Recovering from Hugo

Hurricane struck Carolina courses in random fashion

BY TOMMY BRASWELL
With Staff Reports

Some greenskeepers and tree-company crews in the Carolinas continue to clean up golf courses that, in the wake of Hurricane Hugo's 135-mph winds, looked like a giant game of Pick Up Sticks.

Of the $4 billion trail of destruction Hurricane Hugo left as it hammered the region from Charleston, S.C., to Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 21, millions of dollars of damage were done to golf courses.

Courses from Charleston to the Grand Strand as well as some 200 miles inland were closed — for days, weeks, months, and some for as long as a year — because of the devastation.
7 Reasons Why Driving For Distance Is A Matter Of Mechanics.

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Better in the long run.
Baird course first in Turkey

Gary Roger Baird will design the first golf course in Turkey. Baird of Nashville, Tenn., who has been logging miles working on a course he has designed in Thailand, said being chosen for Turkey is a privilege he looks forward to. He said Turkish government officials are excited about the prospects of the course, which is being planned as a feature of the new Five Star Ramada Renaissance Resort Hotel at Antalya.

Baird will work with New York-based McLoughlin Group, which serves as project manager, and with Turkish clubhouse and villa architect Faruk Yorgancioglu for developer Gama Industries of Ankara.

"It looks like we will be literally introducing the game of golf to the Turkish people," Baird said. Yet developers expect many visitors to be Europeans familiar to the game.

Saying the site is spectacular, Baird compared it to Spyglass Hill Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif.

"We are carving the course out of a solid pine forest," he said. "The course is on a bluff overlooking the Mediterranean, and 10,000-foot Mount Olympus rises up right next to it. "People can ski in the morning, drive an hour to play golf, and then take a swim in the Mediterranean."

Baird said construction on the $4-million, 6,000-yard course will start in four months. He is designing the 18-hole site so that it "will not intimidate the many novices we expect would use it" but also to be "in a league to attract the European PGA Tour circuit and befit a major resort."

Conference will focus on management

Experts on various aspects of golf course management will speak at the week-long 7th Annual National Institute of Golf Management starting Jan. 14 at Oglebay Park Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, W.Va.

Sponsored by the National Golf Foundation and the center's Department of Continuing Education, the institute will feature instructors from its Board of Regents and from municipal golf facilities, the USGA, NGF, PGA of America and PGA Tour.

The program will teach such topics as golf course economics, maintenance, the philosophy of public golf, clubhouse and golf shop operations and merchandising, recruiting and motivating employees, and customer relations.

To complete the program, students must attend the institute for two years, attending a different session each year. The course carries five continuing education units from North Carolina State University and qualifies PGA of America members for recertification credits on the basis of three points for each year completed.

Registration is limited, and NGF Vice President of Golf Course Development Angelo Palermo said, "This year we had to turn away people who wanted to attend but who waited until the last minute to construct a plan."

More than 500 public golf course personnel have attended the institute since its inception in 1983, when it was called the Golf Management School at Oglebay.

To register, people should contact the NGF's Golf Course Development Department at 1150 U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, Fl. 33477, 407-744-6606, or the National Institute of Golf Management, Wheeling Park Commission, Oglebay, Wheeling, W.Va. 26003, 800-024-6988.

Sod research funded

The American Sod Producers Association is making $25,000 in research funds available for 1989-90.

Research Committee Chairman Richard Schiedel said letters of invitation seeking specific proposals have gone to 103 individuals and institutions. The committee has set a Dec. 15 deadline for proposals.

Schiedel, owner of Compact Sod Farms in Cambridge, Ontario, said his committee intends to make its recommendations to the ASPA board of trustees this winter and announce funded projects in early spring.

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Mizuno pays $10M for Showboat

Showboat, Inc. has sold Showboat Country Club and Showboat Sports, Inc. for approximately $10 million to Mizuno Enterprises, U.S.A., Inc. Showboat Sports, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Showboat, Inc. and operates the country club in Las Vegas, Nev. Showboat, Inc., through its subsidiaries, operates casino hotels resorts in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Ken Mizuno is chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

Los Coyotes first JCB merchant

Bank of America has signed Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park, Calif., as its first JCB credit card merchant.

"Soon all of our clients throughout California will be able to process and settle sales transactions for five major credit cards utilizing one deposit and have their transactions reported on a consolidated monthly BoA statement," said Bank of America Senior Vice President Joe Fontana. The five credit cards are VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, Carte Blanche and JCB.

OSU given grant money

Seed Research of Oregon has awarded a $500 research grant to the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture. OSU will use the money for turf research being undertaken by Associate Professor Tom Cook and his students.

Course plans renovation

River Trails Park District in Arlington Heights, Va., which bought Rob Roy golf course for $590,000 in August, has started renovation on the nine-hole facility.

Golf Facilities Manager Tom Snyders said crews have finished an initial clean-up of the maintenance garage. More work in the garage, clubhouse and golf shop are planned after the course closes for the season on Nov. 15, before winter.

Lake Nona makes plans

Lake Nona resort in Florida is planning a pay-for-play golf course and a business-style hotel.

The course will be open to Lake Nona homeowners and area residents.

'Green industry' associations join forces

New council will act as voice on landscape and environmental issues

Nine "green industry" associations have agreed to form the Landscape & Environmental Resource Council as a unified voice on issues affecting the industry and to cooperate with each other on joint projects.

The decision was made Sept. 21 at a meeting of elected and staff executives from the American Society of Landscape Architects, American Sod Producers Association, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, International Society of Arboriculture, Irrigation Association, National Arborist Association, Professional Grounds Management Society, Professional Lawn Care Association of America, and the Lawn Institute.

A March 29 meeting has been set to formalize the council and plan its future directions, endorse a mission statement, developing formal guidelines for governance, identifying issues and acting on reporting, public relations and funding.

The group has already agreed to undertake an economic profile survey of its nine member associations.

It also plans to circulate appropriate publications in development for review and potential endorsement, expand its inventory listing of education programs and publications, identify legislative and regulatory issues of potential importance to the associations, and develop computer-linking specifications and procedures.

ASPA President Randy Tischer served as acting chairman at the first meeting.
GCA focuses conclave on environment

"Your Golf Environment," the theme of the Golf Course Association's annual conference this winter, "strikes at the heart of our members' and society's concerns for this industry," according to the co-chairman of the coordinating committee, Jeff Hoag.

Hoag, the owner of Scott Lake Country Club in Comstock Park, Mich., said the Jan. 9-14 conference in Palm Springs, Calif., will focus on the environment while realizing that operations and maintenance are essential to that environment.

An estimated 250 course owners and wives are expected at the meeting which is "designed for owners, by owners, addressing the unique business problems of the privately owned public golf course," said Hoag, whose co-chairman is Jim Scott, owner of Gulf Lake View Golf Club in Augusta, Mich.

"The conference committee looked carefully at past attendees' critique sheets and feel we've retained the most popular elements of the conference while plowing some new ground," said Hoag.

Talks will cover the concept, financing, design, development, opening and status of new courses.

USGA Green Section Chairman Bill Bengeyfield will also speak and other presentations will cover course maintenance, clubhouse design, and course financing.

A roundtable discussion will be devoted to policies and profitability, covering check-cashing to reservations, Hoag said.

The organization will elect new officers and conduct its annual business meeting.

More information is available from the GCA at 8030 Cedar Ave., Suite 228, Minneapolis, Minn. 55425; 612-854-8482.

Landfill site for course

Coal Creek Development Corp. reports it has reached an agreement with Golf Northwest Inc. of Lynnwood, Wash., to develop an 18-hole championship golf course on Newcastle landfill in Bellevue when the 270-acre site closes in 1992.

Coal Creek is reportedly already negotiating with Palmer Design Co. to design the course on the landfill, which Coal Creek owns.

Two-year-old Golf Northwest, owned in part by Seattle SuperSonic player Jack Sikma, recently developed Harbour Pointe golf course near Mukilteo, Wash.

"We've wanted to build a first-class golf course on this site for a long time," Razor said.

"With Golf Northwest's expertise, now we can. We believe it's important that the site's final use be one which responds to the community's desires and rewards local residents for more than 16 years of waiting for this landfill to close."

MGM buying land, Tropicana

MGM Grand Inc. has agreed to buy the 700-room Marina Hotel and Casino, the Tropicana Country Club and Golf Course, and 115 acres on the Las Vegas Strip.

MGM Grand Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Fred Benninger said the property will be developed into a movie theme park and 5,000-room hotel and casino, which originally was to be build on the MGM Grand Desert Inn property.

Two associations, one conference

The Green Team Conference and Show organizers and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America will join forces for the 1990 conference.

Bill Benninger will also speak and other presentations will cover course maintenance, clubhouse design, and course financing.

A roundtable discussion will be devoted to policies and profitability, covering check-cashing to reservations, Hoag said.

The organization will elect new officers and conduct its annual business meeting.

More information is available from the GCA at 8030 Cedar Ave., Suite 228, Minneapolis, Minn. 55425; 612-854-8482.

How to survive in the desert on only 5 reels a day

The desert is a pretty forbidding place for golf. But thanks to irrigation and the work of knowledgeable superintendents like Robert Stuczynski the desert area around Palm Springs, California, has become one of the country's golf meccas.

Stuczynski supervises maintenance at the 36-hole Ironwood Country Club in Palm Desert, California. And, for the last seven months, he's been using a 5-reel John Deere 3325 Professional Turf Mower on all 36 of his fairways.

"Equipment has to be tough to survive out here," says Stuczynski. "The temperatures, the terrain, the rocks — they're all hard on it."

"Our 3325 works 10 hours a day, seven days a week mowing all our fairways. We've had it for about seven months now and it's held up very well. The quality of cut has been excellent. In fact, it's doing such a good job we'd like to get another one."

"I went out and talked to other people who already owned John Deere equipment before I bought my 3325. People who make their living with equipment just like I do. I heard a lot of good things about equipment quality, durability and parts support. And, after the test we've given it here, the 3325 has certainly lived up to that reputation."

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This John Deere 3325 Turf Mower mows all 36 fairways every day at Ironwood Country Club in Palm Desert, California.
LETTERS

Widely quoted

To the Editor:

... I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that my observations have proven for me that Golf Course News is widely read and digested. Visiting up to a dozen courses weekly around the nation, I repeatedly hear remarks and quotes concerning its material. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey S. Cornish
Cornish & Silva, Inc.
Golf course architects
Whitinsville, Mass.

Welcome back, Vern

Dear editor:

I wanted to write and thank you for the article, and for the space for my comments on the industry. Several of our clients have commented on it; you have an amazingly wide distribution. The publication has a remarkable standard of excellence overall. I have read the issues with interest; you seem to address all segments of the industry.

