were previously published in the Sports Turf Manager.



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That Evil Weevil

There has been some interesting work done recently on one of the most pesky insects on golf courses, the annual bluegrass weevil. If you feel that it is a difficult insect to control, you are correct. Some of the reasons for this have to do with its complicated biology, which is slowly coming to light because of in depth studies.

Most years annual bluegrass weevil adult migration is bimodal, meaning it has two peaks. The work that proves this was done by Dr. Dan Peck while at Cornell University. Further work was done in collaboration between Dr. Peck and Dr. Brenda Nailor. This has been corroborated by Dr. Pat Vittum's group at University of Massachusetts and it is something that we have confirmed here at the GTI in Guelph in 2013 and 2014.

This is only the beginning of the story. It gets worse. Benjamin McGraw and Dr. Pat Vittum not only collected adult annual bluegrass weevils as they migrated into

the short grass from their overwintering sites, they also separated them by sex and then dissected them to determine if they were reproductively mature. They did this over the 2012 and 2013 annual bluegrass migratory season.

What they found in 2012 was that all of the females that reached the short mown grass were reproductively mature. In 2013, between 45% and 80% of the returning females were reproductively mature and they reached 100% reproductive maturity three weeks after migrating. There can be a big variation from year to year regarding female reproductive maturity timing.

So that was the females. What about the males? In those first three weeks in 2013, between 0 and 60% of the males were reproductively mature. In 2012, it took four weeks to reach 0-60% reproductive maturity in the males. So basically, mating does not take place until well after they return from their overwintering sites. This is further confirmed with the finding that after the second peak of adult migration, 40-50% of the females were inseminated. It is kind of like humans, the females mature earlier than the males.

There were differences in the length of the egg-laying period of female annual bluegrass weevils in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, the female life span was five weeks and each female laid between 80-105 eggs. In 2013, the lifespan was longer (eight weeks) and the total eggs laid per female adult was lower, ranging between 56-70 eggs. There were also strong correlations between weekly degree day accumulations

and the average eggs laid per week. The hotter it was the more eggs were laid that week.

You might be saying to yourself, this is all very interesting, but what does it mean to me as a golf course superintendent? Well, I think it means that it is important to know when that second wave of migration takes place (usually three weeks after the first wave), because before that there isn't really any mating going on because neither the females and most probably the males are not reproductively mature. If we get a prolonged cold spell two to three weeks after the peak adult migration, that could slow down the egg-laying. It also means that the timing of an insecticide application targeting the emerging early instar weevil larvae is very complicated and depends on the timing of the first wave of adult migration and the degree day accumulation during egg-laying (roughly three weeks later).

The full article has been published in the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online and can be viewed at the following web address:

<http://usgatero.msu.edu/v13/n2-38.pdf>. ■



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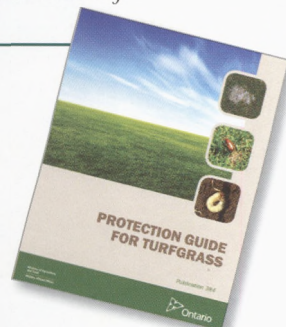
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New OMAFRA Protection Guide for Turf

The new *OMAFRA Protection Guide for Turfgrass*, Publication 384 is now available online in English and French. It contains all of the pesticides (fungicides, insecticides and herbicides) registered for use on turf as of Dec. 2013. Information in this guide is for sod farmers, golf courses and contains information on Class 11 pesticide actives registered for use under the cosmetic pesticide ban in Ontario. Here is the link: www.ontario.ca/bwg3. This guide replaces the 2009 version of OMAFRA Publication 384 and the 2012 Supplement. If you are interested in this publication you may also be interested in the OMAFRA Guide to Nursery and Landscape Plant Production and IPM. Here is the link: www.ontario.ca/bwa5



The Age-Old Question

As we grow up, one question is always front and center, what do you want to be when you grow up? For many of you, the decision was easy. Maybe you followed in a family member's footsteps, maybe you found a passion while working a summer job in high school, or maybe you just thought something seemed interesting at the time and got lucky in choosing the right path. For many people though, like me, turf is something that I just happened to stumble into. I had taken a chance on something that seemed interesting to me and found my love for turf while working a summer job in preparation for a completely different program. I didn't have the luxury of figuring this out when I was still in high school though. I struggled through several years of bouncing from various jobs before finally finding my stride in the turf industry. While I've always had a love for the game of golf, it never occurred to me that I could make a career of maintaining turf. It is imperative that teachers make these options known to students so that they can make an educated decision on the direction of their career path.

