Toro aerator a breakthrough

BY MARK LESLIE

The Toro Company has unveiled a revolutionary machine that aerates greens without disturbing the surface and interrupting play.

The Hydroject 3000, which uses high-velocity spurts of water to aerate greens while leaving no telltale cores behind, was introduced in a dramatic exhibition at the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla., in February.

Dana Lann, Toro's head of research, projected late-fall production of the Hydroject 3000 and full availability to golf course superintendents by the summer of 1991.

Dr. Paul Kiese of Michigan State University, who with a graduate student worked on the project with Lann's researchers for three years, said: "The beauty of this (equipment) is that we're able to use it frequently on the putting surface and thus keep soil in good physical condition."

"We think this is a versatile tool that the golf course superintendent will be able to use in his program to provide better quality turf and to improve the stress tolerance of that turf."

Toro officials hailed the work of the researchers and the machine is Continued on page 47

Hawaii lengthens wait

The Honolulu City Council passed an ordinance in late February requiring courses proposed on farmland to go through the lengthy annual review process.

That means it could take up to two years to get the required zoning change to develop a new course, according to Bob McGraw, an aide to Councilwoman Donna Mercado Kim.

"It would be reasonable to characterize that as lengthy," said McGraw.

Proposed sites designated for resort, preservation or park use don't have to go through the yearly review.

Development has been a major issue on the island of Oahu where residents were concerned about the loss of agricultural land and possible ground water contamination from new courses.

International superintendents share views

BY PETER BLAIS

Growing memberships and the need for more educational opportunities are among the common threads binding national superintendents associations, reported representatives of a dozen such organizations during February's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference in Orlando, Fla.

Canada, Australia, Argentina, Italy, England, Sweden, France, Germany, South Africa, Japan and the United States were all represented at an international roundtable moderated by GCSAA Immediate Past President Dennis Lyon and President Gerald Faubel.

All described increasing interest in their organizations as a result of the growth of golf in their home countries.

But in many instances, educational opportunities to increase the professionalism of superintendents are still lagging behind the United States. Many of the foreign rep-

Continued on page 39

UST coverage said crucial

BY PETER BLAIS

It wasn't so long ago at a course called, well let's make it East Overshoe CC, that an underground storage tank (UST) leaked.

The tank's contents contaminated an underground water supply and required the installation of two purifying wells. It's estimated it will take two to five years to clean the water. The course's cost to rectify the situation—$200,000.

Richard Shanks, president of Financial Guardian Insurance of Kansas City, Inc., related that sorry tale during February's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 61st International Golf Conference and Show, see pages 36-47.

Continued on page 47
UST Insurance

Continued from page 1

The policy does not cover replacement or repairs to existing tanks. Deductibles can be as low as $1,000. And the policy can be written by a local insurance agent that currently handles course coverage.

A packet should be reaching courses shortly, if it hasn’t already. It contains a letter explaining the program and an eight-page application to be filled out by the insurance agent with the help of the superintendent.

After obtaining insurance, at least one of the following will be required:

• for younger tanks, a computerized inventory analysis requiring daily readings that are then sent to a lab to check for leaks;
• for older tanks, a tightness test at a cost to the course of about $350;
• soil borings if there are any indications of a leak;
• a loss control program at all courses with USTs.

Naturally, if there is already a pollution problem from a tank, coverage isn’t available.

“If the building is already on fire, you don’t buy insurance,” quipped Shanks.

The deadline for meeting the EPA requirements is Oct. 26. But it can take from 90 to 120 days, with no complications, to comply with the EPA and insurance tests, except in the case of a newly installed tank.

So you should start the process as soon as you get the packet,” suggested Shanks.

One of Shanks’ concerns is that some states have yet to begin certifying environmental contractors. Certified contractors are required to do much of the testing to meet the EPA and insurance requirements. Financial Guardian can supply a list of certified contractors.

“The success of this program is that we all band together,” concluded Shanks. “There are many companies that have refused to write golf course tank insurance all together.”

Norwood Hills’ Null wins 2nd GCSAA title

After a first-round 77 on Orlando’s Hunter’s Creek Golf Course, Roger Null came back with a 72 on The New Course at Grand Cypress to win the 1990 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship.

In winning his second title (he also won in 1983), the superintendent at Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Mo., took home the Bobby Jones Trophy and the United States Golf Association traveling trophy.

One stroke behind Null, with a gross score of 150, was Chuck Green, superintendent at Florence (S.C.) Country Club. Green’s net score earned him the Championship Flight net division title.

The Carolinas GCSA #1 team of Green, Dave Powell, Gary Bennett and Dyrck Fanion won the Scottish Trophy for the gross division of the chapter team competition.

Ray Beaudry, Ted Maddocks, Mike Reeb and Mike Wallace of Connecticut GCSA #5 combined to take the Frank Lampmiller Trophy awarded for the chapter team net division crown.