This service has long been sorely needed, and I am most pleased that you and your company have addressed the need.

Again, thank you...

Very truly yours,
Judith Ferguson Gockel
President, Agri-System
Tomball, Texas

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Blais new associate editor

Peter Blais has joined the Golf Course News staff as an associate editor. Blais, 35, has spent the past 5 1/2 years as a reporter and columnist for the Central Maine Morning Sentinel. In addition to his sportswriting duties, he wrote golf and business columns for the Waterville, Maine, daily newspaper.

Blais has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Hampshire and a masters in business administration from Western State College in Colorado.

Vern Putney, associate editor since the newspaper was organized a year ago, will continue work as a special contributing editor. Putney plans to continue writing once he completes his recovery from recent heart surgery.

Western Pumping info unveiled

A printing error in the October issue deleted information on Western Pumping Systems, Inc. in the survey of irrigation systems.

Western has six service centers and has been in business seven years.

Western does offer Variable Frequency Drive, hydraulic pressure regulating valves, self-closed landscape booster stations, and station isolation valves.

Options include digital flowmeter with totalizer, self-cleaning filters, pressure-regulating each pump, and UL listed control panels.

Its systems do not have electrically actuated butterfly valves. Factory authorized startup cost is included in the price.


For information contact Bernie Weber, vice president, Western Pumping Systems, Inc., 17666 S. Weber Drive, Chandler, Ariz. 85226; 602-961-0150. Circle No 279

Lebanon omitted

Lebanon Chemical Corp. was inadvertently omitted from the chart in the September issue listing companies making herbicides for golf courses.

For further information contact Lebanon at 717-273-1685 or 800-233-0628. Circle No 359

Write us

Letters to the editor are welcomed at Golf Course News. Just write:

Letters
Golf Course News
P.O. Box 997
Yarmouth, ME 04096

NOVEMBER 1989
Product features to update readers

As the northern courses don winter coats and warm-climate courses are overseeded for winter play, Golf Course News' managing editor, Mark Leslie, is planning the 1990 schedule of features so that you may be continually up to date on industry news.

In the July issue, Mark compiled the first of several feature reports on golf industry business. These features are produced monthly in the middle pages of Golf Course News. This month we offer you a rundown of golf course architects and builders.

The topics of the 1990 editorial calendar have been carefully selected to help you in your purchasing decisions. These features are divided into four categories: chemical updates, equipment updates, turf updates and special reports. Here's a month-by-month rundown.

January — Chemical Update: Insecticides.
February — Equipment Update: Aerators. Also, GCSAA Show Preview.
March — Equipment Update: Utility Vehicles.
April — Equipment Update: Fairway Mowers.
May — Equipment Update: Sprayers and Top-dressers.
June — Chemical Update: Fungicides.
July — Equipment Update: Golf Course Accessories.
August — Turf Update: Zoysiagrass Sod; Seed Growers.
September — Equipment Update: Sweepers, Vacuums and Blowers.
October — Equipment Update: Irrigation and Pumping Stations.
November — Special Report: Architects and Builders.
December — Chemical Update: Herbicides.

Your particular interests are important to our selection of features, so please take some time to review these selections and let us know of any topics you would like to see in future issues.

Sincerely,
Charles E. von Brecht
Publisher

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Golf Course News is published 12 times a year by United Publications, Inc., PO Box 767, 38 Lafayette Street, Yarmouth, ME 04096. The newspaper is distributed without charge to qualified golf course superintendents, green committee chairmen, club presidents and owners, as well as golf course builders, developers and architects. Correspondence should be addressed to Golf Course News, P.O. Box 767, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

NCA files brief in high court on Portland GC tax decision

The National Club Association has filed a petition asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the case of Portland Golf Club v. the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The Circuit Court in June reversed the Tax Court's decision which allowed the club to offset its losses from certain non-member activities against taxable investment income.

NCA's brief states that the high court should hear the Portland Golf Club case because the lower courts disagree.

A Supreme Court decision is necessary to insure the consistent enforcement of the laws in accordance with the intent of Congress," the brief says.

NCA General Counsel Thomas Walsh said that due to the conflicts on Rev. Rul. 81-69 decisions in the different circuits, the financial planning of clubs is in limbo.

"Our member clubs need the court to settle this issue and tell them in absolute terms how the law will be applied to their activities," Walsh said.

In enforcing its Rev. Rul. 81-69, the Internal Revenue Service has argued that clubs must show a profit motive.

NCA, during its 10-year involvement in this issue, has countered that it is enough to demonstrate that the outside activities are intended to benefit the club. NCA argues that a club may not realize a profit for tax purposes, due to paper losses, but nonetheless stay in business by making real gains. Thus, the brief concludes that the club "merely asks that its taxable activities be taxed using the same economic profit standards applied to for-profit corporations."

This issue must be resolved so that tax-exempt social clubs can determine the application of unrelated business income provisions, said Walsh.

Connecticut superintendents, company give sod cutter to experiment station

Dr. James Hanula of the New Haven (Conn.) Experiment Station received a sod cutter from the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and Turf Products Corp. of South Windsor, Conn.

Scott Ramsay, chairman of the CAGCS's S&R Committee, John Ferry of Turf Products, and CAGCS President Robert Chalifour presented the sod cutter to Hanula, who will use it in his research.

Lawn Institute board honors 51 grasses

Fifty-one proprietary grasses have received recognition for excellence in 1989 by the Lawn Institute's Variety Review Board.

Twoenty-two Kentucky bluegrasses, five fine fescues, 12 turf-type perennial ryegrasses, seven turf-type tall fescues, one colonial bentgrass and four specialty grasses were selected following extensive evaluation.

For more information on the conference, seminar or ASPA membership, people may contact ASPA, 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, or call (312) 705-9898.

ASPA organizing midwinter conference in Florida

Orlando, Fla. is the site of the American Sod Producers Association's annual Midwinter Conference and Exposition, Feb. 14-16. The Hilton at Walt Disney World Village has been selected as headquarters hotel.

"Spotlight on Sod" is the theme of this year's conference. Legal issues, public relations and the media, and Southern and Northern production will be the primary topics.

Exhibitors from throughout the world will also give ASPA attendees the opportunity to see and hear the latest in technology, equipment and products.

Prior to the opening ceremonies, an ASPA-sponsored members-only seminar on sod production fertility will offer seven presentations on increasing profitable production and maintaining environmental quality.

Seminar faculty include Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M, Dr. Anthony Koski of Colorado State University, Drs. J.B. Sartain and Robert Dunn of the University of Florida, Drs. Robert Isaacs and Bill Segars of the University of Georgia.

Also, Dr. Ray Hoyum of IMC Fertilizer, Inc., and Dr. Nobel Usherwood of Potash & Phosphate Institute.

Fertilizer, Chemical groups create network

The Fertilizer Institute and National Agricultural Chemicals Association have formed an information network designed to keep regional and state fertilizer and chemical associations informed on national news and events.

The network will use facsimile (FAX) machines so that information can be disseminated quickly about regional and national legislative regulatory, food safety and other information. The FAX network can also receive information from the local associations and re-distribute it nationwide.

"This two-way communication will double our ability to spread news quickly and accurately," said Billy Joe Miles, chairman of TFF's Retail Business Council.

A newsletter and bulletins will also get news out the members.

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Our projects have included work for Jack Nicklaus and Johnny Miller. The quality they expect is the quality we deliver.
Superintendent Richard Christian checks out a green at Pine Valley.

Christian takes challenge to be the best at the best

BY PETER BLAIS

The next Eberhard Steiniger, that’s who Richard Christian would like to be. Steiniger was the superintendent for nearly 40 years at Pine Valley Country Club, recently voted the world’s top course for an unprecedented third straight year by Golf Magazine. He retired in the mid-1970s.

Several superintendents succeeded Steiniger before Christian took over in 1988.

“I see myself staying here a long time, God willing,” said the 24-year-old caretaker of the world’s finest 18. “I would love to retire here. It’s just beautiful. I’ve never seen better.”

Neither have the 68 panelists — who included the likes of tour pros Ben Crenshaw, Raymond Floyd, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Arnold Palmer and Jan Stephenson — who comprised Golf Magazine’s selection committee.

Being the best year after year brings its own set of problems - high expectations. Finish second in the world next year and the question Christian will hear most often is “What happened?”

That’s a load for a superintendent with a quarter-century’s experience to bear, let alone a young man just four years out of college. But Christian seems to have the confidence and philosophy to handle it.

“I’m never 100 percent happy with the condition of the course. If that wasn’t my philosophy, I’d be in trouble. I strive for perfection in whatever I do,” said Christian.

Christian credits his 28-man crew (18 in the winter) with keeping playable the oases of fairways and greens among the deserts of sand barrens that are Pine Valley. He and his troops battle thinning greens and crabgrass like everyone else. But the bunkers present a special challenge.

There are desert courses with more sand. But there the bunkers tend to run level and long, allowing for perfect greening. At Pine Valley, sand runs up and over the side of hills making erosion control a problem. The vegetation that grows in the sand must be pruned, but can’t be removed because the roots hold the sand in place.

“I read recently that some architect wanted to develop a course just like Pine Valley because it would be easy to maintain. He obviously didn’t know what he was talking about. These hillside bunkers require an incredible amount of maintenance. If he tried to copy it, it would probably be the last course that architect would ever design,” said Christian.

But it is the presence of those very bunkers, and the overall design of the course that developer George Crump and architect H.S. Colt designed in the early 1900s, that are mainly responsible for the club’s No. 1 ranking, according to Christian.

“It’s the perfect golf course,” said Christian. “We owe those two a lot of thanks.”

Crump and Colt will never thank Christian for the compliment. They both went to whatever eternal place course designers and developers go long before Christian first appeared on the scene in his hometown of Litchfield, Conn.

Christian worked on the ground crews part-time and summers for five years at Litchfield’s Stonybrook Golf Course before attending the University of Massachusetts. One of his professors, Joseph Troll, set him up with a summer placement at Pine Valley between the first and second year of his two-year associates of science in turf management program.

Christian revealed in the experience and, when he graduated in the summer of 1985, he applied for the assistant’s post under then-superintendent Dick Bator. He worked for Bator 2 1/2 years before taking over the head position on Jan. 1, 1988.

“I wanted to go somewhere I could work a lot of hours and learn as much as I could,” said Christian, adding that he wasn’t intimidated by the prospect of eventually taking over one of the world’s top courses.

Christian got his work wish. He often puts in 12-hour days. And he is learning, especially about the weather and how it can lay to waste the best-laid plans.

“The weather is one of the hardest things about this job,” said Christian. “I joke with the members that it’s the only thing I haven’t gotten control of, yet. But fortunately this is one of the best courses in the area for drainage. We got two inches of rain the other night. It was still raining and the greens were underwater at 8 a.m. An hour-and-a-half after the rain stopped, people were playing. Being built on that native sand makes a big difference.”