Recently, we hosted some local camp kids for some golf workshops. It was a breath of fresh air to see the game of golf showcased to kids who may not have had the opportunity otherwise. While not directly related to turf, there is no reason that opportunities such as this could not be used in a similar fashion. I can't say I would have been opposed to learning about my

future career path before finishing high school if I was given the chance. There are many obvious career choices such as a teacher, doctor, or lawyer, but many other options, such as turf, get pushed aside to make way for these. Something as simple as a guest speaker or even a field trip can go a long way in showing someone the possibility of a future career. Less than one year ago, we made several trips to explore various facets of the turf industry through the first semester of the turf diploma program at the University of Guelph, and even after deciding my career path, it's tough to ignore some of the arguments supporting their particular fields.

Even after graduation, it is easy to see the impact that something as simple as this can have, so why not make use of these tools early on to help our youth make educated decisions on their future? We are all educators in a way. Never be afraid to share ideas, including the idea of turf as a career. The door is there to walk through. Sometimes we just need to be pointed in the right direction. ■



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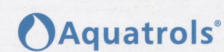


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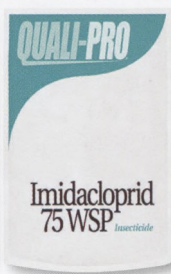


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The Industry Sales Rep: An Endangered Species?

With increasing frequency, while on sales calls, I have participated in interesting and frank conversations about the direction our industry is bound. It sure can be fun to try to guess and speculate where we are all heading, but it does beg the question, what does the future hold for us all in golf? That's not an easy question to answer, but as this column is meant to offer a perspective from a sales representative point of view, what does the future have in store for us? Will there be a need for an industry representative in 10, 15 or 20 years down the road?

Understandably, some might scoff at the title of this column considering the current plethora of suppliers vying for a superintendent's time. It's understandable that some might consider the notion that salesmen are on the verge of extinction to be laughable. That being said, the "Golden Age" of the salesman is most certainly long gone. The Golden Age is now nothing more than a romantic stroll down memory lane to a bygone era – at least in the golf side of things. By "Golden Age", I refer to a simpler time, so I am told, when there were two or three suppliers to buy product from and when the salesman was virtually a single source of information for the golf course superintendent – product related or otherwise.

Nowadays, one can hear comments such as how the internet might replace and be the death knell of my vocation. It's no secret that more and more consumers are purchasing online, replacing some of the face to face transactions that used to occur. Consumers today have access to such a wide array of products that can be purchased via the internet. So, why can't one simply order their fertilizer, chemical or course needs online as well without having to place an order through a salesman?

Interestingly, the demise of the salesman has been predicted since the early 20th century. In 1916, an article in the New York Times asked, "are salesman necessary?" Print advertisement was said to be more efficient and the conversions of farms into cities, where news and information spreads at a faster rate, were cited as possible threats. Fast forward fifty years and a book by E.B. Weiss, that created some attention, predicted that through pre-qualifying, pre-selling, branding extensive marketing, the salesman would be essentially eliminated.

The internet undoubtedly has leveled the information asymmetry, but in my self-interested opinion, I believe there will always be a need for a golf industry representative for the following reasons:

As much as the internet is the "information highway", it is also the "disinformation highway". A good salesman should provide accurate and unbiased information on all existing and new products that will best fit the need of the golf course. Also, with time at a premium nowadays, who has the time to sift through pages of product information?

