



## *Presidents Message: Jason Moon*

WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN. My 3 year term is finally over after 6 or is it 7 years. When I started on the board I had high hopes to change the association and make it bigger and better. Well that didn't happen. Like so many people before me you find out quickly that nobody likes change. And certainly nobody wants to stand up and get involved with change. So here we are S.O.S different board.

I would like to apologize for my lack of participation as your president in 2010 (I told you to vote for Brian). I have to say that for me 2010 BLEW! My greens came out winter crappy and they stayed crappy until I punched holes in them at the end of August. Now when I say crappy, what I really mean is they weren't any better than anyone else's, they were mediocre at best, just average. Green speeds of only 10 on a good day. There was just something about this year that just sucked. Most of time I felt like Dr. Murray trying to keep Michael Jackson alive, Injecting uppers followed by some downers chasing it with liquid something or other trying to find that even ground that it seems only Keith Richards can attain. All the while my kids are growing older and my hair is turning grayer and if you owned any Philip Morris stock my staff and I made you a few dividends for you this summer. Oh yeah and my wife had to mow the lawn, which was actually pretty good aside from her stripping issues. God Bless Her for putting up with me and this industry.

Oh yes and then there was the members, each one a Certified Google Agronomist telling me what, when and how to save the greens. Little did they know most of the time they were researching *Agrostis bent* grown in Australia. You know the guy I'm talking about....the one that has Chem-Lawn spray his yard or the one who was a cart boy at the club up the street. This is also the same guy that gets in a quick nine at 7 in the evening and just doesn't understand why the greens are slow and bumpy 13 hours after they have been mown. I liken most of these guys to Pilot or Judas. Now most of you that know me know I am nowhere near Christ like, but most of the season I felt "the way things were going they're gonna crucify me"...you know it ain't easy (some of you will get that). I digress yet again.

Basically what I'm getting at here is when the chips are down the first thing to go on the back burner are your volunteer jobs. So though I may not have been the President this year I managed to stay married, see my kids sporting and dance events and keep my job.....at least for now. And that my friends is really what it's all about. So I bid you all farewell and hope that 2011 doesn't BLOW! Peace Out. Oh I would like to thank my wife Jada, Clint Travis, Derf Soller, Matt Nelson, Rick Mears, Mark Jensen, Wes York and my Staff for helping me keep that job! Couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to Jessi and the Board! Peace, Love and Fungicides!

Jason T Moon



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The 2010 IGCSA fall conference will be held exclusively at a Bloomington Country Club on the 4th and 5th of November. This is the first time that we can remember that all events (education, dinner and golf) being kept within the golf community. We would like to thank Tom Hulet GC Superintendent for hosting this event. Thanks to all the Bloomington CC Members and Employees.



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## *Best e-Mail of the Month*

### THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS ~A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

**Monday** - Want to spray bad dollar spot on greens. Cushman won't work. Sprayer won't work. I don't want to work. Nobody else wants to work. Two of the crew stayed home and did not work. Just had a phone call. The Junior Golfers are to have a shotgun start on both nines at 8:30. Hung up in caller's face. Should not have had that last beer last night. Mowed greens and tried not to notice that the cups needed changing and the dollar spot is even worse than I thought. Did not mow 13. Hate it. Between the winterkill, oil spill kill and the disease, we ought to tow it to the SPCA and have it put to sleep. Chairman left message in the pro shop to get in touch with him at once. He better not hold his breath. Hit 95 by late afternoon. Late for supper, wife mad, supper lousy, I'm mad. Watered 'til dark. Showered and went to bed. Wife sexy - I'm not.

**Tuesday** - Went in at daylight - the air feels like a police dog's breath. Got the sprayer working. Can't figure out why the chemical companies package dusty chemicals in bags that are impossible to open without getting it all over yourself and the sprayer, not to mention breathing it. The cheapest cereal on the market is packaged in easy-to-open-and-close containers. We all should go to granulars - that would snap their eyes open. Fairway tractor stuck in wet spot right next to the huge localized dry spot the crew calls Iran. Why are there so many cars in the club lot? The Pro shop says it is a ladies member-guest transferred from another club that had a fire in their kitchen. I think I will set one in ours and let them eat at Burger King. Went home early - slept through supper. Wife mad again, too tired to be mad. Mowed rough 'til dark. Showered and ate cold, leftover supper. Felt sexy - wife still mad from early evening. Lost interest.

**Wednesday** - Slept late, went in at 7:00. Changed cups 18 greens, hit 14 rocks. No record, but close. Thirteen green had a disease that looked like vomit. On close inspection, it was vomit - what a relief! You can always hose off vomit. Birds working on the greens. How many cutworms does it take to fill up a crow? I think their mother was raped by a rooster the way they scratch with their black toenails and dig with their beaks. The member who owns the ice cream plant told me we need more sand in the traps. I told him his maple walnut needs more nuts. He said "times are tough" - I agree. Went in the club for a cup of coffee and the manager asked me if I knew anything about the septic backing up. Left without getting the coffee. Fairly normal afternoon except we are down to one Cushman. Are flat tires contagious? Home for supper at the right time for a change - no one is home. Note says heat a TV dinner. Go down to the Old Eagle Inn and wash a steak down with a half-dozen PBRs. Finish mowing rough. Wife mad. Don't care, sleep on floor after watching Sands of Iwo Jima. Love Big Duke.