And what is the most satisfying part of his job? Simply seeing the enjoyment people get out of playing on one of the world’s best courses.

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For free information circle #108
Stonecreek appoints Minshall superintendent


Announcing Minshall's hiring, Resort Management of America President Henry DeLozier said, "It is a rare opportunity to be able to work with someone with the level of experience of a man like Mr. Minshall. His expertise in the area of golf course maintenance will enable us to meet and exceed the goals we have set for Stonecreek."

Minshall has held superintendent positions at Arrowhead Golf Corp., Columbine Country Club and Tamarron Golf Club in Colorado and at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City, Ariz.

He is a graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in turfgrass management and is certified by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Kubota names Bishop to post

Curtis Bishop has been appointed national distribution manager and Becky Knighton retail/wholesale finance manager with Kubota Tractor Corp.

Bishop will be responsible for national operations of distribution-related computer systems, inventory control and product traffic coordination. He has been with Kubota three years, previously serving as distribution systems manager.

The Placentia, Calif., resident was Case International Harvester's Southeastern region distribution manager for 16 years prior to joining Kubota.

Knighton will be responsible for the training and development of financial services staff and management of national accounts and dealer collections.

A 13-year Kubota Financial Services department employee, she will also be responsible for the home office operations of Kubota's captive finance company, Kubota Credit Corp.

King joins MacGregor

Louis R. King has been put in charge of MacGregor Golf Co.'s domestic marketing efforts on an interim basis.

King, serving as consultant to the president, will be responsible for the overall marketing strategies for all MacGregor products.

He brings more than three decades of sales management experience, having served as senior vice president of Amana Corp., vice president of sales for Pillsbury and executive director of the PGA of America.
OSHA discovers 49,098 violations
Employers have been cited for 49,098 violations of the Hazard Communication Standard since Nov. 1, 1985, according to recently released information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
Approximately $1.5 million in penalties have been assessed against employers violating those standards.
The most common violations are:
• failure to establish an employee training and education program;
• failure to comply with labeling requirements; and
• failure to maintain records of material safety data sheets.
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in Lawrence, Kansas, and Professional Lawn Care Association of America in Marietta, Ga., have information available to help golf course superintendents comply with the laws.

Seed group formed
The American Seed Trade Association is forming a committee to serve as a source of information on environmental issues and the application of laws that affect the industry.
Jim Fangman of Ciba-Geigy Seed Division will chair the Environment and Safety Committee, which will hold an organizational meeting at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, Ill.

GOVERNMENT UPDATE
PLCAA challenging local authority
The Professional Lawn Care Association of America has begun to file lawsuits challenging the authority of local governments to regulate pesticide use.
While not opposed to regulation or legislation of pesticide use, PLCAA does oppose regulation by local governments — more than 88,000 communities in the United States.
The trade organization contends that current federal regulations (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act) preempt any local standards. Individualized regulations would make it extremely difficult for lawn care companies operating in more than one municipality to comply.
"It (local regulation) increases the cost of doing business and doesn't provide any additional protection for the public," said PLCAA director of state government affairs Thomas Delaney.
Federal Judge Horace W. Gilmore recently ruled in the PLCAA's favor in Millford, Mich.
"It looks like the city will appeal, with the help of the ( Ralph Nader-founded) Public Citizen's Congress Watch," he said. "That doesn't surprise us. We think the decision will be upheld. They have no real basis for the complaint. It's just a question of jurisdiction and the judge saw that the federal statute preempted the local one."
The PLCAA was heartened by Gilmore's decision to consider the 1986 Maryland Pest Control vs. Montgomery County case in his ruling.
"It's important to have cases at the federal level so precedents are set. When we win enough of these cases, and can build up enough precedents, then it takes little time for a judge to remove a case involving a local regulation," said Delaney.
The PLCAA is considering filing for a summary judgment to throw out a local regulation in Mayfield, Ohio.
"We're on hold there," said Delaney. "The federal judge has a large docket at the moment. Timing is very important in a case like this and we want to make sure it's the right time before we file."
The PLCAA dropped its proposed suit in Mashpee, Mass., when the city voluntarily removed its ordinance.
Delaney said his group is considering where to file its next suit.
"We want to show that if localities can pass regulations, there will be no uniformity in what a lawn care specialist can do from county to county or town to town... It's a tough way to do business, having to figure out where a customer is and what he can do there before deciding if you can take the job."
"That's not what Congress intended. They wanted it to be a federal issue that would involve the whole system. Having it decided below that level is an abomination... The federal government and states have the experts with degrees in the field. They should be making the decisions, not municipalities that don't have the expertise."
NEW COURSES

Jones adds Prince to Kauai scene

Nature and Robert Trent Jones Jr. joined forces for the second time on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, and the result is the Prince Course.

Jones called the new course, which pairs with his acclaimed Makai Course, "one of the top five courses I've ever designed."

The front nine holes have opened and the back nine will open in December. Highlights include the 383-yard 12th hole, known as "Eagle's Nest," where the tee area sits 100 feet above a fairway traversed by the Anini Stream; the 13th where a waterfall provides a backdrop to the green; and the par 3 7th which passes over a large ravine with Anini Beach and an ocean reef to the side.

The Princeville Corp. developed the course as part of its Princeville Resort, which for four years has hosted the Women's Kemper Open on its Makai Course.

Johnston layout uses wetlands

Weaving 18 championship holes around and over marshland, forest, water hazards and rolling fairways, Clyde Johnston has designed his first course on the Strand — Ocean Harbour Golf Links in Calabash, N.C.

Ocean Harbour has grown in, opened to play on Sept. 10, and is gearing up for full-scale marketing for the spring season.

Johnston took strategic advantages of the site, which is nestled between the intracoastal waterway and Calabash River, and sculpted the course through marshland, ponds and a forest of oak, pine, maple and cedar trees.

The course features bentgrass greens, 419 Bermuda fairways and tees and many grass and sand bunkers.

A golfer can drive the ball from North Carolina to South Carolina and back over the layout which measures 7,000 yards from the farthest tees.

Odell Williamson is the course developer; Robert Wilson, formerly of Sandpiper Bay in Calabash, is its superintendent; and Kent Chisner is its professional.

Palmer course a centerpiece


The Palmer-designed Cotton Creek course will be the centerpiece of the 600-home development, according to Robert Craft, president of Craft Land Co.

Courses newly planned in the United States

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<tr>
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The Prince Course's 'Eagle's Nest' 12th hole is a panoramic thing of beauty.
Rees Jones took Haig Point challenge

Saying it is a challenge to add nine holes to a course that is already well received, Rees Jones nonetheless believes he has accomplished just that at Haig Point Club on Daufuskie Island across Calibogue Sound from Hilton Head, S.C.

Jones' unique 20-hole layout of the original Haig Point course has received acclaim as one of the best in the country. He said, "I think the new nine will complement the other two very nicely. It has the same degree of difficulty, the same sculpted character. I don't think this nine will take a back seat to either of the others."

The new nine covers 3,500 yards from the back tees and, like the existing two holes where players will be given an option of routes to reach the same green. The 20th hole is a par 3 whose peninsula green is surrounded on three sides by water. One set of tees allows

Garl takes on 27-hole Oak Ford course

Architect Ron Garl is designing a 27-hole course that will be a focal point of Oak Ford, a residential development that includes a 400-acre wildlife preserve in Sarasota, Fla.

"The greatest majority of this golf course will play through completely natural settings, land that has been set aside as a wildlife preserve," said Garl, adding that he aimed to design a challenging and enjoyable course that enhances the natural beauty of the site.

He said the course is unique for its quality of oak trees. "There is no other course in that part of the country that comes close to having the number of mature live oaks as Oak Ford," he said.

The project is being developed by Oak Ford Partnership, a group that includes a Homestead Service Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Homestead Savings Association of Middletown, Pa.; Dr. James Frick, the owner of Hawk Valley Golf Course in Denver, Pa.; and El Jeobean Philharmonic Group of Sarasota.

McCumber handling Mississippi site

Mark McCumber & Associates has been commissioned to design an 18-hole championship golf course at Timberton, a 4,500-acre residential development in Hattiesburg, Miss. The announcement was made by J. Christopher Commins, vice president of the parent firm, McCumber Golf of Middleburg, Fla.

Timberton is being developed by Golf Course Development Corp., a subsidiary of Timberton Realty Corp. The 400-acre site chosen for the golf course has a naturally rolling terrain and good tree cover.

It will be located within the Timberton residential community and is scheduled to open in autumn 1990. PGA of America Immediate Past President James Ray Carpenter is serving as a consultant on the project.

Let us know

Each month Golf Course News—in cooperation with the American Society of Golf Course Architects—will publish news stories on new courses being built. We are asking people who are planning or have begun construction on new courses, or rebuilding or expansion of existing ones, to write to:

Golf Course News, F.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

Please include such information as type of course, number of holes, terrain and other interesting facts.
Laotian officials eye golf possibilities

By PETER BLAIS

It wasn't so long ago a bunker was a place Laotians hid from U.S. bombs. Soon it could be the place a ball seeks shelter from the blast of bombs. Soon it could be the site of Laos' first golf course.

Fred Downes recently returned from a scouting trip of the Southeast Asian nation. His mission: to seek out the best location for that country's first golf course.

Downes, the director of golf at Sugarloaf Golf Course in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, visited Laos in September at the behest of Scott Co. Ltd., a U.S. real-estate

Laosian officials eye golf possibilities

development company in Southeast Asia. Owner Don Scott is well known for his humanitarian efforts in Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam.

The Laotian government approached Scott last year about building resorts in the hotel room-poor country. Officials later suggested a golf course and Scott sent Downes, a construction foreman for many years for architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., to find the most cost-efficient site.

The government, which offered land as its part of a joint venture with Scott investors, designated four potential sites. Downes immediately eliminated two—the first because the 80 rolling acres were simply too small for an 18-hole course and the second because of an ugly approach that led to an area of alkaline soil.

The two best locations are within a stone's throw of Vientiane. Building a golf course over flooded rice paddies may seem an impossible task. But Downes learned an important lesson while working for Jones, who floated over the site of Thailand's Navatanee Country Club by boat before having it drained and turned into one of the world's top courses.

"You can build a course anywhere," said Downes. "All you need is land and money."

The main problems developers will encounter in Laos have less to do with the land than with a bureaucracy that is just starting to open the nation's doors to the rest of the world after 14 years of post-Vietnam War isolation, according to Downes.

"They're the type of problems that will be resolved. The government seems committed to change. But I wasted a lot of time just waiting. I could have done in three or four days what actually took me 11," he said.