Secondly, there could be longer wait times to receive product. A salesman is the key contact who bypasses customer service and communicates with warehouse personnel to drop their current task and divert their energies elsewhere when a customer needs product immediately for a 6 a.m. fungicide application the following day. That's not mentioning finding product for a customer when the warehouse is out of stock!

Thirdly, and what I used to appreciate the most from our sales representatives, was that they were always just a phone call away to simply share an idea with, or discuss product application rates and mixes when a decision had to be made immediately. The key is to build a relationship based on trust.

It's no secret that our market is very well serviced or maybe even over-serviced. Who knows? If population dynamics are accurate, maybe we are due for a little attrition on our side of things, but at this point, I still believe there is a role for the golf industry representative. All we have to do is to strive to provide value, unbiased information and the best customer service before and after a sale. ■



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Better Certified Than Sorry

I know that my last two articles have dealt with Ministry of Labour (MOL) issues. This is a situation that I believe you need to take very seriously. The MOL/WSIB is getting very serious about dealing with safety issues in our workplace.

There are new initiatives such as the supervisor and worker training that was required to be completed prior to July 1st this year. If you haven't completed this, I suggest that this be a priority in your schedule. You can have your supervisors and workers complete this training online or you can arrange to have a trainer complete the training session in-house for your supervisors and workers. I have heard that the MOL has been instructed to issue compliance orders if this is not completed when they inspect a workplace. Remember, as I said last issue, golf courses are on the radar.

Another new initiative that the MOL is working toward for 2015 is a revamping of the training for Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) members. The main thrust of these changes will be affecting those who deliver the approved training programs. The following information is from the MOL web site:

Key highlights of the 2014 JHSC Certification Training Provider Standard include:

- Training provider requirements outlining compliance with legislation, insurance, course materials, learning needs, alternate delivery modes and evaluation.
- Training instructor requirements outlining qualifications and delivery.
- Training evaluator requirements.
- Code of ethics.

- Administrative requirements outlining items such as recordkeeping, maintenance of approval status and reporting.

To support ongoing learning for certified members, it is anticipated that the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) will also establish certification requirements that would require those trained under the 2014 standards to take refresher training, or receive a one-time exemption for an active certified member, within three years of certification to maintain certification status.

These changes are going to mean a change in the cost of training, but at this time your existing certified members will be "grandfathered" into the new system, which may save future costs. The following information has been taken from the Workplace Safety and Prevention Services website:

More information on the new standards will be released in the coming months. In the meantime, here are four essential facts:

1. No changes to certification training would take effect until early 2015.
2. Your workplace is expected to continue having JHSC members certified - as needed - until the new standard takes effect.
3. JHSC members who become certified under the new standards would be required to take refresher training within three years of certification.
4. JHSC members who are already certified or who take certification training before the new standards are in effect would not have to retake certification training.

Although the changes won't take effect

right away, there are steps you can take now to prepare:

- Make sure you are already complying with existing certification training requirements.
- Maintain clear and up-to-date records on who has been trained and when.
- Continue providing certification training as required. Don't hold off until the changes take effect.
- Ensure people in your workplace who are responsible for managing training understand the nature of the changes and how they would affect your organization.

It may be a good idea to get your JHSC committee members certified before the new legislation takes effect.

For your information, the Workplace Safety and Prevention Services website (<http://wsps.ca>) is an excellent resource for current health and safety information. This site, along with the MOL website at <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca> and the WSIB site at <http://www.wsib.on.ca>, will provide you with a well-rounded understanding of the current legislation and initiatives promoted by the MOL and WSIB. ■