**Thursday** - My yellow crud is back. Every year it comes the end of July. Interesting light green spots get weaker looking then turn yellow ... then gray ... then dead. Some say it is Fusarium, some say Anthracnose, some say fu-nose. Wife says it is my imagination. My assistant got rid of the persistent red leaf spot patch on the practice green. He cut it with an eight-inch patcher and threw it in the pond. Sure is wonderful what they teach you at the University of Rhode Island...

**FRIDAY** - In at dawn again and fell over the barn dog before I could get a light on. Friday is the day we do EVERYTHING. Assistant late again. Sometimes I wonder about him. He wouldn't even hold still when I had to cut the bubblegum out of his hair. Got mad because I cut his headband. This is the day I was going to spray because I missed last Friday that should have gone down the Friday before that. Maybe Monday. Maybe by then the cutworms will have turned to moths and have flown away. Looped around the course in the pre-dawn light and saw four joggers, a mushroom picker, two ball hoppers in the pond, three members walking dogs, an old Italian lady cutting dandelions and a Canadian goose in the pond. Threw a rock at the last mentioned. I love the course this early in the morning - so quiet, peaceful and tranquil. I think I'll call the state troopers and have all these people arrested. Picked up the remains of a big beer party by the fifteenth and then went to work.

**SATURDAY** - Everyone in the world loves weekends except Greenkeepers. More turf disasters have happened on Saturday and Sunday than all the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays put together. Right off the bat four pins and a dozen markers missing and the usual moronic messages written in the sand traps. Why can't they write inspirational messages or the weather report? A neat group partied last night. All imported beer, an empty Southern Comfort bottle and two Cutty Sarks - members' kids. Went to look at a very large pupa dangling from the tree by the ninth and after gazing in wonder for two seconds realized it was a tampon. Left it there, maybe it will hatch.

**SUNDAY** - Greens mower failed to show till I had mowed five greens. I would have fired him but then I would have had to finish. Things looking pretty good today. Can't wait till Monday to see what the hell will happen next.

Sent in by Matt Nelson

# JOB POST

## **Superintendent Clear Lakes Country Club Buhl, Idaho**

**Date posted:** October 25, 2010

**Date Available:** January 7, 2011

**Application Deadline:** December 1, 2010

**Course Type:** Semi-Private Membership

**Number of Holes:** 18

**Open Year-Round:** Yes, weather permitting

**Salary:** \$38-40,500/year

**Benefits:** Health insurance, golf privileges, dues for local GCSAA chapter, expenses related to local and regional educational seminars

**Staff:** 3 year-round and 5 additional seasonal employees

**Education:** Turf education preferred but not a requirement

**Experience:** Previous experience as a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent

**Duties:** Ability to operate independently with strong managements skills within the framework of a team environment. Monitor the course and Club grounds for disease, insects and implement the appropriate control strategy. Develop a fertilizer program and methods for monitoring same. Responsible for training employees in the golf maintenance department and developing a comprehensive facility management plan with the goal of providing exceptional playing conditions and the maximization of overall turf health. Strong interpersonal skills a must with the ability to communicate effectively both orally and written.

**Special Skills:** Technically proficient in sprayer calibration/application, irrigation troubleshooting, moisture management, use/timing of cultural practices and fertilization application/timing. Knowledgeable in budget development and monitoring. Strong mechanical skills a plus.

**Primary Grasses:** Bent/Poa putting surfaces, Perennial Ryegrass and Kentucky Bluegrass fairways, tees and rough

**Irrigation System:** Automatic, Toro

**To Apply:** Send resume to  
Rocky Mountain Golf Services, LLC  
808 East Cloverhill Court  
Eagle, Idaho 83616

[rockymgs@hotmail.com](mailto:rockymgs@hotmail.com)

All applications, questions or communication concerning this position should be directed through Rocky Mountain Golf Services, LLC.

**Facility Website:** [www.clearlakecc.org](http://www.clearlakecc.org)

**Comments:** Established in 1929 and located on the Snake River in Southern Idaho, Clear Lakes CC is a 18 hole facility with a driving range, full restaurant and a stocked lake/streams for fly fishing

## Communicating the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

*By Michael Kropp, Senior Sales Specialist, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals*

Superintendents are faced with all kinds of job-related questions, particularly about the agronomics of using pesticides and other chemicals on their courses. Many are having a hard time clearly explaining the benefits of chemical use to curious golfers and community members, and as a result, sometimes avoid the topic. However, communicating with the public is no longer optional; superintendents must address questions, ease concerns and take part in community education programs on a regular basis in order to continue building and sustaining community confidence.