The first developer is likely to run into supply problems, Downes predicted. Heavy equipment, piping and pumps are rare, often requiring hauling into Vietnam or Thailand to procure. Land and labor (the average wage is $11 a month) are more plentiful.

There is no set timetable for Laos' first 18. A design decision is still a year away, according to Downes. Then there is the matter of lining up investors and gaining approval from the government for the necessary foreign expertise to enter the country.

Working a plan through various environmental agencies, which can take years in the United States, should be a relative breeze in Laos, where there is no Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection or similar governmental watchdog.

"There are no environmental laws, so we'll pretty much monitor ourselves," said Downes. "I'm sure we'll set some good standards, things they probably have never thought of."

Construction should take no more than nine months, assuming adequate supplies, especially to do the extensive ponding required to carry off rainy-season downpours. Bermudagrass 328 plant cuttings, the most commonly used turf in that area of the world, take less than a month to reach mowable height.

And who will use it? There is an expatriate population of about 200, consisting mainly of Australians, French, British, Dutch, Scandanavians, Americans, Russians and Japanese, all of whom are excited at the prospect of a golf course.

The Japanese also figure to be one of the major visitors.
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"You can call us protectionists," says Ed Connor

BY MARK LESLIE

Pete Dye, Tom Fazio and their compatriots are taking golf course design into the 21st century. Ed Connor and his compatriots are "going the other way."

"We're protectionists, champions for the dead architects," Connor said. "You could call us the Dead Architects Society."

Connor, whose Golforms firm is headquartered in Casselberry, Fla., has taken a new computerized technology to several courses to help preserve the original design of their greens, bunkers and traps. If PGA and other officials who have seen the results are correct, Connor will be busier in the months ahead.

"I think it is of utmost importance that the work of the masters (of golf course design) — who were many years before their time — is preserved," said Peter Stillwell, director of the PGA World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, N.C.

Stillwell, who paid close attention when Connor helped Pinehurst #2 management reconstruct all its greens four years ago, added: "You're preserving a masterpiece. It's like saving a Mona Lisa, preserving it and putting it in the condition it was originally meant for; the same is true of golf course architecture."

The technology — which uses a field surveying instrument called a laser theodolite to turn physical data into a gridded topographical chart of a playing surface — is an important advance for everyone, Stillwell said.

"The greats in architecture today ... will someday be gone, and now their work can be preserved," he said.

Connor said, "There are too many instances in which capricious changes were made" to courses designed by Donald Ross, A.W. Tillinghast, C.B. Macdonald, Alister Mackenzie and other famous architects of the past.

He is devoting his energies to compiling contours of the old masters' courses along the East Coast that haven't yet been changed, working at courses where officials want to renovate the greens or trapping, and researching original sketches and data on the more famous courses where management wants to undo changes.

A common manifestation at older courses today is putting surfaces that have developed a hard layer, making them impermeable to moisture and oxygen to the root zone, and whose grasses have been encroached upon by other types.

"In the case of Pinehurst #2, they wanted to replace the grass on the greens entirely with another strain of Penncross bentgrass," Connor said. "They had been advised that in order to attract a major tournament they would have to go back to bentgrass greens, and they had been in bermuda for about 10 years. At the same time they wanted to improve the subsoil stratification with the USGA specifications, so we went in and made electronic images of the putting surfaces and stored them on a floppy disk and estimated the putting surfaces down to about 20 inches and made a replica of the original putting surface and subgrade. Then we put in drain tile and new layers of rock and sand to USGA specs, and replaced the exact same putting surface using data off the floppy disk and translated to our survey program."

At Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., management wanted to rebuild all the greens and "put back the original bunkers and traps," said General Manager Drew Boyland.

Sedgefield's greens committees over the years had made many changes to the Ross layout. So officials called in the Golforms crew and went to the archives at the PGA Hall of Fame to change back to the original trapwork and greens, Boyland said. "The (theodolite) technology worked well for us ... I think for a lot of older courses this could be a tool of the future to put back what's been torn out."

Connor said research found that a number of bunkers as well as greens had been altered at Sedgefield, destroying the Ross design.

"One of the features of the course was these marvelous depth-perception bunkers that were placed 20-30-40 yards out from the green but obscured the ground between the putting surface and the bunker and forced you to fight the tendency to underclub ... which would get you into Ross' classic chipping game, ending up in one of these little hollows around the green and trying to chip to the hood of a car. But all that was eliminated because the greens chairmen felt, at various times, 'Well, those don't come into play; let's save some money on maintenance.'"

"That happened enough that all the holes were starting to look alike," he said. "The greens chairman would say, 'Let's take this bunker out because it's out of play; let's put two little silver bunkers in here on either side of the green, because that's where bunkers are always put.' It didn't have any thought to it; it was just a way of letting people know who was in charge at the time."

Connor said finally Sedgefield "got a group in there who said, 'Wait a minute, let's stop this nonsense. Having a Ross design is a positive asset, something we want to protect and preserve.'"

An example of preservation Connor
Continued on page 18

Sedgefield CC's #14:

Both before...

... and after Connor's reconstructive work

Technology changing design

Technological advances in the field of civil engineering are changing the golf industry, as witnessed by Golforms' work in preserving the designs of famous courses along the East Coast.

Golforms President Ed Connor, who for 18 years worked on course renovations the hard way, is pioneering work on golf courses with a technology which he says has been around for about five years, being used mainly in subdivision and major highway work.

"At the time August National was done, about four years ago, the equipment was still too expensive for this type of application," Connor said. "But it has come down in price to a point where it is still not cheap but at least it is reasonable — about $20,000."

In previous attempts at replicating putting surfaces, the traditional method was used: crews would "measure out some type of grid on the putting surface, take shots with a level and make volumes and volumes of notes."

"The advantages of this (new computer) method are that you don't need any marks on the ground," Connor said. "You can shoot it while it's under play. All the data is done by lasers, measuring devices built into the theodolite, and all you do is tell this instrument where you're standing. Give the point you're standing on some kind value: it can be arbitrary or it can be tied to a benchmark on the course. Give it an elevation and give it a directional reference point. It takes a series of shots; you walk around the area you want to describe with a prism that selects points for data, that can be entirely at random."

"All the information is stored in a little black box called a data collector — a computer."
Saving masterpieces of the masters

Ross Society champions a call to preserve famed courses

By PETER BLAIS

They grew up playing Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, Conn., and came to appreciate the subtle, contoured greens requiring well-placed pitches and deft putting strokes.

As adults they traveled the country, finding other Donald Ross-designed courses as much, or even more to their liking. They also found, much to their dismay, that the architect’s classical work had often been tampered with.

"Many of Ross’ courses have been changed over the years and bear no resemblance to what was there originally. There is a strong movement to get back to the original lines of golf courses which were playable for many different levels of player. Restoring and preserving them to stay in line with Ross-ian ideas are among the things we are trying to do," said Barry Palm, executive vice president/corporate secretary of the Donald Ross Society.

Hartford natives Palm, Steve Edwards, Michael Fay and Bruce Taylor founded the organization in January. It has grown to 125 members and includes such notables as Ben Crenshaw and CBS commentator Ben Wright.

Prior to the Depression, Ross was directly involved in the construction of most of the courses bearing his name. From 1920 on, his crew, which numbered around 3,000, did most of the work while he oversaw projects from there backwards along the fairways.

Since preservation was not a major issue in the 1930s and 1940s, many of the original blueprints weren’t preserved, according to Palm. However, the society can help put course officials in touch with the Tufts Family archives at Pinehurst’s Given Library, which still contain 100 or so original designs of Ross’ earlier work.

The Scotland-born architect considered those his best.

The society is also establishing a scholarship fund financed by membership contributions and a percentage of the entrance fee from next May’s three-day society tournament at Pinehurst. More than $8,000 has already been raised, with Plainfield (N.J.) Country Club, a Ross course, kicking in $1,000.

"The money will go to a worthy student who embraces the classical school of thought involving golf course architecture. It will be based on financial need and love of the game," said Palm. (Golf course design is not a course of study at any college. Most architects come from landscaping backgrounds.)

Ross first became involved with the sport in his native Donegal. The son of a stonemason, he was an apprentice carpenter before Donroch Golf Club secretary John Sutherland, who gave him his early lessons about turf and Donald Ross course design, urged Ross to go to St. Andrews. There he learned club-making from David Forgan and studied golf under "Old Tom" Morris.

In 1898, at age 26, Ross emigrated to Boston where he became pro/greenskeeper at Oakley Country Club. He met members of the wealthy Tufts family of Medford, Mass., who made him the winter golf professional at a resort they were developing in Pinehurst.

His design and refining of Pinehurst complex courses made him one of the nation’s most sought-after architects from 1912 until his death in 1948 at age 72.

Along the way he designed such well-known courses as Seminole GC in North Palm Beach, Fla.; Oak Hill CC in Rochester N.Y.; and Salem CC in Peabody, Mass. Ross is credited with developing between 400 and 600 courses, although the exact number is unknown.

"We’ve verified 390 to this point," said Palm.

Many of those courses are private. One of the society’s most successful projects has been setting up a network that lets members at various Ross courses help one another get onto their home turf.

Approximately 50 Ross courses have been the sites of United States championship events. The society is putting together a book concerning the tournaments held at those facilities.

While Ross courses have proved a challenge to the nation’s best golfers, one of their major assets has always been their playability for all skill levels, according to Palm. "One of Ross’ favorite sayings was that ‘golf should be a pleasure, not a penance,’ " said Palm, a six-handicapper.

"On a Ross par 4, I might hit a driver and a 3-iron where a 20-handicapper would hit a driver and 3-wood. But both of us could still be on the green or in good position to pitch up and get a par. Many courses today are penal for the high handicap. His courses are enjoyable for everyone." The other major characteristic of Ross courses is the greens.

They’re very subtle and require a delicate putting technique. He always located his greens first and then worked from there backwards along the fairways. In many cases the greens are crowned, like an inverted saucer. They require a knowledge of where to hit your shot or it might just roll off because of the pitch," said Palm.

Palm’s knowledge comes from playing approximately 50 Ross courses. Pinehurst No. 2, followed closely by Salem Country Club, are his favorites.

"Some people want to play the top 100-ranked courses in the country. My goal is to play all the Donald Ross courses before I die," said Palm.

For more information on the Donald Ross Society write 7 Fairlee Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06107; or call 203-561-2431.
Travis Point members OK major renovation

Members of Travis Point Country Club in Ann Arbor, Mich., have voted to spend $1.4 million to renovate the clubhouse, funding the project entirely through assessments of the 800 members. The member-owned club expects "significant savings" from the remodeling, according to board president George Lindstrom. The work will consolidate all food-service operations on the main floor of the club, refurbish and redecorate the clubhouse, create new social and informal dining areas and reorganize lower-level spaces such as the tennis and golf pro shops.