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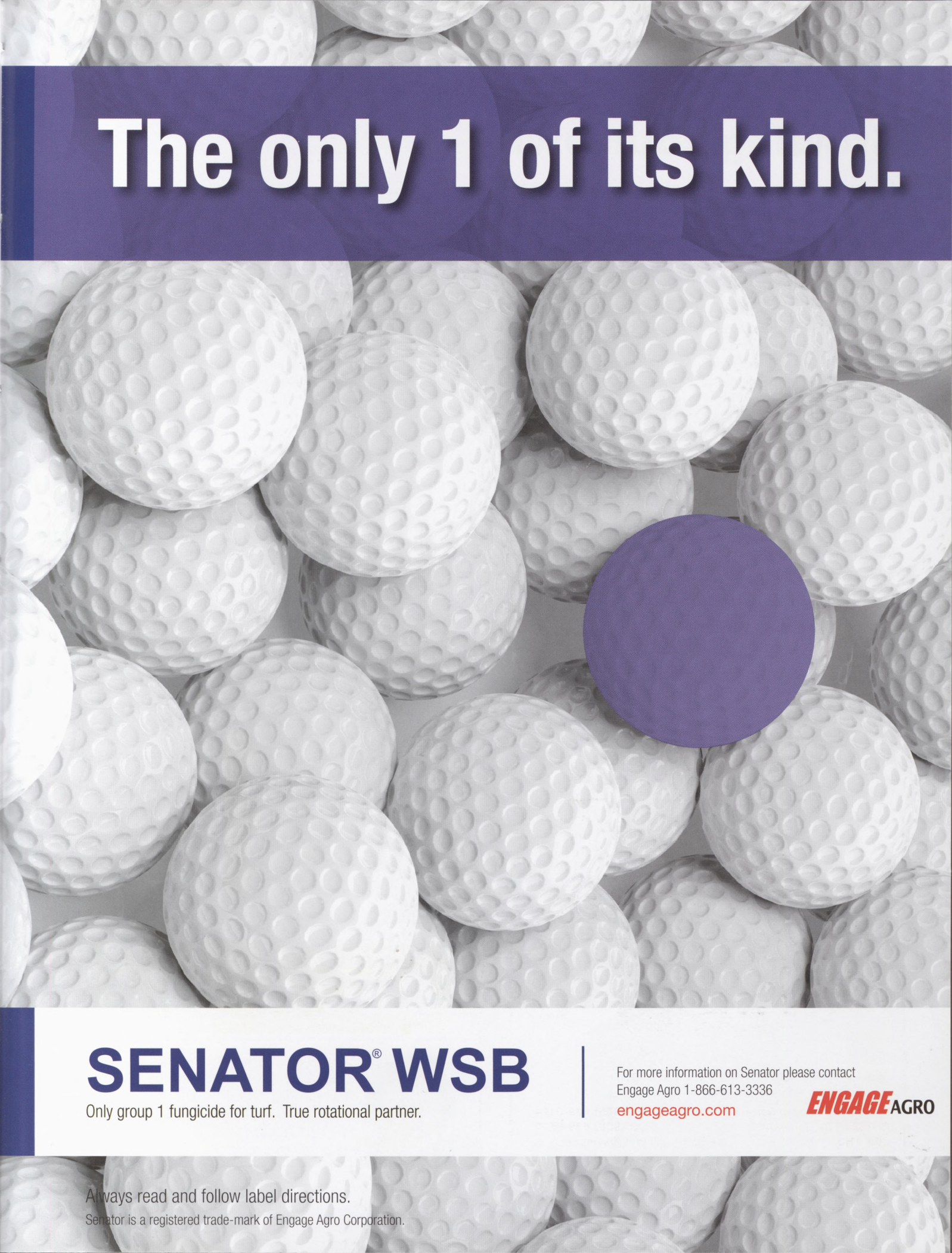
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Growing Your Own

Every passionate hobby gardener and professional horticulturists' dream is to have a greenhouse, whether it be at home or at their place of work. There is no greater sense of fulfillment than planting a seed or taking a cutting, providing the necessities of life, growing the plant to the point where it has great form and is ready to bloom just in time to be planted outside in the garden. We love this feeling and we take great pride in accomplishing this.

Obviously any major greenhouse operation, whether it is for flower or vegetable production, may have started as something someone enjoyed or had passion for, but was turned into a business and we all know what operating a business is all about. When I began my tenure at Muskoka Lakes G & CC, I was very much interested in achieving quality improvements, all the while cutting costs. After two seasons, I began looking at where money could be saved without sacrificing quality. After recognizing the culture of this particular club, I realized that flora and fauna was very important and money would be spent long term on things like hanging baskets on our docks, planter boxes on decks, as well as annual beds and the vast amount of perennial beds. So it seemed like a no brainer to propose the construction of a greenhouse on site.

