Courses breaking hazwaste law

BY MARK LESLIE
Most golf courses today are breaking the law.

Only 45 percent of the Club Managers Association of America members questioned in a poll say their clubs have a hazard communication program, and an industry expert feels even that is a high figure.

A poll conducted by Public Opinion Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and CMAA's Governmental Affairs Department found that only 56 percent of the managers polled had even heard about the law requiring a hazard communication program.

The law, which originally targeted heavy industry and manufacturing, was expanded to cover golf courses among other businesses in May 1988.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports that lack of a

Oregon seed law
vote soon

A decision is expected in mid-June on a proposed field-burning law in Oregon that may endanger the entire supply of U.S.-produced cool-season golf course grasses.

Observers close to the Oregon state Legislature say the seed industry has enough support in the House to kill any bill that would be too damaging to the 70 seed companies and 800 farmers who grow seed in the state.

But Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission, is not taking anything or anyone for granted.

"Things have to cook and take their time" in the legislative process, he said. "We're proceeding through the process but we won't know anything for sure until the final vote on the floor."

Another industry expert said the state Senate in mid-May was taking a harsh stand that would have cut the number of acres that could be burned in the state from 250,000 to 150,000 this fall, then to 100,000 acres in 1990, and 50,000 in 1991 and thereafter. The Senate at that time supported raising the fee farmers pay per acre burned from the current $3.50 to $20 or $25 an acre in 1992. A total of 345,000 acres produces grass seed in the state.

Drought woes plague courses

BY KATHY BISSELL
The drought situation continues to affect golf courses in all parts of the country.

Most severely hit are areas of Northern California, according to Don Hoos, director of agronomy for Landmark Land Co., Inc., which has 22 courses from California to Florida.

"In Carmel and Monterey the underground aquifer is not as good as in some areas. There has already been a 20-percent reduction request for industrial users, which includes golf courses, hotels and resorts," Hoos explained. "They can achieve 20 percent by being more careful with irrigation, maintaining minimum levels for grass, not watering roughs. The greens, Beditz, 30, who had been in the job in an acting status since David B. Hueber resigned in January, has high hopes since being handed the post permanently after a May 2 NGF board meeting.

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This map from the National Climatic Data Center, NOAA shows the percent of normal precipitation around the United States for the entire year of 1989.
Jacobs Management company is sold

John Jacobs' Golf Management, with offices in Buffalo Grove, Ill., and Scottsdale, Ariz., has been purchased by Ram Thukkar, a businessman based in Illinois. Thukkar will be chairman and CEO.

Tim Miles, a founder of John Jacobs' Golf Management, will be executive vice president and chief operating officer. Miles said, "The new association will be looking for a greater involvement in golf facilities for real estate development, both as developers and turnkey developers." The company has consulted in the construction and management of golf facilities.

Designing women

Beljan gained respect in the industry...

Beljan became a summer and weekend laborer on the golf course under her golf pro-superintendent father. She dawn till dark, seven days a week, was common during the playing/growing season. Most assistant superintendents do not have the opportunity to see the area of drought-tolerant turfgrasses, as well as the artistry of course designer Donald Ross at Pinehurst, N.C. Beljan returned to her native Pittsburgh to work with the lawn care manager for his business, he knew I had to be related to either Carl or Willie Beljan (a good Slovenian name and quite rare.)

Fazio hired her immediately. The rest has been Beljan's delight. "I've traveled to some of the finest courses in the world, including Australia, New Zealand, and South America. I've seen golf course management and design work change from much manual effort to skills highly mechanized and technical. More surprisingly, perhaps, I've witnessed a male-focused culture give way to a more cosmopolitan one."

Through it all, I have expanded my knowledge about the natural settings from which golf courses are born. It has been a complex process and at times very frustrating," she notes, "but I have acquired an ability to function comfortably at various design scales, and feel I know the golf course land-use inside out."

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Therrien says she would be remiss if she didn't acknowledge other help along the "trail-blazing" route. Included were her father, the late George Thukkar, who was chief of ornamental turf production at N. C. State, the Maine State Golf Association, and Metropolitan New York and National Golf Course Superintendents associations. These were appreciated stepping stones en route to "The Call" from Cornish and Silva. "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine such an opportunity," exclaimed Therrien. "I am very pleased to be able to continue the 'design phase' of my career in the region where it all began — New England."