The renovation will be done over the first four months of 1990.

Shrine Garden

Continued from page 1

The project began in 1988, was completed in August and was publicly dedicated Nov. 2. The project is an attempt to give superintendents more of the recognition they deserve, said Mike Hoffman, director of marketing for the Toro commercial products division.

‘Golf course superintendents are key members of the golfing industry...’ — Mike Hoffman

"Golf course superintendents are key members of the golfing industry who have made major contributions to the game," Hoffman said. "Through the Shrine Gardens, we hope they receive the recognition in this special Hall of Fame that they have earned through their hard work, expertise, and commitment to the game."

The majority of the superintendents in the United States, or 9,000, are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The Professional Golfers Association of America, the world's largest sports organization, consists of 10,000 members and apprentices and is represented at more than half of the nation's 13,400 courses.

Connor

Continued from page 16

foresees the special trademarks of the various masters — just like Ross' bunkering. The industry should save those trademarks, he said.

"Part of the reason Seminole and Pinehurst dropped out of the top 10 courses was erosion of their architectural integrity over the years," Connor said.

"Golf courses are living, changing things... always being changed by top-dressing, weather, what-have-you. Having the courses permanently recorded on a computer disc is a very valuable tool because those measurements never change."

Connor also bemoaned his feeling that "so many dead architects are getting compromised on a lot of these courses (that are being renovated)."

He hopes officials at old courses decide to retain the features that are trademarks of their designers rather than hire a present-day architect to add his or her touch to the courses.

What we think we've brought to the industry with this type of technology is the chance for an old club to make alterations," Connor said. "Say you have a Ross bunker that's beautifully shaped and proportioned and nicely contoured and you're very happy with it except it's in the wrong location.

The new clubs and shafts and balls have made the location of the bunker complex 200 yards off the tee completely out of play. All the new guys are driving the ball right past that bunker, so you want to move it down 30 or 40 yards but save its basic shape and configuration.

'This is a tool you can use to do that. Just make a computer image of it and you can go down the fairway and rebuild it.

'It takes the subjectivity out of the process of restoration."

The PGA's Stillwell added, "For somebody to take a bulldozer, tear up a green and replace it the way it used to be, that's a magical feat."

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Below is a chart listing information from architects who responded to our survey. A list of others is on page 22. Abbreviations here may include: Ag (agronomy); GCM (golf course management); Eng (engineering); LA (landscape architecture); LF (landscape planning); MS (master's degree); OH (ornamental horticulture); Park A (parks administration); Pro (professional golfer); T (tour management); Aust (Australia); Car (Caribbean); East (Eastern U.S.); Eur (Europe); MA (Mid-Atlantic); NA (North America); NE (Northeast U.S.); Pac (Pacific); SE (Southeast U.S.).

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are important to developers around the world. Maples pointed out that society members are now working throughout the world and most clubs want a "U.S. championship course, which in their mind means challenging, not intimidating, and fun to play."

More ASGCA members are working internationally, especially in Europe, as the U.S. golf boom continues to roll out in other areas of the world.

More variety in nines
Tom Clark of Wheaton, Md., ASGCA secretary, explains that many developers are asking for 27 or 36 holes initially, with different degrees of difficulty on each nine. With this layout, beginners can build up their confidence on the easiest nine and progress to the others.

Clark said this also helps spread up play on the tougher nines.

Clark thinks many courses will soon be seriously considering a policy that requires new players to complete certain proficiency tests, including on golf etiquette. If multiple courses are available, only those with lower handicaps, for instance, would be allowed to play the more difficult courses.

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**BY GARY BURCHFIELD**

While golf course construction is indeed a boom cycle, golf course builders warn that financing, environmental requirements and design restrictions are much tougher than in the past.

"A lot of golf courses are being built today, but probably 80 to 90 percent of them are being built in connection with some kind of real estate development. It's sometimes hard to tell if they're being built to meet the needs of golfers or the needs of the developers," said Don Rossi, executive director of the Golf Course Builders of America, headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. "But, there are a lot of cities that have new courses on the drawing boards, so it looks like the trend will continue."

Bill Kubley, president and founder of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., said, "We have more work today than I've ever seen. I think the outlook for the next 10 years is excellent. In fact, there are a lot of new companies coming into the course construction business because of the boom. I look for some of them to get into financial trouble because they're trying to grow too fast."


"As our population ages, more people are playing more golf, especially in the Sunbelt areas. We find this true not only in the United States but internationally as well," added Dye, who has been building a lot of courses in Japan.

Paul Eldredge, president of the Midwest Division of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. in Plainfield, Ill., agreed a boom is on. "I see it continuing for the next couple years anyway," he said, "but I'm not sure it's going to last 10 to 12 years" as many are predicting it will.

"After being somewhat stagnant for several years, the Midwest has become very active now. Where most of the development in the southern areas a few years ago, the boom now seems to have moved back north," Eldredge said.

Dave Canavan, a former president of the builders association and president of Moore Golf, Inc., of Culpeper, Va., said, "The construction of new courses has been 'hyped' as a boom market, but a lot of it is being done in conjunction with real-estate development. A golf course can satisfy the requirement for 'green space' to golf courses for cluster zoning to build townhouses, etc.

"In some areas, like New Jersey, development is so expensive that a golf course is added to help generate income to pay development costs like wastewater management."

Today's problems

Environmental concerns create most of the problems today, according to Eldredge.

"But, financing is tougher now, too. With current interest rates and loan disbursements, banks have gotten more restrictive on their loans. The last couple of jobs we've done, the owners had to jump through hoops to get their loans. We have to provide back-up for our billing, too."

"We can usually handle the field problems, so it's the people we don't have control over that drive us crazy."

Course construction costs have gone up 400 percent in the last 30 years," according to Canavan. The environmental restrictions are tougher, he said, plus things like insurance have risen as much as 400 percent.

"Now, you also have to be concerned about hazardous waste," Canavan said. "If you're building a course on an old landfill and uncover something like asbestos, the responsibility for taking care of it falls on the contractor."

"Planning today takes three to five years, not two to three," he said. "We're in a new world of insurance, etc. Twenty years ago, construction would usually be underway 30 days after the final plans were approved. The last course we built in Florida required 37 permits from various agencies."

"One big problem today," said Dye, "is that good, premium land for courses just isn't available. Golf course developers had a good choice of quality land 10 to 20 years ago. Today, we end up building golf courses on 'unsuitable land' around marshes, flood plains, etc. and that means we've had to increase our understanding of environmental issues tenfold. And, it's not only true in this country, but many areas overseas, especially in Europe."

Kubley said a new course Landscapes Unlimited is building near Baltimore, Md., "is going to cost us $400,000 just for environmental protection. We have installed more than 8 miles of silt fences for a new course we're building in the city of Reno, Nev. too. Plus, we have to keep three water trucks going all the time during construction just for dust control."

"In the past, you could usually open a course before the final plans were approved. Now, it's either pit burning, or you have to chip it and haul it away. Clearing costs alone can range from $400 to $8,000 per acre, depending on state requirements."

More complicated

Dye conceded that construction hasn't changed much in the last 10 years, "but there is a much longer-term involvement for both the builder and architect, from planning clear through cluster-construction and maintenance practices."

"Today, there is more planning required and the whole process is much more 'structured.' The builder and designer have to demonstrate what the end result will be, and that the environmental restrictions have been adhered to."

Rossi said the actual construction is no more complicated "because technology has increased so much."
Architects

Continued from page 21

The majority of new courses in recent years have been built in conjunction with real-estate developments, and Clark said this trend will continue. In most cases the courses are open to the public until the development is filled, at which time it becomes a private club.

“We see this same pattern becoming more popular with municipalities in the next decade,” Clark added. “The typical scenario is for the developer to give the municipality the golf course to the municipality for the right to build housing units around the course.”

Television has impact

ASGCA Treasurer Arthur Hills, who is based in Toledo, Ohio, but works throughout the country, said, “People are watching the championship golf courses they see on television, but they want fair and realistic courses without gimmicks.”

“The bottom line is that there is a gradual return to a more traditional approach to design, with realistic placement of bunkers and greens that avoid the player a false sense of security by worrying about severe breaks or multiple levels.” Hills believes golfers appreciate that courses serve as “green belts” in communities that need open space and oxygen. He added that architects have worked successfully in such environmental concerns, often providing additional wetland areas when wetlands are needed for the strategic playability of the golf course.

Design for site

Jones summed it up by stating that the golf courses of the future will “fit with the lay of the land. It will mean a closer reason to the community and players to build a course that ‘fits.’ There’s no doubt that owners and the golfers who play their courses want courses that fit ever before,” he said.

We know golfers will pay a fair price for a well-designed course. Courses built by ‘amateur architects’ and that are poorly maintained will not be successful.”

With the ever-worsening concerns about water conservation, many new courses will have a more natural look, Jones agreed, but he suggested that this also fits in with designing the lay of the land.

“U.S. design has been accepted internationally,” Jones said, “but that does not mean that there is a certain

A list of golf course architects not found in the chart on pages 20 and 21

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Continued from page 22

Builders—

... builders go through hell today.

— Don Rossi

"Probably 70 percent of the courses we build today require very detailed shaping," he said. "Plus, owners want more today, like continuous cart paths, more sodding, and double-row or triple-row irrigation systems."

"With the environmental concerns and the complicated financing like, let's say, bond issues, builders go through hell today," Rossi lamented.

But Dye said put it in what the industry hopes will be the perspective for the 1990s, which he views as rewarding in a business that is recognized as a growing industry.

Golf course builders working in the United States

There is better machinery, the people are more skilled and, with computer-aided design, a lot of the work is done that couldn't be done before," Curley said.

"You can't just send in a bulldozer operator any more. You need a specialist to build it the way the architect envisioned it." - R. Kent Curley

Golf Business is our only business. And we have over 30 years experience in developing, operating and managing golf courses.

Let us help "bail" you out... and set your golf operation on the course toward smooth sailing.

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Golf Course News 23

NOVEMBER 1989

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So call today—for solving a short-term problem, or for total professional management. We’re the experts in the Business of Golf.
The ‘name’ sells the course for many

Pros, ex-pros cashing in on celebrity

BY MARK LESLIE

The market. Image. Personality. Expertise. Money. The bottomline is most often money for golf course developers pondering who they will hire to design their course.

And nowadays the highest fees are being commanded by famous professional golfers who earned their reputations with clubs, rather than drafting pens, in hand.

One million dollars will buy you Jack Nicklaus’ services. A million will get you Arnold Palmer. A million will get you Gary Player. A mere $200,000 nabs Lee Trevino.

One company, Arvan Development Co. in Lombard, III., indeed hired Palmer, Player and Trevino to design three courses in one project in Lake Geneva, Wis. Is this high cost worth it?