I considered how much money was spent every year on the annuals and container gardens, which, at that time, was nearly the entire horticulture budget. The local garden center would grow all of our planters and deliver them in May and then we would purchase all of our annuals and perennials as well. If you are in charge of these expenses, you know it may not be that cheap and in the Muskoka region where there is limited competition amongst businesses, you are forced to pay a bit of a premium.

I came to the conclusion that we could save money long-term and increase our quality as well as potentially increase the amount of product we could install by having a greenhouse onsite.

I'd like to mention some of the other benefits to growing your own, outside of the financial savings. Firstly, having the ability to control the health of all the plant material before it goes into the ground is a positive. Pruning, pinching, shaping and fertilizing can be controlled, where your plant material may not get the same type of detailed attention from the garden center.

Garden centers are professionals for the most part,

but they have their own challenges that can affect product quality.

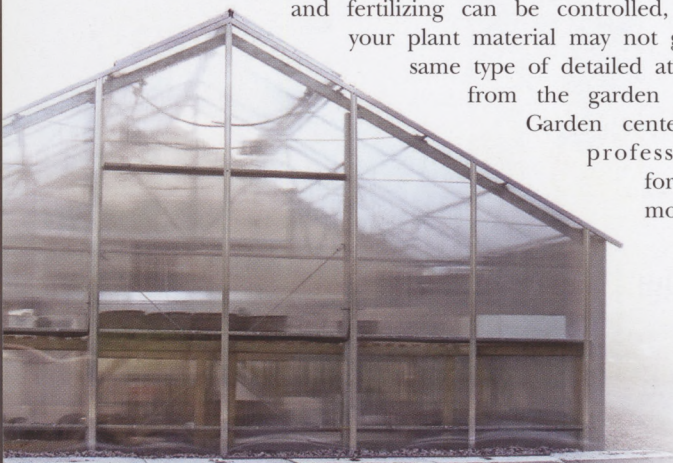
Secondly, when you are ordering plant material in amounts that total hundreds to thousands, and of the same varieties for a specific colour scheme, it would be extremely frustrating if your local garden center got something wrong with your order. It could also be time consuming to correct. It is a very comforting feeling to know that you can create a design, order all of the plant material either as seed, seedling or rooted cutting, and have it in your hands in the beginning of March.

Lastly, tropicals or indoor plants that are displayed in your clubhouse, proshop or other guest or public areas, can be stored or grown in the greenhouse during the offseason.

We are producing forty 16" hanging baskets, thirty planter boxes, roughly 2,000 annuals for garden beds, and in the past, hundreds of perennials. What we do is basically the same as what garden centers would do. Rooted cuttings or seedlings, called plugs,

are available from wholesale greenhouses. I use Stokes Seed Co. as the broker and the greenhouses where the material is grown are located in Grimsby (Ed Sobkowich Greenhouses and Linwell Greenhouses). They sell flats of one hundred to five hundred. The prices of these flats of tiny plants are what make the whole project economically viable. A small percentage of what we produce is done from seed for both annual and perennial plant material. We are ordering approximately 2,500 of these little plants to be transplanted and then grown to size for outdoor boxes, baskets or planting. Not only are annuals such as petunia, salvia, impatiens and begonia available, but perennials are available in this fashion as well. We have been able to increase the amount of container gardens that we do, as well as annual beds, because this method has allowed us to realize a strong profit on the project. We now have the ability to create more containers than we were originally buying and we can use them around tee decks, for ladies day, decorating areas for special events and to have as spares in case of plant failure. There has been improvement to our perennial beds as well over the past few years from being able to produce perennials by seed, or ordered as plugs, and grown in the greenhouse.

