VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3  MAY 1989

INSIDE

Features

16 COLUMBUS    bubbles over in courses

18 WILDFLOWER    innovations spruce up courses

Features

16 COLUMBUS    bubbles over in courses

18 WILDFLOWER    innovations spruce up courses

Golf Participation in the U.S.

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29 POPULARITY of golf continues to rise

Departments

SUPER FOCUS

Felix Paguaga is a super course-shaper

ON THE LINKS

Dodgertown's "C.H." Thomas a name to remember

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CMAA's Edward Hoffman eyes grassroots needs

NEW COURSES

From East Coast to West, architects busy

ON THE MOVE

E-Z-GO gets new president, Ralph Olson

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

NCA hires veteran of Washington politics

NEW PRODUCTS

Manufacturers show off their new lines

29 POPULARITY of golf continues to rise

Construction up 45%  The growing wave of golf course construction in the United States rose 45 percent in 1988, according to the latest research by the National Golf Foundation.

Oregon's seed industry in trouble

BY MARK LESLIE

Oregon's State Legislature is considering a field-burning ban that would endanger the country's major providers of cool-season golf course grasses.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. took over the gavel as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in April and promptly gave a rallying call for the building of 5,000 new golf courses in the United States in the next 10 years.

Jones, of Palo Alto, Calif., who took over the reins from Pete Dye, told ASGCA members at their annual meeting in Pinehurst, N.C.: "The National Golf Foundation says we must add at least one golf course every day for the next 10 years to meet the exploding demand for golf throughout the country."

"We should probably round that figure off to 5,000 before the year 2000 and consider it one of the greatest challenges that this organization has ever faced." Jones said it is also a tremendous challenge to the creative energy and talent of each of us individually. The game has never been more popular than it is today, and it is our responsibility to meet that challenge.

Construction up 45%

Oregon's seed industry in trouble

BY MARK LESLIE

Oregon's State Legislature is considering a field-burning ban that would endanger the country's major providers of cool-season golf course grasses.

Oregon's 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass, Chewing and creeping red fescues, half the U.S.-produced tall fescue and about one-fourth its bluegrass.

But in the process, between mid-July and the end of September each year, the 800 farmers who grow seed burn their fields to purge them of the weeds and disease that endangers the grass seeds. And last year when one farmer was burning a field, the wind changed direction, blew the smoke onto a major highway, and a seven-death, 37-care pileup resulted.

Another 716 were either under construction or being planned, compared to 513 in 1987, the study found.

Florida accounted for 35 new courses, while Texas followed with 20, Georgia with 19, and Missouri with 16.

Other states with construction up included Oregon, New York, California and Arizona.

Construction up 45%  The growing wave of golf course construction in the United States rose 45 percent in 1988, according to the latest research by the National Golf Foundation.

With Florida leading the way for the fourth straight year, 211 new golf courses opened for play in 1988, compared to 145 in 1987.

Continued on page 29

Superintendent Dick Schmidt has beautified his Port Ludlow (Wash.) Golf Course. See pages 18 and 19 for the lowdown on innovations in wildflower use.

ClubCorp contracted for Moscow site

BY MARK LESLIE

A U.S.-Russia joint venture company has contracted Club Corp. International to build and then manage an 18-hole golf course, country club and conference center outside Moscow.

JV Dialogue, a company formed in November 1987 by Chicago Research and Trading owner Joe Ritchie and six Russian firms, plans the complex as part of a technical village it is building on the collective farm Leninski Lutch (Lenin's Light) outside Moscow.

Ritchie formed Management Partnerships Inc. to formally separate CRT from the Russian project. But CRT Executive Vice President Gus Pellizi is working on the plan and is upbeat about its prospects.

"The concept of the Leninski Lutch project is to develop a village which would enable people to live and work in a pleasant place with a pleasant environment," Pellizi said.

"We thought what we would like to do was
Courses

From page 1

16, North Carolina with 14 and California and South Carolina with 12 each.

Florida also had 45 courses under construction at the end of the year, the NGF found, while 22 were being built in California, 19 in both Texas and North Carolina, and 16 in Illinois.

The NGF and others are calling for even more course construction, and NGF Executive Vice President Dr. Joseph Beditz believes there are some encouraging signs in the latest research.

"That we had a 45-percent jump in new course openings in 1988 and that 60 percent of these are public are two very positive signs," he said. "Equally encouraging is the 40-percent increase between 1987 and 1988 in the number of courses under construction ... although only 54 percent of these are public."

Beditz said building 400 or more golf courses per year is possible.

"During the 1920s there were 4,500 golf courses built over a 10- to 12-year period," he said. "And this happened again in the 1960s ... the second boom period for golf course development in the U.S."

According to the NGF report, the total number of courses in the country at the end of the year stood at 13,626 and the number of golf facilities was 12,582.

A facility may contain more than one course.

Florida's golf boom took the state from second place, past California into first in the nation in golf facilities with 765.

California has 745, followed by New York with 735 courses, Texas 692 and Michigan 654.

Florida also leads in the number of courses with 632, California has 636, New York 794, Texas 761 and Michigan 721.

Researchers say that because nearly 70 percent of the golf being played today is on public courses, upwards of 60 percent of the new courses must be public facilities.

The NGF report shows that 86 percent of the new courses and 61 percent of the facilities in the United States are open to the public.

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Total U.S. Golf Courses: 6,203

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