“Of course it is, or they wouldn’t pay it,” said Ed Seay, a former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects who has worked alongside Palmer designing courses since 1971.

“Yes,” agreed Rick Robbins, vice president of Nicklaus-Sierra Development Corp. in Tampa, Fla. “Using ‘name’ architects is important.”

“One of the major things in real-estate marketing is that the ‘support team’ does the preliminary work — from examining the site to negotiating the contract, and perhaps even designing the project plan — before bringing the pro into the project.”

For instance, Player’s initial visit to the site at the point the course is announced to get the optimum marketing value form his participation.

“The other end of the spectrum is that we could hire a well known architect that didn’t hire exports in the development process.”

One of the major reasons why the projects fail is that the market can’t afford it. Arnold Palmer reportedly was taken aback by the crossed salves at his press conference announcing Lake Forest Country Club in Louisville, Ky. “I just walked my walk.”

How much marketing is too much? Arnold Palmer reportedly was taken aback by the crossed salves at his press conference announcing Lake Forest Country Club in Louisville, Ky., just as he walked his walk.

We may be losing some degree of marquee value, but we’ve more than made up for it in quality, service, responsiveness, and expertise in the development process. There are no ego problems whatsoever. It’s been a wonderful relationship.”

In the Kingsmill on the James case, Strange lives in the community, adding a different angle to his participation in the new course.

“Please visit the site when the builder starts moving dirt...”

“Every day you learn a little bit more, and a little bit more, and that compounds energy and excitement, or it compounds frustration and a pain in the neck.”

Robbins of Nicklaus/Sierra summed up his feelings on the question of hiring the golf course architecture business: “A lot of guys are calling themselves golf course architects who don’t deserve to be in the business. I think that’s the same with guys who aren’t pros as well as those who are.”

For years, Gary Player won big money playing on courses. Now he’s earning big money designing them.
The pros: Are they a good choice to design? There's disagreement in the industry

Hurdzan says: ‘No’

BY DR. MICHAEL HURDZAN

It would be foolish to suggest that the world’s best golfers should not be involved in golf course design. First of all, they obviously know a lot about the game. I played on the best courses around the world.

Secondly, golf course design is highly subjective, a combination of art and science. And the primary understanding of the game is likely to have a few ideas that can make any course design more interesting or more fun to play.

Having participated in about 150 golf course design projects in the United States and elsewhere, I learned long ago that no one has all the answers. Thus, any course architect, we always remain open to suggestions from our clients, and from others.

Golf course development has to be a team project.

However, I do object to celebrity golfers who almost magically take on the label “golf course architect” when they have a good feel for surface conditions, but probably don’t have a complete understanding of the more complex “big picture.”

I would expect someone who intends to take credit for designing a golf course would, at a minimum, be able to look at a hole and say, “This won’t work.”

By Jim Applegate:

Applegate: ‘Yes’

Golf’s rapid rise in popularity and the subsequent demand for additional facilities, both public and private, is both undeniable and well documented. Accompanying this demand has been a relative proliferation of individuals and firms offering golf course design services.

Any prospective owner or developer of property that would include a golf course or courses is faced with a myriad of questions, problems, and options. Frequently, the first question asked relates to the choice of the golf course design firm.

While there are many very competent firms that do not offer the “signature” of a professional golfer, we at the Gary Player Design Co. feel that, under appropriate and controlled conditions, a design firm that includes a knowledgeable, dedicated professional along with a technically and professionally competent design staff offers the prospective owner/developer the very best alternative.

Some individuals might immediately ask, “Why?” In our case, Gary Player’s personal accomplishments in the game are well documented. No one has ever won more tournaments in more countries under as many different conditions (both good and bad) than Gary. Player personal ability and professional accomplishments are only part of the ingredients, however.

We feel that Gary’s personal experience and knowledge gained from playing courses all over the world in every conceivable condition is invaluable in producing a finished product of the highest and most appropriate quality.

For more than 30 years he has played with amateur golfers of all abilities in the weekly pro-ams and understands, with certain knowledge, what the amateur golfer — who is certainly the driving force and as such the single most important aspect of golf’s popularity — can and cannot accomplish on the golf course.

Courses that are designed to reflect the professional’s personal game are not appropriate. It is our position that Gary’s vast experience allows us to offer courses that are truly playable. This experience must, however, be combined with a talented staff of designers and technical experts to insure the very best finished product. Our staff includes individuals who are in the forefront of all segments of the golf course design industry from agronomy to engineering to computer aided design (CADD). These professionals are well versed in Gary’s personal design philosophy and produce designs that reflect that philosophy.

It is, of course, critical that the “signature” be personally involved in all aspects of the design and production of the course. On-site visits at various stages of development insure that the design is faithfully created and constructed.

A final site visit prior to grasping allows us to provide the owner with Gary’s personal touches and finishing which we believe are an invaluable benefit to the course and its developer.

Many golf course developments today are real-estate oriented or driven. In these instances name recognition of the professional designer inevitably produces a marketing advantage for the owner/developer both in the sale of real estate and equity memberships when appropriate.

Why should an owner/developer choose a “signature” design? We feel the reasons are self-evident. The combination of playing experience, technical competence and expertise, the dedication of the professional and his reputation for excellence, and the increased marketability of the finished product are clear and irrefutable reasons for making such a choice.

Dr. Michael Hurdzan is a former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Jim Applegate is president of Gary Player Design Co.
Gregg Grenert and the Cushman Custom Applicator™
Samoset Golf Resort
Camden, Maine

Gary Dalton and the Cushman Quick Aerator
San Diego Country Club
San Diego, California

Jim Wyllie, CGCS, and the Cushman Broyhill Sprayer
Bayview Golf & Country Club Ltd.
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Joe Hahn, CGCS, and the Vicon Spreader
Oak Hill Country Club
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Dean Baker and the Cushman Core Harvester™
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Charles Gardner, CGCS, and the Cushman Carrier Set
Oyster Harbors Golf Club
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Doug Petersan and the Cushman Dump Bed
Prairie Dunes Country Club
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Prentis Knotts and the Cushman Top Dresser
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Coming Soon. Cushman GA60 Large Area Aerator
The first in a new generation of 5th wheel accessories.
We’ve developed some strong attachments for the Cushman Turf- Truckster.

And so will you.

No wonder golf course superintendents have grown attached to their Cushman Turf-Trucksters. Nothing even comes close to fulfilling as many functions with such beautiful results. It’s state-of-the-art turf maintenance machinery in a class by itself.

A superior system.

More than a dozen attachments and implements can be interchanged with a minimum amount of sweat, turning a Turf-Truckster into an entire fleet of turf maintenance vehicles. You can spray, aerate fence-to-fence, pick up cores, haul, dump, fertilize, spread, seed and top dress. And you can do them all with greater precision because of our unique ground speed governor control.

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Now with 3 engine options.

In addition to the time-tested Cushman 222 air-cooled engine, the Turf-Truckster is also available in liquid-cooled gas and diesel engines. The Cushman 327 gas and Kubota 950 diesel models now provide a range of options to fill all of your specific needs.

The Cushman Turf-Truckster is simply your best turf maintenance vehicle investment. Ask a superintendent who owns one. Better yet, call the Cushman dealer nearest you for a free demonstration, or call toll free 1-800-228-4444 for more information today.
Europe

Continued from page 1

working conditions, expectations, money, et cetera.” Experts in ecology, environmental and hazardous-waste safeguards, government regulations and turfgrass management agreed about the constraints. Yet there is no mistaking that the demand for more courses spans the continent.

Howard Swan, chairman of the National Turfgrass Council in England and founder of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, said the English Golf Union, which controls and administers the game in that country, predicts that 675 courses are needed to sustain the present demand, “let alone to satisfy it in the years to come.”

“This, in all, with the fact that we have around 2,000 in the United Kingdom already in operation,” Swan said. “I. Poignant, reporting on the state of golf in Sweden, said, “Almost all clubs have long queues with people who want to become members. Clubs usually set a limit of 1,000 members per 18-hole course. Time for waiting can, in some places, be up to 10 years ... even longer.”

H. Chesneau, general manager of the French Golf Federation, reported that golfers in France numbered 43,613 in 1979 and today surpass 155,000. He said 134 courses are in planning or under construction in France.

Mr. Libor of the German Golf Federation said a 10-percent per-year increase in construction of 18-hole courses through 1999 seems “realistic.”

Spain, said Mr. Lombao, witnessed growth rates exceeding 12 percent per year from 1985 through 1988 and “to keep the number of players by golf course in the year 2000 it is necessary to inaugurate 23 to 27 courses a year.”

S. Dhondt reported that in Belgium the number of players has quadrupled in the last nine years.

And J.K. Kokke said golf in The Netherlands is “as promising, as rapidly developing ... as in other European countries.”

European and American developers at the conference said the shadow of complicated permitting processes hovers over the expectations of the golf boom. And how those processes are handled today will affect the game in the future.

“You get volume up for buildability through credibility of previous projects,” said English developer Nigel Smith.

U.S. land planner Ed Stone said, “What is happening now is an incubator for opportunities in golf.”

“A great handicap in this country is the enormous and complicated process of permits,” said West Germany’s Libor. “If you are fast like a champion you may be successful after two years.”

Netherlands golf development consultant Jeffrey Stubbins of The Golf Course Wildlife Trust in London held up hope for the marriage of golf and ecology. “Golf is permitted, as being at the threshold of one of the great opportunities of our age, and this realization was the principal motivation behind establishing (golf),” he said. “Golf, with its requirement for relatively sizeable tracts of land, has enormous potential for working in partnership with conservation to achieve a more sustainable and stable environment...”

The missing ingredient in the boom, at least in Continental Europe, is the expertise to deal with developing golf courses and the real-estate around them.

Team Plan’s Reid said Europeans are buying America’s professional talent, “be it marketing, master planning or management. Most of the golf course architects doing work in Europe are Americans and they have been designing European courses for some time. Europeans are also looking to us for planning expertise.”

Redd said, “Europe doesn’t really have a stable of land developers, vis-a-vis the United States. In many cases the government will build the housing. Larger companies are now opening real-estate branches.

“Southern Europe, compared with the rest of the continent, is a quantum leap ahead in development and building. The Costa del Sol makes a national American building boom look stagnant. And golf course resorts are a big part of this activity.”

Stone said the golf-related developments in Europe will be different than in the United States in some ways, however. He said Europe is more family-oriented and some Europeans spend one or two weeks for a golf trip whereas Americans more often take long weekends.

He said he hopes that in the rush, Europeans don’t overbuild and that they nurture the youth of Europe and make sure they understand golf can be a family sport, as happened in tennis in Europe.

What they really need, Stone said, are “sophisticated developers with 18-hole vision and they must take a long-term approach.”