The initial investment may seem difficult to justify. If there is a commitment to funds being allocated for flora and fauna long term and the project is planned correctly, it can impact your bottom line in a positive manner in future years and you will also reap the benefits from beautiful floral displays. I would gladly share some of the financial details of the project with those who wish to know more and may consider this in the future for their operation. ■



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Ten Years Ago Today

The board of directors in 2004 were: **Rob Ackerman** (pres.), Weston, **Mark Piccolo** (past pres.), Galt, **Paul Scenna** (vice pres.) Donalda, **Bob Burrows** (tres.), Rosedale, **Sean DeSilva**, Taboo, **Jeff Alexander**, Parry Sound, **Chris Andrejicka**, Essex, **Jarrold Barakett**, Deer Ridge, **Randy Booker**, Dundas Valley, **Doug Breen**, Golf North, **Rob Gatto**, King Forest, **Jeff Stauffer**, Credit Valley, **John Bladon**, Nu Gro Corp, Editor of *Green is Beautiful*.

ON THE MOVE: **James White** went from King's Bay Golf Club to Carruther's Creek Golf Club and **Tim Colin** moved from Carruther's Creek Golf Club to Multitines. **Mark Schneider** left Owen Sound Golf and Country Club and moved to Saugeen Golf Club.

EVENTS: The Guelph Turfgrass Research Foundation Field Day was held on August 17th and **Dr. Eric Lyons** was introduced as the new research scientist at the University of Guelph. The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Tournament was held on August 23rd at the Burlington Golf and Country Club hosted by **Pelino Scenna**. In recognition of the low gross and low net, silver plates were renamed after OTRF founders **Paul Dermott** and **Alan Beeney**.

The IPM Accreditation Program was well on its way to becoming a reality under the direction of OGSA director **Jeff Stauffer**.

On July 15th, golf courses in Peterborough were damaged from seven inches of rain in an eight-hour period. **Jennifer Pendrith**, superintendent at Kawartha Golf and Country Club, had the course opened in a couple of days with the help of 60 volunteers.

In response to Walkerton, where seven people died from drinking contaminated drinking water, the National Golf Course Owners Association recommended that all water containers be removed from golf courses.

TOURNAMENTS: The Pro/Super Challenge was held at Glenway Golf and Country Club hosted by **Peter Dickey**. Low

team was **Frank Marando** and **Chris Nelson** from Markland Wood Country Club. Low Superintendent was **Thom Charters**.

The 59th Annual Alex McClumpha Tournament was held at Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club on October 5th, hosted by **Jim Flett**. Low gross for superintendents and assistants were **Bill Gilkes**, Scarboro, 73, **Neil Tandan**, Weston, 76 and **Tom Brian**, Burlington, 78. Low gross for associates and guests were **Kevin Holmes** 74, **Jason D'Andrea**, Duke, 79 and **Gary Tate**, Plant Products, 80. The winner of the George Darou Trophy was **Ray Richards** from Mad River Golf Club, which was presented by **Ron Crag** from Turf Care.

ACHIEVEMENTS: **Gordon Witteveen** was selected as the recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Distinguished Service Award. He was acknowledged at the opening session of GCSAA's 75th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Feb. 12, 2004, in San Diego.

IN MEMORY: **Jim Sara**, TDI International and former superintendent, passed away June 23rd.

Dr. Houston B. Couch passed away on September 24th. **Dr. Couch** finished his career as Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Edward Rybski (Class AA retired member) passed away on November 1st. ■



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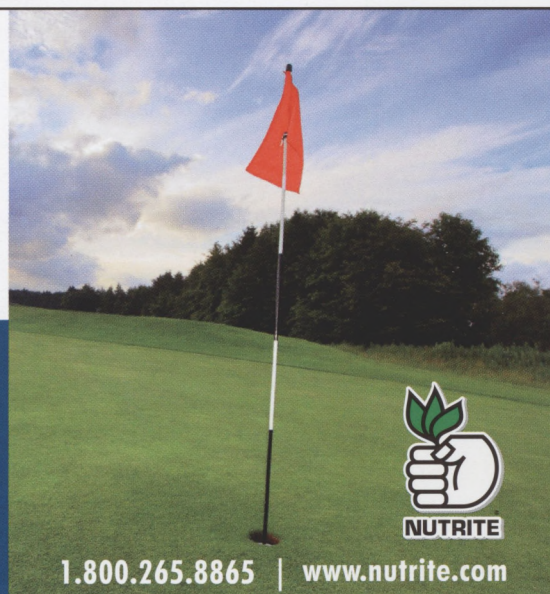
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The Great Escape