Many people assume pesticides are toxic and harmful to their health. That belief, however, is rarely grounded in science. Antibacterial soap, dishwasher soap and laundry detergent are technically toxic pesticides because they kill germs; however, when used correctly, they do not harm humans. The same goes for chemicals that are used to protect plants. Just as soap controls harmful pathogens that humans encounter, fungicide controls pathogens that damage plants.

Simply put, plants – like people – get sick. For example, when their systems get overrun, plants can suffer from environmental stress that creates conditions for pest pressure and disease. When that happens, medication in the form of pesticides is required to nurse the plant back to health. Like human drugs, pesticides today are highly targeted to specific problems, including fungi, weeds and insects.

The need for plant medication, so to speak, is understood by most people. But they may need more explanation about the science behind responsible chemical use.

**The Safety Stance.** Scientifically proving with reasonable certainty that a pesticide will not harm people or the environment is a fundamental part of the product-approval process. The United States has one of the strictest registration processes in the world. Federal law requires that before selling or distributing a pesticide in the United States, a person or company must obtain registration, or license, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Before registering a new pesticide – or a new use for a registered pesticide – the EPA must first assure the public that the pesticide is considered safe, when used according to label directions. To make such determinations, the EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants.

Even before they go through government review, these chemical compounds are tested for toxicity by non-biased, third-parties. If a pesticide receives a “strike” against it at any point during testing process, the manufacturer does not approve it for government testing.

Once the product is registered, it is selected and applied by highly trained professionals. Just as a pharmacist would recommend medicine for a specific ailment, superintendents work with industry experts – including chemical applicators with years of formal education – to prescribe a pesticide for a specific problem.

Not all pesticides are equal. Toxicity levels vary by product and instructions for use are clearly outlined on each pesticide’s label. Labels are designed to explain the correct application procedure, so the chemical has little or no direct negative impact on organisms beyond the targeted pest. As a rule, chemical experts consistently stress the importance of reading and following the pesticide label.

As a precautionary measure, most pesticides cannot be bought over the counter. Some products also require applicators to post signs or flags that alert the public that a given area has been treated recently. The signs, which usually are left standing for 24 hours, are simply informative, since no danger to humans or animals exists after application. In many cases, the majority of pesticides break down naturally in the soil after controlling target pests.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**





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## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

**What is your role?** Some superintendents have taken a proactive communication approach to combating the general public's misperceptions and fear of pesticides. Superintendent Jed Spencer, CGCS, for Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., participates in monthly Greens Committee meetings and now hosts annual open houses to give all members a behind-the-scenes look at how he maintains his course. In addition to addressing topics such as chemical and fertilizer use, maintenance and even golf etiquette, his crew operates equipment for participants, allowing them to get a firsthand look at what his crew does and how they do it. Spencer's goal is to educate the community, and show members the purpose behind his crew's actions.

"The response to our communication efforts has been extremely positive," Spencer said. "Community members really appreciate the visual component. It reduces concerns about the possible effects our treatment plan could have on them and their surroundings."

Spencer has taken additional steps to show his concern for the environment, which the community has applauded. Three years ago, he formed a partnership with Ducks Unlimited to establish a wood duck colony on the course, which helps attract the birds and allows his crew to manage the population. He also maintains a chemical building on his property that houses a 1,000-gallon storage tank for recycling chemicals.

Fred Gehrisch, superintendent for Highlands Fall Country Club in Highlands, N.C., holds educational forums for residents living on or near his course to explain what his crew is spraying and why. He also writes a regular column for his local newspaper that addresses course issues such as the scientific benefits of safely controlling disease and invasive plants on his course.

Gehrisch also is involved in a study under way by the University of Missouri on salamanders at 10 courses in the area – including his – to see how they are affected by chemical use. Along with the university, he regularly works with environmental groups, whether it is coordinating joint speaking engagements or donating his staff to support a local event.

Gehrisch says most people he speaks with are relieved once they learn the chemicals he uses are similar to everyday household products.

"I have found that using common medications as examples is the most effective way to demonstrate why they do not need to fear the products we use," Gehrisch said. "I read a list of side effects and lead them to believe it is a chemical I am using to treat turf disease when, in reality, it is aspirin."

Communicating with the public falls under the many day-to-day responsibilities of a superintendent, and more of them are taking it upon themselves to go above and beyond that duty. At a minimum, superintendents should be able to confidently explain the parallels between plant and human disease, and how science helps alleviate damage in both cases.

"We talk a lot within our inner circle about what needs to be done, but as an industry, we tend to be slower in responding to the public than we should," Gehrisch said. "For any change to happen, supers need to leave their desks and get out in front of their communities."

Despite the fact that pesticides are useful tools that can provide significant benefits to our communities, the debate over whether to use them will undoubtedly continue. By basing communications on science instead of emotion, superintendents can help community members appreciate the time, labor and money-saving benefits of environmentally sound chemicals.

Michael Kropp is a senior sales specialist in the Western United States for BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals. Michael can be reached at (916) 591-0580 or [Michael.Kropp@basf.com](mailto:Michael.Kropp@basf.com).



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