Smith, the English developer, said a lot of banks financing projects are from the United States and Far East. European banks are not willing to invest in an unknown, he said.

Smith said the “One Tax” law brought on by the European Economic Community in 1992 will create a 10-year boom. The cost of construction is about $6 million.

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If you think advances in greensmower technology have leveled off, prepare to take off. The Bunton triplex is not only new, it’s better. We started with fresh ideas and state-of-the-art technology and developed a truly well-engineered machine where every feature produces performance.

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NOVEMBER 1989

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Continued on page 36
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To meet the demands of on-site transportation, in the most inclement weather, Daihatsu has developed the off-road 6 passenger Window Van. Dual sliding doors with roll down windows and a rear hatchback liftgate allow ease of entry and movement. The third seat can also be folded down and forward for additional cargo space.

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Steep inclines, mud, sand and snow are no problem for Hijet 4WD models which are equipped with a two speed (high & low range) transfer case. With a push of a button the option is yours: 2WD or 4WD.

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*The LPG Option is available on all body types except People Mover and Window Van. **4WD is available on all body types except People Mover and Window Van.
NuMex Sahara success encourages FMC

Substantiated by the successful introduction of NuMex Sahara bermudagrass, Farmers Marketing Corp., of Phoenix, Ariz., has extensively broadened its grass research program by acquiring 10 bermudagrass genotypes from New Mexico State University.

Varietal development will be under the direction of Dr. Arden Baltensperger, formerly a professor of agronomy at NMSU, who began his warm-season turfgrass research at the University of Arizona.

He is joined by Dr. Lincoln Taylor of Virginia Poly-Tech University, who brings additional expertise in cold tolerance breeding. The bermudagrass germplasms, representing many years of research, are being tested at the University of Arizona Research Farms in Tuscon and Yuma, as well as several other locations.

NuMex Sahara, the first improved seeded bermudagrass released exclusively for turf, was developed by Baltensperger and released by NMSU. Commercially introduced this year by Farmers Marketing, the first seed production was harvested and certified in July following three years of favorable test results in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. The company reports that seed from 100 acres of NuMex Sahara have already been booked, including current shipment for immediate seeding by several prominent country clubs.

A USGA/GCWA-fund and sponsored variety, NuMex Sahara is recommended for use on new turf areas as well as renovations of existing turf wherever common bermudagrass is currently being used. The new variety is acclimated as a major improvement over common and is protected by the U.S. Variety Protection Act, PVP 8800010.

Roseman inks pact to supply Kubota

Roseman Manufacturing Co. of Glenview, Ill., has announced that it will supply Kubota Tractor Corp. with a vertically driven reel and vertical mowers for Kubota’s new five- and seven-gang Verti-Rel product line.

“Kubota selected Roseman as an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) because of our reputation and track record for high-quality products and support,” said Roseman President John Clough. “This type of partnership is especially beneficial to turf maintenance equipment customers because it will ensure that they receive a total quality mowing unit.”

Clough said Roseman intends to remain an independent company and expects “to continue our pattern of sustainable growth well into the future.”

“Since Kubota will be marketing the new Verti-Rel line through its established nationwide dealer network, there is every reason to believe that Roseman’s exposure within the marketplace will be increased as well. This is certainly a plus for our own dealers,” Clough said.

He added that the two companies’ engineers are working together to develop new reel and vertical mowing products for more effective and comprehensive turf management.

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Introducing Fore-Par’s ALL NEW Rustic Tee Marker.

The Rustic Tee Marker is the newest addition to our distinctive line of elasto-markers. Cast of durable polyurethane in the classic shape of a pine branch, these rugged tee markers measure 10” long, weigh almost two pounds and are mounted on two sturdy spikes. They are available in a natural pine bark color with ends painted red, white, blue, yellow or the color of your choice.

Fore-Par delivers the finest golf course accessories ever made. Among our better known innovations are the classic golf ball marker, the wedge-shape anti-rebound tee marker, custom cast tee markers, the tubular swirl flag, the modular flagpole, the Pathfinder and our virtually indestructible elasto-signs.

So equip your golf course with the finest accessories ever made. Send today for your Fore-Par catalog and buyers guide.
Outdoor Equipment opens facility

Missouri plant combines offices, showroom, warehouse, maintenance

Outdoor Equipment Co., a St. Louis supplier of turf maintenance equipment, irrigation products, fertilizer, chemicals and seed, opened its new $1.5 million office/showroom/warehouse/maintenance facility in Chesterfield Valley, Mo., on Nov. 1.

The 57-year-old firm relocated from Maryland Heights to a newly constructed 32,000-square-foot building at 17485 North Outer 40 Road, just west of Boone's Crossing off Interstate 64.

"Our new facility is designed to provide one-stop convenience for our customers," said Thomas C. Walker, president of Outdoor Equipment.

The new facility includes a 5,700-square-foot showroom, an express drive-through, and large turf test plots. The building also contains an 18,000-square-foot warehouse facility and 3,000-square-foot office area for the firm's 28 employees.

Outdoor Equipment's clients include golf courses, lawn care companies, developers, property management firms, institutions, estates and retail customers. The company is the Bi-state representative for Jacobsen and Cushman/Ryan turf equipment products.

The company's telephone number has also been changed. Its new listing is 314-532-6622.
GA 60 Fairway Aerator

Cushman fairway aerator promises high production

Cushman has announced the GA 60 Fairway Aerator, a high-production coring-type aerator designed to cover large areas quickly.

The GA 60 can aerate up to 1.3 acres per hour, covering a 60-inch swath with a 2 1/2-by 4 1/2-inch coring pattern at a depth up to 4 inches.

The GA60 is powered by a 33-horsepower liquid-cooled engine mounted on the unit, and towed behind a Cushman Turf-Truckster with a rubber-isolated fifth-wheel attachment.

The fifth-wheel hitch is easily removable without tools by pulling one pin and backing off the hand screw.

Standard coring tines are the new non-plugging, open-back tines Cushman is introducing for its line of Ryan aerators.

Contact the Sales Department, Cushman, Inc., P.O. Box 4640, Lincoln, Neb. 68501; 800-228-4444. Circle No 524

Broyhill tanks use steel agitator

Broyhill Company’s 3000 Series in 120- or 170-gallon fiberglass or polyethylene, and 300-gallon polyethylene tanks are designed for grounds maintenance, tree spraying or general turf work.

The new 1-inch stainless steel agitator and gland assembly requires little maintenance. Use of graphite (or rope) packing and double bearings maintain proper agitator alignment.

Boom options include a new low-profile, rear-folding boom that covers 24 feet with 20-inch nozzle spacing. Rope, eight-way and electric boom controls are available.

Contact the Broyhill Co., Dakota City, Neb. 68731-0475. Circle No 311

Base Leader design upgraded

Mowing Machine Ltd’s Base Leader has a new modular design concept.

This means that the machine can be upgraded to “Auto” or “Supreme” Leader specifications at any time.

The Base Leader has a powerful 1.1kw grinding wheel motor capable of grinding cylinders in or out of frame.

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**Club Car unveils Tourall carrier**

Latest addition to the Club Car utility line is the Tourall, a personnel carrier available in both electric and gasoline models. It offers exclusive engineering features standard in Club Car golf cars.

A major force in the golf and recreational market, Club Car entered the utility vehicle market in October 1985 with the Carryall II, which gained quick converts from work environments such as golf courses, construction sites, landscape and nursery business, farms and sports stadiums. The Carryall I, introduced in April 1988 in both gasoline and electric models, is considered ideal for small space operations. Its self-adjusting rack and pinion steering allows for an incredibly tight 17 feet, six inch clearance circle.

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**Lebanon product controls insects**

Lebanon Total Turf Care has introduced Lebanon Insect Control with Sevin7G for use on lawns, parks, golf courses and other professionally-maintained turf areas.

It is said to prevent damage to turfgrasses as well as trees, shrubs and ornamentals, and effectively control turfgrass pests, including white grubs, armyworms, chinch bugs, cutworms, earwigs, grasshoppers and ticks.

Contact Lebanon Chemical Corp., P. O. Box 186, Lebanon, Pa. 17042. Circle No 330
Continued from page 1

left by the Force 4 hurricane. Imagery showed that 100,000 pine trees like toothpicks, uprooted many majestic oaks and left its indelible imprint on one of the country's major golf destinations.

One course received an estimate of more than $300,000 for tree removal alone.

Huge tidal surges, reaching as high as five feet, cut their own trail through some of the golf courses, exposing irrigation lines, undermining cart paths, leaving a 32-foot boat perched on a green, washing away dunes and removing part of the 17th green and tee at one course with surgical precision. Some of the millions of trees standing are "in shock" and it may be a year before golf course superintendents will know if those trees will indeed survive the root damage and possible root disease infesting their broken limbs.

Much of Hurricane Hugo’s fury hit two Tom Fazio-designed courses at Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms, just a few miles north of historic Charleston. The seaside 17th and 18th holes of each course were severely damaged, and there still remains some question as to whether the holes can be rebuilt because of the state’s recently enacted Beachfront Management Act.

Already, Fazio has visited the course to survey the damage and begin to formulate a plan for rebuilding.

The damage estimate on Wild Dunes alone may run more than $2 million. The irrigation system received severe damage. Pump stations were submerged in saltwater and now are useless. Many of the control boxes were uprooted and all irrigation lines were submerged. Much of the irrigation pipe itself remained intact and is expected to be salvageable.

Many bridges on the Harbor Course also were destroyed in the hurricane, some of them washing across the Intracoastal Waterway onto neighboring Goat Island. Cleanup efforts began almost immediately, but greens superintendent Mike Fabrizio was forced to search throughout the island for maintenance equipment, which had been commandeered by National Guard troops protecting the island while martial law was imposed for more than a week after the storm.

Wild Dunes laid off all but 62 of nearly 500 employees in the aftermath of the storm. Director of golf Jerry Florence, Links Course head professional John Dyer and Harbor Course head pro Tommy Young remained on staff, but the resort’s assistant pros, shop personnel and others were laid off.

Fabrizio and about half of his 24-man grounds crew were retained.

“We’re going to rebuild, but we have to see what we can do,” Florence said. "With the exception of the trees, we can strengthen the golf course. We have to do something to overcome the loss of the trees.”

Fabrizio estimated that well over 50 percent of the course’s trees had been destroyed, trees that cannot be replaced. In addition to the replacement of the trees, he faces another, more immediate problem: how to dispose of the downed trees. He hopes he will be allowed to burn the trees, for tracking the debris off the island will be an expensive and time-consuming process.

A tree service has been consulted and soon will begin a renourishment program for the remaining trees.

Fazio said he is uncertain what will happen with the par 4 17th hole, where both the tee and green were claimed by the ocean. Enough remains of the par 5 18th that it can be rebuilt.