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
GolfNorth Properties

I played golf the other day – just for fun. Not some corporate schmoozefest round. Not some obligatory round with a member or other staff. Not some fundraiser scramble that I felt guilty enough to attend. Not even on a course I'm responsible for, where I was compiling a mental list of deficiencies. I played a great course, with people that I like, for pure pleasure – and it was fantastic.

It kind of bothers me how long it's been since I did that. All of those other rounds are fine; I mean it's better than coal mining. And nobody's ever going to feel sorry for us, because we have to play various mandatory rounds of golf as a part of our job. But it's not the same. If you're playing with people who ultimately hold the future of your career in their hands, you need to be pretty careful what you say (filter in the fully ON position). And if you're playing on your own course, that same round quickly becomes a combination interview, and lecture on turfgrass maintenance. If you're with your staff, then the round is broken up by countless teaching moments – also known as, what were you thinking when you left it like that? moments. Both rounds are invaluable as part of a superintendent's job, but really have precious little to do with golf.

The rounds that I love, are the ones where I can relax, play the game for its own sake, and let the conversation randomly flow from place to place with little or no thought (filter in the fully OFF position). And the version of Doug with his filter in the fully OFF position, is a pretty fun guy! Unfortunately, there don't seem to be too many of those rounds any more. One of the principle reasons, is that playing golf eventually gets to be like a bus drivers holiday. After spending the entire day/week/month/season on the golf course, the last thing that you want to do, is spend more time on

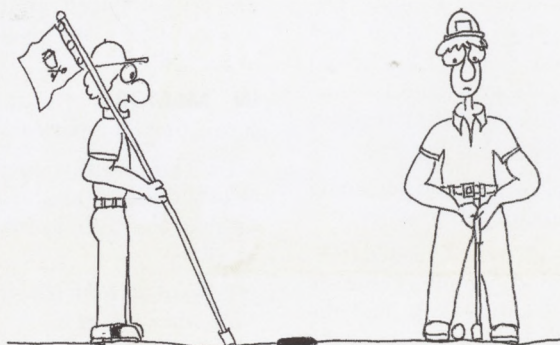
it. I'm cognizant, that playing a peaceful game on a beautiful landscape, is exactly where most people would want to spend their recreational hours – but according to the book, even Shangri La gets a little monotonous after a while.

But mostly, it's that there are demands on my time (our time), every waking moment, of every single day. It's hard to block out enough time for a purely recreational round of golf (any purely recreational activity, for that matter) when I know that there are 100 emails in the inbox of my BlackBerry, and 10 times that on my desk top. I have three separate voicemails. Add the demands of two active kids, and a wife (who I passed in the hall the other day – nice girl), on top of the normal golf career issues, and there isn't too much time left for anything. I used to like to go visit people, especially at their cottages, golf courses, and boats. We used to take day trips to museums and amusement parks. I used to play regular gigs with a band.

But on the golf course the other day, somewhere around the eighth tee, I remembered why people play this game. It allows one to escape from all of that for a few hours. Many clubs won't even let you use a cell phone on the property. So there are no phone calls, no emails, no old fashioned postal mail, not even a Pony Express rider could get to me. I can block everything but the voices in my head, telling me that I ought to be working on – well, something. And somewhere

around the eight hole, even those voices succumb to the solace that's out there on the greens.

What we're really selling in this business – is happiness, or escapism, or some combination of the two. It's disguised as a game played with sticks and balls in a pasture field, but ultimately, no one would do it, if it didn't offer the other. And every time I get out there on the links with some good friends, I feel a goodly amount of both. Expect some calls folks, I'm coming to visit. ■



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