Both maintenance buildings received heavy damage, and most of the equipment, too, will have to be replaced.

A reopening date has not been set, although Florence said he hopes to put together 18 holes probably in some combination from the two courses, for play by spring.

Some 3 1/2 miles inland of Wild Dunes, across the massive but shallow expanse of Gray Bay, lies Charleston National Country Club, which was scheduled to open just a week after the storm. Charleston National is planned as an equity membership club, and club officials are still striving to retain that format as they dig deeper into their pockets to keep things going for an opening delayed some six months.

The course, designed by Rees Jones, received little structural damage. The 18 holes are intact, although there was one small breach that allowed saltwater to intrude into one of the lagoon systems. Heavy rains after Hurricane Hugo helped leach the water, which covered seven or eight of the marsh-side holes, from the soil.

No equipment was lost to storm damage. The heavy equipment had been moved to the highest point on the golf course—the middle of the fifth fairway—and escaped the saltwater and falling trees.

Jones visited the course after the storm and said the damaged trees would actually open the marsh vistas on some holes. Charleston National official Tom Dyer said nine holes would reopen within a couple of weeks and the club planned to hold its first member-guest tournament before Christmas.

The devastation of Hurricane Hugo was random. Patriots Point Golf Links in Mount Pleasant, a course on schedule in late fall.

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Continued from page 1

management inventions by company founder Thomas Wait. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, Wait claims the concept for Greens Encroachment, like his other inventions, took root in his own laziness.

“Anything I can find to make my job and others’ easier intrigues me,” he said. The need for a more efficient way to maintain some of the Sunshine State’s median strips led to the company’s flagship product — the DonuTTrimmer edge blade. In talking to course superintendent and partner Joseph DeMino of Rochester, N.Y., Wait discovered the circular blades (which come in diameters of 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 inches) could also be used to edge around sprinkler and mist heads, bunkers, cart paths and sidewalks in a fraction of the time and cost. Wait and DeMino determined there was a need for the product after attending the 1988 GCSAA International Golf Show in Houston, Texas, and they patented the blades.

To gain exposure, they volunteered to detail the courses at several tournaments including the 1988 Honda Classic held at TPC at Eagle Trace in Coral Springs, Fla., and other 1988 and 1989 major tournaments.

Their efforts were well received by course superintendents attending those tournaments. The response was overwhelming in April 1988 when the first advertisements for the blades appeared.

“Our marketing company told us a new product did well if it got eight to 10 responses a month from a single ad,” said Wait. “We were getting that many a day.”

Meanwhile, the second product was invented by a local superintendent and was developed and marketed by DonuTTrimmer. The Aqua-Quick is a disc made of solid aluminum that can instantly turn any Toro or Rainbird valve-in sprinkler into a 1-inch water source. It can be used with a standard swivel or quick coupler valve. It can also be used directly for spraying greens, tees, hot spots or connecting a temporary sprinkler.

“We had the drought last summer, so it was a good time to be introducing a product like that,” said Wait. Meanwhile, Wait was devising two other products — the Level-Eez and Greens Encroachment. The Level-Eez allows the superintendent and his staff to drastically cut the time to complete one of their distasteful tasks, raising sunken valve-in-head sprinklers, quick coupler valves and valve boxes. The everything-you-need-kit reduces the time to raise a sprinkler head from about 90 minutes to as little as 5 without digging. The stainless steel and aluminum kit raises the object by forcing water around it and pulling it upward with a platform pulier. This product does much less cosmetic damage than the traditional method of digging and setting the object being raised.

“It looks like your course is full of potholes around the sprinkler heads sunk,” said Wait. “Carts and mowers are always running over them and can be damaged. Also, a golfer can twist an ankle in one of them. Raising a sprinkler head is one of the worst jobs on a golf course. This makes it a lot easier.”

As useful as the other three products are, they don’t compare to the possibilities of Greens Encroachment, according to Paul Latshaw, one of the four major tournaments, the 1978 PGA Championship and 1985 U.S. Open at Pittsburgh’s Oakmont CC and the 1987-89 Masters at Augusta National. Latshaw became a consultant and stockholder with the company last June.

Fairway grass encroaching on greens has been a problem that has long defied solution. It has been particularly troublesome on Southern courses where the typical bentgrass/fairway grass can be a problem. The idea for Greens Encroachment came, oddly enough, while Wait was peeling the top off a 12-pack of chewing gum. It occurred to him that a device that would lift off the encroaching grass so the course, like the string lifted the top of the gum package, might do the trick.

He devised a two-piece plastic border, about 8 inches in depth and 1/2 inch in width, that is buried about 1 inch below ground level around the fringe of the green. A manual edging devise that fits in between the track is pushed around the green, lifting out the encroaching grass including the stolons that try to root themselves to the putting surface.

The product will come two ways, the first being a complete package including material, installation equipment and training so the superintendent and crew can install it themselves. The company will also install it, bringing in a four-man crew to put the border around all 18 greens (and tees and other areas if necessary) of an average course in about 20 days, without interrupting play and leaving little or no evidence of the installation.

The cost of the procedure will start at $50,000 for an average 18-hole course. Greens Encroachment will pay for itself in labor savings within two years based on replacement costs of contaminated sod, Wait predicted.

The company and products were introduced formally at February’s GCSAA annual convention. Lines formed at the DonuTTrimmer booth to get a look at and discuss Greens Encroachment, Wait said. The response was so great that Wait and DeMino had to take names and telephone numbers and promise to call back.

The product is currently installed on a test basis at Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg S.C., Plantation CC in Ponta Verde, Fla. and Loxahatchee CC in Jupiter, Fla.

“Where we are right now,” said Wait, who has begun marketing Greens Encroachment as the other three products vigorously in preparation for February’s annual superintendent’s show in Orlando, Fl., “is home stretch.

He predicts DonuTTrimmer 1990 revenues will exceed last year’s 70 percent increase, mainly because of Greens Encroachment. But Wait said he’ll be looking for more ways to make his job, and those of other people in the turf profession, a little easier.

“I’ve got another five ideas or so rolling around in my head right now,” he said, “but our company’s goal is to market these four products so everyone in the industry can take advantage of these labor-saving devises. I think the industry focuses on safety first, budget and product performance third. I know our products fit into these categories.”
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For free information circle #130
Super swats gnats with bats 'n birds

By PETER BLAIS

Black flies and bats. Now there's a combination that'll bring the toughest Mainer to his knees. But... would help control the swarming insects that can turn a pleasant round of golf into a mad dash to the clubhouse.

Has it worked?

Michaud said tests have shown two-thirds fewer black flies near the bat houses than nearby areas without the houses. "The trouble is 10 black flies can seem as much of a problem as 30," said Michaud. But Michaud isn't discouraged, especially considering there are still many vacancies in the bat houses. "I have seen a few more bats in the evening," he said. "But not a big increase. If we get a few more to move in, the population could skyrocket."

That could prove a boon in an environmentally conscious state like Maine, where any type of artificial insect control is likely to be frowned upon.

Last spring, the state banned Sugarloaf's three-year testing of B.t.i. in the nearby Carrabassett River, where black flies breed. The naturally occurring bacteria changes the pH in the stomach of black fly larvae, causing them to literally explode, according to Michaud. "B.t.i. doesn't affect fish or humans. But people don't realize that. The public just didn't like the idea of putting something into the river," said Michaud.

With the B.t.i. ban, the bat experiment has become even more important. "There are about 15 days a year when it's overcast with no breeze and the black flies are a real problem. We're hoping the bats will help," said Michaud.

Despite their rather unsavory reputation, bats are very beneficial to humans. Fruit-eating bats pollinate more than 130 types of trees and shrubs. Bat guano is still an important source of fertilizer in some undeveloped countries. Bats are also valuable in scientific research.

But more importantly, at least to Sugarloaf, bats eat insects. Large numbers of insects. For example, a single gray bat may eat 3,000 insects in one night. A free-tailed bat colony in Texas consumed 500,000 pounds of insects in a single evening. Little wonder Sugarloaf is optimistic about establishing a permanent bat community.

Retired University of Maine at Farmington Professor Dr. Robert Martin, who has studied bats on six continents, helped Sugarloaf set up the residences.

Martin said there are two types of bats likely inhabiting the houses at Sugarloaf—little brown myotis and big brown bats. About 60 of the little browns, or about 30 of the big browns, can occupy a single house. It takes about two years for the bats to fill a residence — the first year for the bats to find the house and the second for their offspring to reach adult size.

A single big brown will eat the equivalent of between 1 million and 3 million mosquitoes (even more of the smaller black flies) in a single Maine summer. "That means one house of big browns will eat between 30 million and 90 million mosquitoes in one summer. That's a lot for a very small investment," said Martin.

The resort installed 50 male and 50 female bat houses in the spring of 1988. The 16-by-6-by-6-inch houses are made out of rough-sawn cedar and cost around $4 to make, according to Sugarloaf director of golf Fred Downes.

"The houses basically maintain themselves," said Michaud. "The feces drop through the slits the male bats enter. We have to loosen a screw and let the bottom swing out (once a year) to clean the female houses.

"The bats don't like bright colors, so we never have to paint the houses. The only thing we ever have to do is cut down a tree if one with a bat house dies."

"Hopefully this will eliminate the need to ever use B.t.i. (which may have also been partly responsible for the two-thirds drop in the black fly population). Now we'll be able to tell if it was bats that kept the black flies down."

One hundred swallow houses were installed at the same time as the bat residences. Swallows also are veracious insect eaters. The small birds quickly took to the man-made nests and are a much more common sight than they were two years ago. In fact, they are more visible than the bats, but that's probably because swallows feed by day and bats by night.

"We looked at the possibility of importing bats," explained Downes. "But they like to go back to where they were born once they are old enough, so there didn't seem much point."

"We've had nesting in just about every house we built. So over the next four to five years, we should have a lot more."

An increasing bat population should not be a problem for golfers since the winged mammals hunt at night.

"Most people are off the course by the time it's dark," said Michaud. "If people play late it might be a bother. But you're likely to see bats anywhere up here in the summer."

Martin said Sugarloaf is the only golf course he is aware of that has built bat houses to control insects. But he is certain it could prove beneficial in other areas where a natural means of insect control is preferable to an artificial one.

Pre-manufactured bat houses are on the market for $34.95 apiece, said Martin.

Free construction plans for houses, which can be built for about $5, are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to BATS in Maine, 820 Lakeview Ave., Winthrop, Maine 04364.

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If you have a solution to a problem, or an innovation, or "a funny thing happened to me" story to share with other superintendents, please write: Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth Maine 04096. We'll pay $50 for stories or articles we use.

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### Spacing 2.50 in. x ( ) in.  Production sq. ft. per hr.  Yield holes/sq. ft.

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